

Eastminster Presbytery comprised of 121 ministers, elders, and guests, held its stated meeting at the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Scott Parker. The Rev. Stephanie Crossland, host pastor, welcomed the Presbytery.

Consent Agenda: The following actions were taken:

- Approved co-opting Elder David Jones (Vienna) to the North Area Committee on Ministry for 2009.
- Set aside the restriction in the Manual of Operations of three consecutive years for moderators of presbytery committees so that Rev. Mark Phillips (CPM), Elder Alice Jackson (Personnel), and Rev. Alan Hutchison (Congregational Resources) might serve as moderators for 2009.
- Appointed Rev. Carolyn Griffeth as moderator of the Struthers Church Session.
- Transferred the credentials of Rev. John Gruneich to the Presbytery of Western Reserve.
- Granted exceptions for rotation of elders for three years to the Niles South Side and Salem Concord Churches.
- Designated the March 10, 2009 offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Designated the May 12, 2009 offering for JBM scholarships.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations: Moderator Scott Parker shared the following concerns: Prayers of comfort for Rev. David Bickett and family on the passing of his wife, and for the family of Elder Eleanor Allison (East Palestine). Prayers of healing for Rev. Christine Ziem (recuperating from surgery); Gene Douglass, spouse of Rev. Jan Douglass (heart), and Elder Tom Flowers, spouse of Rev. Pam Flowers (cancer).

The Presbytery worshipped Almighty God under the leadership of Rev. Stephanie Crossland, Rev. Mark Phillips, and Northminster Church organist Betty Siegfried.

Coordinating Council: The Presbytery voted on the three amendments from the 218th General Assembly that had been removed from the January consent agenda. Debate was limited to two-minutes per person and alternated between those who supported passage and those who supported disapproving of the amendments. Presbyters spoke with care, sensitivity, mutual respect, conviction, and compassion. The vote on Amendment B concerning ordination (that removes the present G-6.0106b and replaces it with a new paragraph) was 60 in favor, 39 opposed, and 2 abstaining. The vote on Amendment A (that specifies the way in which all new members are to be received) was 35 in favor, 64 opposed, and 1 abstaining. The vote on Item L (adopting an agreement to be in dialogue with the Episcopal Church) was 68 in favor, 25 opposed, 6 abstaining.

The Presbytery adjourned for dinner with prayer by host pastor Stephanie Crossland. The Presbytery enjoyed the annual simple meal which was simply delicious and quite heart healthy. Rev. Alan Hutchison, Moderator of the Congregational Resources Committee, reminded the Presbytery of the significance of the simple meal and encouraged generous support of the Two-Cents-For-Hunger program.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer reported that the State Court of Appeals had ruled against Eastminster's objections in the Hudson case. The Board of Trustees has decided to appeal the case to the Ohio Supreme Court. Most of the legal services in the Presbytery's appeals to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court are being provided pro bono through attorneys appointed by the General Assembly. Churches and persons who invested with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) were thanked for doing so because it resulted in Eastminster Presbytery receiving a 1% rebate on the balance of its loan in the amount of \$1,099.54. The Presbytery was reminded that the deadline for making a reservation for Mission Encounter 2009 is March 16 and the deadline to register for the Pastors' Retreat with Eric Hoey is April 20. Finally, based upon Ephesians 4:1b-6, the Presbytery was reminded by the General Presbyter that, despite our diversity, we as a presbytery share many views, values, and experiences that bind us together as one.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Moderator Mark Phillips presented Inquirer Melissa Shaughnessy (Akron Westminster) to be received as a Candidate. After a number of questions to Melissa about her faith experiences, the Presbytery voted joyfully to receive Melissa as a Candidate. Moderator Scott Parker asked questions of Melissa concerning her intentions and led the Presbytery in prayer.

Communication and Nurture Committee: Moderator Christy Ramsey showed a video of General Assembly Director of Evangelism Eric Hoey who personally invited ministers of Eastminster Presbytery to join him on April 27-28 at JBM.

Board of Trustees: Moderator Bonnie Dutton presented the 2009 Mission Budget for approval. The budget was approved unanimously. All churches were thanked for their mission pledges in these economically difficult times and 8 congregations were commended for increasing their mission pledges in 2009: Columbiana First Church, Cuyahoga Falls United Church, Mineral Ridge First Church, Rogers Clarkson Church, Vienna Church, Youngstown First Church, Youngstown Pleasant Grove Church, and Youngstown Westminster Church.

Nominating Committee: Moderator Peggy Richmond reported the following resignations: Rev. Moss Rutan (Personnel), Rev. Steve Breazier (Evangelism), Rev. John Gruneich (Trustees), Elder Mary Louise Forsythe (COM), Elder Mary Lou Ramsey (Congregational Resources). The Presbytery elected Rev. Rusty Cowden to the Trustees Class of 2010.

Committee on Ministry: Moderator Carole Rummell reported and the Presbytery took the following action:

- Approved the call of Rev. Marvin Barney as pastor of the Champion Presbyterian Church effective March 10, 2009.
- Received Rev. C. Sheldon Hastings (honorably retired) into the membership of Eastminster Presbytery.
- Approved the continuation of Rev. Jan Douglass as part time Stated Supply of the New Waterford and Clarkson Churches.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between Rev. Steve Breazier and the Struthers Church effective April 1, 2009, and transferred Rev. Breazier's credentials to Homestead Presbytery.
- Extended the relationship between Rev. Jeanine Haven and the Youngstown Liberty Church as part time Temporary Supply
- Approved the call of Rev. Matthew Medford as pastor of the Hubbard Presbyterian Church effective April 1, 2009.
- Approved the installation of Rev. Marvin Barney at the Champion Church on April 26 at 6:00 p.m.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between Rev. Nick Cammarata and the Pleasant Grove Church effective March 1, 2009.
- Appointed Rev. Richard Ferris as moderator of the Pleasant Grove Session.
- Approved the call of the Kent Church to Rev. Aaron Meadows as installed pastor effective March 16, 2009, pending the action of the congregation.
- Approved the installation of Rev. Aaron Meadows at the Kent Church on April 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Verbal Quicklines: Moderator Chuck Chalker (JBM) called the Presbytery's attention to the April 18 and May 2 work days at the camp. Rev. Joe Atkins commented on the upcoming Synod Assembly on March 13-14 in Maumee, Ohio.

The meeting was closed with song under the leadership of Moderator Scott Parker.

<p>The next stated meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held on May 12, 2009, at the North Springfield Presbyterian Church in Akron.</p>
