

November 10, 2009

QUICKLINE *First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana*

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery held its stated meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Columbiana at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator and host pastor Scott Parker.

The Consent Agenda included the following actions:

Set aside the Manual of Operations so that Elder Peggy Richmond may continue her work as the Discernment Advisor on the Mission Visioning Council; received the auditors report; and designated the Nov. 10 offering to the Needle's Eye and the Jan. 12 offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer interpreted the value of the upcoming visitation of every session in the presbytery by representatives of the Mission Visioning Council. He encouraged participation in the Percept/Link2Lead training he is providing on Nov. 11 & 18, and stressed the importance of registering for the Coaching Skills Workshop scheduled for Jan. 20-21. The Rev. Juliann Joy shared with the presbytery her experience of being a part of a Peer Coaching Group and stressed the value of the skills she has gained.

The Communication and Nurture Committee reported on the upcoming Church Officer Training on November 14 and 15, reminding the presbytery of the outstanding leadership and timely topics.

Presbytery Worship included both traditional and contemporary music, a spirited sermon by Moderator Scott Parker, the annual "Remembering of the Saints," and the annual communion service. Participants in the service included Rev. Mark Phillips, Rev. Bonnie Dutton, Elder Peggy Richmond, and Rev. Mark Ruppert.

The Dinner Hour included a delicious meal prepared and served by the church and a study around tables of chapter two of the book Faithful Disagreements.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented Kristin Stroble to be moved to Candidacy and Benjamin Graves to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. After examination, the presbytery voted unanimously and joyously in favor of both recommendations.

The Committee on Ministry made the following recommendations which were approved by the presbytery: that Rev. Susan Curtis (Reformed Church in America) be approved as half-time interim pastor of the Sebring Presbyterian Church, that she become a temporary member of Eastminster Presbytery, & that she be appointed moderator of the Sebring Session; that the call of Benjamin Graves by Christ Church Presbyterian be approved; that the interim covenant between Rev. Carolyn Griffeth and the Heritage Presbyterian Church be extended for one year; that Elder John Schippert be commissioned as Commissioned Lay Pastor of the Concord Presbyterian Church; that the terms of call for Rev. Scott Parker be approved for 2009; that the commission to ordain and install Benjamin Graves be approved; that Rev. Richard Ferris be appointed as moderator of the East Palestine Session. The Committee announced that it would not ask for action on the paper "Life Together in the Community of Faith" until the January meeting, due to the knowledge that a substitute motion will be presented as well.

The Trustees recommended that the Hungarian Presbyterian Church be permitted to sell the Calvin Center at an absolute auction on December 1 and that the purchaser be given first right of refusal should the church facility come available for sale at a later date. The Trustees recommended and motion prevailed that the combined G.A., Synod, and Presbytery per capita apportionment for 2010 be set at \$28.00 per member. The Trustees presented and the presbytery approved the 2010 Preliminary Budget which sets the administrative side of the budget.

The Nominating Committee announced the following resignations: Rev. Burt McGlawn & Elder Paul Stocker (Communication and Nurture), Elder Charles Williams (Self Development of People), Elder Jean Jones (JBM Committee), & Rev. Bonnie Dutton (Trustees). It was announced that Elder Grace Duncan, a member of the Mission Committee, Class of 2010, has passed away. The Committee placed in nomination and the presbytery elected the following person: Elder Marilyn Stroble as Moderator of Presbytery for 2010; Rev. Carolyn Griffeth as Vice-Moderator of Presbytery for 2010; Elder Stan Christensen as Enrolling Clerk; Rev. Joe Atkins as Synod Commission; Robert Moore & Cal Bennett (Trustees); Rev. Nick Mager, Bob Stroble, Rev. Mark Ruppert, Rev. Bonnie Dutton, Rev. Ross Jackson, & Rev. Reford Nash (Committee on Ministry); Rev. Richard Fruit, Rev. Tom Niccolls, & Nancy Finch (Personnel); Rev. Bruce Ballentine & Jeanne Monroe (Preparation for Ministry); Rev. David Joachim, Rev. Elmarie Parker, Rev. Ross Slaughter & Irene Sams (Mission Committee); Rev. Jan Douglass & Brad Dutton (Coordinating Council); Rev. Matt Medford, Marian Bauer & John Schippert (Congregational Resources); Dave Weida, Edie English, & Rev. Brian Nutt (Evangelism & Church Growth Commission); Rev. Jim Ray, Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Cecil Monroe, Rose Marie Roth, Armando Labra & Don Binkley (Self-Development of People); Patty O'Malia & Rev. Victor Wan-Tatah (Committee on Representation); Andy Konsol (JBM Committee); and Elaine Dutton (Communication & Nurture Committee).

Spain Travelers Richard & Carmen Ferris, Ross & Alice Jackson, David Joachim, Jeanne Monroe, Tom & Betty Niccolls, and Dan Schomer shared their experiences of visiting Levante Presbytery in June, 2009, through a DVD prepared by Jane Stoffer and personal stories.

Mission Visioning Council Moderator Debby Dockstader reminded the presbytery of the Council's commitment to visit with every session each year over the next three years and to follow up on requests for resources and assistance in a timely manner.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Moderator Scott Parker at 9:15 p.m.

<p>The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Mineral Ridge on January 12, 2010.</p>
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