

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

The Presbytery was **welcomed** by Moderator Peggy Richmond, an elder in the Petersburg Church. The Moderator reported the members of two commissions whom she appointed. The Consulting Commission includes Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, chair; Rev. Paul Gaug, Elder Peggy Richmond, Elder Trella Johnson, Rev. Rusty Cowden, Elder Carmen Ferris, Rev. Bonnie Dutton, Rev. Alan Hutchison, and ex-officio members Rev. Dan Schomer, Elder Harriet Chapman, and Rev. Nick Mager. The Hudson Church Commission includes Rev. Mark Phillips, Rev. Reford Nash, Rev. Janet Lowery, Elder Bob Gillette, Elder Bob Moore, Elder Pat Farmwald, and Elder Joe Hrach.

Family Remembrances included comfort for the family of Rev. Barrie Bodden; concerns for James Fortenberry (seizures), Ruth Cole (surgery), Paul Johnson (recuperating from surgery), Bernie Christensen (recuperating from surgery), and comfort for Scott Parker's family in the death of his grandmother. Celebrations included Lake Milton's 50th anniversary and Christine Ziem's new granddaughter.

The Consent Agenda included permission for the Hungarian Church to sell the Calvin Center, designation of the evening's offering to the Mahoning Valley Association of Churches and the Akron Area Association of Churches, and the rescheduling of Council meetings to December 14, 2006, Committee meetings to December 4, 2007, and Council meetings to December 13, 2007.

The Stated Clerk Meta Cramer reported that David Weyrick had renounced jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

General Presbyter Dan Schomer reported that on November 5, the Hudson Presbyterian Church congregation voted 161 in favor, 61 opposed, and 6 abstaining to disaffiliate from the PCUSA. It was clarified that a church cannot disaffiliate but must be dismissed by the presbytery. A status conference on the lawsuit filed against Eastminster Presbytery by the Hudson Church session took place in magistrate's chambers on November 9. The next conference will be held on December 12. The lawsuit will likely not be resolved until March, 2007. Letters were received from David Weyrick and Wally Kukuk renouncing jurisdiction of the PC(U.S.A.) as well as a letter stating that 96% of the Stow Church voted to disassociate with the PC(U.S.A.). Concerning legal fees, it was reported that coverage from Church Mutual insurance, a generous allocation for presbyteries within the Synod of the Covenant, and offers of support from persons within presbytery have been made. In personal remarks, Schomer quoted Ex. 20:16 and Eph 4:15 and called the presbytery and its sessions to commit themselves to "truth-telling." (The full text of Schomer's remarks can be found on www.eastminsterpresbytery.com).

The Committee on Nominations presented nominees to presbytery committees and offices including Rev. Debby Dockstader as Moderator and Robert Gillette as Vice-Moderator for 2007. All were elected.

The Committee on Ministry reported the following actions: Approved the Interim Pastor Covenant between Rev. Meta Cramer and the Northminster Church in Cuyahoga Falls, the dissolution of the pastoral relationships of the Rev. Steve Cramer and the Rev. Meta Cramer and the churches of the Good News Parish, the call of the Rev. Steve Cramer to the Trinity Presbyterian Church in East Liverpool and the transfer of his credentials to Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, the appointment of the Rev. Don Aull as moderator of the Clarkson and New Waterford Sessions and of the Rev. John Besore as moderator of the Concord Session. It was announced that a Boundaries Workshop was held on October 26 and the Lay Pastor Retreat took place on October 27-28. The Rev. David Joachim spoke words of appreciation for the ministry of the Rev. Stephen Cramer.

Presbyterian Women presented by the mission of the Comfort Blanket Ministry.

Personnel Committee presented revised job descriptions for the Administrative Assistant and the part-time Financial Secretary and Clerical Assistant for approval.

The Trustees presented for approval the per capita for 2007 of \$24.41 and the 2007 Preliminary Budget of \$577,217. The John Knox Church was given approval to sell a house received as a bequest and to apply the funds to the purchase of a new boiler.

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones introduced new resource for Advent and announced new hours of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The **Margaret Park Scholarship Fund Committee** awarded scholarships to seminarians Henry Pearce and Adam Marquette.

The **Communication and Nurture Committee** reported on the new Presbytery newsletter—the *Eastminster Evangel*. The Committee is looking for an editor and webmaster.

Committee on Mission – Rev. David Joachim, Rev. Elmarie Parker, and Elder Donna McCollum reported on their recent trip to Levante Presbytery in Spain and announced that a team from Levante Presbytery will be coming the first two weeks of February.

Presbytery Worship included a sermon by Moderator Peggy Richmond, the Necrology Report, and the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The **Committee on Ministry** brought the following motions that were approved by the presbytery; (1) In accordance with G-8.0601, Eastminster Presbytery declares those members of the Hudson Presbyterian Church who wish to continue as the Hudson Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to be the true church within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); (2) Eastminster Presbytery directs the Hudson Commission to identify the members of the Hudson Presbyterian Church who wish to continue as the Hudson Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and (3) Eastminster Presbytery directs the Consulting Commission to perform a special administrative review of the Stow Presbyterian Church with authorization to explore the possibility of a negotiated settlement with the understanding that a negotiated settlement requires the approval of Eastminster Presbytery.

Synod Executive Marie Cross brought greetings and words of encouragement from the Synod of the Covenant.

Congregational Resources Committee reported on the upcoming Youth Triennium at Purdue University, the 2-Cents-for-Hunger offering, and the Peacemaking event taking place at JBM on January 22-24, 2007.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented Adam Marquette to be enrolled as a candidate under care of Eastminster Presbytery.

Evangelism and Church Growth Commission announced a pre-presbytery meeting regarding the Acts 16:5 Initiative at the January 2007 stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery.

Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council presented the names of Rev. Peter Lawson, Elder Cecil Monroe, and Rev. Dick Fruit to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Presbytery was reminded that it would be voting on the amendments from the 217th General Assembly at the January, 2007, meeting. The Presbytery decided to postpone action on "A Resolution to Eastminster Presbytery Concerning Ordination Standards" until the January, 2007, meeting.

Miscellaneous Business: Elder Bob Gillette provided the address for his blog: www.eastminsterobserver.blogspot.com and Rev. Dick Braun called the attention of the presbytery to the 30th anniversary of the Needle's Eye Ministry on October 22.

The next Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Youngstown, on January 9, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m.