

Welcome – Director Karen Riley welcomed the Presbytery and invited presbyters to come to JBM for the 40th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 7, 2006.

Family Remembrances – Prayers for healing were offered for Elder Bo Schneider (Goodyear Heights), Elder Wendell Cole (New Lisbon), Gene Douglass (Lake Milton), and James Haven Sr. (father of Rev. Janine Haven). Prayers of thanksgiving were offered for favorable tests results for Kate Treasure and the safe return of the Rev. Peter Lawson from Iraq. Concern was expressed for Elder Sue Reynolds undergoing a six-month check-up following cancer surgery. A number of congregations shared that mission trips sponsored by their churches were being held this week.

Consent Agenda –The Presbytery guaranteed a loan of \$525,000 between the Common Ground Church Community and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program; and gave permission for the Niles, Southside Church to sell its manse.

Report of the General Presbyter – The Rev. Dan Schomer reported on his experiences at the 217th General Assembly, praised the commissioners for their prayerful diligence, and celebrated the contributions of the Youth Advisory Delegates and Theological Student Advisory Delegates. Dan offered to speak to any session, congregation, or church group about the Assembly.

Committee on Nomination—Kelsey Francis (Columbiana) was elected as Youth Advisory Delegate to the 2006 Synod Assembly and Elder Ruth Cole was elected as a reader of standard ordination exams.

Committee on Mission—The Presbytery approved a motion to join with the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron to invite Alice Winters, missionary to Columbia, for a Fall itineration. In addition, it was noted that a large youth mission team would be visiting with Dakota Presbytery beginning July 29.

Trustees—Attention was drawn to new forms being used for requesting sale of property and applying for permission to obtain a loan. The new process for creating the 2007 budget was explained to the Presbytery. Per capita and mission pay-ups were highlighted and churches were asked that, if they had not reached 50% pay up, they do so as soon as possible.

Self Development of People Committee—Presbyters were reminded that the Committee has access to approximately \$10,000 for the remainder of 2006. Projects to be considered must assist persons in need to work toward financial self-sufficiency and be managed by the persons who benefit from the project. To learn more, presbyters were encouraged to speak to Rev. Jim Ray (Chairperson) or General Presbyter Dan Schomer.

Resource Center—Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones called attention to new resources and encouraged presbyters to visit the Mini Resource Center following the meeting.

Report from Synod of the Covenant—Rev. Joe Atkins, a member of the Synod Council, reported on the retirement of Synod Co-Executive Richard Brownlee due to chronic illness, and expressed confidence in the Rev. Dr. Marie Cross' continued leadership of the Synod. High praise was given to the Synod Mobile Health Fair.

Report of General Assembly Commissioners—Youth Advisory Delegate David Cramer and Minister Commissioner Nick Mager shared their experiences at the 217th General Assembly. David described his time at the General Assembly as “life changing” and Nick described the prayerful and faithful way in which the Assembly made its decisions. Elder Commissioner Harriet Chapman (Akron, Westminster) was not able to report due to a delay in her arrival.

Committee on Ministry—Items for Information included an extensive Commissioned Lay Pastor Subcommittee Report, extensions of covenant contracts with Interim Pastor Carolyn Griffeth (Canfield) and Interim Pastor Rusty Cowden (Poland), dissolution of the interim pastoral contract with Rev. Todd Allen and the Akron

Westminster Church, and replacement of Rev. Jan Douglass by Rev. Ross Jackson as moderator of the East Palestine Session. A workshop by the Board of Pension for church treasurers was announced for September 16, 2006, at a location to be announced in the Akron area.

Items for action included approval of the call of the Akron Westminster Church to the Rev. Derek Starr Redwine and request of his credentials from Denver Presbytery; concluding the commission of Elder Bo Schneider with the Gibson Heights-Second Church effective June 30, 2006; and granting permission for the Rev. Todd Allen to labor outside the bounds of Eastminster Presbytery in order that he might serve as a pulpit supply in the Presbytery of Western Reserve.

Coordinating Council—The Council made a motion to create a Commission to promote communication and conflict resolution with congregations deeply concerned about actions of the 217th General Assembly with the provision that the Commission may contract with legal counsel if deemed necessary. A substitute motion was offered that focused on implementing the first four recommendations of the PUP Report approved by the 217th General Assembly. After two amendments were approved to perfect the original motion, a motion was approved to refer both the original and substitute motions to the Coordinating Council with the request that a new proposal be brought to the September stated meeting reflecting the best of both documents written in consultation with the author of the substitute motion.

Dinner Break—Given that Presbytery business had extended into the dinner hour, a motion was approved to break for dinner and to reconvene after dinner for an evening Vespers Service. Presbyters, along with campers, enjoyed a delicious meal.

Vespers—Rev. Larry Myers led the Presbytery in a brief service of worship. The offering was designated for the JBM Campers Scholarship Fund. The meeting was then adjourned.

<p>The next Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at the Poland Presbyterian Church on September 12, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.</p>
