

BUSINESS OF THE CLERK – Rev. Meta Cramer called attention to the letter from Cliff Kirkpatrick, thanking Eastminster for its full remittance of per capita assessment for 2005.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES AND CELEBRATIONS – Moderator Peggy Richmond asked for continued prayer for Wendell Cole, and noted the recent death of George Brooks, former Financial Secretary of the Presbytery. Celebrations included the marriage of Elder John (Lake Milton) and Jean Cleavor Shippert, and Elder Lynn Doyle (Youngstown-First) to Tom Pebworth. Christine Ziem announced that her daughter Wendy is now expecting after adopting a child from Guatemala. The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA – Highlights include:

- That the offerings of the upcoming meetings be directed as follows: May 9, "Widening the Circle Fund" to strengthen the future ministry of Presbyterian Women and the Women's Ministry Area of the PCUSA; July 11, JBM camp scholarships; and September 12, Theological Education Fund.
- That Presbytery extend the commission of Elder Henry Pearce through December 31, 2007 and approve the same terms of his covenant with the First Presbyterian Church of Niles.
- That Presbytery grant an exemption to Butler Memorial on rotation of elders due to limited membership.
- With the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, that Eastminster Presbytery approve the application for a loan of \$40,000 by the Lake Milton Church.
- That the following persons be approved to be co-opted to committees of the Presbytery: Commission on Evangelism and Church Growth – Rev. Brian Nutt and Elder Tom McKee.

GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT – Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, emphasized the importance of prayer for the commissioners to 217th GA, provided an update on Second Mile Fund Giving, recognized First Church Barberton and First Church Salem as our first two Second Mile Giving Churches, and announced that three mission projects are now fully funded. The Presbytery was informed that the Second Mile Giving brochure is now posted on the website. Congregations were encouraged to share their Stewardship best practices by emailing webmaster Kate Treasure who will post them on the website.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL REPORT – Rev. Dan Schomer shared the traumatic impact of the staff reduction at the Presbyterian Center required by the 2007-2008 GAC budget. The new budget was brought into conformity with the Mission Work Plan and is objective driven rather than program driven. The new structure is designed to be more flexible and responsive to the changing challenges in the PC(USA). It was shared that the new candidate for Executive Director of the GAC would be announced on May 10. (The candidate is Elder Linda Valentine. See www.pcusa.org/news).

RESOURCE CENTER – Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones reported on five new books added to the shelves: Jack Rogers' "The Bible on Homosexuality," "Singing the Lord's Song in a New Land," "Reading the Bible with the Damned," "Called as Partners in Christ's Service," and "Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and other Endangered Species."

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND – Elder Ruth Cole (New Lisbon) reported on the Theological Education Fund. She recognized Eastminster congregations which donated to the Fund in 2005: Stow, Brownlee Woods, Akron Westminster, Canfield, Kinsman, North Benton, Concord, Salem First, Warren First, Boardman Westminster, Barberton, Sebring, Hudson, New Covenant, and New Lisbon.

COMMITTEE ON JOSEPH BADGER MEADOWS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER – Camp Director Karen Riley reminded the Presbytery about the 40th anniversary celebration on October 7 and that stories are still needed. A Youth Leaders Gathering will be held August 4 & 5. Work Day is the third Thursday of every month. Staff needs include a male counselor and a nurse for 2 weeks in July.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH COMMISSION – The Rev. Steve Breazier, a member of the Evangelism and Church Growth Commission, reported on the Struthers Church's experience with the Acts 16:5 Initiative.

MARGARET PARK SCHOLARSHIP – Elder Lucille Clay (Northminster) reported that Candidate Elaine Dutton, a member of the Poland Presbyterian Church and a senior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, had been awarded a scholarship from the Margaret Park Scholarship Fund. Applications to be considered at the October 25 meeting are due by October 18.

COMMUNICATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE – Elder John Graves (Kent), described the 2006 Eliza Doolittle Award. The committee has \$2,000 available for the project. Committee members will be available to assist the church chosen to receive the award with 1) forming the church committee, 2) choosing the equipment, and 3) training members to use the equipment.

MISSEON VISIONING COUNCIL – Moderator Peggy Richmond announced that the Council is studying the book “Leadership from the Inside Out” and will meet monthly through 2007.

PRESBYTERY MEETING COORDINATING COUNCIL – The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt reported that the July 11 Presbytery Meeting will be a combination of a short business meeting and a picnic followed by a variety of camp activities. Families are invited. Registration will begin at 4:45 p.m. The business meeting will be limited to an hour followed by a brief vespers service, a picnic, and fun activities. Dinner will be \$7/person or a maximum of \$25/family.

TRUSTEES - Rev. Rusty Cowden reported. Motions prevailed to concur with the Session of the Common Ground Church Community and the Trustees of Eastminster Presbytery to forward a loan application to PILP for \$550,000.; and to concur with the Session of the Hungarian Presbyterian Church to list the Calvin Center for sale for \$230,000,

THE PRESBYTERY AT WORSHIP – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God, celebrating the anniversaries of women’s ordination as Deacons (100 years), Elders (75 years) and Ministers of Word and Sacrament (50 years). Elder Carole Rummell and Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt reflected on the call to ordained leadership. Other participants were: Rev. Bonnie Dutton, Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, Rev. Elmarie Parker, Elder Irene Sams, Elder Sue Reynolds, Rev. Janet Lowery, Rev. Christine Ziem, Rev. Meta Cramer, and Rev. Mark Phillips, organist.

DINNER RECESS – The Presbytery recessed for a delicious dinner.

COMMISSIONING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS – Moderator Peggy Richmond commissioned Rev. Nick Mager, clergy commissioner to the 217th General Assembly. Elder Harriet Chapman (Akron-Westminster) and Youth Advisory Delegate David Cramer (New Waterford) could not be present.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – Rev. Mark Phillips reported. Aaron Meadows, a candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament under the care of the Presbytery of Muskingum Valley, presented his Statement of Faith and was examined for ordination. Motion prevailed to sustain the examination of Aaron Meadows and to proceed to his ordination to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Motions prevailed to enroll Ben Graves (Kent Church) as an inquirer; and transfer the covenant relationship with candidate Jonas Hayes to the Presbytery of San Jose so that he might candidate as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, CA.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – Rev. Nick Mager reported.

Highlights of informational items include:

- Approved part-time terms of call between the John Knox Presbyterian Church and Rev. Jeanine Haven for six months.
- Approved the compensation between the Liberty Presbyterian Church and Rev. Jeanine Haven to serve as Temporary Supply Pastor for six months.
- Approved the dissolution of the relationship of Rev. Anne Hagler as Designated Pastor of the New Covenant Community Church in Akron effective November 30, 2006.
- Requested the Board of Pensions to wave payment of vacancy dues for the Northminster Cuyahoga Falls Church due to severe financial difficulties effective April 30, 2006, until such time as an Interim Minister is contracted by the Session.
- Approved the creation of the positions of co-pastors at the Kent Church with the understanding that Rev. Kay Roberts will become one of these co-pastors when the other co-pastor is installed.
- Rev. Jay Groat, a member of our Presbytery, is in the process of securing membership also in the United Church of Christ.

Highlights of action items:

- Approved the terms of call for all pastors in our Presbytery as amended.
- Extended the commission of Elder Bo Schneider for two months with the Gibson Heights/Second Presbyterian Church.
- Approved the call of Aaron Meadows as Designated Co-Pastor of the Kent Church for 4 years, beginning June 1, 2006.
- Approved changes in call of Rev. Kay Roberts to become Co-Pastor of the Kent Church and in the terms of call.
- Set ordination/installation of Aaron Meadows and Kay Roberts for June 11 at 3 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION – Rev. Paul Johnson, Moderator, together with Rev. Dave Joachim, Lexi Joachim, Rev. Dan Schomer, reported on their recent trip to Levante Presbytery in Spain. In addition to describing their experiences and the establishment of the five-year mission partnership, future opportunities include a team from Eastminster visiting Levante Presbytery in October, 2006, a team from Levante Presbytery visiting Eastminster in February, 2007, and a possible continuing education event for pastors at the seminary in El Escorial south of Madrid.

The next Stated Meeting will be held at JBM on, July 11, 2006, beginning at 4:45 p.m. Dress casually/comfortably!