

Eastminster Presbytery met at the Sebring Presbyterian Church on May 10, 2005. Rev. John Gruneich, Moderator, convened the meeting and host pastor Rev. Christine Ziem welcomed the presbytery.

**Family Remembrances** – Victor Wan-Tatah received congratulations as recipient of the 2004-2005 Distinguished Professor Award for Philosophy and Religious Studies at YSU. Prayer concerns included Marilyn Nash recuperation from major back surgery; Rev. Chuck Moffett recuperating from wrist surgery; Rev. Richard Brownlee in the early stages of liver disease; Rev. David Herron suffering from severe headaches; Rev. Peter Lawson at Fort Irwin, CA, for desert training to prepare for deployment in Iraq; Rev. Condie Watters having tests; and Rev. Paul Graham hospitalized in Millersburg. We welcomed clergy couple Rusty Cowden (Interim Pastor at Poland) and Carolyn Griffeth (Interim Pastor at Canfield).

**Business of the Clerk** – Rev. Meta Cramer announced that the Synod of the Covenant Permanent Judicial Commission had ruled against the Presbytery in a remedial case filed by the accused in a current investigation. As a result of the Synod of the Covenant PJC's ruling, the investigating committee which was announced in January of this year has been dissolved. Thank you's were extended to the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, the Rev. Wayne Bogue, Elder Donna McCollum, Elder Patti Gruver and Elder Stan Christensen for being willing to serve in this way. The Presbytery's gratitude was also expressed to the Committee of Counsel which handled the remedial complaint: Elder Robert Moore, Elder Henry Pearce, and the Rev. Paul Gaug.

**Consent Agenda** – Minutes of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council and the Mission Visioning Council were received; the offering for the May 10 meeting was divided 60% for the Pentecost Offering and 40% for JBM scholarships; minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Ross Slaughter were received; Elder Ruth Cole was appointed as a reader for Ordination Exams; Monte York was co-opted to the Mission Committee and Ross Jackson was co-opted to the Mission Visioning Council.

**General Presbyter's Report** – Rev. Dan Schomer led the presbytery in a litany of the Presbytery's mission priorities; thanked those who are leading Theological Reflection Groups—Ruth Cole, Rev. Harold Walker, Molly Halter, and Peggy Richmond; announced that the Sept. 13, 2005, meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will have a significantly different format with a focus on Stewardship; and encouraged presbyters to apply for scholarships to the Churchwide Transformation and Multi-Cultural Conference in NYC July 14-17, 2005.

**Committee on Mission** – Lexi Joachim reported on attending the National Youth Workers convention last November. Guest speaker Sue Ann Fairman spoke on behalf of the New Wilmington Missionary Conference and the World Mission Initiative of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Fairman stressed that GA Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase would speak and GA would be commissioning missionaries at the Conference.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry** – Joseph Robert Hrach (Westminster, Akron) was enrolled as an Inquirer. It was announced that Inquirer Doug Hagler will be attending San Francisco Theological Seminary on a merit scholarship.

**JBM Committee** – Karen Riley reported that 52 women were served communion at the Women's retreat; the JBM worship team will continue its ministry; a nurse is needed for June 19-24, the Sr. High work camp is canceled but the Mystery Road Trip is on; there is still room in all camp sessions; and staff training is June 4.

**Common Ground Church Community** – Rev. Steve Fortenberry reported hopes that chartering will take place at the July Presbytery meeting; steady growth by the congregation continues, and negotiations are taking place on the purchase of the Mellinger Greenhouse property in North Lima.

**Trustees** – Rev. Jim Henkel and Treasurer Colin Miller reported on the status of the 2005 operating budget, which is positive, and on per capita and mission pay-up by churches through April.

**Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council** – Ruth Gerrard stressed the need for accurate reservation numbers for host churches. She announced that the Council is listening to the Presbytery and is working to create meetings that will be enjoyable, informative, and educational.

**The Presbytery at Worship** – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God in the spirit of Pentecost. Worship leaders were the Rev. Kay Roberts, preacher; the Rev. Christine Ziem, liturgist; Jean Thomas, organist; and the Rev. Tom Niccolls, dove-bearer.

**Fellowship at the Dinner Table**—A delicious meal was served by the Sebring Church.

**Committee on Ministry**— Rev. Nick Mager reported that COM had approved the Interim Pastor covenant between Canfield Presbyterian Church and Rev. Carolyn Griffeth; adopted a new guidelines for a Mission Study Process to be completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee of vacant churches prior to completing the Church Information Form; re-activated a required orientation for new clergy in our Presbytery regarding “professional boundaries” for ministry; and authorized General Presbyter Dan Schomer to negotiate a tentative agreement with Rev. In-Kyu Park and the Session of the University Church regarding the future relationship of the University Church to the Spicer Street property and to Eastminster Presbytery. Eastminster Presbytery approved all of the terms of call for pastors currently serving in our Presbytery; and approved the Federation agreement between the New Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Covenant Community Church of Akron creating a single union church from the two congregations. Elder Robert “Bo” Schneider was authorized to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Gibson Heights-Second Presbyterian Church and Moderator John Gruneich commissioned Elder Bo Schneider to serve in this capacity.

**Committee on Nominations** – The resignation of Mary Pashley as a Trustee was noted and the Rev. Rusty Cowden was elected as a Trustee, Class of 2005. New Procedures for the Election of Commissioners to General Assembly were approved.

**Resource Center** – Lorraine Jones reported on “Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church” – a book on the power of friendship within the church. A free copy of this resource is available to any congregation by calling 800-747-6060 x1324 or logging on to [www.group.com](http://www.group.com).

**Evangelism & Church Growth** – The Rev. Richard Ferris reported on the Acts 16:5 Gathering on May 3 at the Kent Church, and the Rev. Robert McCreight shared how Acts 16:5 is shaping the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana.

**MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL** – Elder Carole Rummell reported on the progress made by the new structure, and urged churches to seek help from the Presbytery in areas of need.

**General Assembly Council** – Rev. Dan Schomer reported on the Mar. 21-Apr. 2 meeting of the General Assembly Council.

**Removed from the Consent Agenda:** The Presbytery voted to raise the cost of meals at meetings of Presbytery to \$7.00.

**Miscellaneous:** John Schippert reported on the most recent trip to Dakota Presbytery.

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center on July 12, 2005, beginning at 5:00 p.m.