

Eastminster Presbytery met at the First Presbyterian Church, Barberton. Rev. John Gruneich, Moderator, convened the meeting with prayer.

Family Remembrances – Prayers were requested for the family of the Rev. Paul and Lynda Gaug as Lynda's father Ben Sarver, a former member of the Oak Hill Church, undergoes cancer treatment in Florida; and for the father of Moderator John Gruneich, who recently underwent major surgery at Akron General Hospital.

Consent Agenda --Upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council, the offering of the November 8, 2005, stated meeting was directed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund for direct assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Report of the Stated Clerk – The Rev. Meta Cramer called attention to correspondence from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Covenant regarding proposed by-law changes to the Synod by-laws. A motion to consent to these changes was defeated.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION – The Rev. Paul Johnson, Moderator, thanked the churches for their ongoing support of mission through regular gifts, and said that members of the Committee are glad to visit with Sessions and congregations for interpretation of our Presbytery's mission. The Rev. Bob Offerdahl reported on the activities of the Dakota Presbytery Mission Exploration Team. Six persons from Eastminster Presbytery attended the meeting of Dakota Presbytery in September. A spring trip is being planned for May 5-7, 2006. A letter from Young Adult Volunteer Lindsay DePew was shared. The Rev. David Joachim reported on: "Hurricane Relief work with 'Habitat,'" the trip being sponsored by the Committee in Pensacola, Florida June 24 – July 2, 2006. The primary focus on recruiting for this trip is on smaller churches and those churches which do not have a mission trip tradition. Interest by smaller churches must be communicated by December 15; then registration will be opened up to others. The Rev. Richard Braun reported that on November 9 a group would be meeting at the Champion Church to be oriented for the next trip to Ethiopia which will leave on January 19, 2006. There is room for a few more people, especially more women. The group will be building a Bible school dormitory.

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE – The Rev. Alan Hutchison, Moderator, reported. A skit starring the Revs. Tom Nicolls, Lynn Thompson Bryant and Alan Hutchison highlighted the need to love our enemies, to "go the second mile," and to witness to Jesus. An announcement was made concerning the event featuring G.A. Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Commitment to Peacemaking on March 6, 2006, at Kent. Approval was granted for revisions to the Simple Meal policy. Information from the Ohio Council of Churches was shared regarding casino gambling.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH COMMISSION – The Rev. Richard Ferris, Moderator, urged attendance at the "Acts 16:5" event being held November 11-12 at the First Presbyterian Church of Warren.

MARGARET PARK SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – The Rev. David Herron, Moderator, reported that the Committee approved \$13,000.00 to provide assistance to three seminarians under care of Eastminster Presbytery: Esther Sue Tinker, Elaine Dutton, and Adam Marquette. The next scheduled meeting will be May 3, 2006, at the Presbytery Center where they will be awarding the next scholarships. Those applications need to be turned into Rev. David Herron by April 27, 2006. The application will be reviewed again in November 2006. Application forms can be found on the Presbytery's website.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – Elder Robert Forsythe, Co-Moderator of the Committee on Nominations, presented a long list of nominees for election. Among those elected were the following officers: Moderator of Presbytery – Elder Peggy Richmond, Vice-Moderator of Presbytery – Rev. Deborah Dockstader, Stated Clerk -3 year term- Rev. Meta Cramer, Enrolling Clerk – 1 year term – Elder Art Straitiff. It was announced that the deadline for applications to be elder commissioner or youth advisory delegate to the 217th General Assembly has been extended to December 1.

TRUSTEES – Elder Trella Johnson, President *pro-tem* of the Trustees, reported.

Motions prevailed that the Presbytery be allowed to borrow up to \$20,000 of its monies toward the purchase of a new car or the lease of a new vehicle, whichever is deemed most cost-effective; that Presbytery Staff mileage reimbursement be tied to the IRS rate, which is currently 48.5 cents; that, subject to receipt of additional information, the Lake Milton Presbyterian church be granted permission to pursue the sale of land, with proceeds from sale to be used for roof repairs. The Presbytery approved the General Mission Giving distribution plan for 2006 as follows: Eastminster Presbytery, 62%; Synod of the Covenant, 9%; and General Assembly, 29% (which is the same as 2005). The Presbytery also approved the following per capita assessment for 2006: \$5.57 for General Assembly; \$2.99 for the Synod of the Covenant; \$13.76 for Eastminster Presbytery – an overall increase of \$1.08 over 2005; and adopted the Eastminster Presbytery 2006 Preliminary Budget with administrative expenses of \$171,241.25 and mission expenses of \$305,219.04, for a total of \$476,460.29.

SYNOD COMMISSIONERS – The Rev. Todd Allen reported on the 2005 Synod Assembly.

COMMON GROUND COMMISSION – Organizing Pastor Steve Fortenberry gave an historical perspective on the Common Ground Church Community New Church Development. Elder Gordon Wepfer, a member of the Common Ground Commission, reported and the Presbytery expressed thanks to Gordon for his 8 years of work on this project. Motions prevailed that Eastminster Presbytery, at a special meeting on November 13, 2005, proceed to organize the Common Ground Church Community as a congregation of Eastminster Presbytery and that the Common Ground Church Community Commission be dismissed with thanks effective November 13, 2005.

RESOURCE CENTER – Lorraine Jones, Resource Center Coordinator, reported on available resources including the Mini-Resource Center set up at the presbytery meeting.

PRESBYTERY MEETING COORDINATING COUNCIL – Elder Ruth Cole, Moderator, reported.

Elder Bob Forsythe and the Rev. Steve Cramer were elected to the Committee on Nominations, class of 2008. An amendment to the Manual of Operations to provide a vice-president for the Trustees was approved as were meeting places for stated meetings in 2006. The Moderator pointed out that December Committee meetings are scheduled for December 6, the first Tuesday of the month.

DINNER RECESS – The Presbytery recessed for dinner, following a warm welcome by the host pastor, the Rev. Reford Nash, who led the Presbytery in prayer.

THE PRESBYTERY AT WORSHIP – The Presbytery worshiped Almighty God, inclusive of the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the annual Necrology Report. Moderator John Gruneich presented the sermon.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – The Rev. Nick Mager, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, reported.

Motions prevailed that, contingent on the chartering the Common Ground Church Community congregation and the call of that congregation to the Rev. Steve Fortenberry on November 13, the Presbytery approve the call to him as Pastor of the Common Ground Church Community, and that the Presbytery install the Rev. Steve Fortenberry as pastor of the Common Ground Church Community on November 13 as a part of the called Special Meeting.

MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL – Elder Carole Rummell, Moderator, reported.

Motions prevailed that Eastminster Presbytery initiate a capital campaign for the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center in the amount of \$250,000 to be received over a period of three years, said campaign to be coordinated by the Joseph Badger Meadows Camp and Conference Center Committee, and that Steve Fortenberry's position as Organizing Pastor be dissolved effective upon his installation as pastor of the Common Ground Church Community on November 13.

The next Stated Meeting will be held at the Christ Church Presbyterian of Youngstown on January 10, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m.