

September 8, 2009

QUICKLINE

Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Boardman

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery held its stated meeting at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Scott Parker. Rev. David Joachim, host pastor, welcomed the Presbytery.

The Consent Agenda included the following actions:

Approval for the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman to borrow \$120,000 for a new roof; continue Inquirer Drew Himes and Candidates Sue Francis and Melissa Shaughnessy under care of Eastminster Presbytery; and co-opt Elder Ray Rubrake (Warren First) to the North Area Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry.

The Worship of Almighty God: General Presbyter Dan Schomer served as liturgist. Remembrances of Rev. William Cooke and Rev. Albert May were provided by Rev. David Black and Rev. Joseph Atkins. The Rev. Mark Phillips served as organist.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer shared his excitement with the leadership being provided by the Mission Visioning Council and the Council's plans to visit with every church session. He expressed gratitude to Stated Clerk Ross Jackson, who will be concluding his service on December 31, and to retired Enrolling Clerk Art Straitiff for their faithful service to Jesus Christ and Eastminster Presbytery. He also highlighted how Eastminster Presbytery is resourcing congregations with a Middle School Retreat at JBM on Oct. 2-3, an Evangelism Workshop on October 31, and Coaching Skills Training on Jan. 20-21.

The Personnel Committee: On behalf of the Committee, Elder Chuck Chalker of Warren First Church recognized 18 years of service by Elder Art Straitiff as Enrolling Clerk and presented gifts of gratitude.

The Trustees presented and the presbytery approved a 2010 Askings Budget in the amount of \$378,084.00. They also recognized Goodyear Height Presbyterian Church for their donation to help bridge the difference in Eastminster's mission deficit.

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones highlighted three new resources available in the Center: "Praying With Your Body" (book and DVD), "Bread for the Journey (book), and "Servant or Sucker" (DVD).

Congregational Resources Committee: Christian Educator Marian Bauer (Canfield) reported that she will be the presbytery coordinator for the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium being held July 20-24. Those interested were encouraged to contact Marian by phone (330-533-5509) or email (mbauer@canfieldpresbyterian.org).

Communication and Nurture Committee: Rev. Henry Pearce announced a presbytery-wide elder and deacon training has been scheduled for Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kent Church and Nov. 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Mineral Ridge Church.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented two seminarians to be received as Inquirers: Alexander Creager (Kent Church) and Kyle Joachim (Westminster Church, Boardman)

The Nominating Committee encouraged applicants to serve as minister and elder commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegates to the 219th General Assembly held July 3-10 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The deadline for applications is Nov. 30. Applicants are also being sought for the office of Stated Clerk. The deadline for applicants is Oct. 9.

Theological Education Fund: Rev. Sue Tinker made a PowerPoint presentation encouraging all congregations to participate in TEF.

The Evangelism and Growth Commission: Moderator David Weida announced an Evangelism Workshop on October 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a centrally location yet to be selected. Registrants will receive \$60 worth of books and lunch for a fee of \$12.

The presbytery dismissed for a delicious meal prepared and served by the host church.

Young Presbyterian Scholars, a scholarship program offered by Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, was introduced to the presbytery by Carey LaSore. Pastors were encouraged to nominate students within their congregations for scholarships totaling \$64,000 over four years.

JBM Camp Director Doug Hoffman reported on a successful summer camping season and encouraged churches to communicate with him concerning their needs and interests. Doug also reminded the presbytery about the availability of the Sabbath House.

Mission Visioning Council Moderator Debby Dockstader reminded the presbytery of the visits with every session in the presbytery that will soon begin.

Synod Commissioner Joe Atkins summed up the most recent Synod Assembly by focusing on the word “emerge.” A pinwheel became a symbol of the synod that is centered on Jesus Christ and is producing a great deal of energy by relying upon the Holy Spirit.

The Committee on Ministry presented the following items for action by the presbytery: Transferred Rev. James Henkel to the Presbytery of Western N.Y. and Rev. Robert McCreight to Redstone Presbytery; approved the installation commission for Rev. Meta Cramer; approved seminarian Michael Parker as part-time Student Supply of the East Palestine Church; approved Rev. Susan Curtis, an R.C.A. minister, as part-time interim pastor of the Sebring Church; and approved the validated ministries of Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Rev. Alan Hutchison, Rev. Peter Lawson, and Rev. Christine Ziem. Moderator Carole Rummell informed the presbytery of the completion of triennial visits with the Poland, Canfield, and Westminster Boardman sessions. Rev. Debby Dockstader presented three minister members of the presbytery with Golden Anniversary Ordination Certificates: Rev. Harold Walker (60 years), Rev. Tom Niccolls (55 years), and Rev. Richard Fruit (50 years).

General Presbyter Dan Schomer led the presbytery in a study of chapter 1 of the book **Faithful Disagreements** by Dr. Francis Taylor Gench.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Moderator Scott Parker.

<p>The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held on November 10, 2009, at the First Presbyterian Church in Columbiana.</p>
