

**The Church of Jesus Christ  
Assembles as a  
Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery  
November 8, 2011, First Presbyterian Church, Warren OH, 6:00 p.m.**

**STATED MEETING:** Eastminster Presbytery held its regular State Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 8, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church Warren. Ohio.

**The Presbytery meeting started with worshiping Almighty God** together under the leadership of Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, Rev. Rusty Cowden, Ms. Melanie Vlad, Ms. Rachael Herriman (the YAAD representative for Eastminster to the 220<sup>th</sup> GA), The Motet Choir and the Bell Choir. The service included the celebration of the lives of elders who had joined the Church Triumphant over the past year and the annual celebration of the Lord's Supper. The offering was designated to go to Theological Education Fund.

Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, moderator, called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm and offered a constitution prayer. She welcomed and recognized first-time Elder Commissioners. Rev. Richard Lapehn was also introduced as the new designated pastor at Barberton First, guest Rev. Sidney Byrd from the Dakota Presbytery. Moderator Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, led the Presbytery in prayer for the following: Bob Offerdahl and family on the death of his father; Rev. Elmarie Parker and others as they travel to Iraq on November 8; safe travels for our mission partner Minda; congratulations to Dan and Joan Schomer on the birth of their grandson, Ben, on October 23.

The host pastor Rev. Rusty Cowen welcomed the Presbytery to the First Presbyterian Church in Warren and shared basic orientation information with the assembled Commissioners.

**BUSINESS OF THE CLERK:** Elder Dale Riley, Stated Clerk, declared the presence of a quorum. Roll of Attendance (Attachment I, Pg ). **A Motion Prevailed** to adopt the Docket as printed. **A Motion Prevailed** to adopt the consent Agenda as printed. To approve the minutes of the Presbytery Stated Meeting on September 13, 2011. To append the minutes of the August 25, 2011 Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council to the September 13, 2011 minutes (Appendix I, Pg ). To append the minutes of the August 9, 2011 Mission Visioning Council to the July 12, 2011 minutes (Appendix II, Pg ). To append the minutes of the August 25, 2011 Mission Visioning Council to the September 13, 2011 minutes (Appendix III, Pg ). That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install The Rev. Peter Del Nagro as Pastor of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church (Attachment II, Pg ). That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to ordain The Rev. Kristin Stroble as the Minister of Word and Sacrament (Attachment III, Pg ). That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install The Rev. Amy Starr Redwine as Associate Pastor of Discipleship of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Akron (Attachment IV, Pg ). That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to ordain The Rev. Elaine Dutton as Minister of Word and Sacrament (Attachment V, Pg ). That upon the recommendation of the Mission Visioning Council that the current sitting members of the MVC be invited to stay on the council until the March Presbytery meeting. That upon the recommendation of the Mission Visioning Council that Mr. Perry Clark be co-opted to the Self Development of People of 2011. That upon the recommendation of the Mission Visioning Council that Elder Ruth Brayer be coopted to the Committee on Ministry for 2012. That upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council that Eastminster

Presbytery accept the dates and locations of the 2012 Stated Presbytery meeting (Attachment VI, Pg ). That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the audit report from Bodine and Perry to be attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment VII, Pg ). That upon the recommendation of the Eastminster Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council that the offering of the March 13, 2012 Stated Meeting be designated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Youngstown and the Good Neighbors in Akron.

**Please Note** As a reminder, 15 member churches have attended the New Book of Order Conversation for Pastors and Clerks at the Kent Church and Canfield Church these past two days. The next meetings are scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Mineral Ridge and on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the Goodyear Heights Church in Akron. Because the changes in the Form of Government in the new Book of Order, these conversations are important to understand all the changes that are taking place.

**Please Note** Marianne Lidstone has a card to sign for our retiring Synod Stated Clerk Rev. George Baird. We ask that you to please sign it.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from South Street Ministries was received and read, they were the recipient of the offering at the September presbytery meeting.

**A motion prevailed** to seat Rev. Mindawati (Minda) Perfanin Angin a mission partner from Indonesia and that she be given 3-5 minutes on our docket after the report of our General Presbyter.

**A motion prevailed** to authorize the distribution of the following papers; The Synod Report, a Report from the Nominating Committee, From the Trustees per Capita, a paper from the Margaret Park fund, and if the new structure does not pass papers from the trustees prior to their report.

**A motion prevailed** to authorize the distribution from the Rev. Christie Ramsey of Multi Median Worship; Worship Going from Nothing to Something.

**First Presbyterian Church of Barberton Overture to the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** – Rev. Derek Starr Redwine Moderator of the Coordinating Council introduced the overture to the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from the Barberton Presbyterian Church asking that the “fidelity and chastity” paragraph be restored to the wording of the precious Book of Order. (Attachment VIII, Pg )

**The motion Failed** to sustain the overture by a vote of 36 in favor, 39 against.

#### **REPORT FROM OUR GENERAL PRESBYTER** – Rev. Dan Schomer

The prevalence of transitions within Eastminster Presbytery was acknowledged, encouraged the presbytery to a spirit of adventure and resiliency. It was announced that six congregations- Wickliffe, Hubbard First, Cuyahoga Falls United, Champion, Salem First, and New Springfield had committed to participate in the Spiritual Strategic Journey with George Bullard in 2012. Teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders along with members of the Committee on Ministry were reminded to register for the Conflict Management Training event with George Bullard on Feb. 3, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Congratulations were extended to the Rev. Harry Eberts who is celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination this year and the Rev. Donald Spear who is celebrating his 50th anniversary.

Finally, the General Presbyter introduced the Rev. Dr. Mindawati Perangin Angin from Indonesia to the presbytery. Minda has spent six weeks with the Poland Presbyterian Church as a participant in the Mission to the U.S.A. program through the Synod of the Covenant. Minda, whose ecumenical work takes her around the world, shared that transitions are a part of the worldwide church today.

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**Resource Center** – Lorraine Jones

Lorraine introduced to the presbytery a video series with Francis Chan called the Basic Series. Lorraine shared a portion of the DVD “Fear God.”

**Mission Visioning Council** – Elder Marilyn Stroble

Discussion was held and with questions and answers concerning the proposed new manual of operations.

**A Motion prevailed** from the Committee on Ministry 6.200 of the new Manual of Operations by changing for clarification to read as follows:

6.200 In consultation with the Presbytery Council, the responsibilities of the Commission on Ministry shall be to seek to support the Presbytery's vision, report all actions taken on responsibilities delegated to COM by Presbytery, and fulfill the responsibilities listed in the Book of Order G-2.05, G-2.08, G-2.09, G-2.10 and G-3.03 by:

**A Motion prevailed** from the Committee on Ministry to remove from 5.202 of the Manual of Operations the last sentence which reads “Portion of the minutes of the Commission on Ministry will be excluded from this review because of the confidential nature of their work” and replaced with “Minutes of the Commission on Ministry will be excluded from this review because of the confidential nature of their work.”

**A Motion prevailed** to adopt the new Manual of Operations with amendments (Attachment IX, Pg ).

**Nominating Committee** – Elder Peggy Richmond

**A Motion prevailed** that the following persons be elected for the year 2012:

Moderator of Presbytery: Ruling Elder Robert “Bo” Schneider

Vice Moderator of Presbytery: Teaching Elder Mark Wilds

Enrolling Clerk: Ruling Elder Stan Christensen

**A Motion prevailed** that upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the Manual of Operations set aside 6.401 that states “*No person shall serve any committee for more than eight consecutive years, whether as an elected member or a co-opted member*” so that Gladys Burnett may serve one more year on the Self Development of People Committee.

**A Motion prevailed** that the following persons be elected:

Committee on Ministry: Teaching Elders Carolyn Griffith, Debby Dockstader, Ruling Elders Gary Wireman, Peggy Richmond class of 2014; Trustees: Teaching Elders Jeanine Haven, Amy Starr Redwine Class of 2014; Personnel Committee: Rev. Elder Richard Griffith class of 2014; Preparation for Ministry: Teaching Elders Ben Graves, Kristen Stroble class of 2014; Self Development of People Committee: Perry Clark BML, Teaching Elders Peter Del Negro, Ruling Elders Bill Melver, Randee Pipe class of 2014, Ruling Elder Herman Pipe class of 2013; Personnel Committee: Ruling Elder Bill Cooper class of 2014, Ruling Elder Jo Ann Rubrake class of 2013; JBM Committee: Teaching Elder Larry Bowald, Ruling Elder Chuck Chalker class of 2014, Ruling Elder Gene Ewald class of 2013;

**A Motion prevailed** that upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council that the Ruling Elder Carole Reed be elected to the Nominating Committee of Eastminster Presbytery for the class of 2014.

**Personnel Committee** – Rev. Nick Mager

Rev. Nick Mager discussed changes in the presbytery staff due to the decrease of both mission dollars pledged and decreasing per capita payments. The position of Financial and Clerical Assistant effective immediately will not be continued with both the treasurer and the Resource Coordinator increasing their hours to help cover a portion of this work. Also the position of Resource Coordinator will be eliminated at the end of June 2012. The personnel committee has recommended a 1% salary increase for presbytery staff effective January 1, 2012.

**Trustees** – Rev. Rusty Cowden

Discussed the Per Capita for the year 2012 and a introduced a DVD that was shown and distributed to all churches to help interpret what the Per Capita covers for the presbytery.

**A Motion prevailed** to set the Presbytery portion of Per Capita for the year 2012 at \$20.12, Per Capita for General Assembly is \$6.63 and Synod of the Covenant is \$3.25 for a total of \$30.00 for a total of \$150,851.

**A Motion prevailed** to adopt the Administrative Budget and the Personnel Committee budget for 2012, so that patterns of payment for our presbytery staff may begin on January 1, 2012 (Attachment X, Pg ).

**Joseph Badger Meadows and Conference Center** – Rev. Steve Fortenberry

Rev. Steve Fortenberry introduced Ms. Shawn Price the new Onsite Coordinator, who will handle the scheduling and greeting duties at the camp. Steve also described the partnership that has developed between Goodness Grow, a non-profit, and the camp. A grant for \$12,000 has been received from the Presbyterian Hunger Program for the development of education and job training through local ventures promoting food justice.

**Committee on Ministry** – Rev. Debby Dockstader

Items for information: COM received a report that the Barberton congregation had voted to add the two weeks of continuing education that was required of them. COM requested the credentials of Richard Arnold Lapehn from Muskingum Valley Presbytery (Barberton). To ratify the following e-mail motion: that the installation of Rev. Peter Del Nagro at the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church take place on September 25 at 4:30 p.m. The commission members include Rev. Carolyn Griffith – moderator; Rev. Matt. Medford – Hubbard-First; Rev. Jeanine Haven – Youngstown-Liberty & John Knox; Elder Ruth Brayer – Youngstown-Westminster; and Elder Dick Bennett – Youngstown-

Pleasant Grove. COM ratified the following e-mail motion: to amend the terms of call of the Pleasant Grove Church so that moving costs read \$10,200 instead of \$13,000.

**Reported Action taken** on behalf of the presbytery: that the covenant between The Reverend Jeanne Haven and Liberty Presbyterian Church be renewed from Jan. 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012 for one quarter time. Effective salary is 25% minimum terms of call. this includes 40% housing allowance, social security offset is \$600 per this 6 month term, mileage allowance is \$300 per this 6 month term, Medical Deductible \$50 per this 6 month term, book allowance \$25 per this 6 month term, professional allowance \$25 per this 6 month term, Board of pension is 50% minimum terms of call (Liberty picks up what is left over of to cover after John Knox in exchange she has accepted 10% minimum in fringe benefits), Also 1 week of continuing ed. time per this 6 month term and 2 weeks' vacation per this 6 month term these can be carried over into the next 6 month term if needed, Also in the contract is a 30 day "escape clause" for either party. Approved the covenant between Rev. Jim Gilbert as half-time interim pastor at the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church in Akron beginning November 27. Terms of compensation will meet or exceed the minimum requirements. We are requesting his credentials from Western Reserve Presbytery.

The Equal Opportunity Form was received from both the Heritage Presbyterian Church in Poland and the First Presbyterian Church in Barberton.

**A Motion prevailed** to grant the request of the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Warren OH for Relief of Conscience of the Board of Pensions dues relative to abortion coverage.

**A Motion prevailed** the renewal of the commission of Bo Schneider at the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church, Lake Milton OH

**A Motion prevailed** the renewal of the commission of Pete Macaulay at the Allenside Presbyterian Church, Akron OH.

**A Motion prevailed** to grant permission to Reford Nash to labor outside the bounds of Eastminster Presbytery in order to serve as Interim Pastor at the Rittman Presbyterian Church in Muskingum Presbytery. He will be transferring his membership to Muskingum Presbytery upon request.

**Coordinating Council - Rev. Derek Starr Redwine**

Rev. Derek Star Redwine asked that the Presbytery Meeting Evaluation Form found at the end of the packet seeking feedback on what is liked and not liked with the new format of the presbytery meeting be completed and turned in so that an evaluation can be started.

**Self Development of People – Rev. Jim Ray**

Rev. Jim Ray announced that there are two recipients of presbytery SDOP funds in 2011—Five Star Construction in Warren (rehabbing abandon houses) and the Front Porch Café in Akron (hiring the chronically unemployed).

Also representing the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Team, Jim shared that Peacemaking Offering funds were provided to Goodness Grows in North Lima and Open M in Akron.

**Mission Committee –**

Rev. David Joachim shared addition information for the Eastminster Presbytery's Mission trip to Haiti next July 13 through the 21, 2012.

**A Motion prevailed** that Eastminster Presbytery would sponsor the Mission Trip to Haiti through CODEP July 13 through July 21, 2012.

**Synod Commissioner** – Trella Johnson

Elder Trella Johnson reported on the latest Synod Assembly November 4-5, and the retirement of Rev. George Baird.

**A Motion prevailed** that Elder Frances Fisher who is under care of the presbytery be given permission to celebrate the sacraments at the New Convent Community Church of which she is a member.

**For information** in accordance with the Award Requirement established for the Margaret Park Presbyterian Church Ministerial Scholarship Fund, a \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to the Rev. Kristin Stroble.

**CLOSING:** The moderator asked for any other business that needed to come before the Presbytery. Hearing none, a motion prevailed for the body to adjourn.

The Rev Minda Angin closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50 pm.

The next Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held on March September 13<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana, Ohio.

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Elder Dale Riley, Stated Clerk

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Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, Moderator