

May 8, 2007

QUICKLINE

First Presbyterian Church, Mineral Ridge

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery held a Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Mineral Ridge, Ohio, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Debby Dockstader. The Rev. Mark Phillips, host pastor, welcomed the Presbytery.

Stated Clerk Meta Cramer reported letters had been received by the Rev. D. Wayne Bogue and the Rev. John Besore, renouncing jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Stated Clerk shared that John Besore had renounced jurisdiction while under investigation of a complaint by an Investigative Committee. Motion prevailed to attach the final report of the IC to the presbytery minutes.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations – Prayers of concern included Dan Schomer upon the death of his uncle, Glennell Fast recovering at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, John and Kay Besore, and First Presbyterian Church, Salem.

The Report of the General Presbyter - Dan Schomer shared that the presbytery is awaiting the ruling of the Summit Co. Common Pleas Court on the disposition of the lawsuit brought against the presbytery by the Hudson Church and encouraged patience. Dan introduced Financial Secretary and Clerical Assistant Arlene McCowin to the presbytery. Arlene shared information about her family and her church relationship.

Committee on Joseph Badger Meadows – The Committee is interested in opportunities to meet with sessions to share story of the capital campaign at JBM and the difference the campaign will make, especially for children and youth.

Evangelism & Church Growth – Both churches that have participated in Acts 16:5 and churches that have not were encouraged to attend the Acts 16:5 event on May 25 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Warren.

Communication & Nurture – Webmaster Kerry Price was again introduced to the presbytery. Committee moderators were encouraged to review their portion of the presbytery website and contact Kerry with updated information.

Resource Center Coordinator - Lorraine Jones encouraged churches to explore a program for the spiritual formation of children called "The Way of the Child."

Mission Committee – Kristin Stroble, a member of the United Presbyterian Church, Cuyahoga Falls, shared that she will be participating in the Young Adult Volunteer program of the PCUSA serving for one year in the Philippines. Kristin indicated that she needs to raise \$10,000 of support. Everyone was asked to pray for Kristin and individuals and sessions were asked to consider assisting with the support that needs to be raised.

COM/CPM Task Group – Elder Dale Riley shared with the presbytery that the Group had begun their assigned work to explore and make recommendations concerning the examination process for minister of Word and Sacrament for ordination and/or reception as a member of Eastminster Presbytery. Information was provided about the table talk time that would take place during the dinner hour.

The Presbytery at Worship – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God with lively and abundant musical leadership by "The Bridge." Elder Henry Pearce and Rev. Debby Dockstader served as liturgists. Rev. Dan Schomer presented the meditation.

Dinner Recess – The Presbytery recessed for a delicious dinner followed by "table talk" concerning issues, concerns and trust building around the topic of the examination process for ministers by the presbytery.

The Committee on Ministry – The following information was reported to the presbytery:

Extension of the interim covenant contract between Rev. Meta Cramer and the Northminster Church, Cuyahoga Falls, through October 7, 2007; the work being done on updating the pulpit supply list; the renunciation of jurisdiction by D. Wayne Bogue; and the vote of the Hubbard Church to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Rev. Larry Stewart so that he might become honorably retired effective June 30. The following action items were approved: Approved the call of the Poland Presbyterian Church to the Rev. David Gilbert effective June 1; approved the installation of Rev. Gilbert on July 8 at 3:00 p.m.; approved the 2007 terms of call for all ministers in Eastminster Presbytery; approved validated ministries; approved dismissal of Rev. Jay Groat to the United Church of Christ; approved the extension of the Stated Supply covenant between Rev. Bob Offerdahl and the Gibson Heights/Second Church; approved dissolution of the pastoral relationship, pending the action of the congregation, between Rev. Paul Gaug and the Champion Church so that he might accept to call of the Brookdale Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, MO, and transfer of his credentials to Heartland Presbytery upon their request; approved Rev. David Black at moderator of the Champion session; approved appointment of Rev. Mark Wilds as moderator of the session of First Church, Salem; and approved appointment of Rev. Bonnie Dutton as moderator of the Concord Church, Salem.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Elder R. Joseph Hrach, a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron, was moved from the status of Inquirer to that of Candidate. Joe shared his personal faith journey and described the Presbyterian and Reformed course work he is taking at Ashland Seminary.

Trustees – It was reported that contributions to the Richard Braun Complete Our Mission Campaign has exceeded \$25,000 including the \$10,000 matching gift. Presbyters were informed that contributions to this fund will continue through the end of June. It was also announced that, due to work of Treasurer Colin Miller and the faithfulness of the presbytery, mission obligations to General Assembly are paid up through March, 2007, leaving a balance due of just \$13,620.10.

Hudson Commission – Motion prevailed to grant to the Commission the full powers of the session for the Hudson Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Coordinating Council – It was announced that all but two amendments to the Constitution of the PCUSA approved by the 217th General Assembly had already received the necessary votes for approval. Motion prevailed to consider only amendments 06-A and 06-B.2. The presbytery voted no on both amendments. Attention was drawn to the July 10 meeting of presbytery that will be held at J.B.M. A short business will be followed by a picnic. Families are invited to come for an evening of camping fun.

Consulting Commission – The commission reported on their visits to four churches within the presbytery. In accordance with the postponement of a motion at the March meeting, the commission moved a motion relating to a settlement with the Stow Church and recommended that the motion be defeated. After a lengthy discussion, the motion failed. Motion prevailed to relieve the Consulting Commission of its directive by the presbytery to work with the Stow Church and to authorize the moderator of presbytery to appoint an administrative commission to seek a resolution with the Stow Church.

Presbyterian Women – Women of the presbytery were encouraged to attend Synod Gathering for Women, June 22-24, at Bowling Green State University.

Mission Visioning Council – Presbyters were encouraged to read the Council minutes in the packet to learn of the work of MVC, with special attention to work of the new Action Learning Teams.

The next meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be at Joseph Badger Meadows Camp & Conference Center on July 10, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. See the website www.faithfulness.com for more information about the family picnic!