

March 9, 2010

QUICKLINE New Covenant Community Church, Akron
A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery held its stated meeting at the New Covenant Community Church in Akron at 5:00 p.m. Moderator Marilyn Stroble opened the meeting with prayer. The Moderator announced that she had appointed the following persons to the Struthers Church Commission: The Revs. Sue Tinker, Henry Pearce, Dave Gilbert, and Matt Medford and Elders Trella Johnson, Ray Rubrake, and Cindy Weiss.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer and the presbyters shared the following prayer concerns: Prayers of comfort for the families of the Rev. Sheldon Hastings, Elder Lucille Clay, Mr. Howard Wilds (father of Rev. Mark Wilds), and Elder Bill Bishop; prayers of healing for Rev. Christine Ziem, Rev. Jan Douglass, and Rev. Debby Dockstader; prayers of protection for Lt. Dan Cowden (son of Revs. Rusty Cowden and Carolyn Griffeth) serving in Afghanistan, and the son of Larry & Debbie Myers working in Iraq.

The Rev. Cindy Carlisle from John Knox Presbytery now living in Youngstown, and Elder Margaret Haney, Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant, were seated as corresponding members

The Consent Agenda included the following actions: To designate the offering at the May 11 meeting to support J.B.M. scholarships, to co-opt Elder Robert Gillette to the Mission Visioning Council, and the designation of recipients of 2-cent-a-meal in 2010.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer reminded the presbytery of the Pastors' Retreat on April 27-28 at J.B.M.; thanked the churches of the presbytery for their pledges to General Missions in 2010, cautioned the presbytery that hard choices by the presbytery will likely be necessary prior to the approval of the 2011 budget, and asked for prayer for the presbytery staff and entities; and assured the presbytery that, if there is any question about what the PC(USA) believes about Jesus Christ, read the Book of Confessions.

The Nominating Committee announced the resignations of the Rev. Mark Phillips from C.P.M. and the Coordinating Council, and Nellie O'Leary from the Congregational Resources Committee. The Rev. Sue Tinker was elected to the Committee on Ministry.

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones described a new DVD resource, "Prophecies of the Passion," that explores prophecies in the Old Testament that are linked to the passion narratives in the Gospels.

Interim Synod Executive Margaret Haney invited Eastminster Presbytery to join the other ten presbyteries in the Synod of the Covenant in a community of prayer. In particular, prayers were requested for the world, the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA) meeting July 3-10, and the Synod of the Covenant as it begins its search for a new Synod Executive. Presbyters were invited to sign cards promising to be in prayer for discernment.

Trustees President Rusty Cowden presented the 2010 General Mission Budget for approval in the amount of \$193,261 and the J.B.M. budget for information in the amount of \$170,195.

The Presbytery worshipped Almighty God with the Rev. Richard Griffith serving as liturgist and preaching, the Rev. Reford Nash presenting a memorial moment for the Rev. Sheldon Hastings, and Marlys Hershberger serving as the organist.

Dinner consisted of the annual Simple Meal with \$4 of the cost of each meal going to 2-cents-a-meal to fight hunger. The delicious and heart-healthy meal consisted of a wide variety of soups and salads. Following dinner, presbyters discussed chapter 3 of Francis Taylor Gench's book Faithful Disagreements around tables. It was announced that chapter 6 will be discussed at the May 11 meeting.

J.B.M. Committee Moderator Chuck Chalker called the attention of the presbytery to the upcoming Women's Retreat at J.B.M. on May 14-16; encouraged congregations to take the special offering for J.B.M., "Help JBM Spring Forward," on March 14, and encouraged churches to participate in the 2010 JBM Mission Trip on May 5-9.

Mission Committee Moderator Elmarie Parker reported that the mission presentation about the Kent Church dormitory project would be delayed until the May 11 meeting. Presbyters were encouraged to read the "On Mission" stories in the packet.

The Struthers Commission requested and the presbytery approved adding "communication with the congregation" of the Struthers Church as an additional duty.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented and the presbytery approved the commission to ordain Candidate Doug Hagler on April 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the New Covenant Community Church in Akron.

The Committee on Ministry brought the following recommendations and the presbytery took the following actions: moved the Rev. Ross Jackson to the Honorable Retired Roll, extended the contract of the Rev. Jan Douglass as part time stated supply with the New Waterford and Clarkson churches until December 31, 2010 at the same terms, renewed the contract of Rev. Jeanine Haven as part time temporary stated supply with the Liberty Church, approved the call of the Rev. Elmarie Parker as full time installed pastor of the Wickliffe Church, approved the commission to install Rev. Parker on April 11 at 3:00 p.m., appointed the Rev. John Sharick as moderator of the Mineral Ridge Session and the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth as moderator of the Gibson Heights Session, and dissolved the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Mark Phillips and the Mineral Ridge Church effective April 14 and transferred his credentials to Long Island Presbytery so that he might accept the call of the First Presbyterian Church in Sag Harbor, New York. The Rev. Nick Mager and Elder Sherry Gleason (Mineral Ridge) spoke in praise of Rev. Phillips ministry with the congregation and with the presbytery.

The Hudson Commission Moderator Reford Nash announced that the Commission believed it had completed its work and the presbytery approved with thanks that the Commission be dissolved effective upon the installation of the newly elected Session of the Presbyterian Church of Hudson on April 11.

The Communication and Nurture Committee Moderator Christy Ramsey introduced the new website intended for members and churches of the presbytery. The current website, www.faithfulness.com, continues to serve as the face of Eastminster Presbytery to the general public, but the new website is intended for timely information and interaction of the presbytery family. It can be accessed from the "Members Only" section of the current website or at www.eastminster.ning.com. Presbyters were encouraged to log in and sign up.

Elder Pat Santelli (Akron Westminster) shared in more detail about the mission trip to JBM on May 5-9, encouraged churches to sponsor a cabin, and encouraged churches to send teams to provide a wide variety of repairs and preparations for the summer season. Meals will be provided at a nominal cost and housing will take place in Haynam House. Those interested were asked to return the form found in the packet.

<p>The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held at the New Lisbon Presbyterian Church in Lisbon on May 11, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.</p>
