

November 13, 2007

QUICKLINE

First Presbyterian Church, Niles

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery comprised of 132 ministers, elders, and guests, held its stated meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Niles at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Debby Dockstader. Commissioned Lay Pastor Henry Pearce welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the church.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations: Prayers of healing were sought for Tom & Karen Riley's future daughter-in-law, Bill & Molly Halter's daughter, Marilyn Stroble's mother Gerri Stone, Rev. Richard Griffith, Rev. Debby Dockstader's father, Rev. David Black's father, and Elder George Riemer. Prayers of comfort were sought for CLP Pete McCaulay and family in the passing of his wife Mary Lou, and Claire Atkins and family in the passing of her sister Jackie.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer reported on the Hudson Church case and the process of filing objections to the ruling of the magistrate; celebrated the presence of African Pastors Tolossa, Phiri, Nimo, and Dagadu at the presbytery meeting through the Mission to the U.S.A. program of the Synod of the Covenant; and spoke about the upcoming retreat of the Mission Visioning and Coordinating Councils in January. Retired ministers who have been ordained 50 years or more-- Al Shakley (52 yrs.) and Harry Eberts (56 yrs)--were honored with certificates and applause by the presbytery. Dan also reported on the Sept. 18-21 meeting of the General Assembly Council and encouraged presbyters to explore the Form of Government Task Force website at www.pcusa.com/formofgovernment.

The Trustees moved and the presbytery approved the following: Permission for the New Lisbon Church to sell the former Trinity Presbyterian Church building; the raising of Eastminster Presbytery's per capita to \$16.18 in 2008 which combines with per capita of General Assembly (\$5.79) and Synod (\$3.13) to total \$25.10; the approval of the administrative and Personnel Committee budgets for 2008; and the recommended percentages for general mission dollars of 25% to General Assembly, 7% to Synod, and 68% to Presbytery.

Presbytery Worship took the form of a time of listening to Scripture, silent meditation, and praying together. This moving service included the reading of the names of ministers and elders of Eastminster Presbytery who have joined the church triumphant along with the lighting of candles. Worship leaders included the four visitors through Mission to the U.S.A.

Dinner and Table Fellowship: The presbytery was treated to a delicious meal. Our hosts were from Niles First Church, Niles Southside Church, and the Girard Church. A good spirit was present in the many informal conversations around tables.

The Coordinating Council lifted from the table the resolution concerning ordination standards previously presented by seven sessions in Eastminster Presbytery. The COM/CPM Task Force presented their report as a substitute motion to the resolution and the presbytery voted to make the substitute motion from the task force the main motion. After debate and the defeat of another substitute motion, the report of the COM/CPM Task Force was adopted as the ordination/installation policy of Eastminster Presbytery.

The Committee on Ministry reported the following actions: approved extending the covenant contract between the Rev. Don Aull and the East Palestine Church through November 30; and examined and received the Rev. Juliann Joy as a member-at-large from Detroit Presbytery. The

Committee recommended and presbytery approved: the call of the Warren First Church to the Rev. Russell Cowden as designated pastor for a period of 4 years; the installation service for Rev. Cowden on January 13 at 2:00 p.m.; granting the title of Pastor Emeritus to the Rev. Larry Stewart by the Hubbard Church; the call of the Salem First Church to the Rev. Meta Cramer for a period of 2 years; and the installation service of Rev. Cramer on December 2 at 2:30 p.m.

The Committee on Mission announced that the Rev. Tom Taylor, Deputy Executive Director for Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be our guest at the March, 2008, meeting of Eastminster Presbytery. It was announced that the Spain Mission Partnership Team comprised of Tom Riley, Elmarie Parker, Scott Parker, Nancy Mumaw, and Lynn Doyle Pebworth will be traveling to Levante Presbytery February 14-22, 2008, to address issues of youth & college ministry, creation of worship teams, stewardship, church multiplication, and telling our mission story. It was reported that a team from Eastminster traveled to Northwestern Ohio for flood clean up and that another team is being sought to provide drywall installation, electrical work, and painting.

Congregational Resources Committee—General Presbyter Dan Schomer announced that the Committee is seeking to form two Mission Teams in the areas of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. For more information, contact Dan Schomer at danschomer@faithfulness.com or 330-505-2167, ext. 102.

The Peacemaking Ministry Team reported on the Retreat for Peace Seekers, “Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict,” at JBM on January 21-23. For more information, contact Jane Stoffer at bastoffer@sbcglobal.net or 330-332-5570, or Tom Niccolls at niccolls29@yahoo.com or 330-938-7644.

The Stow Commission reported that meetings have taken place and are scheduled between the commission and the Stow Church. Minutes and relevant documents were included in the packet.

The Mission Visioning Council reported that “The Parish Paper” will be provided to every minister and congregation via email and will be posted on the password protected portion of the website. Presbyters were encouraged to use this valuable resource with their congregations.

The Hudson Commission brought two items for action both of which were approved: (1) to commit \$37,500 of the presbytery mission budget over five years for the Hudson Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Redevelopment/Transformation, and (2) to approve having Eastminster’s attorneys file objections to the ruling of Magistrate Schoemaker.

Synod Commissioners Ruth Cole, Harold Walker, and Christine Ziem reported on the recent Synod Assembly along with Synod Council member Joe Atkins.

The Committee on Nominations presented nominees for officers, General Assembly commissioners, and committee/commission/council members for 2008. All were elected unanimously.

The meeting was closed with prayer at approximately 9:30 p.m.

<p>The next Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at the Kent Presbyterian Church on January 8, 2008, beginning at 5:00 p.m.</p>
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