

Eastminster Presbytery
JUNE, 2005
Committee Night Meeting

JUNE CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---|
| 8 | - | 12:30 pm | West Area Retired Clergy Spring Luncheon at the New Era Restaurant,
10 Massillon Rd, Akron, OH |
| 14 | - | 4:30 pm | Committee/Commission Moderators meet for Budget Negotiations Materials |
| | - | 5:00 pm | Committee Night Meeting @ Park Vista in Youngstown, OH |
| | - | 5:00 pm | JBM Committee meets @ JBM |
| 15 | - | 1:00 pm | Interim Pastors' Group meets @ the Presbytery Center |
| 17 | - | 9-3:00 pm | Preparation for Ministry Committee Consultation Day @ Kent Presbyterian Church |
| 23 | - | 12:30 pm | Youngstown Clergy Luncheon @ Brownlee Woods Presbyterian Church |
| | - | 5:00 pm | Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council @ Girard Presbyterian Church |
| | - | 6:30 pm | Dinner followed by Mission Visioning Council |
| 24-25 | - | ***** | Presbyterian Women's Gathering at Bowling Green State University, OH |
| 25 | - | 9:30 am | Lay Pastors' Group meets @ Lake Milton Presbyterian Church |
| 26-7/2 | - | ***** | Synod School @ the College of Wooster |
| 26-7/10 | - | ***** | Rev. Dan Schomer on vacation |
| 30 | - | ***** | DEADLINE FOR ORDERING 2006 MISSION YEARBOOKS OF PRAYER |

JULY CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----------|--|
| 4 | - | ***** | JULY 4 th – OFFICE CLOSED |
| 5 | - | 1:00 pm | Common Ground Commission @ Presbytery Center |
| | - | 6:00 pm | Peacemaking Task Force @ Mineral Ridge Church |
| 7 | - | 12:30 pm | Clergy Women's Luncheon at Ben's Restaurant, Berlin Center, OH |
| 12 | - | 4:00 pm | COM meets prior to Presbytery Meeting @ JBM Camp and Conference Center |
| | - | 5:00 pm | Presbytery Meeting @ JBM Camp and Conference Center |
| 14 | - | 6:00pm | Stewardship Action Learning Team @ Presbytery Center |
| 16 | - | 7:00 pm | West Area Clergy and Spouses Potluck Picnic, @ Northminster Presbyterian
Church, Cuyahoga Falls (picnic pavilion) |
| 23-30 | - | ***** | New Wilmington Missionary Conference @ Westminster College in New
Wilmington, PA |

*Helpful Items of information for pastors, presbytery commissioners, chairpersons of Session committees, and all congregational leadership.
Please deliver this information to persons in your church whose service and ministry will benefit by it.*

Eastminster Presbytery Information

John and Jane Stoffer, Salem First Presbyterian Church, ask for your prayers as we participate in the PRC National Conference, June 9-12, 2005 - Sharing the Waters of Life, Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, 5th National Eco-Justice Conference, Silver Bay YMCA Center, Silver Bay, NY.

“We gather on this 10th anniversary of the formation of Presbyterians for Restoring Creation knowing that our work has never been more urgent. With environmental issues taking a back seat throughout this past election year, we need both new understanding and fresh hope as we seek to be faithful stewards of creation. The conference moves from remembering our baptisms to the celebration of the Lord’s Supper as a promise of God’s restoring work on earth as in heaven. We will gather as communicants from all over the world and be sent back into the world both renewed and empowered. Our celebration and work along the way will weave learning and application as the conference helps participants create an action plan that has regional, national, and international implications.” <http://www.prcweb.org>

West area clergy and spouses potluck/picnic - Attention CLP’s, retired, active, inactive clergy, Christian Educators and families - all welcome! Mark date on your calendar now for Saturday, July 16 at 7 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls (picnic pavilion). Tableware and beverages will be provided, just bring a dish to share. See you there!

Can Peace Break Out? Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, March 6, 2006 as Presbyterians of Eastminster will gather to honor the 25th Anniversary of our Presbyterian Church’s commitment to *“Peacemaking: The Believer’s Calling.* **G.A. Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase will be our dynamic keynote speaker!**

The Peacemaking Task Group is planning a richly rewarding afternoon for adults and youth (our Moderator’s particular emphasis!). We will joyfully worship, have hands-on workshops, share resources, and celebrate our life in Christ, the Prince of Peace, as we explore our church’s mission in the 21st century.

The Mineral Ridge Church is **looking for about a dozen children’s chairs** for classroom use. If there is a church that has some in storage and would like to pass them on for good use, please call Carole Rummell at 330-652-4603, the church at 330-652-5712 or e-mail bcrummell@aol.com, Vicarmark@aol.com or Jane.fpc@sbcglobal.net.

Did you see the article called Common Ground: Task Force, small groups seeking way forward for PC (USA) found in the May 30, 2005 edition of The Presbyterian Outlook? Rev. Dan Schomer is quoted about his hopes and prayers for our theological discussion groups. Copies of the article are at the office.

First Presbyterian Church, Akron has a full-time position opening for a Director of Community Development. The primary function of this job entails developing community ministries incorporating both members and friends of the church and local college students to improve the neighborhood in which we worship. A few of the responsibilities would include developing and administer community programs such as tutoring and/or other after-school opportunities and Summer Day Camp. For more information call the church at 330-434-5183.

Twenty five approximately **9 foot fluorescent light bulbs and 6 fixtures** were left in the basement of Eastminster Presbytery Center when purchased. If anyone has any use we would love to give these to you. Please let us know.

We are taking orders for the **2006 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study and the 2006 Children's Mission Yearbook**. Forms can be found in the back of this packet with a deadline of June 30, 2005. Please send form and check made out to Eastminster Presbytery.

Eastminster Presbytery Center is still decorating. We have one really long hallway that we would love to fill with pictures of all of our churches in Eastminster. If you have a 4 x 6 or 8 x 11 or even a printed notecard we would love to have a copy so we could frame these.

Eastminster Presbytery Center was delighted to accept a beautiful handmade wall hanging from our Presbyterian Women stitched in 1979. It is a collection of 60 individual squares with each one representing one of our churches and done in the most beautiful needlework. It will be traveling to Bowling Green State University for the Women's Gathering with our Presbyterian Women before making its way onto our walls. Please stop by to see our newest treasure.

“Do Hurricane Relief work with ‘Habitat’ - Pensacola, FL 2006 (June 24-July 2, 2006)

sponsored by Eastminster's Mission Committee

Even before the Hurricanes of '04, "Habitat For Humanity" of Pensacola was working hard to build 50 houses a year. Now the need is so much greater. Not only for '05, but for '06 and beyond. They have requested a team from Eastminster Presbytery.

Rev. David Joachim (Westminster Church, Boardman) has led 2 teams to work with "Habitat"/Pensacola before. Teams stay at First Presbyterian Church's "Noonan Center" (showers, full-kitchen, sleep on floors/air-mattresses; basketball court & game room; separate sleeping quarters for male/female). We do our own cooking (dinners); light breakfast; lunches at the work-site.

We frame and roof a house in 5 days. Skilled or unskilled labor needed. Weather: *hot. Real hot.* Work from 7AM - 1PM. Afternoons free for resting, shopping or to the beautiful white-sand beaches.

Leave Youngstown on a Saturday 6/24/06; drive to Knoxville to overnight (in a church); drive to Pensacola. **Arrive** Pensacola, Sunday 6/25/06. **Depart** the following Saturday 7/1/06; drive to Maryville, TN, to overnight; drive to Youngstown Arrive 7/2/06

[note: the team may determine to make our return trip on Fri/Sat. 6/30 & 7/1 in order to be home for more of the 4th of July weekend; that would cut out the "day of relaxation" in Pensacola]

Cost: \$300-400 total (We drive our own vehicles; food costs; donation to the Noonan Center; \$100 to "Habitat" per person.)

July 10, 2005, is the day set aside on the Presbyterian Program Calendar to observe the ministry of small churches within our denomination. Most of our congregations are small – 100 or fewer members in worship attendance-so this day is especially significant to the PC (USA). We invite you to participate in this observance whether you're a smaller, medium or larger congregation. Some people use numbers as the measure of congregational "success." Those in small church ministry know that numbers, while important, are not the true measure of ministry. The health and vitality of a congregation is rooted in its response to the biblical imperative to go forth into the world to proclaim and witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The gospel reading for July 10th provides us with a particular image through the parable of the Sower. God continues to sow seeds within our congregations. We are to provide the "good soil" and open our ears and our eyes and our hearts to listen to the Spirit's leading. Worship resources and bulletin inserts may be obtained from the Presbyterian Small Church Ministry Network office by downloading them from www.pcusa.org/smallchurch for use on Small Church Sunday.

Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education each year awards congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for outstanding programs in early childhood education, excellence in Christian education, effective youth ministry and outreach and social concern. These four Congregation Awards are presented at the annual Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference (APCE). Since 1991, 55 churches in 24 states have received these awards. Each award carries a \$1000 contribution to assist the congregations in their ministries. If your church would like to apply for one of the Union-PSCE Congregation Awards, please call April Swofford for an application at (804) 254-8047 or 800 299-2990 ext 747 or e-mail aswofford@union-psce.edu. The deadline for the 2006 Awards is November 1, 2005.

Conferences, Seminars, and Events

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. The five-day institute also includes a component on congregational intervention and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory.

- Aug. 1-5, 2005 - Des Plaines, IL
- October 3-7, 2005 - Denver Colorado
- Nov. 14-18, 2005 - Atlanta, GA

The 2005 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference, celebrating 25 years of peacemaking, is scheduled for June 20-26 at the Ghost Ranch Conference Center in Aliquippa, NM. For further information, visit www.pcusa.org/peacemaking. For scholarship information, call Howard Johnson at 614.888.1223. This conference provides an opportunity for peace builders to gather in the sacred space of Ghost Ranch to discern God's vision for our troubled world, to equip one another with skills to speak truth to power, to go out as disciples of Christ to build communities for the common good, and to transform fear into love.

Covenant Gathering (Synod School) will be a week earlier this year than it has been in quite some time. The dates are June 26 – July 2 at the College of Wooster again this year. A keynote speaker, a mission fair, and hands-on mission experience for all ages will all be part of the design. A class for Educator Certification and Commissioned Lay Pastor Training is held each year as part of Covenant Gathering. Brochures are now available at Presbyterian Center.

“Effective Preaching in a Post-Modern World” preaching conference will be held July 7-9, 2005 at Whitworth College Campus, Spokane, Washington. Keynote speakers Dr. Craig Barnes and Dr. Charles L. Bartow will explore the dynamics of good preaching, examine how to make our preaching more passionate and relevant, and encourage one another to more faithful proclamation in the 21st Century.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is now taking applications for the July 9-23 **Summer Youth Institute**. Eligible are outstanding high school students who will be graduating in 2006 who like to ask big questions of faith, who may or may not be interested in Ministry of Word and Sacrament but are gifted with leadership skills for the church. The Presbytery Office has a brochure and CD or email the Rev. Ellie Johns at mjohns@pts.edu for your own copy. More information available at www.summeryouthinstitute.org. There are no costs for participation.

PCUSA College Fair will be held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Summer Youth Institute. All Presbyterian high school youth are invited to explore higher education. Presbyterian colleges and universities, from as close as Pittsburgh to as far away as Alaska, will be on Pittsburgh Seminary's campus to meet with students interested in higher education on Friday, July 22, 2005 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Any questions can be directed to Rev. Ellie Johns at 412.362.5610 x 2159 or mjohn@pts.edu.

Interim Pastors' Seminar endorsed by the Synod of the Pacific and Synod of Southern California & Hawaii will be held July 24-29, 2005 at Zephyr Point in Zephyr Cove, NV. Interim Pastor Education is for both those inquiring about this ministry and those already serving as interims. Spouses are encouraged to participate in the Spouse Track. The curriculum has been standardized for each regional site in coordination with General Assembly leadership and curriculum.

10th year anniversary of The Leadership Summit 2005 will be held August 11-13 at Willow Creek Campus in South Barrington, IL or, enjoy the experience via live satellite broadcast at one of 100-plus convenient locations. Registration can be found at www.willowcreek.com or 800.570.9812. Early bird rate and discounts are available until June 30. Some keynote speakers include: Bill Hybels, Rick Warren, Mosa Sono, Eleanor Josaites, Curtis Sliwa, Ken Blanchard, John Maxwell, Colleen Barrett, Jack Groppe, Henry Cloud, and Kenneth Ulmer.

Small Groups Conference 2005 will be held September 22-24 at Willow Creek. A dynamic combination of powerful main sessions and how-to training will sharpen individual skills while providing clear vision and new energy for the amazing, life-shaping potential of small groups. Main Session speakers include Larry Crabb, distinguished Christian psychologist and speaker and founder of New Way Ministries; Brian McLaren, author of *A Different Kind of Christian* and *The Story We Find Ourselves In* and founding pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church; Bill and Gail Donahue, Executive Director of Small Group Ministry for Willow Creek Association; and John Burke, founding pastor of Gateway Community Church in Texas as well as executive director of ministries at Willow Creek Community Church. He has also written *No Perfect People Allowed: Creating a Come-As-You-Are Culture*. Early Bird Rates are available. More information at www.willowcreek.com or call 1.800.570.9812.

The Seven Percent Event 2005 called "Come Together" will be held Oct. 3-6, 2005 in San Francisco, CA. Registration fee is \$350 and spouses and/or children are invited to participate. You have a unique perspective as a Minister of Word and Sacrament under the age of 40. Since you're younger than most Presbyterians, you also have challenging experiences. More information can be found at www.pcusa.org/youngadult/sevenpercent/sevenpercent.htm

North Central Wee Kirk Conference called "Who Do You Say That I Am?" will be held Oct 4-6, 2005 at the Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park in Northern Indiana. The Wee Kirk events are especially designed for pastors and lay leaders of churches of 125 members or less and offer opportunities for spiritual renewal and growth, and education in areas of pastoral care, ministry skills, evangelism, world mission and finances. The two-day conferences are packed full of relaxing fellowship and physical refreshment in beautiful surroundings. Some keynote speakers are Rev. James Edwards, Rev. Sara Juengst, Elder Frank Diaz and Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie. More information found at the presbytery office or email to alleganpres2@yahoo.com.

Northeast (PA) Wee Kirk Conference is to be held Oct. 17-19, 2005 in Mt. Pleasant, PA. This conference will inspire, equip, motivate and encourage small PC (USA) Churches and provide rest and refreshment for the clergy and lay leaders. Keynote speakers include Bob Kelly, Don Dawson, and Jim Farrer. A ministry of Presbyterians for Renewal is co-sponsored by Evangelism and Church Development, National Ministries Division, PC (USA) and the Synod of the Trinity. Questions can be directed to Mark Unrue at 740.922.9190 or emailed to revun@sbcglobal.net

"Promoting Healthy Congregations," a consultant training seminar sponsored by Michigan Executive Presbyters and the Synod of the Covenant, will be held at St. Francis Retreat Center October 17-21, 2005. The Leadership will be provided by the Rev. Dr. Jill Hudson and the Rev. Robert L. Hunter. Jill Hudson is currently a full time consultant and coach having served 26 years as a middle governing body executive. She has been the keynote presenter at the Montreat Systems Conference and has taught systems theory and conflict management in numerous settings. Jill's most recent book, When Better Isn't Enough: Evaluation Tools for the 21st Century, provides 12 criteria to assist congregations in evaluating the ministry of the church, leadership, and staff. Bob Hunter has been co-pastor of a local church, a marriage and family counselor, and is currently the Director of Stewardship for Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis. Bob trained in the Family Systems approach under Edwin Friedman. Bob is a consultant to clergy groups and works with congregations in conflict and those working to deepen their spiritual and emotional health. The all inclusive cost is \$350 if registration is received by September 15 and \$375 after September 15. The deadline is October 7. Brochures and registration material are available at the Presbytery Center and can be emailed to you upon request. There is currently room for pastors who wish to receive the training but do not wish to become consultants.

A Mission Conference for Presbyterians will be held Oct. 20-22, 2005 at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA. called "From Everywhere to Everyone: The New Global Mission." This is being sponsored by The Outreach Foundation and Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship in cooperation with the PC (USA)'s Worldwide Ministries Division. Enjoy inspiring presentations by world Christian leaders plus dynamic worship and scores of high-impact workshops designed to equip you and your congregation for fuller participation in God's mission. More information available at www.globalmissionconference2005.com.

"Open Our Eyes, Lord", a contemplative retreat experiencing God through our senses, will be held Oct. 23-25, 2005 at the Weber Center in Adrian MI. This is sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Task Force of the Synod of the Covenant. Brochures with registration forms are to be sent to churches in April.

Eastminster Presbytery met at the Sebring Presbyterian Church on May 10, 2005. Rev. John Gruneich, Moderator, convened the meeting and host pastor Rev. Christine Ziem welcomed the presbytery.

Family Remembrances – Victor Wan-Tatah received congratulations as recipient of the 2004-2005 Distinguished Professor Award for Philosophy and Religious Studies at YSU. Prayer concerns included Marilyn Nash recuperation from major back surgery; Rev. Chuck Moffett recuperating from wrist surgery; Rev. Richard Brownlee in the early stages of liver disease; Rev. David Herron suffering from severe headaches; Rev. Peter Lawson at Fort Irwin, CA, for desert training to prepare for deployment in Iraq; Rev. Condie Watters having tests; and Rev. Paul Graham hospitalized in Millersburg. We welcomed clergy couple Rusty Cowden (Interim Pastor at Poland) and Carolyn Griffeth (Interim Pastor at Canfield).

Business of the Clerk – Rev. Meta Cramer announced that the Synod of the Covenant Permanent Judicial Commission had ruled against the Presbytery in a remedial case filed by the accused in a current investigation. As a result of the Synod of the Covenant PJC's ruling, the investigating committee which was announced in January of this year has been dissolved. Thank you's were extended to the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, the Rev. Wayne Bogue, Elder Donna McCollum, Elder Patti Gruver and Elder Stan Christensen for being willing to serve in this way. The Presbytery's gratitude was also expressed to the Committee of Counsel which handled the remedial complaint: Elder Robert Moore, Elder Henry Pearce, and the Rev. Paul Gaug.

Consent Agenda – Minutes of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council and the Mission Visioning Council were received; the offering for the May 10 meeting was divided 60% for the Pentecost Offering and 40% for JBM scholarships; minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Ross Slaughter were received; Elder Ruth Cole was appointed as a reader for Ordination Exams; Monte York was co-opted to the Mission Committee and Ross Jackson was co-opted to the Mission Visioning Council.

General Presbyter's Report – Rev. Dan Schomer led the presbytery in a litany of the Presbytery's mission priorities; thanked those who are leading Theological Reflection Groups—Ruth Cole, Rev. Harold Walker, Molly Halter, and Peggy Richmond; announced that the Sept. 13, 2005, meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will have a significantly different format with a focus on Stewardship; and encouraged presbyters to apply for scholarships to the Churchwide Transformation and Multi-Cultural Conference in NYC July 14-17, 2005.

Committee on Mission – Lexi Joachim reported on attending the National Youth Workers convention last November. Guest speaker Sue Ann Fairman spoke on behalf of the New Wilmington Missionary Conference and the World Mission Initiative of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Fairman stressed that GA Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase would speak and GA would be commissioning missionaries at the Conference.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Joseph Robert Hrach (Westminster, Akron) was enrolled as an Inquirer. It was announced that Inquirer Doug Hagler will be attending San Francisco Theological Seminary on a merit scholarship.

JBM Committee – Karen Riley reported that 52 women were served communion at the Women's retreat; the JBM worship team will continue its ministry; a nurse is needed for June 19-24, the Sr. High work camp is canceled but the Mystery Road Trip is on; there is still room in all camp sessions; and staff training is June 4.

Common Ground Church Community – Rev. Steve Fortenberry reported hopes that chartering will take place at the July Presbytery meeting; steady growth by the congregation continues, and negotiations are taking place on the purchase of the Mellinger Greenhouse property in North Lima.

Trustees – Rev. Jim Henkel and Treasurer Colin Miller reported on the status of the 2005 operating budget, which is positive, and on per capita and mission pay-up by churches through April.

Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council – Ruth Gerrard stressed the need for accurate reservation numbers for host churches. She announced that the Council is listening to the Presbytery and is working to create meetings that will be enjoyable, informative, and educational.

The Presbytery at Worship – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God in the spirit of Pentecost. Worship leaders were the Rev. Kay Roberts, preacher; the Rev. Christine Ziem, liturgist; Jean Thomas, organist; and the Rev. Tom Niccolls, dove-bearer.

Fellowship at the Dinner Table—A delicious meal was served by the Sebring Church.

Committee on Ministry– Rev. Nick Mager reported that COM had approved the Interim Pastor covenant between Canfield Presbyterian Church and Rev. Carolyn Griffeth; adopted a new guidelines for a Mission Study Process to be completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee of vacant churches prior to completing the Church Information Form; re-activated a required orientation for new clergy in our Presbytery regarding “professional boundaries” for ministry; and authorized General Presbyter Dan Schomer to negotiate a tentative agreement with Rev. In-Kyu Park and the Session of the University Church regarding the future relationship of the University Church to the Spicer Street property and to Eastminster Presbytery. Eastminster Presbytery approved all of the terms of call for pastors currently serving in our Presbytery; and approved the Federation agreement between the New Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Covenant Community Church of Akron creating a single union church from the two congregations. Elder Robert “Bo” Schneider was authorized to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Gibson Heights-Second Presbyterian Church and Moderator John Gruneich commissioned Elder Bo Schneider to serve in this capacity.

Committee on Nominations – The resignation of Mary Pashley as a Trustee was noted and the Rev. Rusty Cowden was elected as a Trustee, Class of 2005. New Procedures for the Election of Commissioners to General Assembly were approved.

Resource Center – Lorraine Jones reported on “Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church” – a book on the power of friendship within the church. A free copy of this resource is available to any congregation by calling 800-747-6060 x1324 or logging on to www.group.com.

Evangelism & Church Growth – The Rev. Richard Ferris reported on the Acts 16:5 Gathering on May 3 at the Kent Church, and the Rev. Robert McCreight shared how Acts 16:5 is shaping the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana.

MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL – Elder Carole Rummell reported on the progress made by the new structure, and urged churches to seek help from the Presbytery in areas of need.

General Assembly Council – Rev. Dan Schomer reported on the Mar. 21-Apr. 2 meeting of the General Assembly Council.

Removed from the Consent Agenda: The Presbytery voted to raise the cost of meals at meetings of Presbytery to \$7.00.

Miscellaneous: John Schippert reported on the most recent trip to Dakota Presbytery.

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center on July 12, 2005.

STATED MEETING OF EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY
Sebring Presbyterian Church, Sebring, Ohio
May 10, 2005 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.

STATED MEETING – Eastminster Presbytery held a Stated Meeting at the Sebring Presbyterian Church of Sebring, Ohio, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. John Gruneich.

GREETINGS OF THE HOST PASTOR – The Rev. Christine Ziem extended greetings from the Sebring Presbyterian Church.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Motion prevailed to seat the Rev. Phil Smith, a minister in the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ, as a corresponding member.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES AND CELEBRATIONS

The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, offered congratulations to the Rev. Victor Wan-Tatah who received the 2004-2005 Distinguished Professor Award for Philosophy and Religious Studies at Youngstown State University. Concern was expressed for Marilyn Nash (spouse of the Rev. Reford Nash), who underwent an 8½ hour back surgery in Michigan; the Rev. Chuck Moffett, who severely injured his wrist on a visit back to Canfield; the Rev. Richard Brownlee (Co-Executive of the Synod of the Covenant), who is in the early stages of liver disease; the Rev. David Herron, who has been suffering from severe headaches; the Rev. Peter Lawson, currently at Fort Irwin in California for desert training, after which he will be deployed to Iraq; the Rev. Condie Watters, who is having medical tests in Cleveland; and the Rev. Paul Graham, who is hospitalized in the Millersburg area. The General Presbyter welcomed (in absentia, since they were celebrating their wedding anniversary) the Rev. Rusty Cowden, who is serving the Poland Church as Interim Pastor, and the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, who will be serving as the Interim Pastor at the Canfield Church.

BUSINESS OF THE CLERK – The Rev. Meta Shoup Cramer, Stated Clerk, declared a quorum present. The roll showed (Attachment I, pp.).

Motion prevailed to approve the docket as presented.

The Clerk announced that the Synod of the Covenant Permanent Judicial Commission had ruled against the Presbytery in a remedial case that was filed by the individual who had been the “accused” in a current investigation. As a result of the Synod of the Covenant PJC’s ruling, the investigating committee which was announced in January of this year has been dissolved. The thanks of the Presbytery are extended to the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, the Rev. Wayne Bogue, Elder Donna McCollum, Elder Patti Gruver and Elder Stan Christensen for being willing to serve in this way. The Presbytery’s gratitude is also expressed to the Committee of Counsel which handled the remedial complaint: Elder Robert Moore, Elder Henry Pearce, and the Rev. Paul Gaug.

The Clerk also asked permission for distribution of the 2004 statistical report, making note of an error on the last page as printed (Attachment II, pp.). Copies of the Federation agreement involving the New Covenant Presbyterian Church of Akron and the Covenant Community Church were also made available (Attachment IV, pp.).

First time delegates were introduced: Frank Yachman of First Church Niles and Jim Ruby of Kinsman Presbyterian Church. Patrick Ross, a participant in the new members class at Sebring Presbyterian Church, was also present.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion prevailed to approve the following items of the Consent Agenda.

1. To receive for record the Minutes of the February 24, 2005 Presbytery Coordinating Council to be appended to the minutes of the March meeting.
2. To receive for record the Minutes of the February 5, 2005 Mission Visioning Council to be appended to the minutes of the March meeting.
3. That upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council, the offering of the May 10, 2005 stated meeting be directed to the Pentecost Offering with 40% of offering designated for JBM scholarships.
4. That Eastminster Presbytery receives for the record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Ross Slaughter, United Presbyterian Church, Cuyahoga Falls (Appendix I, pg.).
5. That Eastminster Presbytery approves Ruth Cole as reader for Ordination Exams.
6. That upon the recommendation of the Mission Visioning Council that Monte York (Westminster, Akron) be co-opted for the Mission Committee, Class 2005.
7. That upon the recommendation of the Mission Visioning Council that Ross Jackson (Minister Member at Large) be co-opted for the Mission Visioning Council, Class 2005.

One item was removed from the Agenda to be considered later in the meeting.

GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT – The Rev. Dan Schomer led the presbytery in a litany of purpose and mission, and reminded those gathered of the mission priorities of Eastminster Presbytery. He thanked those who are leading Theological Reflection Groups: Ruth Cole, Harold Walker, Molly Halter, and Peggy Richmond. The September 13, 2005 Presbytery Meeting will have a somewhat different format. The meeting will begin with one hour dedicated to presbytery business and one-half hour for worship, followed by dinner and a variety of presentation/workshops designed to inform and equip those present for service.

The Synod of the Covenant will offer \$1500 to each Presbytery sending representatives to the "Churchwide Transformation and Multi-Cultural Conference" in New York City, July 14-17, 2005 at Columbia University. The Mission Visioning Council is offering three \$500 scholarships with elders receiving first consideration. The Presbytery Center will be closed on Thursday morning, May 11, 2005 in order for the presbytery office staff (Kate, Marianne and Dan) to attend a Health and Wellness event being sponsored by American Church Envelope at the Ursuline Center.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION – The Rev. Paul Johnson, Moderator of the Committee on Mission, reported. He asked that the presbytery be in prayer for the Rev. David Joachim, soon to leave on a mission trip to Russia.

On behalf of the Congregational Resources Committee, Lexi Joachim, youth group director at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman, reported. This past November she went to a National Youth Workers convention. One of these events is being held in Pittsburgh later this year; Ms. Joachim commended these events to others.

The Rev. Johnson introduced Sue Ann Fairman, who spoke on behalf of the New Wilmington Missionary Conference. Ms. Fairman was a missionary in Kenya for twenty-five years; she is now Missionary-in-residence in Shenango Presbytery and works with World Mission Initiative from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is working with the General Assembly on the commissioning of

missionaries, which will take place this year on July 24 at the New Wilmington Missionary Conference, with General Assembly Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase speaking . The New Wilmington Missionary Conference will be collecting items for care kits for victims of HIV in Africa.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – The Rev. Mark Phillips, Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, reported.

Motion prevailed to enroll Joseph Robert Hrach as an Inquirer. He is a member and elder of Westminster-Akron.

It was reported that Inquirer Doug Hagler has been accepted at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He will be attending on a merit scholarship.

COMMITTEE ON JOSEPH BADGER MEADOWS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER – Karen Riley, Program Director at Joseph Badger Meadows, reported that fifty-two women were served communion at the Women’s Retreat. The JBM worship team will be on the road again this Fall; priority will be given to those churches who have not yet had the opportunity to host the worship team. A nurse is needed for June 19-24; the Senior High work camp has been canceled but the mystery road trip is on; and there are still openings in all camp sessions.

COMMON GROUND CHURCH COMMUNITY – The Rev. Steve Fortenberry, Organizing Pastor, reported his hope that at the next presbytery meeting a charter for the Common Ground Church Community will be approved. Steady growth continues, with eighty people having attended worship last Sunday. Two small groups involving women and a men’s Bible study are active; the youth group is meeting weekly; and about twenty members of the Common Ground Community spent time cleaning up the playground area at Firestone Park in Columbiana as a mission project. Negotiations are underway to purchase the property of the former Mellinger’s Greenhouse in North Lima; it is hoped that formal approval will be sought in July.

TRUSTEES – The Rev. Jim Henkel, President of the Trustees, and Colin Miller, Presbytery Treasurer, reported on the status of the 2005 operating budget, which is positive; on per capita and mission payup by churches through April; and on Eastminster’s current obligation to the General Assembly. The Rev. Mr. Henkel noted that the best way to address the obligation is for churches to pay up per capita and mission in the most timely way possible. Dan noted that we should be near paying the \$47,000 due from December 2004.

PRESBYTERY MEETING COORDINATING COUNCIL – Elder Ruth Cole, Moderator of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council reported. She stressed the need for accurate reservation numbers for dinners at host churches. She announced that the Council is listening to reactions to Saturday meetings and the need for more thematic meetings.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Moderator John Gruneich asked that those bringing issues to the floor of the Presbytery would give prior notice to the Moderator, the General Presbyter or the Stated Clerk. He assured the Presbytery that the matter which was raised during Miscellaneous Business at the March meeting (pg.) is being dealt with through the proper channels.

THE PRESBYTERY AT WORSHIP – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God in celebration of Pentecost. Worship leaders were the Rev. Kay Roberts, preacher; the Rev. Christine Ziem, liturgist; Jean Thomas, organist; and the Rev. Tom Niccolls, dove-bearer.

DINNER RECESS – The Presbytery recessed for dinner.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – The Rev. Nick Mager, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, reported.

The following items of information were shared:

1. COM has approved an Interim Pastor Covenant between Canfield Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth for one year beginning May 16, 2005; and the committee has asked the Stated Clerk to request transfer of the Rev. Griffeth's credentials from the Presbytery of Muskingum Valley.
2. COM has asked the Stated Clerk to request credentials for the Rev. Russell Cowden from the Presbytery of Wabash Valley. Rev. Cowden began as Interim Pastor at Poland Presbyterian Church on April 15, 2005.
3. COM has adopted new guidelines for a Mission Study Process to be completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee of vacant churches prior to completing the Church Information Form; and the COM adopted more extensive guidelines for a Mission Visioning Process for a congregation to complete after the newly called pastor has been on the field at least six (6) months.
4. COM is in the process of re-activating a required orientation for new clergy in our Presbytery regarding "professional boundaries" for ministry. Currently the Presbytery has a video resource on this topic in the Resource Center.
5. COM approved a Federation Agreement to be presented to the congregations of New Covenant Presbyterian Church and Covenant Community Church in Akron for their action. If this agreement is approved by the congregations, it may come to the Presbytery for approval in May.
6. COM authorized General Presbyter Dan Schomer to negotiate a tentative agreement with the Rev. In-Kyu Park and the Session of the University Church regarding the future relationship of the University Church to the Spicer Street property and to Eastminster Presbytery.

Motion prevailed that Eastminster Presbytery approve all of the terms of call for pastors currently serving in our Presbytery as reported (Attachment III, pp.).

Motion prevailed that Eastminster Presbytery approve the Federation agreement between the New Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Covenant Community Church of Akron (Attachment IV, pp.). Prior to the vote, the Rev. Phil Smith, pastor of the Covenant Community Church, brought greetings and recognized that Presbytery Treasurer Colin Miller had been a member of his youth group when he was serving a church in Howland. He thanked the Presbytery leadership and the leadership of the two congregations for the spirit in which the agreement has developed, and asked for the prayers of the Presbytery. The Rev. Anne Hagler rehearsed the history of the relationship between the two churches, and spoke of their hopes for significant witness in the Highland Square neighborhood of Akron.

The Rev. Dan Schomer thanked Elders Dale Riley and Pat Farmwald, members of COM, and led the Presbytery in prayer.

Motion prevailed to commission Elder Robert "Bo" Schneider to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Gibson Heights-Second Presbyterian Church for one year, beginning May 15, 2005; and that he be authorized to have both voice and vote in the Presbytery. Elder Schneider will be serving the Church three days a week.

Moderator John Gruneich commissioned Elder Bo Schneider to serve in this capacity.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – Elder Carole Rummell, a member of the Committee on Nominations, reported. The resignation of Mary Pashley as a Trustee, Class of 2005, was noted.

There being no nominations from the floor, motion prevailed to elect the Rev. Rusty Cowden as a Trustee, Class of 2005.

Elder Rummell noted that, for the 2006 General Assembly, Eastminster Presbytery will still be entitled to only one clergy and one elder commissioner.

Motion prevailed to approve the following PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY (see below) as amended. [The approved amendments are underlined below for purposes of this record only.]

For Nomination of Clergy Commissioners:

1) A list of Minister Members of Eastminster Presbytery will be included in the May and July issues of News and Notes the year before the General Assembly is scheduled to meet. The list will include columns for Ordination Date and Commissioner to GA Date, and will be in order of ordination date (the earliest date being at the top of the list). The Nominating Committee will give strong consideration to Ordination Date when considering potential nominees. Any Minister Member who has served as Commissioner to one of the last ten General Assemblies will not be considered for nomination.

2) Applications will be requested from Minister Members of Eastminster Presbytery. The application will ask, but will not be limited to, questions on how the applicant will serve GA, how they have served other governing bodies within the Presbyterian Church, and how they have served other organizations, particularly in leadership positions. Strong consideration will be given to participation and leadership in Presbytery, Presbytery Committees, Commissions and Task Groups. The application will also include a statement, which indicates that the applicant agrees to participate in orientation and training prior to General Assembly, and conduct training for commissioners to the next GA. The applicant will also be asked to indicate that no known health problem will prevent their full participation in the hectic pace and long hours of General Assembly. No applicant shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability.

3) The Nominating Committee will submit a nomination at the January Presbytery meeting.

For Nomination of Elder Commissioners:

1) A list of Churches will be included in the May and July issues of News and Notes the year before the GA is scheduled to meet. The list will include a column for the date an elder member of that church last served as Commissioner to General Assembly. The list will be in order of those dates, with the earliest date being at the top. In the cases where elders from two different churches were commissioners to the same GA, the church organized earliest will be higher on the list.

2) Sessions of Churches at the top of the list will be asked to offer applications to elder members, both those currently serving on session and those not currently on session, who would be interested in serving as an Elder Commissioner to GA. Elders who have served as Commissioner to one of the last ten General Assemblies will not be considered for nomination. The application will ask, but will not be limited to, questions on how the applicant will serve GA, how they have served other governing bodies within the Presbyterian Church, and how they have served other organizations, particularly in leadership positions. Strong consideration will be given to participation and leadership in Presbytery, Presbytery Committees, Commissions and Task Groups. The application will also include a statement that indicates that the applicant agrees to participate in orientation and training prior to General Assembly, and conduct training for commissioners to the next GA. The applicant will also be asked to indicate that no known health problem will prevent their full participation in the hectic pace and long hours of General Assembly. No applicant shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability.

3) If no applications are received by the October Nominating Committee meeting, all elders in Eastminster, who have not served as a Commissioner to one of the last ten General Assemblies, will be asked, if interested, to submit applications.

4) The Nominating Committee will submit a nomination at the January Presbytery meeting.

RESOURCE CENTER – Lorraine Jones, Resource Center Coordinator, reported on “Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church” – a book on the power of friendship in the church. This resource includes 90-minute training session for church leadership and can be obtained by calling 800-747-6060 x1324 or logging onto www.group.com.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH COMMISSION – The Rev. Richard Ferris, Moderator of the Evangelism and Church Growth Commission reported. The Rev. Robert McCreight reported on the participation of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbiana in incremental ideas and processes suggested by the “Acts 16:5 Initiative,” particularly Bible studies, prayer covenants and an intentional look at worship.

The Rev. Mr. Ferris led the Presbytery in prayer.

MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL – Elder Carole Rummell, Moderator of the Mission Visioning Council, reported on the progress made by the new structure, and urged churches to seek help from the Presbytery in areas of need.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL – The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, reported on the last meeting of the General Assembly Council. Without a General Assembly this summer, time has been spent in GAC and the Committee on the General Assembly in looking at how they do business. COGA is looking at a vast revision of our Constitution in the hopes of creating a “permission-giving” church. The issue of divestment of companies doing business in Israel has been much discussed; the process of considering divestment will be very slow and methodical. The Committee does not have authority to actually divest stocks. Dan has agreed to be part of the Mission Work Plan Work Group for 2006-2007.

CONSENT AGENDA – An item earlier removed from the Consent Agenda was presented with rationale.

Motion prevailed that the cost of meals at the Presbytery Meetings, Committee Night Meetings and the Councils meetings be raised to seven dollars.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – The Rev. Nick Mager called attention to flyers regarding the Rabbi Samuel Meyer Memorial Lecture which will be presented by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University on May 25 at the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown.

The Rev. Jim Ray, chair of the Self Development of People Committee, reported that the committee won’t meet again unless they have something to meet about. He asked the Presbytery to get SDOP materials to persons who might be eligible for grants.

Elder John Schippert reported on the recent fact-finding trip to Dakota Presbytery. He noted that the budget of the Presbytery is about half the annual budget of the Lake Milton Church.

EVALUATION – The Presbytery spent several minutes offering evaluative comments on the evening’s meeting.

It was noted that there was a good meal, a good message, and some significant accomplishments.

REPORT ON LEAVE AND ABSENCE – Elder Art Straitiff, Enrolling Clerk, said that he had been doing this work for twenty-two years, and reported on attendance at the meeting (see roll).

CLOSING WORSHIP AND ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. with closing prayer offered by the Moderator.

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center on July 12, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The Rev. John Gruneich, Moderator

The Rev. Meta Shoup Cramer, Stated Clerk

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Eastminster Presbytery Office

Email: resourcecenter@faithfulness.com
330-505-2167 or toll free 1-800-215-2416
Lorraine Jones, Coordinator

Resource Center Hours:

Mon 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Wed 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sat 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

This month, we have a number of helpful new resources--software to help you plan a year-round stewardship program, books to help you interpret the church's statements on homosexuality, books to help you develop your Christian identity, etc. But summer is also a time to slow down and relax, a "Sabbath season." So first, I will tell you about two new books we have at the resource center to help you slow down.

The Worshipping Life: Meditations on the Order of Worship by Lisa Nichols Hickman. In this unique and engaging book of meditations, pastor Lisa Nichols Hickman delves into the life of worship, seeking to reveal its rhythms and order. Each chapter presents a meditation on an element of worship reflecting on how that particular element plays out not only in a service of worship, but also in everyday life. If you want your worship to be more joyful and you are ready to see the holiness in mundane everyday tasks, read this book. I highly recommend it.

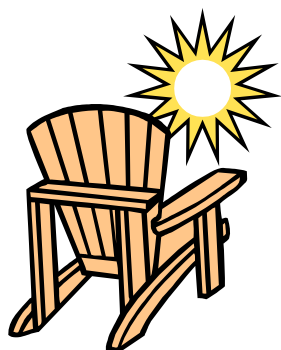


Grace in a Tree Stump: Old Testament Stories of God's Love by J. Ellsworth Kalas. We often assume too sharp a distinction between the Old and New Testaments. We are too quick to view the Old Testament as the book of laws and commandments and the New Testament as the witness to grace. Using stories from the Old Testament, Kalas helps the reader see that grace has always been a part of the character of God and that the Old Testament demonstrates that fact in a variety of ways. This book definitely opened my eyes to a number of things I hadn't seen before in the Old Testament. It is a very enjoyable read.

The Confident Steward 2.0 is a software program in CD format that provides virtually everything you need to set up a year-round stewardship program. There are 8 separate software programs available. Each program focuses on a different commitment strategy but all contain the same three components of your stewardship campaign: 1. Stewardship education, 2. Mission interpretation, and 3. Financial stewardship. Each program also contains the same five themes for your stewardship campaign. You select the theme that is right for your congregation and the program will provide you with Bible studies, clip art, leader information articles, sermons, and even suggestions for youth and children's materials. Finally, the software provides a calendar to tell you month by month what you need to do from establishing committees, to when to send letters to the congregation, to the big annual stewardship commitment program. The software normally runs in conjunction with the Internet to allow you to link immediately to web pages on the PCUSA website that provides even more material for you. You do not have to run the Internet to use the software. The eight commitment strategies (thus, the eight software programs) you may choose from are: Personal Delivery, Sunday Worship, Commitment by Telephone, Every Member Visitation, Direct Mail, and Small Group Meetings. Come preview the software at the Resource Center to help you determine which method is right for you and your congregation.



Definitive Guidance: The Church's Statements on Homosexuality, Study Guide by Jack L. Stotts. Using the statements from the 1977, 1978, and 1979 General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., this 10-session study guide seeks to help Presbyterians understand the denomination's position on homosexuality and the role that "definitive guidance" plays in policy decisions about this issue.



After Baptism: Shaping the Christian Life by John P. Burgess

The author explores the distinctive qualities of Christian identity by demonstrating how baptism, the Eucharist, and the commandments are basic points of orientation for Christians. He challenges the church and its members to identify and claim key practices and disciplines of faith to deepen baptismal identity and give the Christian life solid form today.

2006 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER AND STUDY

2006 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER AND STUDY

**ORDER NOW AND RECEIVE NEARLY 50%
OFF THE COVER PRICE OF \$8.50**

The *2006 Children's Mission Yearbook* will contain new mission stories and photographs about one domestic presbytery and one overseas mission locale. It is designed as a devotional for grades 3-6 and includes a "word of the week" as well as Scripture and prayers, games and puzzles, recipes, and many new activity ideas. It can be used as a handy reference for church school, children's worship, and midweek gatherings. Complete the form below and send order form to Eastminster Presbytery office to reserve your copy of the 2006 Children's Yearbook.

Complete this form and send it to the Eastminster Presbytery Office with your check to reserve copies of the 2006 Children's Mission Yearbook.

Order Form for 2006 Children's Mission Yearbook

Name of Church _____ Quantity of books: _____

Name of person completing this form: _____ Phone: _____

Price per book \$5.15

Check is enclosed for \$ _____

These will not be available until the November 2005

Mail this completed order form and check to: Eastminster Presbytery Office

P.O. Box 316

Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

The *2006 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study* celebrates 300 years of Presbyterian mission in the United States with the theme "From Age to Age." We have much to learn from our history as Presbyterians, and we have much to offer the world because of the gifts handed down to us from the past. God speaks through the stories of all God's people. It is important that we share the stories of our faith.

Complete this form and send it to the Eastminster Presbytery Office with your check to reserve copies of the 2006 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study.

Order Form for 2006 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study

Name of Church _____ Quantity of books: _____

Name of person completing this form: _____ Phone: _____

Price per book \$5.15

Check is enclosed for \$ _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS: JUNE 30, 2005

Mail this completed order form and check to: Eastminster Presbytery Office

P.O. 316

Mineral Ridge, OH 44440