

Eastminster Presbytery comprised of 99 ministers, elders, and guests, held its stated meeting at the Kent Presbyterian Church at 5:07 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Robert Gillette. The Rev. Aaron Meadows, host pastor, welcomed the Presbytery.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations: General Presbyter Dan Schomer asked for prayers of healing for Rev. Christine Ziem undergoing cancer surgery on January 15, Rev. Gerald Fennell recuperating at home from pneumonia, and CLP Pete McCaulay recuperating from knee surgery; and for prayers of comfort for the family of Rick Judy. Additional prayers of healing were requested for Julie Cole undergoing chemotherapy, Elmarie Parker's grandmother who suffered a stroke in South Africa, and Art Straitiff recuperating from surgery. In addition, the presbytery celebrated that both Charles Dawes and Lucille Clay were well enough to attend the evening's presbytery meeting. The presbytery joined in prayer.

Consent Agenda: The following actions were taken:

- to approve co-opted committee members for 2009—Rev. Rusty Cowden (Trustees); Rev. Sue Tinker (CPM); and Rev. Nick Mager, Elder Robert Stroble, Rev. Henry Pearce, and Elder Peggy Richmond (COM)
- to grant permission for Rev. Robert Offerdahl to labor in Dakota Presbytery upon their request.
- To set aside the Manual of Operations so that Rev. Rusty Cowden may serve as President of the Trustees
- That the offering for the evening be designated for renovation of the JBM Director's House
- That the following be designated as recipients of the 2009 Two Cents For Hunger collections: Presbyterian Hunger Program, Hunger Network of Ohio, The Way Station, Second Harvest Food Bank of Mahoning Valley, and Dakota Mission Outreach of Eastminster Presbytery.
- To approve the following amendments from the 218th General Assembly: C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, and N. This means that amendments A, B, and L will be voted on at the March 10, 2009, meeting.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer reported on the upcoming retreat of the Coordinating and Mission Visioning Councils on Jan. 31 when they will review the information from the Cluster Groups that involved nearly all the 54 churches of the presbytery. He encouraged the presbytery to attend the lecture by Dr. Robert Gagnon on Jan. 21 & 22, the luncheon on Jan. 22, and "A Time of Prayer, Reflection, and Discussion" on Feb. 8. He also encouraged attendance at the Webinar being held at the Kent Church on Feb. 19. Dr. Schomer informed the presbytery that he had attended that day the oral arguments before the Court of Appeals in the Hudson case. A ruling will be provided by the court within 60 days. A motion prevailed to grant permission for the Lord's Supper to be celebrated at the Feb. 8 event at the Mineral Ridge Church.

Committee on Mission: General Presbyter Dan Schomer shared about Mission Encounter 2009, a trip to Spain June 12-21 to visit with international mission partners Levante Presbytery, and encouraged members of Eastminster's churches to register for the trip.

Personnel Committee: Elder Alice Jackson brought the position description for the JBM Camp Director which was approved. Rev. Tom Niccolls called forward past Stated Clerk Meta Cramer to give her a number of symbolic gifts in gratitude for twenty-plus years of service and to recognize her for her election to the GAPJC. A stained glass gift created by Elder Jane Stoffer was given to Meta as a thank you from the presbytery. Members of the presbytery praised Meta's selfless service as Stated Clerk of Eastminster Presbytery.

Committee on Joseph Badger Meadows: Elder Marilyn Stroble shared about progress on a variety of projects at the camp and extended a special thank you to Elder John Shippert for volunteering his services in renovating the Director's House.

The Presbytery at Worship: Revs. Aaron Meadows and Derek Starr Redwine led in worship and Penny Graves served as organist. Committee Moderators and Officers of the Presbytery were installed by Moderator Robert Gillette. Moderator Gillette presented new Moderator Scott Parker with the symbols of his office—the gavel and the stole. Moderator Parker thanked Dr. Gillette for his service, presented him with a gift, and invited presbyters to come forward and express their gratitude for his year of service as moderator.

Dinner Recess: The Presbytery gathered in fellowship hall for a delicious meal. Members of the Presbytery individually expressed their gratitude to past Stated Clerk Meta Cramer.

Committee on Ministry: Elder Carole Rummell brought the following items for action which were approved: Renewal of interim contracts with Rev. Burt McGlawn (Hubbard) and Rev. Richard Ferris (Champion); approval of new guidelines for honoraria; and approval of the validated ministry of Rev. Ross Jackson.

Congregational Resources Committee: Elder Jane Stoffer asked those who were interested in what to do about hunger in Eastminster Presbytery to contact her. Jane reminded the presbytery of the Peacemaking Conference at JBM on Jan. 21-23 and that the deadline for registration is Jan. 19.

Mission Visioning Council: Consultant David Weida provided an overview of the results from the Cluster Groups that met throughout the presbytery in October, November, and early December, 2008. He shared that the Mission Visioning Council and the Coordinating Council will join together in reviewing the results in detail at their Jan. 31 retreat at JBM.

Presbytery Trustees: President Rusty Cowden called attention to the pay-ups of both per capita and mission pledges for 2008 and strongly encouraged sessions to return their 2009 mission pledge forms as soon as possible. A motion was made and passed that the Kent Presbyterian Church be granted permission to encumber its real property as collateral for a loan of up to \$1.3 million in order to complete the predevelopment phase toward the construction of a new dormitory facility on their property.

Committee on Nominations: Elder Peggy Richmond announced the resignations of Rev. Ross Jackson from the Nominating Committee and Presbytery PJC, and of Elder Mark Velker from the Committee on Ministry. Rev. Henry Pearce was elected to the Presbytery PJC, Class of 2014.

Hudson Commission: Rev. Sue Tinker shared about a variety of exciting ministries taking place in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Hudson. Rev. Tinker, who is celebrating the completion of one year of ministry at Hudson, declared that the church is performing a vital ministry, is a strong community of faith, has a strong sense of mission, and the word is spreading in the community. Elder Dale Lyons thanked Eastminster Presbytery, the Synod of the Covenant, and the General Assembly for their financial support and for providing legal services in the current court case.

Miscellaneous Business: Rev. Henry Pearce indicated that sites are being sought for meetings about the adoption of special needs children. Interested churches may contact Rev. Pearce.

<p>The next meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held on March 10, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls.</p>
