

Eastminster Presbytery met at the Christ Church Presbyterian in Youngstown. The Rev. John Gruneich, Moderator, convened the meeting with prayer.

Family Remembrances – Prayers of comfort were offered for the family of elder Mary Pashley of the Barberton Church, formerly a trustee. Prayers of healing were offered for elder Sue Reynolds, CLP at East Palestine and the Rev. Al Hutchison, chaplain at Park Vista. Continued prayers were asked for the Rev. Peter Lawson serving as a military chaplain in Iraq.

Consent Agenda --Upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council, the offering of the January 10, 2006, stated meeting was directed to the Presbytery's partnership with Dakota Presbytery. Upon the recommendation of the Committee of Preparation for Ministry, Inquirer Elaine Dutton and Candidate Jonas Hays were continued for another year.

Committee on Nominations—The following persons were nominated and elected: Board of Trustees, Class of 2006 - Jim Cochran, Hudson; for the 217th General Assembly: Clergy Commissioner, the Rev. Dr. J. Nicholas Mager, Jr.; Alternate Clergy Commissioner, the Rev. Paul A. Gaug; Elder Commissioner, Ms. Harriet D. Chapman, Akron Westminster; Alternate Elder Commissioner, Mr. R. Joseph Hrach, Akron Westminster; Youth Advisory Delegate, David Cramer, New Waterford; Alternate Youth Advisory Delegate, Kelsey Elizabeth Francis. Co-Moderator Robert Forsythe reported that the following resignations had been received: Howard Davis, Trustees, Class of 2006; the Rev. Debby Dockstader, Communication and Nurture Committee, Class of 2006.

Resource Center – Lorraine Jones, Coordinator, reported that the Resource Center will be open on Monday and Wednesday from 12-5. The Resource Center is available for use any time the Presbytery Center is open. Lorraine called attention to a human resources questionnaire found in the packet. Lenten resources are available.

Committee on Mission – The Rev. Paul Johnson, Moderator, reported. Motion prevailed that Eastminster Presbytery seek to establish a Mission Partnership with Levante Presbytery, Spain; and that the Rev. David Joachim and the Rev. Paul Johnson travel to Spain to begin working on the initial arrangements. The Rev. David Joachim shared that the committee had been working for a year to determine an appropriate mission partnership. He also shared information about the planned trip to Habitat for Humanity in Pensacola, Florida beginning in June 2006. Participants are urged to contact him as soon as possible. The Rev. Todd Allen reported on the trip of Westminster Church of Akron to Slidell, Louisiana. The Rev. Paul Johnson reported that a number of persons from Eastminster Presbytery are leaving on January 21 to work on construction of a girls' dormitory in Ethiopia January 21 – February 11.

Report of the General Presbyter – The Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, reported. The full text of his report can be found on the home page of www.eastminsterpresbytery.com.

Installation Service – The Rev. John Gruneich, outgoing Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery, conducted a service of installation. Installed were: Elder Peggy Richmond (Petersburg), Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery; the Rev. Debby Dockstader, Vice-Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery; the Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk; the Rev. Nick Mager, Committee on Ministry; the Rev. Mark Phillips, Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Elder Bernie Christensen and the Rev. Steve Cramer, Committee on Nominations; the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, Congregational Resources; Elder John Graves, Communication and Nurture; the Rev. Paul Johnson, Committee on Mission; and the Rev. Larry Myers, Committee on Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center.

The Presbytery At Worship – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God, following John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. Worship leaders were the Rev. Robert Offerdahl; the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth; the Rev. George Tutwiler, Organist-Choirmaster and Lecturer in Church Music and United Methodist Studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and the Rev. Mark Phillips, organist.

Dinner – The Presbytery recessed for dinner. The meal was donated by members of the Dakota Mission Team, allowing the money collected for dinner tickets to be added to the evening’s offering for that cause.

Presentation/Table Talk: The Final Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, & Purity of the Church
General Presbyter Dan Schomer presented a Power Point presentation on “A Season of Discernment,” the final report of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church. The Rev. Harold Walker, Elder Ruth Cole, and Molly Halter, conveners of Theological Reflection Groups which met in Eastminster Presbytery, shared their experiences in their groups. Thirty minutes of table talk took place using mutual invitation and the written recording of answers. Three questions were discussed concerning the “PUP” report: What most excites you? What most concerns you? What is the one question you’d like to ask a member of the Theological Task Force?

New Moderator – Elder Peggy Richmond thanked the Presbytery for the opportunity to serve as Moderator, and recognized the support she’s received from her Petersburg church family, including her parents.

Committee on Ministry – The Rev. Nick Mager, Moderator, reported. Motions prevailed to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Hungarian Presbytery Church and the Rev. Jeanine Haven effective January 31, 2006; dissolve the yoke between the Hungarian Presbyterian Church and the John Knox Presbyterian Church effective January 31, 2006; appoint the following session moderators: the Rev. Al Shakley to Hungarian Church, the Rev. Debby Dockstader to Liberty Church, the Rev. Bob Offerdahl to Coitsville Church, the Rev. Wayne Bogue to Northminster Church, and the Rev. Larry Stewart to the Wickliffe Church, all effective 1/1/06; extend the contract for the Rev. Paul Johnson as stated supply of the Vienna Church for one year; continue the Rev. Anne Hagler’s status at the New Covenant Church until a recommendation to presbytery can be worked out; concur with Barberton’s Session upon the approval of the congregation to name the Rev. Dick Ross as Pastor Emeritus; extend Elder Sue Reynolds’ (CLP) contract with the East Palestine Church as temporary supply through May 31, 2006; approve the call of the Columbiana Church to the Rev. Scott Parker as pastor effective January 23, 2006, and to request his credentials from Central Florida Presbytery; to authorize COM to set the date and approve the commission for the installation of Scott Parker; to receive for first reading a draft paper on validated ministries; and to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. David Herron and the Northminster Church effective December 31, 2005, with compensation continuing through April 30, 2006. It was announced that a workshop is being planned for April 20, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the subject of “Sexual Misconduct and Boundary Issues.” The COM urge all Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Elders trained to serve as Lay Pastors in our Presbytery to participate.

Congregational Resources: Peacemaking Subcommittee – The Rev. Jim Ray encouraged registration for the Peacemaking Retreat at JBM from Jan. 30, at 7:00 p.m. to Feb 1 at 6:00 p.m. Jane Stoffer showed a DVD promoting “Can Peace Break Out” to be held at the Kent Church Mar. 5, 2-7 p.m., with G.A. Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase as keynote speaker. Jane asked a person from each church to contact her to obtain further information.

JBM Committee – Camp Director Tom Riley reported, asking commissioners to pick up the cookie boxes filled with brochures about various adult conferences and about summer camp. Call for more brochures. Everyone was asked to mark their 2006 calendars for the 40th anniversary celebration for JBM on October 7.

TRUSTEES – Elder Trella Johnson, President of the Trustees, reported. Motion prevailed that the Presbytery concur with the action of the Canfield Congregation in the sale of the manse. Information was shared as follows: Final budget negotiations have been set for February 23, 2006, at the First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge at 4 p.m.; \$15,991.03 has been transferred from Reserve Funds to cover the cost of a 2005 Chevy Malibu, 11,000 miles, and extended bumper-to-bumper coverage with the Reserve accounts being reimbursed monthly from the budget line item; Ross Jackson will be the Trustees representative to Margaret Park Scholarship Board; outstanding per capita and mission pledges for 2005 are needed from churches; and the presbytery was asked to “take it easy” financially until the 2006 budget is finalized at the March meeting.

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church in Akron on March 14, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

