

## ***QUICKLINE: Highlights of the March 8, 2005, meeting of Eastminster Presbytery***

Eastminster Presbytery met at the First Presbyterian Church, Hubbard. Rev. John Gruneich, Moderator, convened the meeting and host pastor Rev. Larry Stewart welcomed the presbytery.

Goldie Burrier, Moderator of Presbyterian Women, announced the Board and shared the work of PW.

**Family Remembrances** – Kay Roberts has a new grandson, Malachi, born on 2/20; Nathan Offerdahl is undergoing angioplasty at Cleveland Clinic on March 9; Brian Nutt is recuperating from surgery for torn Achilles tendon; Jim Henkel is recovering from a knife attack in his home.

**Consent Agenda**--Received minutes of Coordinating Council & Mission Visioning Council; approved the March 8 offering to be designated to One Great Hour of Sharing; received minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Bonnie Dutton as Pastor of the Ellsworth Church; concurred with the Salem Church congregation to terminate the position of Associate Pastor; and concurred with the Congregational Resources Committee to endorse "A Survey of Peacemaking in Eastminster Presbytery 2005."

**Report of the General Presbyter** – The Presbytery read together the Purpose and Vision Statements of the Presbytery. Dan Schomer asked everyone to fill out a survey on stewardship; reported that a rebate of \$231.17 was received from PILP due to the investments of our congregations; reported that a task force consisting of Rev. Tom Niccolls, Rev. Janet Lowery, Rev. Paul Gaug, Elder William Mitchell & Elder Irene Sams will be meeting to organize theological discussion groups to reflect on the preliminary report of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church.

**Personnel Committee** – Patti Knable was honored and presented with gifts in gratitude for her service as Office Secretary starting in 2002, and Temporary Resource Center Coordinator.

**Evangelism and Church Growth** – The May 3 event for Acts 16:5 churches was announced. The Presbytery was informed that it is still possible to join the program. Steve Breazier led the Presbytery in prayer for the Acts 16:5 churches, pastors, and point persons.

**Trustees** – Financial & Clerical Assistant Kate Treasure and Treasurer Colin Miller presented the 2005 Operating Budget which was approved.

**Self-Development of People Committee** – Jim Ray and members of the Committee presented to the Diverse Business Coop Project of Columbiana a check for \$4500 from SDOP. Jim Ray asked for more applications because there is money available for 2005-2006.

**Nominations** – Bob Forsythe announced that at the April Committee Night meeting the Nominating Committee will be working on the process to nominate commissioners in early 2006 to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Everyone was invited to communicate their thoughts and ideas before the April Committee Night. Carole Rummell, the Nominating Committee Recorder, will be compiling all communications received. She may be contacted directly at [BCRummell@aol.com](mailto:BCRummell@aol.com) or by way of the Presbytery Office.

**Margaret Park Scholarship** – Lucille Clay announced that the deadline for applications is May 1. Those eligible to apply are students who are inquirers or candidates in Eastminster Presbytery attending an accredited seminary who have completed at least one year as a full time student and first call pastors/co-pastors who are within two years of ordination.

**Presbytery at Worship** – A deeply moving Lenten worship experience included Revs. Larry Stewart, Mark Phillips, and "newer" pastors Todd Allen, David Paul, Bonnie Dutton, Burt McGlawn, Lynn Thompson Bryant, Jeanine Haven, and Larry Myers. Organist Sarah Phillips & soloist Helen Pyle provided music.

**Fellowship at the Dinner Table**—A delicious meal was complimented by dinner music by Sarah Phillips.

**Congregational Resources** – Jane Stoffer noted the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Presbyterian Peacemaking and invited presbyters to participate in the survey that had been distributed. Tom Niccolls, Anne Hagler, and Jane Stoffer reported on a consultation on the Middle East focusing on the phased selective divestment in multi-national corporations doing business in Israel approved by the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. A report on the consultation was shared and a video was shown to the Presbytery.

**Committee on Ministry** – Reported the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Ross Slaughter and the East Palestine Church; approved Rev. Jan Douglass to serve as moderator of the East Palestine Session; approved the call of the United Presbyterian Church, Cuyahoga Falls, to Rev. Ross Slaughter effective March 1, 2005; and concurred with the Session of the Liberty and Coitsville Churches in their covenant with the Rev. Roman Garrison to serve as Interim Pastor for six months beginning March 1, 2005. The Presbytery acted to approve the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Ross Slaughter as pastor of the United Church, Cuyahoga Falls, on Sunday April 24, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.; pending the affirmative vote of all the congregations of the Good News Parish, the terms of call for the Rev. Meta Cramer were reduced and the terms of call for the Rev. Stephen Cramer were increased effective March 1, 2005. The new terms of call will be in effect until the Rev. Meta Cramer completes her interim ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Salem. John Gruneich announced that COM is in charge of supervising lay pastors and a class may start in the fall.

**Common Ground** – Steve Fortenberry announced slow steady growth. Consideration is being given to permanent facilities at the former Mellingers' Greenhouse.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry** – Sue Tinker, a member of Goodyear Heights Church and a middler at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, was moved from inquiry to candidacy.

**Communication and Nurture** – Rein Krone informed the presbytery of the new website and encouraged people to look at it. It can be accessed now at [www.eastminsterpresbytery.org](http://www.eastminsterpresbytery.org). A password will be emailed to pastors or clerks of sessions to gain access to secured areas.

**Mission Visioning Council** – Rein Krone commended JBM for its hospitality in hosting the Councils Retreat at which the Councils looked at how to be an effective presbytery & met with the Presbytery staff.

**Mission Committee** – David Joachim reported on mission opportunities through Dakota Presbytery, the development of a trip to Pensacola, FL in June 2006, the exploration of an overseas mission partner, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Wilmington Missionary Conference in July, 2005.

**JBM** – Permission was granted for the sacrament of the Lord Supper to be celebrated at Women's & Men's Retreats and staff training. The Men and Women's Retreats are still open, April 1-2, 8-9. Price for Summer Camps goes up \$25 on April 1. The Worship Teams continue visiting congregations in the Presbytery.

**Synod Council** – Joe Atkins reported on the Synod Council meeting in February, 2005.

**Resource Center** – Coordinator Lorraine Jones, announced new hours: Monday and Wednesday 1-6 p.m., Saturday 10-3 p.m.

**Coordinating Council** – The Presbytery Manual of Operations was amended to clarify the election procedures for the Discernment Advisor of the Mission Visioning Council.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:50 p.m.