

July 14, 2009

## **QUICKLINE**

Common Ground Church Community

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery held its stated meeting at the Common Ground Church Community in North Lima at 5:00 p.m. Pre-presbytery snacks were provided by the New Waterford and Clarkson Presbyterian Churches. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Scott Parker. Rev. Steve Fortenberry, host pastor, welcomed the Presbytery.

**The Consent Agenda** included the following actions:

Candidates Elaine Dutton, Benjamin Graves, R. Joseph Hrach, Alexandra Joachim, Jeffrey Schooley and Inquirer Kristin Stroble were continued for another year; Candidate Adam Marquette was transferred to the Eastern Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ; Elder Ruth Gerrard-Cole was approved as a reader for Ordination Exams in Pittsburgh for October, 2009; Sabbatical Leave for the General Presbyter was added to the Personnel Policies and Procedures; permission was given for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be celebrated at the Great Lake Association of Presbyterian Church Leaders Conference; and the July 14 offering was designated for Goodness Grows, a mission project of the Common Ground Church Community.

**Family Remembrances and Celebrations:** General Presbyter Dan Schomer shared the following: Prayers of comfort for the Rev. Pam Flower and her family upon the death of her husband, Elder Tom Flower; prayers of thanksgiving for a successful surgery for the Rev. Simon Looking Elk of Dakota Presbytery and for the birth of a new granddaughter, Rose, celebrated by Rev. Christine Ziem; and prayers of healing for Pamela Palison and for Beverly Haven (Jeanine Haven's mother).

**General Presbyter** Dan Schomer reported that a presbytery-wide book study on the book **Faithful Disagreements** by Dr. Francis Taylor Gench will begin at the September 8 presbytery meeting and indicated that books can be purchased through the Presbytery Center. Churches were encouraged to register for Percept services through Link2Lead. It was announced that the Vice-Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, will be speaking at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron on August 11 at 7:15 p.m. and that all are invited. Presbyters were encouraged to mark their calendars for September 12 and watch their emails concerning Diane Butler Bass speaking in Cleveland. Finally, it was announced that the ten Spain travelers would be making their presentation at the September presbytery meeting.

**The Presbytery worshipped** Almighty God under the leadership of the Common Ground praise team. Rev. Steve Fortenberry shared the message that included a history of Common Ground and Goodness Grows.

**The Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council** presented and the presbytery approved a change to the Manual of Operations that increases the Committee on Ministry from 14 to 20 members.

**The Self Development of People Committee** presented the Barberton Community Growers Association with a check to support their ministry. Representatives from Latinos Unidos, a recent recipient of a Self-Development of People grant, shared how their ministry is growing.

**Resource Center Coordinator** Lorraine Jones shared information about new resources in the Center and presented a portion of the book **The Spark Story Bible**.

The presbytery dismissed for a delicious meal prepared and served by the host church. General Presbyterian Dan Schomer was surprised by a birthday card shower and birthday cake for the presbytery in celebration of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Later Dan discovered that the surprise was planned by his wife Joan with assistance from Administrative Assistant Marianne Lidstone.

Congregational Resources Committee presented an audio-visual appeal to support the Peacemaking Offering in October indicating that a portion of presbytery peacemaking dollars will be used to support Goodness Grows, the mission project of the Common Ground Church Community. The Committee also announced that International Peacemaker Dr. Nazeli Vardanyan from Armenia will be visiting Eastminster Presbytery October 15-19. Churches and groups interested in having Dr. Vardanyan visit and speak were encouraged to contact Rev. Tom Niccolls at 330-938-7644 or niccolls29@yahoo.com.

The Mission Committee introduced Emmaline Smith from the Needle's Eye Ministry in Youngstown, a mission supported by Eastminster Presbytery, who told of the wide range of ministries and services provided to all ages including help with substance abuse by both men and women and a variety of programs for youth including a weekly Good News Club.

The Committee on Ministry presented the following items for action by the presbytery: Correction of the terms of call for Rev. Bruce Ballentine; approval of the call of Rev. Meta Cramer to become installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Salem; extension of the call of Rev. Sue Tinker as Temporary Supply of the Presbyterian Church of Hudson through June 1, 2010; approval of the 2009 terms of call of all minister in Eastminster Presbytery with the stipulation that all calls must include 90 days of disability coverage; and approval of the 2010 minimum terms of call with a 1% increase to effective salary.

The Committee shared that the following actions had been taken by the Committee on behalf of the presbytery: Rev. Burt McGlawn was given permission to labor outside the bounds of Eastminster Presbytery as a temporary member of Muskingum Valley Presbytery; and the yearly review with Commissioned Lay Pastor Pete MacCaulay serving the Allenside Presbyterian Church in Akron had been completed.

After considerable debate, a recommendation to adopt the Standards of Ethical Conduct paper was withdrawn by Committee Moderator Carole Rummell who invited presbyters to email to her concerns about the paper. The Committee will present a revised version at a later date.

Trustees member Rev. Bonnie Dutton shared with the presbytery that the Trustees had decided to file a malpractice suit against Stark and Knoll, the legal firm representing the presbytery in the Hudson case, due to suspected irregularities.

Communication and Nurture Committee presented and received approval for a three hour training event for elders, deacons, and other church leaders to be held on two consecutive weekends in October, 2009—one on Saturday morning and the other on Sunday afternoon—to be held at the Mineral Ridge and Kent Churches.

JBM Committee reported good attendance numbers for summer camps and assured the presbytery that the camp remains a viable ministry.

Moderator Scott Parker invited the presbytery to share any additional prayer concerns and closed the meeting with intercessory prayer.

<p>The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held on September 8, 2009, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman.</p>
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