

July 8, 2008

## **QUICKLINE**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery comprised of 128 ministers, elders, and guests, held its stated meeting at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Robert Gillette. The Rev. Derek Starr Redwine welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the church.

The Consent Agenda included the designation of the July 8 offering at the Stated Meeting to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Midwest Flooding; concurrence with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to continue under care of the Presbytery for another year the following persons: Elaine Dutton, Sue Francis, Ben Graves, Drew Himes, Joe Hrach, Jeff Schooley, and Melissa Shaughnessy; approval of the transfer of \$15,000 from the Endowment Fund to the JBM Capital Campaign Fund to expedite emergency repairs; approval for the Kent Presbyterian Church to enter into a loan agreement in the amount of \$23,000 for emergency repairs due to flood damage; approval for the Canfield Presbyterian Church to enter into a commercial loan agreement in the amount of \$1 to \$1.3 million for a period of 18 years to cover the balance of the church's renovation project; approval of the Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Stephanie Crossland as Designated Pastor of the Northminster Presbyterian Church of Cuyahoga Falls on August 24, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.; approval of the Minimum Terms of Call for 2009 with an increase of \$600 to the Auto/Travel Reimbursement line; approval to change the call of the Rev. E. Sue Tinker from part time Temporary Supply Pastor to full time Temporary Supply Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Hudson, effective June 1, 2008; approval of the call of the Canfield Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Larry Bowald to begin August 1, 2008; and approval that the Rev. Henry Pearce be co-opted to the Committee on Ministry Commissioned Lay Pastor Subcommittee.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations: General Presbyter Dan Schomer announced that the Rev. Harry Eberts will be receiving a commendation from the Mayor of Akron at the Akron Peace Council dinner on July 11. Eastminster Presbytery was honored at the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for being in the top ten presbyteries in per member giving to special offerings. Stated Clerk Meta Cramer was elected by the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to the G.A. Permanent Judicial Commission. Prayer concerns included Cathy Gilbert, wife the Rev. David Gilbert of the Poland Church, under hospice care; the family of Rev. James Doty, former interim pastor at the Sebring Church; the family of Elder Jennifer Kerr, a member of Niles-First Church; and the Rev. Jeanine Haven who had a fire in her apartment. Contributions can be sent to the Sustaining Fund of Eastminster Presbytery for Jeanine's benefit. Dan offered prayers of intercession.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer commented briefly on the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, assuring the presbytery that there will be future opportunities to learn what happened at the Assembly and dialogue about G.A. recommendations to be voted on by the presbytery; and encouraged churches to register for Link-to-Lead, a free service of Percept for Eastminster Churches.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: The Committee presented and the Presbytery voted to move the following persons from the status of Inquirer to Candidate: Sue Francis, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbiana, a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School; Benjamin Graves, a member of the Kent Presbyterian Church, a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and Jeffrey Schooley, a member of the Kent Presbyterian Church, a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Committee on Ministry – The Committee reported it had approved the following: the Rev. Scott Parker's appointment as Moderator of the Session of the East Palestine Church through December 31, 2008; the Rev. Juliann Joy to candidate for a part-time pastoral position at Petersburg Presbyterian Church; the request of credentials of the Rev. Ray Banner, Jr. (HR) from Blackhawk Presbytery; and a Boundaries Workshop on October 28, 2008 for all Clergy, Commissioned Lay Pastors, Lay Pastors and Christian Educators who have not previously attended a workshop presented by Eastminster Presbytery. It will also be open to others who would like to take a refresher course. The Presbytery approved the following recommendations from the Committee: the call of the Petersburg Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Juliann Joy; the installation commission for the Rev. Larry Bowald on September 14, 2008 at 3 p.m. at the Canfield

Presbyterian Church; and the validated ministries of the Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt and the Rev. John Gruneich.

Committee on Nominations reported the following resignations: Rev. Donald Aull from the Personnel Committee, and Rev. Christine Ziem from Self-Development of People. The following persons were elected: Rev. Tom Nicolls to the Committee on Personnel; Armando Labra to the Self-Development of People Committee; Elder Mary Beth Hedlund (Hudson), as Synod Commissioner.

The Presbytery worshipped Almighty God, which included the reading of Genesis 1 responsively under the leadership of host pastor Rev. Derek Starr Redwine and Inquirer Melissa Shaughnessy.

Dinner—The Presbytery enjoyed an authentic ethnic meal prepared by members of the KaRen community residing in Akron.

Self-Development of People – The Presbytery learned the history of and information about the KaRen people who have come to Akron from the Myanmar region of Asia. The Akron group has received Self-Development of People funds from both the national committee in the amount of \$20,000 and the local committee in the amount of \$5,000. The group shared several songs with the Presbytery.

Commissioners to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly -- Elder Trella Johnson (Vienna), the Rev. Mark Phillips, the Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, and Elder Marilyn Stroble (Cuyahoga Falls-United) – reported to the Presbytery on their experiences. Complete with masks, the commissioners highlighted the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of John Calvin coming up in 2009; called attention to [pc-biz.org](http://pc-biz.org) as a resource for learning more about the Assembly's work; and commended to the presbytery the bulletin insert available on the Presbytery's own website [www.faithfulness.com](http://www.faithfulness.com).

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones introduced the Presbytery to three video resources: “Just Walk Across the Room” with Bill Hybels; “Saving Jesus,” a 12-session DVD series exploring Jesus Christ; and the “Liquid” series, a series of modern day versions of the parables of Jesus. Lorraine and Karen Kaufman, Director of the Lutheran Resource Center of Northeast Ohio, will lead a workshop on methods of teacher education on August 20 from 10 a.m. to noon at our Resource Center. Cathy Bengson, retired representative of Augsburg Fortress Publishing, will be the guest speaker. The workshop is free and only requires an email to Lorraine letting her know you are coming.

Miscellaneous Business – The Rev. Meta Cramer announced that she would not be seeking another term as Stated Clerk at the end of 2008. The Presbytery took action to charge the Mission Visioning Council with devising a process for the Committees on Personnel, Nominations, Ministry and Preparation for Ministry to study the responsibilities of the position and seek nominations for the position. Mike Jones and Angela Gianakos of the Champion Presbyterian Church shared information on the “Perspectives” study program which is being offered this fall at the Champion Church. More information can be found at [perspectives.org](http://perspectives.org).

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:46 p.m. by the Rev. Scott Parker.

|   |
|---|
| <p>The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church of Akron on September 9, 2008, beginning at 5:00 p.m.</p> |
|---|