

November 11, 2008

## QUICKLINE

Poland Presbyterian Church

A brief summary of the meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Eastminster Presbytery comprised of 101 ministers, elders, and guests, held its stated meeting at the Poland Presbyterian Church at 5:07 p.m. The meeting was convened with prayer by Moderator Robert Gillette. The Rev. David Gilbert, host pastor, welcomed the Presbytery.

Stated Clerk Meta Cramer called attention to correspondence from David Weyrick, pastor of the former Stow Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), apologizing for any offence given around the time of the Stow Church's departure from the PC(USA).

Consent Agenda: The following actions were taken: to designate the Nov. 11 offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; to concur in the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Heritage Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Peter Lawson; that the Rev. David Black be appointed as Moderator of the North Benton Session; that the Rev. James Henkel and the Rev. Christine Ziem be moved to the Member-at-Large roll; that the pulpit of First Federated Church, North Jackson, be declared vacant due to the departure of the Rev. Bradley Jagger; and that Eastminster Presbytery receive for record the annual auditor's report.

Family Remembrances and Celebrations: General Presbyter Dan Schomer welcomed Father Jone Teana from Fiji and Louis and Hilda Garcia from Dakota Presbytery. It was noted that Moderator Robert Gillette had an article published in 9/22 issue of Presbyterian Outlook. Elder Charlie Dawes' (Northminster Church) presence was celebrated. He has complete chemotherapy. Prayer concerns included: Lucille Clay undergoing dialysis; Gene Douglass recuperating from a serious heart attack; Chris Ziem recuperating from surgery; Debby Dockstader having surgery on Nov. 18 at Cleveland Clinic; and persecuted Christians in Iraq. Veterans of military service were recognized and the Presbytery was reminded that minister member Peter Lawson is currently serving as an Army Chaplain. The Presbytery joined in prayer.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer thanked all those who completed evaluations of his performance as GP and of the job description. He expressed gratitude for the high level of participation in cluster meetings, thanking consultant Dave Weida and the Mission Visioning Council for leadership. His performance goals for 2009 and beyond were included in the packet and he welcomed feedback through emails. Dan reminded the Presbytery of the visit of Dr. Jack Rogers on November 19 and 20. He urged the Presbytery to be present at all three upcoming events planned around the issue of ordination standards.

Committee on Mission: The Rev. Robert Offerdahl introduced Father Jone Teana, an Anglican priest from the island of Fiji, who has been hosted by Poland Presbyterian Church as a Mission Partner, and Elders Louis and Hilda Garcia from the Bdecan Presbyterian Church, located on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota, who brought greetings from Dakota Presbytery.

Personnel Committee: Elder Alice Jackson reported that all staff evaluations were completed on November 6 and that we are very fortunate to have such a great staff. A comprehensive evaluation was completed on the work of General Presbyter Dan Schomer which included 30 people completing questionnaires about Dan's ministry. Motions prevailed to approve the revised position description for the General Presbyter and to extend the call of the Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer as full-time General Presbyter of Eastminster Presbytery for a period of five years beginning January 1, 2009.

Committee on Nominations: Elder Robert Forsythe presented a long list of nominees for offices and committee assignments. The Rev. Scott Parker was elected as Moderator and Elder Marilyn Stroble was elected Vice-Moderator for 2009. Elder John Schippert was nominated to the Synod Nominating Committee, and the Rev. Joseph Atkins and Elder Mary Beth Hudlund were elected as Synod Commissioners for 2009. Elders Art Straitiff and Stan Christensen were elected as Enrolling Clerks. Elder Peggy Richmond was elected as Mission Visioning Council Discernment Advisor.

**Resource Center Coordinator** Lorraine Jones reported on the Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study along with resources for stewardship and Advent. Vignettes were shared from a video class on evangelism by Bill Hybels called "Just Walk Across the Room."

**Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council:** Elder Lynn Doyle Pebworth (Youngstown-First) and Elder Dale Riley (Kent) were elected to the Committee on Nominations, Class of 2011.

**Trustees:** Loans through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program were approved for the Lake Milton and New Waterford Churches. First Presbyterian Church, Akron, was given permission to sell two parcels of property. An Administrative Budget for 2009 in the amount of \$165,745 was approved. A per capita for 2009 of \$27 (General Assembly \$6.15, Synod \$3.19, & Presbytery \$17.66) was approved.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry:** Alexandra ("Lexi") Joachim, a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, a senior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and an Inquirer under the care of Eastminster Presbytery, was enrolled as a Candidate.

**Stated Clerk Task Force:** The Rev. Ross Jackson was elected to a three-year term as Stated Clerk of Eastminster Presbytery, effective January 1, 2009.

**Dinner Recess:** The Rev. David Gilbert shared some of the rich history and current ministry of the Poland Presbyterian Church and dismissed the Presbytery with a blessing over the meal. A delicious meal and good fellowship were enjoyed by the Presbytery.

**The Presbytery at Worship:** The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God, inclusive of the Lord's Supper and a remembrance of presbyters who had entered the Church Triumphant in the past year. Moderator Robert Gillette preached; and liturgists were the Revs. Stephanie Crossland, David Gilbert, and Jan Douglass; Candidate Elaine Dutton; and Nick Boniface, youth member of Poland Presbyterian Church. Musical leadership was provided by Errol Kehrberg, Director of Music; Anne Hutchison, organist; Matt Miles, soloist; and the Chancel Choir of the Poland Presbyterian Church.

**Committee on Ministry:** The following moderators were appointed to sessions: The Rev. Nick Mager—Hungarian, the Rev. Scott Parker—East Palestine, the Rev. Bonnie Dutton—Lake Milton and Salem Concord, and the Rev. Mark Wilds—Sebring. The interim pastor covenant contract between the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth and the Heritage Presbyterian Church was approved. The presbytery recognized the pastoral relationship between the New Covenant Church (a union church) and the Rev. Richard Griffith. The interim pastoral relationship between the Rev. Richard Ferris and the Champion Church was extended. Elder Robert (Bo) Schneider was commissioned as Lay Pastor to serve the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church. Participation was encouraged in the Board of Pensions "Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches" teleconference. Those covered under the major medical plan were reminded of the online health assessment that provides a \$25 gift card if completed by November 30.

**Synod Commissioners** Rev. Joe Atkins, Elder Ruth Cole, and Elder Mary Beth Hedlund reported on the October 17-18 Synod Assembly. A new mission DVD from the Synod of the Covenant was shared with the Presbytery. The DVD is available in the Resource Center.

**Margaret Park Scholarship Committee:** Elder Irene Sams reported that Melissa Shaughnessy and Jeff Schooley, both students at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, had received awards.

**Committee on Mission** – The Rev. Steve Fortenberry, pastor of Common Ground Church Community, shared news about the urban agricultural program in which the church is currently involved. Common Ground's own "Goodness Grows" is partnering with "Grow Youngstown" to strengthen urban agriculture in the inner city of Youngstown. Churches interested in learning more were encouraged to contact Common Ground.

**Joseph Badger Meadows Mission Visioning Task Force:** Their report was approved with one amendment, clearing the way for the Presbytery to seek a Camp Director.