

Eastminster Presbytery
November 13, 2007
Presbytery Meeting

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

7	-	10:00 am	North Benton Commission meeting @ Presbytery Center
8	-	9:30 am	COM Executive Committee meeting @ Presbytery Center
12	-	12:00 pm	West Area Clergy Brown Bag Lunch @ Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church
	-	5:00 pm	Self Development of People meeting @ Presbytery Center
13	-	3:30 pm	Evangelism & Growth Commission meeting @ First Presbyterian Church, Niles
	-	4:00 pm	COM meeting @ First Presbyterian Church, Niles
	-	4:00 pm	Preparation for Ministry meeting @ First Presbyterian Church, Niles
	-	4:00 pm	Pre-presbytery mtg. with Missionaries from Africa @ First Presbyterian Church, Niles
	-	5:00 pm	Presbytery Meeting @ First Presbyterian Church, Niles
14	-	12:30pm	West Area Retired Clergy Luncheon @ Martin Center, Akron University
15	-	*****	Interim Pastors Group @ Presbytery Center
22-23	-	****	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
29	-	7:00 pm	Mission Visioning Council meeting @ Lake Milton Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER CALENDAR

1	-	*****	Youth Advisory Delegate Applications due to Presbytery Office
3	-	2:30 pm	Hudson Commission Meeting @ Presbytery Center
4	-	5:00 pm	Committee Night @ Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, Akron
6	-	12:30 pm	Youngstown Clergy Luncheon @ First Presbyterian Church, Youngstown
12	-	12:30 PM	West Area Retired Clergy Luncheon including Clergy, Spouses & Survivors @ Martin Center, Akron University
13	-	5:00 pm	Coordinating Council Meeting @ First Presbyterian Congregational Society, Ellsworth
	-	6:30 pm	Mission Visioning Council dinner & meeting @ First Presbyterian Congregational Society, Ellsworth
17	-	*****	Articles due for the Evangel
24-25	-	*****	Office Closed for Christmas
31	-	*****	Office Closed for New Years

Directions to:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4 Summit St.
Niles, OH 44446

First Presbyterian Church is located east of the Niles business district, on the south side of Robbins Ave. at the corner of Summit St.

From the NORTH: Go south on Rt. 11 to the Tibbetts-Wick Rd. exit. Turn right (west) and go about 4 miles to the church, on the left. Tibbetts-Wick Rd. becomes Robbins Ave. when it crosses Rt. 422.

From the SOUTH: Go north on Rt. 11 around Youngstown to the Tibbetts-Wick Rd. exit. Turn left (west) and proceed as described in the previous paragraph.

From the WEST: Take I-76 to the Ohio Turnpike interchange, and continue straight ahead on I-80 to Rt. 11 NORTH. Go north to the first exit, Tibbetts-Wick Road, turn left (west), and proceed as described in the second previous paragraph.

Parking behind the church, accessible from either side street (Summit or Crandon).

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

2007 Directory Changes

Please update your 2007 Eastminster Presbytery Directory with the following changes. Remember, much of the directory can be found at www.eastminsterpresbytery.org under “members” area and using your password. Please call the office if you are having any problems accessing this information.

Page	Change in Directory
7	Add Inquirer Drew Himes from Vienna Presbyterian Church
7	Add Inquirer Amy Starr-Redwine from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron
7	Remove Rachel Cramer Roll of inquirer
28	Change email address of Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church to pgchurch@att.net
35	Change email address of Elder Edie English of the Evangelism & Growth Commission to rdenglish@neo.rr.com
33	Removed Elder Kathy McKee from the Congregational Resources Committee, Class of 2007
33	Add Rev. Peter Lawson to the Congregational Resources Committee, Class of 2007
35	Add Elder David Weida to the Commission on Evangelism & Growth, Class of 2009
37	Add Rev. Richard (Dick) Griffith to the Committee on Mission, Class of 2008
38	Remove Rev. Peter Lawson from the Committee on Nominations, Class of 2008
45	Remove Rev. Anne Hagler upon the transfer of her credentials to the Presbytery of the Mid-South

*Eastminster Presbytery
News & Notes*

Upcoming November Pre-Presbytery Event:

You are invited to a short presentation at 4:00 pm with the four Mission Visitors from Africa that are being hosted by our Eastminster Presbytery churches. You will hear them talk about the struggles they face in their churches these days, what a typical worship service is like and would be the primary message to American Presbyterians. Our missionaries include Rev. Richard Nimo at the First Presbyterian Church in Niles, Rev. Patricia Phiri being hosted by the First Presbyterian Church in Mineral Ridge, Rev. Tariku Tolossa Jira at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron, and Rev. Nii Teiko Dagadu at First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

CLP Pete Macaulay and family after the death of his wife, Mary Lou, on Sunday, November 4, 2007
Rev. Dick Griffith who is recuperating from double knee surgery

The Personnel Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the staff evaluations this year. They had a great response from the 24 people asked for their comments and recommendations. The Committee thanks all those people who helped make the process a success.

Our Nominating Committee reminds us the deadline to submit **Youth Advisory Delegate** to the 218th General Assembly must be received in the presbytery office by December 1, 2007. The deadline for Clergy and Elder applications has expired.

Reminder the **Presbytery Center is open** Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays by appointment only.

The Presbyterian Church of Kent has 5 extra **2007-2008 Presbyterian Planning Calendars**. If you need one please call Kay Lee at 330-673-0661 or the Presbytery Office.

The **2008 Mission Yearbooks of Prayer and Study** are in and will be distributed at the November 13th presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Niles. We have several extras if you need some. The Children's yearbooks will be coming soon.

Good News, the **2007/2009 Books of Order** that many of you ordered back in July were delivered this week. We will have those available at the November presbytery meeting as well.

The Per Capita statements for the churches will be mailed out the week to your Clerk of Session after the per capita figure has been approved.

The Listening Room

If you have been or plan to be a participant at this event prior to the start of the November Presbytery meeting, please note that the Peacemaking Ministry Team of Congregational Resources Committee encourages you to use this time to attend one of the sessions to hear from our 4 mission visitors.

News from Synod of the Covenant

The Synod of Covenant is always looking for ways to serve the needs of presbyteries and congregations. Here are some of the plans already underway.

- COM/CPM Training – Two two-day events: one in DeWitt, Michigan on January 15-16 and one in Columbus, Ohio on January 17-18, 2008

Church Information

The Firestone Park Presbyterian Church in Akron, Ohio, announces its Ninetieth Birthday Celebration on Sunday, November 25, 2007. Worship Service will be at 10:00 AM with a reception following in their Fellowship Hall.

Presbytery Women

Moderator Goldie Burrier tells us to please mark your calendar for the next gathering which will be on April 5 & 6 with the location to be announced later. Goldie tells that Synod sent 6 Presbytery women to New Mexico last spring for a team planning project. The next step will be for those people along with the moderator of each presbytery to get together to share their experiences and thoughts for it has been quite some time since the last training event. More information will be coming soon.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND EVENTS

Teleconference on Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches will be held on December 13, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. You can join them for their annual Benefits Talk event from the comfort of your home or office. Registration is limited and ends on November 19, 2007. Visit www.pensions.org/register or call 800-355-4487 for more information or to register.

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-Presbytery Mission Groups Meet

- 3:30 Evangelism & Growth
- 4:00 Committee on Ministry
- 4:00 Mission
- 4:00 Preparation for 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 the Host Church

5:03 Assembly Formalities

Business of the Clerk; Docket Presentation; Referrals; Correspondence; Recognition of Corresponding Members; Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2007

5:05 Presbytery Family Remembrances and Celebrations

5:10 – Consent Agenda

Sharing and Supporting Our Ministries

- 5:15 – Report of the General Presbyter – Dan Schomer p. 18-19
- 5:22 – Trustees – Ross Jackson p. 20-23, 54-60
- 5:37 - Resource Center Coordinator – Lorraine Jones p. 24-25
- 5:45 – The Presbytery at Worship
- 6:30 – Dinner Recess
- 7:15 – Coordinating Council/CPM/COM Task Force – Sue Ann Schmidt & Dale Riley p. 26-29
- 8:00 – Committee on Ministry – Nick Mager p. 30-31
- 8:10 – Mission Committee – Elmarie Parker & David Joachim p. 32-33
- 8:20 – Congregational Resources p. 34
- 8:23 – Peacemaking Ministry Team – Jane Stoffer p. 35-36
- 8:25 – Stow Commission – Trella Johnson p. 37-46
- 8:27 – Mission Visioning Council p. 47
- 8:30 – Hudson Commission – Reford Nash p. 48
- 8:50 – Synod Commissioners – Ruth Cole, Harold Walker, Christine Ziem & Joe Atkins
- 9:00 – Committee on Nominations – Bob Forsythe p. 49
- 9:10 – Miscellaneous Business
- 9:15 – Evaluation
- 9:18 – Report on Leave and Absence
- 9:20 – Adjournment

Eastminster Presbytery
Consent Agenda
November 13, 2007

1. To append the Minutes of the August 23, 2007 Eastminster Presbytery Coordinating Council to the Minutes of the September 12, 2007 meeting.
2. To append the Minutes of the September 27, 2007 Mission Visioning Council to the Minutes of the September 12, 2007 meeting.
3. That upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council the offering of the November 13 Stated Meeting be designated to the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp & Conference Center's Capital Campaign.
4. That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Stow Commission.
5. That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Hudson Commission.

Draft: Not yet approved by the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council

**EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY MEETING COORDINATING COUNCIL
October 25, 2007**

The Eastminster Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council met at the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Warren, Ohio on October 25, 2007, beginning at 5 p.m.

Present were the Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Moderator; the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant; Elder Stan Christensen; Elder Lucille Clay; Elder Ruth Cole; the Rev.

Debby Dockstader

Excused: the Rev. Reford Nash

Staff: Marianne Lidstone, the Rev. Dan Schomer, the Rev. Meta Cramer

It was determined that the offering from the November 13 Stated meeting would go to the JBM Capital Campaign.

Motion prevailed to nominate the following persons for election to the Nominating Committee: Elder Lynn Doyle-Pebworth (Youngstown-First), the Rev. Ross Jackson, and Elder Peggy Richmond (Petersburg).

The draft docket for the November 13 Stated Meeting was discussed. It was decided to docket forty-five minutes for the discussion of ordination/installation procedures from the Coordinating Council/COM-CPM Task Force.

A request from Elsie Dursi to report on the National Council of Churches General Assembly, to which she served as a delegate from the OGA-PCUSA was discussed. It was decided to defer her report until such a time as adequate time could be devoted to hearing it.

The amount of time to be allotted for worship was discussed. It was decided that Debby will preach her "farewell" sermon in January; necrology and communion will still be observed in November. The four international visitors currently in the Presbytery will also be participating in the service. Forty-five minutes was docketed for worship.

Motion prevailed to adopt an amended version of a suggested docket with an adjournment time of approximately 9:20 p.m.

The Council was reminded of a request for a pre-Presbytery meeting in March to be led by Tom Taylor on "the changing face of PCUSA mission."

Debby Dockstader requested relief from her worship team responsibilities following the January 2008 meeting.

The Council heard a proposal from General Presbyter Dan Schomer that he also intended to present to the Mission Vision Council: *that a combined Mission Visioning Council and Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council Retreat be held on January 25-26 at JBM, to focus on how we "do" Presbytery in light of who we say we are and where we say we believe God is leading us. Together both councils would review our mission, vision, and priorities, and consider how the presbytery might be invited to evaluate them and reaffirm them.*

Individually: 1)The Mission Visioning Council would create a process for the presbytery to evaluate the presbytery structure in light of our mission, vision, and priorities and made recommendations that revise or reaffirms the structure. 2) The Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council would create a process for the presbytery to evaluate our presbytery meetings in light of our mission, vision, and priorities and make recommendations concerning the content and style of future presbytery meetings.

Both councils would gather together to report their work and evaluate it together. An action plan would be finalized to be implemented in 2008.

There was discussion of whether it would be possible for the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council to be present at the retreat only on Saturday.

The consensus was to make a recommendation to the Mission Visioning Council to this effect.

Marianne reminded us that there is a request for a pre-presbytery event featuring our four international visitors prior to the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 6:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Council will take place on December 13, 2007 at 5 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Congregational Society in Ellsworth.

The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Moderator

The Rev. Meta S. Cramer, Stated Clerk

MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL
September 27, 2007

The Mission Visioning Council of Eastminster Presbytery met on September 27, 2007 at the Presbytery Center, beginning at 7 p.m.

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

Excused were: Elder Sharon Wood, Elder Alice Jackson, Elder Molly Halter, Elder Jane Stoffer, the Rev. Debby Dockstader

Absent: the Rev. Aaron Meadows

Staff: the Rev. Dan Schomer, the Rev. Meta Cramer

Moderator Peggy Richmond opened with devotions in the absence of Spiritual Discernment Advisor Molly Halter, whose husband is hospitalized with heart problems.

The Moderator asked for prayers for Molly and Bill Halter and for Dan and Joan Schomer at the death of Joan's brother Craig. Joy was expressed for Derek and Amy Starr-Redwine on the birth of their son, and concern was expressed for Kristin Stroble who is now in the Philippines and her grandmother who has brain cancer. The Moderator led the Council in prayer.

Minutes of the June 28 meeting were approved as read by the Clerk.

Dan called attention to a paper containing a description of the mission, vision, and mission priorities of the Presbytery, as well as the Challenges pertaining to the budgeting process:

“The mission of Eastminster Presbytery is to grow faithful, effective, healthy and missional churches.” “The vision of Eastminster Presbytery is to seek to be a communion of vibrant, diverse, and growing congregations bringing the love of Christ to all of God’s people, an instrument of care, compassion, teaching, and service through partnerships of dynamic mission and ministry, and a prophetic witness sharing the hope of the peaceable realm of God.”

The Mission Visioning Council has set the following mission priorities as we seek to be faithful to our mission and vision: Leadership Development of Ministers, Leadership Development of Elders/Sessions, Facilitating Congregational Transformation, New Church Development and Redevelopment.

Dan presented a visual paradigm of “How a Presbytery Council can do Mission Visioning on an Ongoing Basis.” The components were:

How is our Committee/Commission furthering the mission and vision of Eastminster Presbytery?

REFLECTION

What information do we need and how will we get it? REFLECTION

Who needs to be a part of the conversation? REFLECTION

How can other entities of Eastminster Presbytery help? REFLECTION

What will we do? ACTION

What did we learn? LEARNING

Dan asked the Council members to take this paradigm back to their committees for consideration. It was noted that we need to figure out how to talk to our “target audience” even though those may not be people with whom we normally consult.

Dan referred to Stan Ott, who reminds us that “if we don’t know what to do, we do what we know.” It is critical to sometimes say, “We don’t know what to do. We know what we used to do, and it’s not working well.”

Dan called attention to another paper showing the Council’s role in the budget process, and asked the Council to review the 2008 Asking Budget approved at the September Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, keeping the identified mission priorities in mind.

Questions were raised and responses given regarding several particular line items.

- A recent practice that “is not the way we do things” is a notion that our portion of Peacemaking Offering is totally accessible and outside the budget. The proceeds are income, and both that income and expenditures need to be included in budget.
- Two new line items under Committee on Ministry were noted.
- Because the Synod of the Covenant supports Midwest Counseling with \$30,000 per year, we get discounted services.
- There is some discussion at Synod about turning their portion of the Peacemaking Offering over to the Presbyteries.
- There was discussion of what the “Equipping the Saints” line item is about, currently and historically.
- Synod of the Covenant is bringing in a consultant on clergy coaching; Scott and Elmarie Parker (from the Leadership Development and Congregational Transformation Teams), three COM members, and Dan will be going.
- How will the Hudson Church redevelopment funds be allocated? Our line item supports grant applications to the Synod and General Assembly. The Hudson Church (PCUSA) is an Acts 16:5 congregation.
- A question was raised about the Commission on Evangelism and Church Growth’s need for administrative expenses.
- The Mission Committee is awaiting responses from projects that were funded in the last year.
- An ongoing question is how to be accountable when funding is explored.
- A delegation from Dakota Presbytery will be visiting in November. More advance notice on trips to Dakota is being requested.

Dan asked the Council to support his request of the Committee Moderators that they work toward descriptive narratives of each line item.

The Moderator’s Conference offered by the General Assembly was discussed.

There was consensus that funding for this Conference should be built into future budgets. To this end, the Council hereby asks that the line item for “Moderator’s Expenses” be increased from \$150 to \$900 in the 2008 budget.

The next meeting will be on October 25 at the Warren-Covenant Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Stated Clerk stated that she will be unavailable for Mission Visioning Council that evening.

On November 29, the MVC will meet at Lake Milton. Dan Schomer will be excused that evening as he will be at the Synod-wide Staff Retreat.

The 2008 Mission Visioning Council Retreat at JBM will take place January 25-26.

Committee Moderators will receive a reminder to name a MVC representative at their December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

The Rev. Elmarie Parker closed with prayer

Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator

The Rev. Meta S. Cramer, Stated Clerk

Draft: Not yet approved by the Mission Visioning Council

**Mission Visioning Council
Eastminster Presbytery
October 25, 2007**

Following a delicious dinner provided by the ladies of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Warren, the Rev. Debby Dockstader convened this meeting of the Mission Visioning Council at 7:20 p.m. Her devotional consisted of reflections on an aphorism used by her mother: “Christian faith is our steering wheel – not our spare tire!”

The following members were present: Elder Jane Stoffer, Elder Bob Gillette, the Rev. Larry Myers, the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, Elder Alice Jackson, the Rev. Debby Dockstader, the Rev. Dick Ferris, the Rev. Elmarie Parker, the Rev. Bonnie Dutton, Elder Carole Rummell, the Rev. Ross Jackson.

The following members were excused: the Rev. Jeanine Haven, Elder Peggy Richmond, Elder Molly Halter, Elder Jim Morrison, Elder Sharon Wood.

Staff present: The Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, Eastminster Presbytery.

The Minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting of this Council were reviewed and accepted as printed.

The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt from the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council had one request to make of the Mission Visioning Council: that the Coordinating Council’s participation in the Joint Retreat shared by these two councils be placed on Saturday, January 26, 2008, and not on the evening of Friday, January 25, 2008.

The first item of business was the distribution of two issues of ‘The Parish Paper’ for the review of the Mission Visioning Council. Dan Schomer indicated that for \$150.00 annually, this can be distributed to each of our churches throughout our Presbytery, and each church can make whatever copies they choose to make for use throughout their particular parish. M/S/C to purchase this for our churches from the appropriate monies in our budget as a Council (2007 monies).

The second item was a proposal that our Joint Retreat with Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council on January 25 and 26, 2008 (at JBM Camp) be focused around how we go about ‘doing’ Presbytery in light of who we say we are as a Presbytery, and in light of where we believe God is leading us at this time in our history. (Dan says, “Look at the DNA of Eastminster Presbytery.”) This Mission Visioning Council would be asked to ‘create a process for the presbytery to *evaluate the presbytery structure* in light of our mission, our vision, and our stated priorities, and make recommendations that either revise or reaffirm the structure.’ The Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council would be asked to ‘create a process for the presbytery to *evaluate our presbytery meetings* in light of our mission, our vision, and our stated priorities, and make recommendations concerning the content and style of future presbytery meetings.’ Both Councils would gather together to report their work and evaluate it together. An action plan would be finalized to be implemented in Year 2008. A lengthy and substantive discussion ensued. Dan presented some excellent materials that are being utilized by our Presbytery’s Leadership Development Action Learning Team, entitled a ‘Three Zone Model of Missional Leadership,’ and a ‘Five Stage Missional Change Model,’ both from The Missional Leader book by Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk. It was felt by most members of this Council that we really need full interaction, on both Friday evening and on Saturday, with members of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council at our Retreat in order to gain maximum benefit from that experience. As representatives from each Council work together on the planning process for that Retreat, it is our hope that the importance of that level of interaction will be achievable. It was M/S/C to focus that Retreat as outlined above.

The third item of business was a handout from Dan concerning the General Assembly’s ‘Form Of Government Task Force.’ This is an attempt to ‘organize and focus’ the FOG portion of our Book of Order. Dan referred us to the following website:

www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment The full (lengthy) report is available there, along with a multitude of supporting documents. The handout consists of a study outline. Responses are sought when presbyteries have completed their studies of this most significant proposed document.

With no further business to come before this Council, the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant dismissed us with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Ross Jackson,
Temporary Secretary

HUDSON COMMISSION MINUTES JULY 26, 2007

The Hudson Administrative Commission of Eastminster Presbytery met at Eastminster Presbytery Center on July 26, 2007, beginning at 2:30pm. Members present were Pat Farmwald, Bob Gillette, Joe Hrach, Janet Lowery, Dale Lyons and Reford Nash. General Presbyter Dan Schomer also attended. Janet Lowery opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting on June 28, 2007 were approved by consensus.

There was discussion of the July 22 worship service of the True Hudson Presbyterian Church in the chapel at Laurel Lake. Attendance was less than at previous similar services, as would be expected in midsummer when people tend to be away on vacation.

Commission members reviewed the content of the dialogue with True Hudson Presbyterian Church members that had followed the July 22 worship service at Laurel Lake. The following items were recalled: Dale Lyons had reported on possible locations for THPC worship services in Hudson, should a decision be made to begin weekly services in a location other than the Hudson Presbyterian Church sanctuary. There was consensus that the old church on the green was the most suitable location, but that such services should not begin at the present time.

Dan Schomer had reported that a decision in the HPC lawsuit had not yet been announced, that the North Benton Presbyterian Church had just communicated to the presbytery its intent to leave the PCUSA, and that arrangements for funding for HPC redevelopment are proceeding well.

Dan Schomer had reported that the HPC attorney had approached the presbytery attorney with a vague offer to enter into a dialogue, the purpose of which was unclear. There was consensus that such a dialogue would be unlikely to achieve anything useful and that it should not be undertaken.

There had been further discussion about notifying all interested parties about future THPC worship services, including all identifiable HPC members, Presbyterians residing at Laurel Lake, and the Laurel Lake office. There was consensus that these services should be described as worship services of the Hudson Presbyterian Church, PCUSA, open to all.

Dale Lyons reported on his ongoing work in Hudson to prepare for the coming transition, whatever form it may take. Following discussion it was affirmed that the old church on the Hudson green is the most suitable location for weekly services, should it be decided to begin them outside of the HPC church building. Copies of the present HPC congregation's 6/30/07 financial statement were distributed for information.

Dan Schomer again reported that the presbytery's attorney had received a letter from the HPC attorney vaguely suggesting a dialogue, the content and intent of which were not stated. Commission members again agreed that it would be inappropriate to begin such a dialogue at the present time.

There was discussion of financial matters relating to reorganizing the Hudson Presbyterian Church PCUSA. Copies of email messages showing evidence of financial support from the Synod of the Covenant and the General Assembly were distributed. It was agreed by consensus that we should request a line item of \$10,000 of support in next year's Eastminster Presbytery budget (under evangelism). It was agreed by consensus that a tentative first-year budget for the reorganized Hudson Presbyterian Church PCUSA should be prepared, and that Joe Hrach, Dale Lyons and Dan Schomer will meet and do this.

Plans were made for the next THPC worship service, set for August 26 at Laurel Lake beginning at 2:00pm. Mark Phillips will preach. Dan Schomer and Reford Nash will be the liturgists. Janet Lowery will be the Celebrant for Holy Communion and provide the elements. THPC members will serve as greeters and ushers. The organist remains to be confirmed, but Tana Fox was named as a likely candidate. Dan Schomer will lead the post-service dialogue, which will focus on whatever concerns the various participants will want to discuss.

There was discussion of problems that may occur during the immediate transition period after the magistrate's decision is announced. The need for prompt, proactive leadership and action was affirmed. Dan Schomer will consult with the presbytery's attorney on various aspects of what will need to be done.

The Commission's next meeting was set for Thursday, August 23, at 2:00pm at Eastminster Presbytery Center. Pat Farmwald will open the meeting with prayer. Agenda items will include applications for synod and GA funding, the appointment of a Treasurer for the reorganized congregation, and other financial and administrative matters. Joe Hrach noted that he will be taking ordination examinations on that date.

The meeting was closed at 4:10pm with prayer by Reford Nash.

Respectfully submitted:
Robert D. Gillette, Secretary

Attest:
Rev. Reford Nash, Moderator

HUDSON COMMISSION MINUTES AUGUST 23, 2007

The Hudson Administrative Commission of Eastminster Presbytery met at Eastminster Presbytery Center on August 23, 2007 beginning at 2:00pm. Members present were Bob Gillette, Dale Lyons, Bob Moore, Reford Nash and Mark Phillips. General Presbyter Dan Schomer also attended. Reford Nash opened the meeting with prayer, praying especially for Pat Farmwald in her time of major illness. The minutes of the previous meeting on July 26, 2007 were approved by consensus.

Dale Lyons reported on recent happenings within the current Hudson congregation. He said that an annual women's ecumenical event in Hudson is scheduled to be held in January, and that it is the year for it to be at the Presbyterian church. There was consensus that the True Hudson Presbyterian Church should take responsibility for this event if the lawsuit is decided in our favor but that we should not intervene if the suit is decided in favor of the dissident congregation. It was agreed that our response should be postponed until after the Commission's next regular meeting. Dale also reported that "Reverend" Matthew Everhard has been conducting Sunday services in the absence of Wayne Bogue.

There was discussion of a letter sent to members of our Commission by Forrest Norman, attorney for the dissident congregation. This letter objected to the use of the phrase, "Hudson Presbyterian Church" on the letterhead of a letter dated August 15, 2007 that was sent from the presbytery office to members of the dissident congregation. There was consensus after discussion that the wording of the letter was reasonable and acceptable, both legally and as a reflection of reality. Consensus was also reached that we should not be unnecessarily provocative in our use of that phrase.

There was further discussion of Mr. Norman's previous request for a new round of negotiations between the dissident congregation and the presbytery. There was consensus that there is no reasonable basis for negotiation until the lawsuit initiated by Mr. Norman is resolved.

Arrangements for the September True Hudson Presbyterian Church worship service were set by consensus. It will occur at Laurel Lake at 2:00pm on Sunday, September 30. Dan Schomer will preach. Reford Nash (tentatively) and Bob Gillette will serve as liturgists. Mark Phillips will be the Communion celebrant and will supply the elements. Dale Lyons will ask Tana Fox to be the organist. If she is not available, Janet Lowery will be asked to ask Rob Phillips to serve as organist. Members of the Hudson congregation will serve as greeters and ushers and will provide refreshments for the post-worship dialogue.

It was agreed by consensus that subsequent True Hudson Presbyterian Church services will be set for October 28 and November 25. Rob Phillips will be contacted about serving as organist.

Consensus prevailed that the treasurer of Eastminster Presbytery will be asked to serve as interim treasurer of the redeveloping Hudson Presbyterian Church. It was decided not to make appointments of other officers of that body at the present time.

Dan Schomer reported on the results of his budget talks with Joe Hrach and Dale Lyons. Grant applications are pending in the General Assembly and the Synod. Funding support from the presbytery will be requested. It was felt that the tentative budget was "doable" with appropriate additional support from members of the congregation.

It was agreed by consensus that no request will be made for docket time at the September 11 presbytery meeting, there being no recent developments that need to be reported.

The next meeting of the Hudson Administrative Commission was set for Tuesday, September 25 beginning at 2:30pm at the Presbytery Center.

The meeting was closed at 3:30pm with prayer by Bob Gillette.

Respectfully submitted:
Robert D. Gillette, Secretary

Attest:
Rev. Reford Nash, Moderator

HUDSON COMMISSION MINUTES OCTOBER 2, 2007

The Hudson Administrative Commission of Eastminster Presbytery met at Eastminster Presbytery Center on October 2, 2007 beginning at 2:30pm. This was a necessary postponement of the meeting previously scheduled for September 25, one week earlier. Members present were Bob Gillette, Dale Lyons, Reford Nash and Mark Phillips. General Presbyter Dan Schomer also attended. The meeting was opened with prayer. Recently deceased Commission member Pat Farmwald was remembered in prayer and in conversation. The minutes of the previous meeting on August 23, 2007 were approved as distributed.

Dale Lyons reported on recent events within the Hudson congregation.

Dan Schomer presented a number of points for discussion arising from the dialogue with loyalist congregation members following the worship service at Laurel Lake on Sunday, September 30. He noted that there appeared to be a consensus that there is a need for pastoral care services for these congregants. He also noted that there is significant, although not unanimous, enthusiasm for commencing weekly Sunday morning worship services for the group. Following extensive discussion, Commission members reached consensus that it is time to identify a part-time temporary supply pastor for the Hudson Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) to provide both weekly worship and pastoral care. Dan Schomer will seek to recruit such a person, after which a final decision will be made by the Commission, quite possibly at a conference telephone call.

Dale Lyons will move ahead with arranging for a suitable worship site in Hudson. A target date of November 4 was set for commencing weekly worship. Church school will begin at a later time, followed later by small group activities. It was decided to let stand the already-scheduled Sunday afternoon service at Laurel Lake on October 28.

Dan Schomer reported that many people have expressed concern about plans of the dissident congregation to vote on Sunday, October 14 to join the New Wineskins Provisional Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. As part of this process, the existing Hudson Presbyterian Church members are to be "rolled over" into the new organization. It was noted that this latter action is both inappropriately divisive and contrary to the PCUSA Constitution. Following discussion there was consensus that Dan Schomer should prepare a factual letter to be mailed by the presbytery to all identifiable Hudson Presbyterian Church members, explaining that they will remain on the rolls of the Hudson Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and welcome to participate in its work and worship, unless they request otherwise. A draft of this letter will be distributed by email to Commission members for review and recommendations before the final version is mailed.

Following discussion there was consensus that Dan Schomer should contact the Presbytery's attorneys to see if it might be appropriate to approach the magistrate in an effort to learn when a ruling on the litigation may be expected.

Following discussion there was consensus to approach the Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery with a recommendation that Ann Seich be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Commission resulting from the passing of Pat Farmwald.

It was agreed that the Commission will request 10 minutes of docket time at the November 13 presbytery meeting. The content of the report will depend on events occurring in the days before that meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission was set for Thursday, November 1 at 2:30pm at Eastminster Presbytery Center.

The meeting was closed with prayer shortly after 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Robert D. Gillette, Secretary

Attest:
Rev. Reford Nash, Moderator

**Report of the General Presbyter
Eastminster Presbytery
November 13, 2007**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I read through Magistrate Shoemaker's ruling relating to the Hudson Presbyterian Church, I was disturbed, not simply by the ruling, but by the implications of the ruling. Before, I comment, I encourage you to go to our website (www.faithfulness.com) and read the magistrate's ruling. What I find most disturbing is the presumption that Eastminster Presbytery has no standing to make a legal claim. The ruling appears to sidestep the 2,000 pound gorilla in the (court)room: the church-state issue. If this ruling stands, the Summit County Court will have effectively changed the nature of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the state of Ohio from a connectional/constitutional church to a church of congregations who voluntarily affiliate with one another for as long (or briefly) as they wish.

Eastminster Presbytery's attorneys are preparing to file "objections" to the magistrate's ruling within the limited time period allowed. The objections will be reviewed by Judge Mary Spicer and will rule on these objections. It is likely that, following Judge Spicer's ruling, one of the parties will appeal the case to the Ohio State Court of Appeals. Once again, we wait. Please keep all parties in your prayers in this exceedingly difficult time.

I hope many of you will come to the pre-presbytery event on November 13 at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Niles. We are so blessed to have four guests from churches in Africa through the Mission to the U.S.A. program in the Synod of the Covenant. Pastors Takiru Tolossa, Patricia Phiri, Richard Nimo, and Nii Dagadu are an inspiration and bring a powerful witness to Jesus Christ from a global perspective. Come hear how God is at work in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Zambia.

This is an exceedingly exciting time for Eastminster Presbytery. I read about so many vital and creative ministries in the newsletter of our churches. I recently shared in a wonderful training event for clergy coaches with five members of Eastminster Presbytery. The Mission Visioning and Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Councils are committed to a combined retreat January 25 & 26 to create ways for the presbytery to evaluate our ministry and shape our future vision together. Action Learning Teams authorized by the Mission Visioning Council are exploring how Eastminster Presbytery might develop the leaders of our churches and equip them to lead their congregations into transformation for the future. Eight churches of Eastminster Presbytery have committed to a 3rd year of the Acts 16:5 Initiative and we have already met with Stan Ott as we focus on becoming disciple-making churches.

This is a challenging time to be the church. This is a wonderful time to be the church. Thank you for the opportunity to share in this adventure with you as your General Presbyter.

The Report of your Representative to General Assembly Council

November 13, 2007

Dan Schomer

The General Assembly Council (GAC) met in Louisville, Kentucky, September 18-21, 2007. The September GAC meeting began my sixth and final year of service on the Council. The first two days of the Council meeting was dedicated to meeting with Middle Governing Body or MGB (presbytery and synod) executives. As one of only two presbytery executives on the Council, it was interesting to wear two hats.

Beginning in 2006, the General Assembly Council has invited MGB executives to meet with the Council at its September meeting for the purpose of dialogue. The GAC felt the need for better communication with presbyteries and have invited the MGB executives to help shape present and future decisions. This combined meeting also provides the GAC with the opportunity to inform presbytery leadership what issues are being explored and what changes are taking place. It was particularly helpful for MGB executives to have the opportunity to meet and hear from the many new staff members that have brought new vitality to the General Assembly Council and the Office of the General Assembly.

The GAC is already making preparations for the 2008 General Assembly in San Jose, California, July 21-28. One of the personal highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the Mission Funding Task Force Report and its approval to be recommended to the '08 General Assembly. I have spent four years on this task force and am pleased the GAC has embraced it. The report provides a theological grounding and a theoretical framework for a mission funding plan that will be more transparent and donor responsive and will provide much stronger interpretation of our mission together. The GAC heard the progress that is being made in considering if Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) should become a separate nonprofit corporation. Although there are a number of significant advantages to such a development, the Council is choosing to move slowly to insure that it is in the best interest of the whole church. A major report coming to the 2008 General Assembly is from the Form of Government Task Force of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. This report will recommend major changes in a streamlined (as in smaller and more flexible) Form of Government in the Book of Order. I invite you to review the report on the PCUSA website: www.pcusa.com/formofgovernment. Consideration is being given whether to present this report for action to the 2008 General Assembly or to delay action to the 2010 General Assembly to give the presbyteries and churches time to study the report.

The next meeting of the General Assembly Council will be held February 13-15, 2008, in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Eastminster Presbytery
Trustees Report
November 13, 2007**

For Action

1. The Trustees recommend setting the Presbytery portion of Per Capita for Year 2008 at \$16.18. With General Assembly's Per Capita at \$5.79, and Synod's Per Capita at \$3.13, this makes our total Per Capita per member for Year 2008 \$25.10.
2. The Trustees recommend adopting the Administrative Budget and the Personnel Committee Budget for 2008, so that patterns of payment/reimbursement for our Presbytery Staff may begin on January 1, 2008.
3. The Trustees recommend adjusting the percentages of UNDESIGNATED Mission Dollars, received from our churches for Year 2008, as follows: to General Assembly, 25% (down 4%); to Synod, 7% (down 2%); to Eastminster Presbytery, 68% (up 6%).

**2008
Per Capita**

GA	\$ 5.79 (same as 2007)
SYNOD	\$ 3.13 (up \$0.05 from 2007)
Eastminster	\$16.18 (up \$0.64 from 2007)
Total	\$ 25.10 per member

Eastminster Presbytery's Obligation to GA

November 2, 2007

2001			<i>2001 Balance - \$0 paid in 2002</i>
2002			<i>2002 Balance - \$137,713.30 paid in 2003</i>
2003			<i>2003 Balance - \$103,118.16 paid in 2004</i>
2004	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>
2005	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>
2006	Jan.	\$23,727.41	Wired 5-10-06 & 9-5-06
	Feb.	\$ 7,604.81	Wired 5-10-06 & 12-6-06
	Mar.	\$15,742.48	Wired 5-10-06 & 2-06-07
	Apr.	\$ 9,469.76	Wired 10-13-06 & 2-06-07
	May	\$58,323.83	Wired 8-7-06, 11-3-06 & 2-06-07
	June	\$16,115.56	Wired 11-16-06 & 2-06-07
	July	\$19,950.57	Wired 11-16-06 & 3-16-07
	Aug.	\$11,478.71	Wired 11-16-06 & 3-16-07
	Sept.	\$ 6,211.46	Wired 11-16-06 & 3-16-07
	Oct.	\$ 8,875.10	Wired 11-16-06 & 3-16-07
	Nov.	\$19,203.24	Wired 12-6-06 & 3-21-07
	Dec.	\$47,518.91	Wire 2-06-07 & sent 4-16-07
2007	Jan.	\$13,756.45	Sent 2-07-07 & 5-2-07
	Feb.	\$20,672.24	Sent 5-2-07
	Mar.	\$ 9,316.88	Sent 5-2-07
	Apr.	\$13,620.10	Sent 5-24-07
	May	\$50,855.35	Owe \$6,398.11 sent on 8-30-07 & 9/30/07 & 10/23/07
	June	\$12,907.06	Sent 11-1-07
	July	\$ 7,964.23	Owe
	Aug.	\$ 6,253.38	Owe
	Sept.	\$ 9,021.22	Owe
	Oct.	\$13,249.31	Owe
			TOTAL OWED TO GA - \$36,488.14

Eastminster Presbytery Mission Payups Thru October 2007

CHURCH NAME	2007 General Mission	2007 Payup	Balance	Percent Payup
	PLEDGE			
AKRON/ALLENSIDE	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$200.00	60.0%
AK./FIRESTONE PARK		\$1,000.00		
AKRON/FIRST	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	66.7%
AK./GOODYEAR HTS	\$10,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,500.00	45.0%
AK./NEW COVENANT		\$800.00		
AK/NORTH SPRINGFIELD	\$5,000.00	\$3,749.98	\$1,250.02	75.0%
AKRON/OAK HILL	\$12,500.00	\$10,181.81	\$2,318.19	81.5%
AK./UNIVERSITY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
AKRON/WESTMINSTER	\$25,375.00	\$10,414.70	\$14,960.30	41.0%
BARBERTON FIRST	\$16,715.00	\$13,929.20	\$2,785.80	83.3%
CANFIELD FIRST	\$19,500.00	\$19,500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
COLUMBIANA FIRST	\$2,000.00	\$7,300.00	-\$5,300.00	365.0%
CUY. /NORTHMINSTER	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	50.0%
CUY. FALLS/UNITED	\$15,000.00	\$11,250.00	\$3,750.00	75.0%
EAST PALESTINE	\$2,333.15	\$574.70	\$1,758.45	24.6%
ELLSWORTH	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$750.00	75.0%
GIRARD	\$3,670.00	\$3,058.30	\$611.70	83.3%
HUBBARD	\$2,000.00	\$1,650.00	\$350.00	82.5%
HUDSON	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
KENT	\$10,000.00	\$8,331.32	\$1,668.68	83.3%
KINSMAN	\$7,000.00	\$5,831.50	\$1,168.50	83.3%
LAKE MILTON	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	100.0%
LISBON	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,500.00	75.0%
MINERAL RIDGE	\$8,089.80	\$6,067.35	\$2,022.45	75.0%
NEW WATERFORD	\$1,000.00	\$1,072.50	-\$72.50	107.3%
NILES FIRST	\$5,200.00	\$3,899.97	\$1,300.03	75.0%
NILES SOUTH SIDE	\$780.00	\$585.00	\$195.00	75.0%
NORTH BENTON	\$3,000.00	\$999.98	\$2,000.02	33.3%
NORTH JACKSON	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
NORTH LIMA/CGCC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
PETERSBURG	\$2,904.00	\$2,420.00	\$484.00	83.3%
POLAND	\$21,500.00	\$17,916.60	\$3,583.40	83.3%
ROGERS/CLARKSON	\$525.00	\$525.00	\$0.00	100.0%
SALEM/CONCORD	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$250.00	75.0%
SALEM FIRST	\$28,600.00	\$28,300.00	\$300.00	99.0%
SEBRING	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	83.3%
STOW	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
STRUTHERS	\$0.00	\$0.00		
VIENNA	\$4,550.00	\$4,050.00	\$500.00	89.0%
WARREN/CALVARY	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	100.0%
WARREN/CHAMPION	\$7,890.00	\$4,800.00	\$3,090.00	60.8%
WARREN/COVENANT	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	100.0%
WARREN FIRST	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	100.0%
BROWNLEE WOODS	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
BUTLER MEMORIAL	\$750.00	\$581.83	\$168.17	77.6%
CHRIST	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
COITSVILLE	\$0.00	\$0.00		
YOUNGSTOWN FIRST	\$14,400.00	\$12,000.00	\$2,400.00	83.3%
GIBSON HEIGHTS	\$0.00	\$430.54	-\$430.54	
HUNGARIAN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
JOHN KNOX	\$3,500.00	\$2,625.00	\$875.00	75.0%
LIBERTY	\$1,100.00	\$740.06	\$359.94	67.3%
PLEASANT GROVE	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$750.00	75.0%
WESTMINSTER YO	\$10,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,000.00	71.4%
WICKLIFFE	\$2,200.00	\$1,650.00	\$550.00	75.0%
TOTAL	\$306,781.95	\$245,985.34	\$62,596.61	80.2%

Eastminster Presbytery Per Capita Payups Thru October 2007

CHURCH NAME	2007 Total Per Capita Due	Total Paid to Date	Balance Due	Percent Payup
AKRON ALLENSIDE	\$1,586.65	\$825.50	\$761.15	52.03%
AKRON FIRESTONE	\$4,686.72	\$1,799.63	\$2,887.09	38.40%
AKRON FIRST	\$6,126.91	\$5,500.00	\$626.91	89.77%
AKRON GOODYEAR HTS	\$6,444.24	\$4,000.00	\$2,444.24	62.07%
AKRON NEW COVENANT	\$2,563.05	\$1,588.60	\$974.45	61.98%
AKRON NORTH SPRINGFIELD	\$3,100.07	\$3,100.07	\$0.00	100.00%
AKRON OAK HILL	\$10,618.35	\$3,594.96	\$7,023.39	33.86%
AKRON UNIVERSITY	\$1,513.42	\$0.00	\$1,513.42	0.00%
AKRON WESTMINSTER	\$16,452.34	\$8,226.18	\$8,226.16	50.00%
BARBERTON FIRST	\$6,541.88	\$6,541.92	(\$0.04)	100.00%
CANFIELD FIRST	\$12,888.48	\$12,888.48	\$0.00	100.00%
COLUMBIANA FIRST	\$5,321.38	\$2,996.41	\$2,324.97	56.31%
CUY. NORTHMINSTER	\$5,443.43	\$5,443.42	\$0.01	100.00%
CUY - UNITED	\$8,787.60	\$4,393.80	\$4,393.80	50.00%
EAST PALESTINE	\$5,223.74	\$5,223.74	\$0.00	100.00%
ELLSWORTH	\$2,465.41	\$1,629.92	\$835.49	66.11%
GIRARD	\$1,806.34	\$1,806.34	\$0.00	100.00%
HUBBARD	\$6,566.29	\$5,450.00	\$1,116.29	83.00%
HUDSON	\$12,253.82	\$0.00	\$12,253.82	0.00%
KENT	\$5,004.05	\$5,004.05	\$0.00	100.00%
KINSMAN	\$3,392.99	\$3,392.99	\$0.00	100.00%
LAKE MILTON	829.94	\$829.94	\$0.00	100.00%
LISBON	\$7,445.05	\$7,445.05	\$0.00	100.00%
MINERAL RIDGE	\$4,979.64	\$4,349.78	\$629.86	87.35%
NEW WATERFORD	\$1,391.37	\$1,391.37	\$0.00	100.00%
NILES FIRST	\$3,344.17	\$2,508.11	\$836.06	75.00%
NILES SOUTH SIDE	\$976.40	\$976.40	\$0.00	100.00%
NORTH BENTON	\$4,515.85	\$0.00	\$4,515.85	0.00%
NORTH JACKSON	\$1,074.04	\$1,074.04	\$0.00	100.00%
N. LIMA-COMMON GROUND	\$1,757.52	\$1,757.52	\$0.00	100.00%
PETERSBURG	\$2,611.87	\$2,166.84	\$445.03	82.96%
POLAND	\$20,943.78	\$17,453.11	\$3,490.67	83.33%
ROGERS CLARKSON	\$976.40	\$976.40	\$0.00	100.00%
SALEM CONCORD	\$1,171.68	\$1,171.68	\$0.00	100.00%
SALEM FIRST	\$12,668.79	\$12,668.79	\$0.00	100.00%
SEBRING	\$6,810.39	\$1,811.00	\$4,999.39	26.59%
STOW	\$6,395.42	\$0.00	\$6,395.42	0.00%
STRUTHERS	\$5,321.38	\$0.00	\$5,321.38	0.00%
VIENNA	\$1,806.34	\$1,806.34	\$0.00	100.00%
WARREN CALVARY	\$2,392.18	\$2,392.18	\$0.00	100.00%
WARREN CHAMPION	\$10,008.10	\$2,980.08	\$7,028.02	29.78%
WARREN COVENANT	\$1,269.32	\$1,269.32	\$0.00	100.00%
WARREN FIRST	\$8,055.30	\$8,055.30	\$0.00	100.00%
YO. HERITAGE	\$4,564.67	\$4,173.84	\$390.83	91.44%
YO. BUTLER MEMORIAL	\$610.25	\$515.73	\$94.52	84.51%
YO. CHRIST	\$3,734.73	\$1,740.82	\$1,993.91	46.61%
YO. COITSVILLE	\$1,415.78	\$0.00	\$1,415.78	0.00%
YO. FIRST	\$5,296.97	\$5,296.97	\$0.00	100.00%
YO. GIBSON HEIGHTS	\$2,196.90	\$687.02	\$1,509.88	31.27%
YO. HUNGARIAN	\$3,124.48	\$1,526.57	\$1,597.91	48.86%
YO. JOHN KNOX	\$2,636.28	\$2,636.28	\$0.00	100.00%
YO. LIBERTY	\$1,806.34	\$513.43	\$1,292.91	28.42%
YO. PLEASANT GROVE	\$7,176.54	\$5,175.00	\$2,001.54	72.11%
YO. WESTMINSTER	\$11,521.52	\$11,521.52	\$0.00	100.00%
YO. WICKLIFFE	\$4,759.95	\$5,735.72	(\$975.77)	120.50%
TOTAL	\$284,376.50	\$196,012.16	\$88,364.34	68.93%

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS
Eastminster Presbytery Office
Email: lorrainejones@faithfulness.com
330-505-2167 or toll free 1-800-215-2416
Lorraine Jones, coordinator

Resource Center Hours:
Mon 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.
Wed 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.
Thurs 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.



Quick Calendar:

November 22 Thanksgiving*
November 25 Christ the King Sunday+
December 2 First Sunday of Advent

*The Resource Center carries several videos for children focusing on the first Thanksgiving, being generous, and giving thanks. We also carry Jubilee Celebrations #2, by Bertha M. Landers (Brethren Press, 1995). This resource contains the complete plans for an intergenerational celebration focusing not on abundance, but on the gratitude we feel to God even when things are scarce. A fellowship meal, scripture, prayer, and singing remind us that God loves us even when we are not very lovable, and for that we give thanks.

+Did you know the Resource Center carries previous issues of *Ideas!* magazine? The Winter 2003-4 edition contains several ideas for celebrating the reign of Christ, including music suggestions. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from Messiah is most fitting. "And he shall reign forever and ever."

CLIP and POST

What can the Resource Center do for you, not your congregation, but for you? We carry books, magazines, curriculum, videos, catalogs, a few computer programs, VBS kits, and DVDs. **Any person in any Presbyterian church in Eastminster Presbytery** is welcome to sign these items out. In addition, we have a computer connected to the internet that you can use while you are here. The Eastminster Presbytery Resource Center is located within the Presbytery offices at 3833 Main St. in Mineral Ridge right across from the Dollar General store. We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 AM to 2 PM. Visit us online at www.eastminsterpresbytery.org/resource_center or go directly to our online catalog at eastminster.requestmanager.org. Best of all? It is free!



A D V E N T

The recovery of the Advent season in and by the Church may be all that saves Christmas. What is all the celebration about? Why did Christmas develop in the Church in the first place? What is the theology; what is the message of God that we focus on at Christmas? How does peace come—if it comes at all? Why did Jesus come? What, if anything, did his coming accomplish? The people of our churches need to take a step back, remain calm, put away the Christmas carols, and listen to the biblical texts which the Church has picked to guide us toward the deep meaning of Christmas.

-----from *The Light Will Shine*,
A study for Advent by Carol J. Miller
Published by Kerygma, 1999.

A Clear View of Jesus' Birth, a series of four half-hour videotapes by Dr. Kenneth Bailey, sheds light on what really happened at Jesus' birth. He answers such questions as: "Why didn't Mary & Joseph go to Elizabeth's house for the birth of Jesus? She lived nearby."



Preparing for Jesus, by master storyteller Walter Wangerin Jr. (Zondervan, 1999), re-imagines the events surrounding the Advent of Christ, offering a devotional journey into the heart of the Christmas season. Through rich detail and vivid images, these moving meditations make Christ's birth both intimate and immediate, allowing us to see Christmas from its original happening to its perennial recurrence in our hearts.

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas (Orbis, 2004), presents an anthology of writings from authors C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Philip Yancey, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, and others. The readings offer wisdom, beauty, and spiritual nourishment from Advent to Epiphany.

New Year, New You.....

Lead Like Jesus, by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges (The Center for Faithwalk Leadership, 2003), is an 8-week multi-media group study for people who realize that Jesus is the greatest leadership model of all time. During the 8-week study, participants focus on their heart, head, hands, and habits so that *God will have free reign in all their daily actions and relationships*, especially their leadership roles.



Eastminster Presbytery
Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council

For Action:

1. Recommend the election of the following to the Nominating Committee

Class of 2008

Elder Lynn Doyle-Pebworth (Youngstown-First)

Class of 2010

Elder Peggy Richmond (Petersburg)

the Rev. Ross Jackson

2. The following motion was presented to the Presbytery in September 2006 for a first reading. It was presented again in January 2007. At the January 2007 meeting, the following motion prevailed:

“That the motion before us be postponed until no later than the last stated meeting of presbytery in 2007 or at any previous meeting in 2007 when the Mission Visioning Council judges that sufficient discernment through worship, community building, study and collaborative work has been carried out in presbytery in consultation with the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry about ordination standards for and the examination of ministers, elders and deacons.”

A RESOLUTION TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY
CONCERNING ORDINATION STANDARDS

Whereas the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has standards for ordination to church office in the Form of Government; and

Whereas these standards include educational requirements, a definite set of examinations, willingness to make certain vows, and a commitment to limit sexual expression to heterosexual marriage; and

Whereas the church has judged each of these standards necessary for good and sufficient reasons; and

Whereas the 217th General Assembly (2006) has issued an Authoritative Interpretation of G-6.0108, to the effect that ordaining bodies may decide whether a departure from one or more of our Constitutional standards touches something essential in our faith and polity,

THEREFORE, the Sessions of Calvary, Champion, Covenant, Hudson, Hubbard, North Benton, and Stow Presbyterian Churches respectfully overture the Presbytery of Eastminster to take the following actions:

1. Establish as the policy of Eastminster Presbytery that in every particular case all the standards for ordination and installation to church office in the *Form of Government*, including the requirement that deacons, elders, and ministers “live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or in chastity in singleness”(G-6.0106b) shall be treated as essential.

2. Establish as the policy of Eastminster Presbytery that this body shall neither offer nor accept any scruple about or exception to the constitutional standards for ordination and installation within its jurisdiction, except as provided in the Book of Order G-14.0313; and,

3. To direct the stated clerk of Eastminster Presbytery to communicate the above policies to the sessions with the following instruction: Within the bounds of Eastminster Presbytery all who participate in examinations of candidates for ordination or installation, including the candidates themselves, shall be made

aware of Eastminster Presbytery's policy that each and every requirement for ordination and installation in the *Form of Government* is essential and the Presbytery does not offer or accept any scruple about or exception to them, except as provided in the *Book of Order* G-14.0313.

FURTHER, immediately upon the approval of the above actions, the above Sessions respectfully overture the Presbytery of Eastminster to receive the following amendments to the Presbytery's *Manual of Operations* on first reading, with the second reading and motion to approve to be placed on the docket of the November, 2006, Stated Meeting:

1. To add the following entry to the Presbytery's *Manual of Operations* paragraph 7.300 as letter d, and to re-letter the remaining items accordingly:
 - d. Advise all transferring ministers and candidates for ordination of Eastminster Presbytery's policy that each and every requirement for ordination and installation in the *Form of Government* is essential and the Presbytery does not offer or accept any scruple about or exception to them, except as provided in the *Book of Order* G-14.0313.
2. To add the following wording to the current paragraph d. (which shall become paragraph e. upon the approval of these amendments), added text shown in *italics*:
 - d (*e.*) Acting with the authority of presbytery to: find in order calls issued by churches; to approve and present calls for services of ministers; to conduct and *recommend approval of the examination of candidates for ordination and of ministers transferring from other presbyteries as required by the Book of Order (G-11.0402), and in accordance with Eastminster Presbytery's policy that each and every requirement for ordination and installation in the Form of Government is essential and the Presbytery does not offer or accept any scruple about or exception to them, except as provided in the Book of Order G-14.0313;* to dissolve . . . (balance unchanged).

Rationale: The above amendments codify the approved policy of Eastminster Presbytery that in every particular case all the standards for ordination and installation to church office in the *Form of Government*, including the requirement that deacons, elders, and ministers "live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or in chastity in singleness"(G-6.0106b) shall be treated as essential; that this body will neither offer nor accept any scruple about or exception to the constitutional standards for ordination and installation within its jurisdiction, except as provided in the Book of Order G-14.0313; and that all who participate in examinations of candidates for ordination or installation, including the candidates themselves, shall be made aware of Eastminster Presbytery's policy that each and every requirement for ordination and installation in the *Form of Government* is essential and the Presbytery does not offer or accept any scruple about or exception to them, except as provided in the *Book of Order* G-14.0313.

The proposed wording for current paragraph d. (paragraph e. upon approval) also reserves to the Presbytery the right to approve examinations of transferring ministers and candidates for ordination. The Committee on Ministry may recommend approval, but the last word on a particular examination is granted to the body as a whole.

In September 2007, the task force established by the Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry to fulfill the mandate of the January action presented a report to the Presbytery. Their report, as subsequently amended, is presented as a substitute motion for the resolution printed above.

CPM/COM Task Group Report

The Task Group consists of the following members Rev's Aaron Meadows (CPM), David Black (COM), Harry Van Fleet (CPM), Elders Mary Louise Forsythe (COM), and Dale Riley (COM).

Our task was to look at and review the ordination and examination standards of ministers as it relates to membership in Eastminster Presbytery. After meeting, deliberating, having 'table talk', and holding a question and answer session at the last Presbytery meeting offer the following substitute motion to the motion presented by the 6 churches last November:

(what is highlighted in **bold** are changes from the draft recommendation presented at the last presbytery meeting)

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

“Requirements for Candidates for Membership in Eastminster Presbytery”

Eastminster Presbytery will be guided by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the examination of candidates. Candidates will be examined based upon a thorough analysis of the relevant provisions in the *Book of Order*, and the history of Constitutional interpretation through decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and the authoritative interpretations adopted by the General Assembly itself.

1. Persons being examined for ordination to the office of minister of Word and Sacrament and/or membership in the Presbytery shall be examined by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) or Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM).
 - A Persons being examined for ordination shall be examined by the Presbytery in plenary assembly.
 - B Persons previously ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament who seek presbytery membership may be examined by the Committee on Ministry (or a COM task force consisting of at least five persons) on behalf of the Presbytery **or by a plenary session of the presbytery.**
2. Persons being examined shall submit a brief statement of faith (ordinarily not to exceed one page) which shall be reviewed as part of the examination. **(Honorably retired persons may present an account of their faith journey in lieu of a statement of faith. OMITTED)**
3. Governing bodies do not possess a “right of conscience” that would permit them to violate mandatory provisions of the Constitution. For example, the Presbytery is bound by the third sentence of G-6.0106b which states, “Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as a ... minister of Word and Sacrament.”
4. Individuals being examined for ordination or presbytery membership who disagree with the faith or polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as expressed in the Scriptures, the *Book of Confessions*, or the *Book of Order* shall submit a statement of exception expressing their disagreement to the Presbytery in writing prior to their examination.

- A. Each person submitting a statement of exception shall be examined by the Presbytery in plenary assembly. Each exception requested shall be considered by the Presbytery as to whether it constitutes a rejection of an essential tenet of Reformed faith or polity. The person being examined shall be granted opportunity to defend the objection before the assembly. The assembly may take into account the depth and quality of theological reasoning in determining whether the position taken constitutes a rejection of an essential tenet.
 - B. Persons who are judged by this presbytery to reject an essential tenet of Reformed faith or polity shall not be ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament, or be granted membership in this Presbytery, regardless of prior ordination or retirement status.
 - C. “So far as may be possible without serious departure from [the standards of the church], without infringing on the rights and views of others, and without obstructing the constitutional governance of the church, freedom of conscience with respect to the interpretation of Scripture is to be maintained” The decision as to whether a person has departed from essentials of Reformed faith and polity is made initially by the individual concerned but ultimately becomes the responsibility of the governing body in which he or she serves. (G-6.0108a, b)
 - D. The Presbytery may not take any action which binds the judgment of future assemblies in the examination of candidates, nor may it reject a candidate’s statement of exception without providing the candidate an opportunity to defend the position or the presbyters the opportunity to weigh the position or its defense.
5. Persons whose statements of exception are deemed by the Presbytery not to constitute rejection of an essential tenet are nevertheless required to act in conformity with the faith and polity of the church. Persons willfully violating mandatory provisions of the Constitution shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Eastminster Presbytery
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
November 13, 2007

Items For Information:

1. The COM approved the extension of the covenant between the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of East Palestine and Interim Pastor Donald Aull through October 31, 2007.
2. Following the examination of Rev. Juliann Joy by the South Area Sub-Committee, the COM has received Rev. Joy as a member-at-large of our Presbytery and has asked the Stated Clerk to request her credentials be transferred from the Detroit Presbytery. A copy of Rev. Joy's Statement of Faith is attached on page 31.

Statement of Faith

Rev. Juliann Joy

Faith is known in the moment of surprise when the love of God is realized. In faith, we become convinced by the Holy Spirit that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. We also come to full realization of our sinfulness in the presence of God's Spirit. Christ calls each to repent, to turn from sinfulness and disobedience, toward the loving and forgiving presence of God. Repenting and turning toward Jesus Christ, we are released from the bondage of the sinful world and freed to gratefully and joyfully obey the Word of God.

We are made righteous! We become justified! We are forgiven! Having been given faith, forgiveness, righteousness, freedom and love, we become new creatures. God has bent down and engulfed us with grace, mercy and steadfast love. God touches us. God renews us. We respond with trust.

We trust the presence of God in our lives and in the Holy Scriptures. We discover the authoritative message of the Old and New Testaments – uncovering its beauty, its integrity, its pulsing life, its authority over us. Scripture also guides us into the presence of God in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

All Christians have been called to glorify God through worship. We have been called into the church, the household of God. In this household, we continue to receive and offer grace and mercy. Together we reach out in joyous celebration of the love and freedom granted to us. We become actively engaged in the world with justice, love and compassion. We prayerfully attend to the study of scripture and God's presence and activity in the world. Together we explore the ramifications of God's presence through spiritual development, education, fellowship, and mission. We exist as members of God's community, remembering God's merciful acts, experiencing and reaching out as God's presence in the world, and looking forward to the kingdom.

*Hosted by: Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio*

Rev. Tariku Tolossa Jira

Rev. Tariku Tolossa Jira is an ordained pastor working for the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Illubabor Bethel Synod and is the Director for the Department for Mission and Theology in Ethiopia. The department coordinates the work of different sections like training institution, youth work, Evangelistic outreach and women's work. The church's motto is "Serving the whole person." Accordingly the church is making efforts to preach the good news in ways that address the physical and spiritual needs of the hearers. As a result, the number of converts is increasing. Among Rev. Tolossa's concerns are minimizing the spread of HIV/AIDS, the spreading of false teachings, a lack of pastoral leaders to nurture the growing church, and an economy that provided low income and escalating prices. Tariku is married and has two children.

*Hosted by: First Presbyterian Church in
Youngstown, Ohio*

Rev. Nii Teiko Dagadu

Rev. Dagadu is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and is the chairperson of the Dangme Tongu Presbytery which has Spiritual, Pastoral and Administrative oversight of 15 districts and 192 congregations in the presbytery. In addition to his primary and secondary education in Ghana as well as a Theological diploma from the Seminary in Ghana, he has a certificate in Pastoral Studies from Aberdeen University in Scotland. He has also served as a Fraternal worker with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands from 2000 to 2004. Rev. Dagadu has a deep interest in Christian Education, especially for children and young people who are growing up in a very challenging world and global community.

*Hosted by: First Presbyterian Church
Niles, Ohio*

Rev. Richard Nimo

Rev. Richard Nimo is the pastor of a small congregation called the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana and also serves as the National Youth Program Officer for his denomination.

He is married and has two daughters ages 15 & 10. His congregation is active in providing many Christian social services to the people of its area. They have schools from kindergarten to high school and are currently building a college. They also help with hospitals and clinics. One of the programs in which they are instrumental is the Good Samaritan Program which bring teenage mothers and high school drop out together for training in skills like sewing and cooking to the youth are able to live on their own. They are also active with the Street Children Program which provides, shoes and clothes for school children, the National Counseling center giving support for families and HIV/AIDS Program which helps people live with Aids.

*Hosted by: The First Presbyterian Church
Mineral Ridge, Ohio*

Rev. Patricia Phiri

Rev. Patricia Phiri is from Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia where she is a minister in the United Presbyterian Church of South Africa. Zambia is slightly larger than Texas with an area of 200,586 square miles. She is one of eight children. She has a diploma in Theology from Theology College. She also has a Certificate in Children's Ministry and has post academic training. Rev. Phiri is the pastor of a congregation of 450 members in Lusaka. Rev. Phiri tells us the issues in her country that are of particular concern to her are the high rate of widows and orphans, poverty, abuse (drug and sexual), unemployment, HIV/AIDS. It is reported that Zambia has a population of 10,402,438, a poverty rate of 70% and the life expectancy is 38 to 41 years old in contrast to the United States where it is 77.8 years. English is their official language with 7 major vernaculars and about 70 other indigenous languages and religions including Christian, Muslin, and Hindu.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Congregational Resources Committee of Eastminster Presbytery is seeking men and women of faith who have a passion for and interest in two areas of Christian ministry to form two Ministry Teams in the areas of:

YOUTH MINISTRY

We are seeking those within Eastminster Presbytery who have a passion for and interest in Youth Ministry and would consider becoming a part of a Ministry Team. A Ministry Team is a group of people seeking to grow in personal discipleship and in relationship with one another while serving Jesus Christ and the church. Members of the Ministry Team will plan together how Eastminster Presbytery may resource congregations in the area of Youth Ministry. General Presbyter Dan Schomer will provide training and staff support and the Congregational Resources Committee will provide financial resources and partnership/oversight.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are seeking those within Eastminster Presbytery who have a passion for and interest in Christian Education and would consider becoming a part of a Ministry Team. A Ministry Team is a group of people seeking to grow in personal discipleship and in relationship with one another while serving Jesus Christ and the church. Members of the Ministry Team will plan together how Eastminster Presbytery may resource congregations in the area of Christian Education. General Presbyter Dan Schomer will provide training and staff support and the Congregational Resources Committee will provide financial resources and partnership/oversight.



Do we have your interest? Is God calling you to consider responding to this invitation? Do you want to learn more? Please call General Presbyter Dan Schomer at 330-505-2167 (or toll free 800-215-2416), extension 102, or email Dan at danschomer@faithfulness.com.

3rd Annual Retreat for Peace Seekers “Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict”

JBM Conference Center - January 21, 2008- 23 2008

Sponsored by the Peacemaking Ministry Team of
Congregational Resources Committee

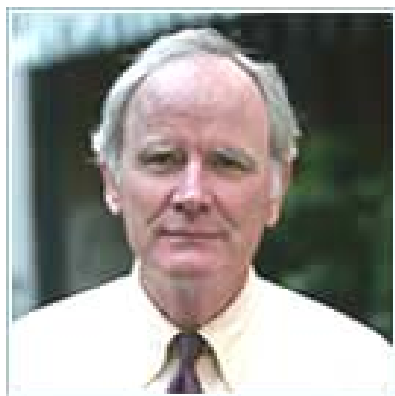
While people of faith raise prayers for peace, stories of religiously fueled violence fill the news. Critics question whether the world can afford to tolerate a force as destructive as religion.

- Is violence an inescapable result of religious commitment, or is it a distortion, a human projection on a God in whom there is no violence?
- Is it the sole province of extremists, or do the roots of conflict touch all persons of faith?
- Do solutions to these seemingly intractable problems lie within the traditions themselves?

You are invited to participate with the Peacemaking Ministry Team of Congregational Resources Committee in a third annual retreat at JBM Camp and Conference Center. The program will be a live web cast of the **38th National Theological Conference of the Trinity Institute** in New York City. The conference will begin on the day we honor Martin Luther King, Jr., to ask how we can take up his legacy of faithful nonviolence in our time.

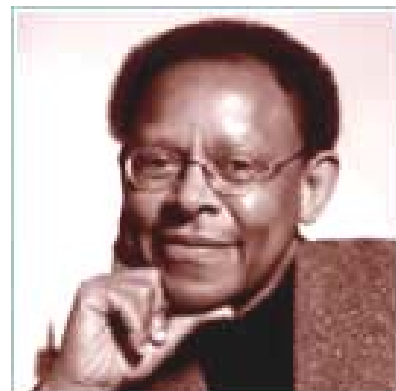
The distinguished keynote speakers and preacher are skilled theologians who are also prominent public intellectuals -- Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. They will:

- Explore how all three traditions become entangled with violence
- Illuminate the resources within the traditions for living together in peace, without losing our unique identities



James Carroll is a bestselling author of fiction and nonfiction, a former Roman Catholic priest, and a lifelong activist for peace. His recent books include the National Book Award-winning memoir *An American Requiem: God, My Father, and the War that Came Between Us*; *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews -- A History*; and *House of War (2006), a history of the Pentagon*. His regular column for the Boston Globe newspaper engages national and global issues.

James H. Cone forged black liberation theology in the crucible of the civil rights movement and has remained on the cutting edge of its development. His ten books began with *Black Theology and Black Power* and include *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare*; *God of the Oppressed*; and his most recent work, *Risks of Faith: The Emergence of a Black Theology of Liberation, 1968-1998*. He is the Charles A. Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Seminary in New York City.





Tariq Ramadan writes and speaks on the future of Islam in pluralistic society. Named one of *TIME* magazine's "100 Innovators for the 21st Century," his widely translated books include *In the Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammad*; *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*; and *Islam, the West, and the Challenge of Modernity*. He is currently Senior Research Fellow at St. Antony's College (Oxford), Doshisha University (Kyoto, Japan), and the Lokahi Foundation (London).

Susannah Heschel holds



the Eli Black Chair on Jewish Studies at Dartmouth. She is the editor of *On Being a Jewish Feminist* and *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*, an anthology of essays by her father, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and co-editor of *Insider/Outsider: American Jews and Multiculturalism*. She is the author of *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus*, which won a National Jewish Book Award, and the forthcoming *The Aryan Jesus: Christians, Nazis and the Bible*.



Katharine Jefferts Schori (preacher) was elected Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in 2006. She is chief pastor to the Church's 2.4 million members in 16 countries and 110 dioceses, ecumenical officer, and primate, joining leaders of the other 38 Anglican Provinces in consultation for global good and reconciliation. The first female primate in the Anglican Communion, her work for reconciliation in difficult times has drawn international attention.

Cost is \$72 including meals and lodging at the comfortable JBM lodgings. Schedule begins 4-6 p.m Monday, January 21 and concludes 5 p.m Wednesday, January 23

Registration deadline: January 14, 2008

Please send registrations with checks payable to:

Eastminster Presbytery
3833 Main Street, P.O. Box 316
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____ Church _____

For further information contact: Jane Stoffer: 330-332-5570 – bastoffer@sbcglobal.net

or

Tom Niccolls: 330-938-7644 - niccolls29@yahoo.com

**Eastminster Presbytery
Stow Administrative Commission
Minutes - June 22, 2007**

Members present: Rev. David Black, Elder Bob Forsythe, Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, Elder Trella Johnson, Elder Peggy Richmond, and Elder Dale Riley

Member excused: Rev. John Gruneich

Also present: General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer

The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Dale Riley at 9:05 AM in the Kent Presbyterian Church.

Dan reviewed the background, including:

- Presbytery actions relating to the Stow Presbyterian Church
 - November 14, 2006
 - March 13, 2007
 - May 8, 2007
- Letter from Stow Presbyterian Church informing Dan of the congregational vote
- Letters from David Weyrick and Wally Kukuk renouncing their jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Eastminster Presbytery (respectively)
- Page from Stow's newsletter announcing the congregational vote
- Letter from David Weyrick thanking West Area COM for consultation and asking about Eastminster's plans
- Letter to Consulting Commission

Note: Documents attached.

Members of the Consulting Commission (Peggy Richmond and Trella Johnson) added their perspective.

The Duties & Responsibilities of the Commission were outlined. The broad charge is "to seek a resolution"

Trella Johnson agreed to be Moderator, with the understanding that the responsibilities were limited. Selection of a Clerk was postponed until the full Commission is present.

A question was raised about the funds that have come to Stow from all denominational sources. From 1993 to 1998, a total of \$98K in the form of grants and other support from the denomination was sent to Stow. They received a Disaster Recovery (loan or grant) that was repaid. Trella agreed to research information which may be available in the Presbytery of Western Reserve offices about the original New Church Development funds that were used to develop the Stow Church in 1961.

Other comments: Eastminster Presbytery's mission, including new church development, is a focus and responsibility of Presbytery. A payment by Stow and Eastminster's subsequent dismissal (to another denomination) or dissolution of the congregation and relinquishing all claim to the property held in trust may or may not be proper.

Next meeting July 9 at Kent at 7:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:15 AM.

Elder Trella Johnson, Moderator

Elder Robert Forsythe, Secretary

Attachment

Presbytery Actions Relating to the Stow Presbyterian Church

November 14 2006 Presbytery Minutes

Motion prevailed that the Consulting Commission of Eastminster Presbytery, appointed at the Stated Meeting of September 12, 2006, be directed to perform a special administrative review of the Stow Presbyterian Church, with the authorization to explore the possibility, of a negotiated separation, with the understanding that a negotiated separation would require the approval of Eastminster Presbytery.

March 13, 2007 Presbytery Minutes

Under the Report of the Consulting Commission:

The Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, Moderator of the Consulting Commission, reported that the Commission had found it impossible to conduct an Administrative Review (with the Stow Church).

It was moved from the floor that the Stow Presbyterian Church be dissolved as a congregation within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and that the property be considered disposed to the present Stow congregation. Dissolving will include a 2006 per capita payment of \$4,368 from the present Stow congregation and its direct PC(USA) mission support in 2007 on four levels: locally, within Eastminster Presbytery, nationally and internationally.

A motion was defeated by a standing vote of 24-33 to permit the representatives from the Stow congregation to address the Presbytery. (There was no elder commissioner registered at the meeting).

Motion prevailed that consideration of the motion be postponed until the May Stated Meeting. Under the

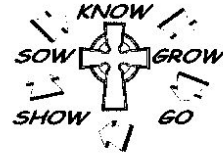
Report of the Committee on Ministry:

Motion prevailed to adopt the following statement: Whereas the Stow Presbyterian Church filed new articles of incorporation on January 19, 2006, in which they describe their purpose of incorporation as follows: "The general object and purpose for which this religious corporation is formed is to worship Almighty God, to give instruction in Christianity, to voluntarily gather for corporate prayer and worship, and to voluntarily associate with a higher denominational or organization such as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), so long as doing so is in accordance with the dictates of conscience, and whereas on October 9, 2006, the Session of the Stow Presbyterian Church informed the Stated Clerk and General Presbyter that at a congregational meeting of the Stow Presbyterian Church held on October 8, 2006, the congregation voted "to disassociate from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) effective immediately", Eastminster Presbytery goes on record that it finds these actions to be irregularities because they are in violation of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Attachment

Stow Presbyterian Church

4150 Fishcreek Road
Stow, Ohio 44224
(330)688-6935



Member of the New Wineskins Association of Churches

October 9, 2006

The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter
Eastminster Presbytery
3833 Main Street
PO Box 316
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

Dear Rev. Schomer:

This is to inform you that on October 8, 2006, at a duly called special meeting of the congregation, the Stow Presbyterian Church voted by more than 96% to concur with the unanimous decision of the Session to disassociate from the Presbyterian Church (USA), effective immediately.

Please accept this payment as a fulfillment of our 2006 mission pledge, which we extend in good faith as an acknowledgment of our gracious separation from the denomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Weyrick".

Rev. David Weyrick, Pastor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Edmiston".

Elder Tom Edmiston, Clerk

cc: The Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk

Attachment

Stow Presbyterian Church

4150 Fishcreek Road
Stow, Ohio 44224
(330)688-6935



Member of the New Winekins Association of Churches

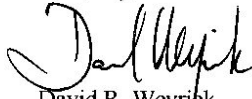
October 9, 2006

The Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk
Eastminster Presbytery
439 North Main St.
Columbiana, Ohio 44408

Dear Rev. Cramer:

This is to inform you that I renounce my jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) effective immediately.

Sincerely,


David R. Weyrick

cc: The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

Attachment

Stow Presbyterian Church

4150 Fishcreek Road
Stow, Ohio 44224
(330)688-6935



Member of the New Wineskins Association of Churches

October 12, 2006

The Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk
Eastminster Presbytery
439 North main St.
Columbiana, Ohio 44408

Dear Rev. Cramer:

This is to inform you that I renounce my jurisdiction of Eastminster Presbytery as a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), effective immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wallace Kukuk'.

Wallace Kukuk

cc: The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

Attachment

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

On October 8 our congregation voted on four very important items in the life of our church. All for items passed by a very large majority. They were to concur with the Session:

1. To disassociate from the PC(USA).
2. To empower the Session to begin the process to associate the congregation with another Presbyterian denomination like the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
3. To call and ordain David Weyrick and Wally Kukuk to serve as pastors at previous terms of call.
4. To call and ordain all ruling and resting Elders and Deacons from the congregation who previously served in the PC(USA).

A registered letter will be sent to Eastminster Presbytery on Tuesday to inform them of these decisions.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

October 14 – Stow Pumpkin Festival – Look for our booth!

October 22 – Mission Celebration Luncheon

October 25 – Weds. TeamKids Fall Party

October 28 – Youth trip to Corn Maze and Bonfire in Hartville

October 28 – East Cleveland Soup Kitchen

We are collecting nonperishable food items for the Deacons Thanksgiving Baskets and gift items for Operation Christmas Child through early November in the church office.



IMHO (In My Honest Opinion)

I got home on Sunday and the first thing I had to do was take a walk. It was such a lovely afternoon with the fall colors against the blue sky and warm sun. I walk a lot.

Thing is, I didn't have a destination in mind, I just knew I had to walk. And as I was walking I thought about the last few years at our church and the events leading up to our vote on Sunday. I then wondered as I wandered (sorry) if I was walking away from something or walking to something. Then I thought of the church. Are we walking away from the PC(USA) or walking to a new future?

I chose the latter. We are walking to a new future, a new destination, being led by our Shepherd. I believe we have not walked away from the Presbyterian Church (USA), it has walked away from us and many other congregations across the country in many ways. We have chosen our direction. God spoke through the prophet Amos and asked, "Can two walk together unless they agree?" Ironically, the answer is not given. I believe in this case, our answer is, "Regrettably, no."

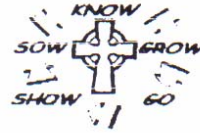
What does this mean? It means no more blaming and shaming. No more griping and complaining. It means no more time and energy spent discussing the latest development in the PC(USA).

It means we walk forward and move on because we have work to do. We have people to reach with the good news of Jesus Christ. We have a building to build to create more room for more people for God's ministry. We have a ministry in Stow. We are, in a way, carving our destiny, led by the Head of the Church, Christ our Lord. We just keep walking the path we're on.

Attachment

Stow Presbyterian Church

4150 Fishcreek Road
Stow, Ohio 44224
(330)688-6935



Member of the New Wineskins Association of Churches

November 10, 2006

The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter
Eastminster Presbytery
3833 Main Street
PO Box 316
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

Dear Rev. Schomer:

On behalf of the Session of the Stow Presbyterian Church we thank you and the members of the West Area COM for your consultation last evening. We understand you were not able to come to a decision last night nor did we expect you to be able to do so. However, we currently have a building program in place which is contingent on any potential legal action from Eastminster Presbytery.

We are requesting if you would be able to notify us of the Presbytery's plans by this coming Wednesday November 15 if at all possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Weyrick".

David Weyrick, Pastor

Attachment

Stow Presbyterian Church

4150 Fishcreek Road
Stow, Ohio 44224
(330)688-6935



Member of the New Wineskins Association of Churches

December 1, 2006

The Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant
Firestone Park Presbyterian Church
275 South Firestone Blvd.
Akron, Ohio 44301

Dear Rev. Thompson Bryant and Members of the Presbytery's Consulting Commission;

On behalf of the Session of the Stow Presbyterian Church, we thank you for your prompt communication and willingness to meet. This is to confirm our meeting at Stow Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

You refer to this as an Administrative Review. Please understand that we are not submitting to such a review and this is not the purpose of our meeting with you. Our purpose is to amicably settle any remaining issues between us and to negotiate for a peaceful and fair closure of our separation, as you have been empowered to do by the Eastminster Presbytery.

As of October 8, 2006, the Stow Presbyterian Church is no longer a congregation in the PC(USA). We are not seeking dismissal or working toward disassociation. Therefore, we are under no obligation to comply with the request for documentation relating to our finances, meeting minutes, or property insurance. Our Session, upon due consideration, has recommended that sharing such documents with the Commission or the Eastminster Presbytery is not in the best interests of the congregation.

We presume that your request to review these documents arises from your desire to confirm the process by which the congregation took action to separate from the denomination. We can assure you that the Congregational Meeting held on October 8 was conducted decently and in order and in accordance with our Bylaws. Our finances are in compliance with our status as an independent non-profit corporation with the IRS and the State of Ohio. In addition, the Eastminster Presbytery is not listed as a named insured on our property insurance policy.

We view our December 18 meeting as a time for respectful, stewardship-minded negotiation to settle any remaining issues between our church and Eastminster, so that we may go on with our respective ministries. We are willing to assist you in taking whatever internal steps the Presbytery may need to "close the books" on Stow Presbyterian Church from its perspective, so long as it does not compromise the integrity and mission of our church. Since our meeting will involve legal negotiation, our legal counsel will of course be present.

Our goal is to end the meeting on December 18 with a mutually acceptable settlement for the Commission to present to the Eastminster Presbytery at its January 9, 2007 meeting.

We believe that all parties involved desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ and hope that this process will be a positive witness to the Church universal. Again, we thank you for your efforts and look forward to meeting with you on December 18.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. David Weirick, Pastor

Elder Tom Edmiston, Clerk of Session

c: The Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

**Eastminster Presbytery
Stow Administrative Commission
Minutes – July 9, 2007**

The second meeting of the Stow Administrative Commission was held on 7/9/07 in the Kent Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM

Members Present: Rev. David Black, Elder Bob Forsythe, Elder Peggy Richmond, Rev. John Gruneich, Elder Trella Johnson, and Elder Dale Riley

Member Excused: Rev. Carolyn Griffeth

Guest Present: Stated Clerk Rev. Meta Cramer

The meeting was opened with a scripture reading by Peggy Richmond and prayer by Dale Riley.

Stated Clerk Meta Cramer was asked to comment on the responsibilities of the Commission. Meta mentioned that the action by Presbytery gave broad powers to the Commission, and clarification might be helpful both to the Commission and to Presbytery. The action by Presbytery was: "...to authorize the moderator of presbytery to appoint an administrative commission to seek a resolution with the Stow Church". After much discussion, the Commission reached consensus that rather than acting for Presbytery in implementing a resolution, the Commission planned to bring any planned resolution back to Presbytery for approval. Meta suggested a "clarifying" amendment to the previous action by Presbytery adding this understanding to that action. Bob Forsythe will work on wording, and submit to the Commission by e-mail agreement and subsequent action by Presbytery at the July 10th Presbytery Meeting. Trella Johnson will report at the Presbytery Meeting.

Trella distributed information she had found when she researched the minutes of Cleveland Presbytery (now Western Reserve) for information concerning the Stow Presbyterian Church.

Elder Trella Johnson was elected Moderator of the Commission.

Elder Bob Forsythe was elected Secretary of the Commission.

The next meeting date was set for August 22 at 7:00 PM in the Kent Church.

Trella asked that each commission member consider what they want to see in a resolution.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by John at 8:30 PM.

Elder Trella Johnson, Moderator

Elder Robert Forsythe, Secretary

**Eastminster Presbytery
Stow Administrative Commission
Minutes – Aug 22, 2007**

The third meeting of the "Stow Presbyterian Church" Administrative Commission was held on 8/22/07 in the Kent Presbyterian Church at 7:00PM.

Members Present: Rev. David Black, Elder Bob Forsythe, Rev. John Gruneich, Elder Trella Johnson (Moderator), Elder Peggy Richmond, Elder Dale Riley
Member Excused: Rev. Carolyn Griffeth

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. David Black

The Commission expressed deepest sympathy for Elder Trella Johnson upon the death of her husband, Rev. Paul Johnson.

The Commission reviewed the communication from the Stow Presbyterian Church Session. There was obviously some discomfort on the part of the Stow Session with previous interactions between the Stow Session and both Presbytery and the Consulting Commission.

Action Item: Trella and Bob will formulate an answer to the letter acknowledging the concerns expressed, and offering a date, time and place for a meeting between the Commission and the Stow Session or their representatives. The letter is to include the fact that the Commission will not bring counsel to the meeting, and our hope is that the Stow Session also will not bring Counsel.

The previous financial “offer” from the Stow Session was to pay their remaining outstanding 2006 per capita, (\$4368) and continued financial support (no amount specified) for three mission opportunities, one of which was JBM Camp & Conference Center. Note: The total per capita for the year of 2006 was \$5,822.52.

To fulfill the Book of Order requirements concerning the Stow Presbyterian Church (in this situation) the Presbytery must either dissolve or dismiss (to another denomination) the Stow congregation. It is our understanding that the Stow Congregation did not vote to seek affiliation with another denomination. If the Session indicates when we meet that affiliation with another denomination is not being sought, then the course left is for Presbytery to dissolve the Stow Presbyterian Church. The Book of Order requires that the records of a dissolved church are to be received by Presbytery. **Action Item: Bob will contact the Presbytery Stated Clerk (Meta Cramer) to find out which records are essential.**

There was a lengthy discussion about what would be a reasonable financial settlement. The total of the **GRANTS** (which were not repaid) to the Stow Presbyterian Church was estimated at over \$100K. **Action Item: Trella will detail the grants before the meeting with the Stow Session.**

Proposed dates for the meeting between the Stow Session and this Commission: Monday, Sept 24 at 7:00 PM, Monday October 8 at 7:00 PM, Monday October 15 at 7:00 PM. All to be at Kent Presbyterian Church. **Action Item: Dale to reserve the Kent Church for those dates.** The next meeting of the Commission will be on the first date that the Stow Session does NOT select.

If the Stow Session selects the September date, the commission will communicate via e-mail to prepare for the meeting with the Session. It is critical that a timely response to e-mails be received so that the sender knows that the e-mail has been received. A simple “got it” will suffice.

David Black is to receive communications via hard copy delivered by US Mail.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Dale Riley at 8:30 PM

Elder Trella Johnson, Moderator

Elder Robert Forsythe, Secretary

Mission Visioning Council
Eastminster Presbytery
November 13, 2007

The Parish Paper – Ideas and Insights for Active Congregations
CO-Editors: Herb Miller, Lyle Schaller, Cynthia Woolever

The Mission Visioning Council has taken advantage of an extraordinary offer by “The Parish Paper” to subscribe to it monthly 8 ½ x 11” doubled sided newsletter for all Eastminster’s congregations for just \$150.

What does this mean for the Presbytery? The presbytery has copyright permission to share the 12 monthly issues with clergy, staff, congregations, and lay leaders through E-mails. U.S. Mail, reprinting in the presbytery packet, distribution at training events, and posting on the password protected portion of the presbytery website.

What does this mean for your congregation? You will receive the 12 monthly issues either through E-mail, for those churches without E-mail, a hard copy through the U.S. Mail. Churches may make as many copies as you wish for local use and email copies to your local leaders and members. Congregations will not be permitted to place “The Parish Paper” on their websites.

In addition, the presbytery will be receiving six bonus back issues that will be placed on the presbytery website: www.faithfulness.com or www.eatminsterpresbytery.org.

The Mission Visioning Council will be looking for ways to tie “The Parish Paper” into times for leadership training during presbytery meetings. We hope you find “The Parish Paper” to be an effective tool for your congregation and its leadership.

Report of the Hudson Commission to Eastminster Presbytery

November 13, 2007

Item for Action

That Eastminster Presbytery commit \$37,500 from its mission budget for the Hudson Presbyterian Church Redevelopment/Transformation as follows: 2008--\$10,000, 2009--\$10,000; 2010--\$7,500, 2011--\$5,000, 2012--\$5,000 with the stipulation that the grants be approved annually following an evaluation of the progress of the project.

Rationale:

Requested Funding Strategy

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Presbytery	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
Synod	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	
G.A.	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000

Presbytery's Proposed Income/Expense

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
On hand	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0
Budget	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$7,500</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
Expended	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
Balance	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$0

This first table shows how \$200,000 in grant funds would be allocated to the Hudson Church Redevelopment/Transformation. It assumes that Eastminster Presbytery provides \$62,500, of which \$37,500 comes from the Presbytery Mission Budget over 5 years. It also assumes that the Synod is willing to provide \$10,000 for three years plus \$7,500 for a fourth year. It assumes that General Assembly will provide \$100,000, the combined total of presbytery and synod funds which is the maximum amount the General Assembly will provide. These funds would be used to call a redevelopment/transformation pastor.

The second table shows the proposed income and allocation of presbytery mission dollars to be provided by Eastminster Presbytery for the Hudson Presbyterian Church Redevelopment/Transformation. The figures in ***bold italics*** show the annual amounts to be included in mission budget of Eastminster Presbytery.

**Eastminster Presbytery
Nominating Committee Report
November 13, 2007**

For information:

Resignations:

Chris London and Bernice Block from Self Development of People, Class of 2008
Joe Hrach from Congregational Resources Committee, Class of 2009
Dave Stephens from Committee on Ministry, Class of 2008

For Action:

- 1) Recommend the election of the following to the 218th General Assembly:
 - Trella Johnson - Elder Commissioner
 - Marilyn Stroble - Elder Commissioner
 - Cal Bennett - Alternate Elder Commissioner
 - Mark F. Phillips - Clergy Commissioner
 - Sue Schmidt - Clergy Commissioner

- 2) Recommend that the manual be set aside so that Dick Ferris can be nominated to a third term on Evangelism and Growth.

- 3) Recommend that the following persons be elected to the positions noted:

For 2008:

Moderator of Presbytery	Robert Gillette WML (east)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery	Scott Parker WMC (south)
Enrolling Clerk	Art Straitiff WML (north)
Spiritual Discernment Advisor (MVC)	Peggy Richmond WFL (south)

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2010

John Sharick WMC (east)
David Black WMC (north)
Lynn Thompson-Bryant WFC (west)
Carmen Ferris HFL (east)
Carole Rummell WFL (north)
John Stoffer WML (south)

Class of 2008

Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council

Class of 2010

Sue Ann Schmidt WFC (west)
Ruth Gerrard-Cole WFL (south)

Congregational Resources Committee

Class of 2010

Alan Hutchinson WMC (east)
Nick Cammarata WMC (east)
Peter Lawson WMC (east)
Nellie O'Leary WFL (north)

Class of 2009

**Communication and Nurture Committee
Class of 2010**

Burt McGlawn WMC (north)
Jeanine Haven WFC (east)
Trella Johnson WFL (north)

**Commission on Evangelism and Growth
Class of 2010**

Dwight Rutan WML (west)
Steve Breazier WMC (east)
Richard Ferris WMC (east)

**Joseph Badger Meadows Committee
Class of 2010**

Joe Kendron WML (west)
Sharon Wood WFL (west)
Larry Myers WMC (north)

**Committee on Mission
Class of 2010**

Verna Kness WFL (east)
Grace Duncan WFL (west)
Lynn Smith WFL (east)

**Permanent Judicial Commission
Class of 2012**

Bob Fulton WML (east)

**Personnel Committee
Class of 2010**

Moss Rutan WMC (west)
Alice Jackson WFL (south)

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Class of 2010**

Joe Atkins WMC (west)
Ruth Gerrard-Cole WFL (south)

**Committee on Representation
Class of 2010**

Cecil Monroe BML (east)

**Trustees
Class of 2010**

John Gruneich WMC (west)
Pam Sharick WFL (east)

**Self Development of People
Class of 2008**

Armando Labra HML (east)
William Melver AML (west)

Margaret Park Scholarship Committee
November 13, 2007

In accordance with the Award Requirements established for the Margaret Park Presbyterian Church Ministerial Scholarship Fund, the Committee, meeting October 24, 2007, approved to provide assistance to the following seminarians under care of Eastminster Presbytery.

Candidate Doug Hagler (New Covenant Community Church, Akron)
Inquirer Sue Francis (First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana)
Inquirer Jeffrey Schooley (The Kent Presbyterian Church)

The next scheduled meeting will be April 16, 2008 at the Presbytery Center where they will be awarding the next scholarships. Those applications need to be turned into Lucille Clay at Northminster Church, 104 W. Portage Trail Ext., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223 by April 9, 2008. Applications are accepted twice a year.

EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

Attention: Evangelists

**YES
That means You!!**

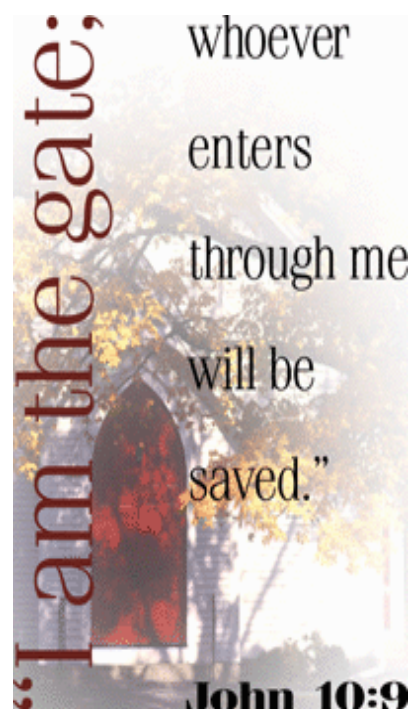
According to Webmaster, an Evangelist is a “bringer of Good News.”

What’s happening in your Church that’s *Good News*?

- Programs now in place that are helping spread the *Good News* of Jesus Christ.
- Successful programs that have helped spread the *Good News* of Jesus Christ.
- Personal account of receiving the forgiving love of Jesus Christ.
- Share why it’s *Good News* to be a member of Eastminster Presbytery.

Evangelism is the subject for the January 2008 Issue of *The Evangel*. Articles (200 words or less) are due by December 17, 2007.

Please send to: Trella Johnson at johnsontjp@aol.com;
Questions call: 330-792-3918.



PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD!



EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY

Synod of the Covenant-Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 316
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440
Telephone: (330) 505-2167
Fax: (330) 505-1545
Email: info@faithfulness.com

DAN K. SCHOMER
General Presbyter

META S. CRAMER
Stated Clerk

October 25, 2007

To: Pastors and Clerks of Churches of Eastminster Presbytery

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

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

Faithfully,
Carole Rummell

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

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

**Financial Report on YTD
Expenses
October 31, 2007**

	2007 Budget	YTD Expenses	Balance
Mission Visioning Council	\$2,000	\$380	\$1,620
Communication & Nurture	1,800	550	1,250
Personnel	241,240	195,948	45,292
Committee on Mission	43,817	31,035	12,782
Committee on Ministry	3,190	2,228	962
Preparation for Ministry	1,040	689	351
Congregational Resource	5,350	1,902	3,448
Trustees	18,000	7,981	10,019
Evangelism & Growth	3,600	(588)	4,188
Presbytery Auto	6,700	2,389	4,311
Presbytery Office	37,905	29,973	7,932
TOTAL	\$364,642	\$272,487	\$92,155
Operating Cash Balance - Sept. 30, 2007			\$53,662

Eastminster Presbytery Budget 2008					
ACCT NUMBER	Title	Administrative Budget 2008	Mission Budget 2008	Total	
	Mission Visioning Council				
5251.22	Combined Councils Retreat		\$250		Provides an annual planning retreat for the MVC & Presbytery Mtg. Coordinating Council
5252.22	Leadership Development		\$1,000		Funding for participation in events that promote leadership development of Eastminster's ministers & elders
5253.22	Congregation Transformation		\$1,000		Funding for participation in events that equip leaders to foster congregational transformation
	Tot. Mission Visioning Council	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,250	
	Communication and Nurture				
5201.22	Nurture		\$500		Communication is the plumbing and wiring of the Presbytery. We light up the web site and work to make the news flow into churches via the quarterly newsletter. We nurture the common life of the Presbytery by paying licensing fees for media the presbytery uses, providing publicity for special events, and look forward to holding a retreat for pastors and spouses.
5205.22	Presby Media Prod, Congreg Media Use		\$300		
5206.22	WebSite Licensing Fees		\$100		
5207.22	Website Hosting and ISP		\$750		
5210.22	Quarterly Presbytery Newsletter		\$200		
5211.11	Presbyt. Communicators Event	\$150			
	Tot. Communication & Nurture	\$150	\$1,850	\$2,000	
	Personnel				
	STATED CLERK				
5301.11	Salary	\$2,989			
5302.11	Board of Pensions Dues	\$1,883			
5368.11	Housing Allowance	\$2,989			
5311.11	Expense Account	\$200			
5106.11	St Clerk Annual Conf	\$500			
5110.11	Stated Clerk to GA	\$1,500			
	Total	\$10,061	\$0	\$10,061	
	FINANCIAL/CLERICAL ASSISTANT				
5310.11	Salary	\$12,854			
	Total	\$12,854	\$0	\$12,854	
	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT				
5307.11.22	Salary (45/55)	\$13,369	\$16,341		
5308.11.22	Board of Pension Dues	\$4,296	\$5,250		
5318.11.22	Medical Deductible (2%)	\$267	\$327		
5309.11.22	Continuing Education	\$135	\$165		
	Total	\$18,067	\$22,083	\$40,150	

ACCT NUMBER	Title	Administrative Budget 2008	Mission Budget 2008	Total	
	TREASURER				
5315.11	Treasurer Stipend	\$7,060			
	Total	\$7,060	\$0	\$7,060	
	GENERAL PRESBYTER				
5321.11.22	Salary (45/55)	\$19,673	\$24,044		
5322.11.22	Housing Allowance	\$12,193	\$15,029		
5324.11.22	Continuing Education	\$540	\$660		
5325.11.22	Library Allowance	\$270	\$330		
5326.11.22	Medical Deductible (2%)	\$639	\$780		
5327.11.22	Expense Account	\$1,170	\$1,430		
5333.11.22	Board of Pension Dues	\$10,257	\$12,536		
	Total	\$44,742	\$54,809	\$99,551	
	RESOURCE CENTER COORD.				
5335.22	Salary		\$9,015		
	Continuing Education		\$250		
	Total	\$0	\$9,265	\$9,265	
	JBM CAMP DIRECTOR/PROPERTY				
5360.22	Salary		\$20,505		
5361.22	Pension/Health Care		\$8,532		
5364.22	Continuing Education		\$500		
	Total	\$0	\$29,537	\$29,537	
	CAMP DIRECTOR/PROGRAM COORD.				
5365.22	Salary		\$20,505		
5366.22	Board of Pension Dues		\$8,532		
5367.22	Continuing Education		\$500		
	Total	\$0	\$29,537	\$29,537	
5370.11.22	Personnel FICA/Medicare	\$2,546	\$5,077		
5372.11.22	Personnel Workers' Comp.	\$525	\$849		
	Total	\$3,071	\$5,926	\$8,997	
5375.11	Enrolling Clerk Stipend	\$214			
5376.11	Travel Expenses/Staff	\$750			
5377.11	Moderator's Expense	\$900			
5378.22	Staff Appreciation	\$0	\$175		
	Total	\$1,864	\$175	\$2,039	
	Personnel Total	\$97,719	\$151,332	\$249,051	

ACCT NUMBER	Title	Administrative Budget 2008	Mission Budget	Total	
Presbytery Auto					
5401.11.22	Auto Expenses (45/55)	\$900	\$1,100		
5402.11.22	Auto Insurance	\$850	\$850		
5403.11.22	Auto Purchase Supplement	\$1,500	\$1,500		
Total Presbytery Auto		\$3,250	\$3,450	\$6,700	
Presbytery Office					
5501.11	Office Equipment	\$2,000			
5503.11	Office Equipment Maintenance	\$3,500			
5504.11	Office Insurance	\$2,650			
5505.11	Bank Fees	\$100			
5506.11	Office Supplies	\$3,000			
5508.11	Office Telephone	\$2,600			
5510.11	Office Postage	\$2,000			
5512.11	Office Facility Maintenance	\$4,400			
5515.11	Office Utilities	\$4,300			
5516.11	Payroll Service	\$1,700			
5517.11	Property Taxes	\$3,300			
5518.11	Office Mortgage Payment (874.04 x 12)	\$11,605			
Total Presbytery Office		\$41,155	\$0	\$41,155	
Committee on Mission					
5602.22	Protestant Campus Ministry, YSU		\$0		Supports ministry of Ecumenical Campus Ministry of Chaplain Kathryn Adams
5613.22	1st Barberton Headstart		\$0		Support of supplemental educational program for poverty level 3-5 year old children
5617.22	Barberton Area Comm. Ministry		\$0		Provides food, emergency assistance, information, and counseling to area poor
5618.22	Barberton Health Clinic		\$0		Provides free medical primary healthcare to under served people in the area
5624.22	1st Akron Community Fund		\$0		Emergency assistance and walk-in meals in high poverty area
5625.22	Dakota Presbytery Mission		\$0		Partnership with Native American presbytery providing mutual understanding & hands on ministry opportunities
5626.22	Southside Ministries, Youngstown		\$0		Christian ministry including tutoring, literacy classes, rehab, spiritual nurture, & material assistance for all ages in a predominantly racial-ethnic and poor area
5629.22	International Mission Partnership - Spain		\$0		Funding for international partnership of understanding between Eastminster & Levante Presbyteries
5636.22	Kent Church Campus Ministry		\$0		Assistance with Kent Church ministry to students at KSU
5637.22	1st Akron Comm. Development		\$0		Serves the poor through community programs, projects, and practical acts of service
Total Committee on Mission		\$0	\$0	\$0	

ACCT NUMBER	Title	Administrative Budget 2008	Mission Budget 2008	Total	
Committee on Ministry					
5701.11	Transformational Ministry Training	\$1,000			Resource pastors in the practice of ministry to create missional congregations
5701.22	Session Leadership Training		\$500		Assist Sessions in gaining the skills to lead the congregation
5704.11	Travel/Training	\$1,000			Provide training and travel expenses for COM members
5705.11	Triennial Pastor / Session	\$150			Provide for COM expenses for triennial visits with pastors and session
5707.11	Continuing Ed/Clergy Start Up	\$500			Provide continuing education for COM members and an orientation for new pastors to the presbytery
5710.11	Lay Minister Development	\$200			Provide training and an annual retreat for elders serving as lay pastors
5711.22	Retired Clergy Support		\$100		Provide for fellowship gatherings of retired ministers and their spouses
5709.11.22	Sexual Misconduct Response	\$120	\$120		Assist COM with strategies to prevent or address cases of sexual misconduct
Total Committee on Ministry		\$2,970	\$720	\$3,690	
Committee on Preparation for Ministry					
5802.11	CPM Synod Event Travel/Training	\$300			Annual event sponsored by the Synod providing training for committee members
5803.22	Annual Consultation Day/Travel		\$300		To cover costs of annual consultation with inquirers and candidates
5804.22	Midwest Career Center Expenses		\$750		To cover a portion of the cost of psychological evaluation and career counseling for inquirers
Total Preparation for Ministry		\$300	\$1,050	\$1,350	
Joseph Badger Meadows Camp & Conference Center					
	General Support/Camp & Conf Ctr				
	Utilities				
	Property/Grounds				
	Program				
Total JBM Camp & Conf. Center		\$0	\$0	\$0	

ACCT NUMBER	Title	Administrative Budget 2008	Mission Budget 2008	Total	
Committee on Congregational Resources					
5902.22	Youth Triennium Supplement		\$1,650		Accrued financial support for triennial participation in nationwide youth event
5903.22	Resource Center Purchases		\$1,700		Provides online catalog, updated books, curriculum, and other media for congregations to use for ministry
5909.22	Sexuality Retreat for Youth		\$250		Presbytery sponsored event for youth of the churches of the presbytery
5912.22	Equipping the Saints		\$500		Funding for presbytery events that provide training & resources to congregational leaders
6003.22	Resourcing Congregations in Peacemaking/Hunger/Restoring		\$1,500		Presbytery's portion of Peacemaking Offering to promote justice & peace through congregations
6006.22	Ohio Presbyterians for Public Policy Advocacy		\$100		Financial support for Ohio Council of churches keeping churches informed on public policy issues
	Tot. Congregational Resources	\$0	\$5,700	\$5,700	
Trustees					
6103.11	Auditor	\$8,000			For required annual audit
6106.11	Presbytery Legal Fees	\$10,000			To protect our congregations/properties as required and necessary
	Total Trustees	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	
Evangelism and Growth					
6209.22	Evangelism Administration		\$300		Covers administrative costs for commission training and expenses
6210.22	Acts 16:5 Seminars		\$3,300		Provides for travel/housing expenses of consultant and partial scholarships for churches
	Total Evangelism & Growth	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,600	
6211.22	Hudson Church Redevelopment/Transformation	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$163,544	\$179,952	\$343,496	
		\$343,496			

RECEIPTS				
PER CAPITA (10,514 X \$16.18)*	\$154,568			
MISSION PLEDGES				
MISC				
INCOME FROM LEETONIA CHURCH (est)				
DONATION FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (est)				
GRANTS				
SYNOD:				
ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES IN HIGHER ED				
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACEMAKING				
JBM CAMP AND CONFERENCE RECEIPTS				
Grand Total Receipts	\$0	\$0	\$0	
DIFFERENCE	-\$8976	-\$179,952	-\$188,928	
*Based on 90.86% Payup in 2006				

