

July 11, 2010

QUICKLINE

Joseph Badger Meadows

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery held its stated meeting at the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center at 5:00 p.m. Moderator Marilyn Stroble opened the meeting with prayer. Camp Director Doug Hoffman welcomed the presbytery.

Moderator Marilyn Stroble asked for prayers of comfort for the Rev. Bob Offerdahl on the death of his mother Eleanor, and for Bob's father, Merle, who is 91-yrs.-old. Prayers of healing were requested for Cecil Monroe (SDOP Committee) who has been diagnosed with lung cancer that has spread to lymph nodes. Also prayers were asked for the 42 youth and adults who will be traveling to Purdue University for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium June 20-24. General Presbyter Dan Schomer asked that the presbytery keep Moderator Marilyn Stroble in prayer as she is recuperating from surgery to repair a detached retina.

The Consent Agenda included the following actions: approved first reading of a change in the Manual of Operations to permit the Committee on Ministry to have its moderator elected at the November presbytery meeting; approved continuing under care of Eastminster Presbytery Elaine Dutton, Joe Hrach, Kyle Joachim, Alex Creager, Drew Himes, Sue Francis, and Francis Fisher; approved revisions to the position description of the Financial and Clerical Assistant; and approved ordaining candidate Melissa Shaughnessy as Minister of Word and Sacrament on behalf of Pittsburgh Presbytery at the Westminster Church in Akron on August 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Stated Clerk Dale Riley announced that the 2009 presbytery minutes were approved by the Synod of the Covenant with exception. The Stated Clerk read a letter from the Concord Presbyterian Church informing the presbytery that it had voted as a corporation on May 30 to leave the PC(USA), and that a task force consisting of two members of the Committee on Ministry and one Trustee was being formed to communicate with the Concord Church.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer encouraged churches to register for Percept's Link-2-Lead for free demographic information and requested contributions from churches to offset the presbytery's fee to Percept totalling \$675. Presbyters were encouraged to fill out the book study evaluation form and return it to the Presbytery Office. It was announced that Financial and Clerical Assistant Arlene McCowin had resigned due to a chronic health problem and that the Personnel Committee was now receiving applications for the position. It was also announced with sadness that, in accordance with the Personnel Policies and Procedures, Camp Director Doug Hoffman had received six-months notice effective July 1 due to the elimination of the position of Camp Director as a staff position of Eastminster Presbytery. Schomer informed the presbytery that a significant block of time will be requested on the docket of the September presbytery meeting in order to give presbyters the opportunity to consider options for JBM in 2011 and beyond.

JBM Committee Moderator Chuck Chalker echoed the sadness felt by so many at the announcement of Doug Hoffman being given notice, but stressed that it was necessary due to lack of youth participation in the summer camping program and the financial plight of JBM. Chalker indicated that the JBM Committee will be meeting with Doug Hoffman to consider alternatives that may continue Hoffman's residency at the camp as a part time employee while also seeking to serve in the larger church using his expertise as one who holds an M.A. from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, in Christian Education.

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones introduced the presbytery to an Alban publication, Beating Burnout in Congregations by Lynn Baab. This and other current Alban resources are available to borrow from the Resource Center.

Congregational Resources Committee member Elder Jane Stoffer spoke about the 30th anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling* and shared that a peace pole had been purchased to be placed along the front of the Presbytery Center in Mineral Ridge. Jane introduced a draft peacemaking Mission Statement and encouraged presbyters to study it and discuss it as it will be considered at future presbytery meetings. The Rev. Janet Lowery shared her sabbatical experience of visiting Israel and Palestine for a six-week period. Lowery encouraged other ministers of small congregations to explore the Board of Pensions sabbatical grants that made her sabbatical possible.

Nominating Committee Moderator Elder Peggy Richmond announced the resignation of the Rev. Larry Myers from the JBM Committee and the Rev. Cindy Carlisle was elected to the JBM Committee.

Mission Visioning Council Moderator Scott Parker presented a capital improvement grant from the Synod of the Covenant to the Ellsworth Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery worshipped Almighty God with the participants and leaders of the Sunshine Camp providing the Call to Worship. Leadership was provided by the Revs. Jan Douglass and Larry Bowald and their guitars; a Christian rap number was presented by Nate Slaughter, the Scripture and message were provided by Camp Director Doug Hoffman; and the offering was taken in support of Summer's Best Two Weeks, a ministry of First Church, Akron. Moderator Marilyn Stroble commissioned the adults and youth who will be attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium July 20-24.

A delicious dinner was served by JBM in the adjacent dining hall. Following dinner, presbyters discussed chapter 7 of Francis Taylor Gench's book Faithful Disagreements in small groups and concluded the study in the meeting hall.

Mission Committee Co-Moderator David Joachim introduced the adults and youth of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman who had completed a mission trip to Dakota Presbytery. A Powerpoint slide show helped the presbytery to visualize the stories that members of the mission team shared with the presbytery.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented Kyle Joachim to move from the status of Inquirer to Candidate. After a thorough questioning about his personal faith the presbytery voted unanimously in favor of the recommendation.

On behalf of the Communication and Nurture Committee, Elder Trella Johnson presented and the presbytery approved a motion about procedures for communication to the media and the presbytery relating to sensitive issues concerning the presbytery.

Committee on Ministry Vice-Moderator Debby Dockstader moved the following and the presbytery took the following action: renewed the covenant between the Rev. Bob Offerdahl and the Coitsville Church for a period of one year; approved minimum terms of call for 2011 including a 1.5% increase in effective salary; approved the call of the Rev. Stephanie Crossland as called/installed pastor of the Northminster Church, Cuyahoga Falls, effective July 1; approve the transfer of credentials for Candidate Melissa Shaughnessy pending here ordination; and approve the report of pastors' terms of call for 2010. Dockstader reported the completion of triennial visits with the Goodyear Heights, Coitsville, Butler Memorial, and Youngstown First Churches; six month dialogues with Kent Church, Christ Church and First Church, Salem and their pastors; approval of Church Information Forms for the Pleasant Grove and North Benton Churches; and current Mission Vision Studies taking place with First Church, Mineral Ridge, Barberton Church, and the Ellsworth Church.

The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt reporting on behalf of the Self Development of People Committee shared that ten members of the Committee had attended training with SDOP national director Cynthia White. Schmidt reminded the presbytery of the projects within our bounds that have been supported through SDOP: Barberton Area Community Ministry, Latinos Unidos, and support for the Karen Community in Akron. The Committee plans to begin meeting on committee meeting night.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 8:35 p.m.

The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Warren, on September 14, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.