

March 11, 2008

QUICKLINE

First Presbyterian Church, Barberton

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery comprised of 101 ministers, elders, and guests, held its stated meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Barberton at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Robert Gillette. The Rev. Reford Nash welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the church.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations: Prayers of healing were sought for Molly Halter, Roxanne Bowers, Christine Ziem, and Tom & Karen Riley's future daughter-in-law Lizzy. Kristin Stroble, a Young Adult Volunteer, asked for prayers for those suffering from Typhoid and Dengue fever in the Philippines, Pastor Berlin who is a political prisoner, and workers striking for decent wages and working conditions.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer thanked the Presbytery for their cards and prayers during his recuperation from heart surgery, called attention to GA-PJC decision included in the packet; and called attention to information on the upcoming pastors' retreat. The Rev. Joe Atkins was invited forward to share on behalf of the Leadership Development Action Learning Team. He encouraged presbyters to come to the May 13 presbytery meeting prepared to discuss the scriptures as they reflect on their congregation's ministry.

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones reported on Holy Week, Pentecost, and general resources. Highlighted resources included "Confronting the Controversies," by Adam Hamilton, and "Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous" by Joy Jordan-Lake.

Committee on Mission Co-Moderator Elmarie Parker reported on the recent trip to Levante Presbytery in Spain. Elmarie announced that the team would share their visit in pictures and words at the May presbytery meeting. Co-Moderator David Joachim encouraged presbyters to attend the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Seminary and introduced The Rev. Dr. Tom Taylor, Deputy Director for Mission of the General Assembly Council. Tom shared that he, like many of the new staff in Louisville, came from parish ministry. He shared his perception that the national staff suffered from disconnect with the rest of the denomination. This is being remedied first by tearing down the walls that impeded cooperation among national staff and second by redefining their purpose. Tom informed the presbytery that the General Assembly no longer sees itself as primarily a regulatory agency but a facilitating network that exists for the sake of the congregations who are on the front lines. Taylor is working to foster a more personalized approach to mission that is responsive to the desires of congregations to be personally involved in mission endeavors. In addition, Taylor shared that the General Assembly entities are working hard to tell our mission story in new and creative ways including a series of free DVD's.

Presbytery Worship was under the leadership of the Rev. Reford Nash; the Rev. Derek Redwine; Yvonne Barnes, organist; Robert Frutchey, Director of Music; and the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Barberton.

Dinner and Table Fellowship: The presbytery enjoyed the annual simple meal that was delicious and benefited "2 Cents for Hunger."

Committee on Joseph Badger Meadows Moderator Marilyn Stroble announced the hiring of a new Director of Property and Grounds, Gary Hoskins, who starts on March 16. JBM is looking for an Interim Program Director to serve May through August, 2008. It was announced that the Rev. Jan Douglass will lead the Women's Retreat April 25-26 due to Molly Halter's illness; the CIT Retreat has been cancelled, and children and youth are encouraged to register as soon as possible for summer camp. The Joseph Badger Meadows Committee led the Presbytery in bidding farewell to Karen and Tom Riley, who served as Camp Directors for 17 years. They were presented with a framed pen-drawing of "The Barn" drawn by the Rev. Ross Slaughter.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator Mark Phillips presented three candidates for examination for ordination: Henry Pearce, Amy Starr Redwine, and Esther Sue Tinker. Following examination, each was approved for ordination by a unanimous vote.

The Committee on Ministry Vice-Moderator Debby Dockstader shared that the Committee had taken the following actions in February: Approved the Church Information Forms for Christ Church and Rockynol; approved the extension of Rev. Jeanine Haven as Temporary Supply at the Liberty Presbyterian Church for 1 year; approved Rev. Harry Van Fleet to serve as Moderator of the Firestone Presbyterian Church; approved extending the Interim Covenant between Rev. Don Aull and First U.P. Church of East Palestine Session through 3/31/08; approved an updated Pulpit Supply List; and approved Elder Dale Riley moderating the Congregational Meeting at Vienna on 3/9/08.

The following items were presented to the presbytery for action and approved: That Henry Pearce be commissioned to serve as a Commissioned Lay Pastor at the Vienna Presbyterian Church at 40% time beginning 3/1/08; renew Elder Pete Macaulay commission as Lay Pastor at the Allenside Presbyterian Church; continue to recognize the Rev. Ross Jackson's work as chaplain of Salem Community Hospital as a validated ministry; approve the call of Henry Pearce to be Designated Pastor of the Niles, First and Vienna congregations pending congregation action by the Vienna Church; approve the commission to ordain Henry Pearce on 4/13/08 at 2:30 pm at Niles, First Church; approve the call of Amy Starr Redwine as half-time Pastor of the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church beginning 5/1/08; approve Sue Tinker to serve as part-time Temporary Supply Pastor at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of Hudson; and approve the commission to ordain Sue Tinker on 4/27/08 at 3 p.m. at the Goodyear Heights Church.

Trustees President Bonnie Dutton announced that the total mission dollars owed to General Assembly was now \$0. Bonnie recognized 13 churches that had increased their mission pledge for 2008 and announced that the Sebring Church had fully paid a \$30,000 G.A. loan. The Rev. Rusty Cowden explained a handout that describes the per member cost for per capita and mission. The 2008 Operating Budget was presented and approved.

Hudson Commission Moderator Reford Nash celebrated the good news of Sue Tinker's ministry with the true church. He shared that the lawsuit continues and that there is no anticipated date for the judge's ruling. Reford also shared that the congregation is meeting every Sunday at the Church on the Green at 10:30 a.m. and that presbyters are encouraged to join them for worship.

Committee on Nominations Co- Moderator Robert Forsythe reported resignations by Carole Rummell from the Permanent Judicial Commission, Carmen Ferris from the Committee on Ministry and Pamela Sharick from the Trustees. The following persons were elected: The Rev. Ross Jackson to the Permanent Judicial Commission; the Rev. Joseph Atkins as Synod Commissioner; Enrolling Clerk for E. N. & S. areas--Art Straitiff; and Enrolling Clerk for W. area--Stan Christensen; Jennifer Annadona to the Board of Trustees, Class of 2010.

Synod Commissioner Ruth Cole presented changes to the by-laws of the Synod of the Covenant that eliminates the Synod Council and reduces the number of commissioners per presbytery to two. The presbytery voted to endorse the changes in the by-laws.

Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council Moderator Ruth Cole presented changes to the Manual of Operations. Motion prevailed to add a member of the Board of Trustees to the Mission Visioning Council and to establish a guideline that substitute motions should be distributed to the presbytery at least 24 hours before a presbytery meeting whenever possible.

Stow Commission Moderator Trella Johnson reported that the Commission is still in communication with the Stow Session and that the Stow Church continues to support mission projects of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Communication and Nurture Committee member Harriet Chapman encouraged congregations to visit the Presbytery website at www.faithfulness.com and noted the deadlines for submitting articles to the *Evangel*.

Self Development of People Committee member Robert Offerdahl reported that the Committee had surveyed churches to find out how many were receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing. He encouraged churches to call Presbyterian Distribution Services for materials and information on the Special Offerings of the PCUSA.