

Eastminster Presbytery held its stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Warren.

The presbytery gathered at 6:00 p.m. for the worship of Almighty God including the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the annual Remembrance of the Saints. The Rev. Rusty Cowden served as liturgist and Moderator Carolyn Griffeth delivered the sermon. Rusty and Carolyn were co-celebrants of the Lord's Supper. Outstanding musical selections were provided by soloist Rachael Herriman, the Handbell Choir, and the Motet Choir under the direction of Ms. Melanie Vlad. The offering was taken in support of the Theological Education Fund.

Moderator Carolyn Griffeth opened the business meeting with prayer at 6:50 p.m., recognized first time commissioners, welcomed Rev. Richard Lapehn (Barberton) and guest Sidney Byrd (Dakota Presbytery) and invited family remembrances.

The Rev. Rusty Cowden, host pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of First Presbyterian Church.

Business of the Clerk: The Clerk moved and the presbytery voted to approve the Consent Agenda which included the co-opting of Perry Clark to the Self Development of People Committee and Ruth Brayer to the Committee on Ministry, and that the March 13, 2012 offering be designated to Second Harvest Food Bank in Youngstown and Good Neighbors in Akron.

A Proposed Overture to the 220th General Assembly was presented to the presbytery by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Barberton. The overture asked that the "fidelity and chastity" paragraph replaced in the Book of Order by Amendment 10-A be restored to the Book of Order. After a brief presentation of the proposed overture by the pastor, the presbytery voted 36 for, 39 against, and 1 abstentia.

General Presbyter Dan Schomer, acknowledging the prevalence of transitions within Eastminster Presbytery, encouraged the presbytery to a spirit of adventure and resiliency. It was announced that six congregations—Wickliffe, Hubbard First, Cuyahoga Falls United, Champion, Salem First, and New Springfield had committed to participate in the Spiritual Strategic Journey with George Bullard in 2012. Teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders along with members of the Committee on Ministry were reminded to register for the Conflict Management Training event with George Bullard on Feb. 3, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Congratulations were extended to the Rev. Harry Eberts who is celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination this year and the Rev. Donald Spear who is celebrating his 50th anniversary. Finally, the General Presbyter introduced the Rev. Dr. Mindawati Perangin-angin from Indonesia to the presbytery. Minda has spent six weeks with the Poland Presbyterian Church as a participant in the Mission to the U.S.A. program through the Synod of the Covenant. Minda, whose ecumenical work takes her around the world, shared that transitions are a part of the worldwide church today.

Resource Center Coordinator Lorraine Jones introduced to the presbytery a video series with Francis Chan called the Basic Series. Lorraine shared a portion of the DVD "Fear God."

Mission Visioning Council Moderator Marilyn Stroble presented the revised Manual of Operations for a second reading and action. After several amendments, the presbytery unanimously approved the new Manual of Operations and the new presbytery structure created by the Manual.

Nominating Committee Moderator Peggy Richmond presented and the presbytery elected the following persons to presbytery offices and entities:

Class of 2012: Moderator Robert "Bo" Schneider, Vice-Moderator Rev. Mark Wilds, Enrolling Clerk Stan Christensen, Gladys Burnett (Self-Development of People)

Class of 2013: Jo Ann Rubrake (Personnel), Herman Pipe (Self-Development of People), Gene Ewald (JBM)

Class of 2014: Committee on Ministry—Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, Rev. Debby Dockstader, Gary Wireman, Peggy Richmond, Cindy Weiss; Trustees—Rev. Jeanine Haven, Rev. Amy Starr Redwine; Personnel—Rev. Richard Griffith, William Cooper; Preparation for Ministry—Rev. Ben Graves, Rev. Kristin Stroble; Self-Development of People—Perry Clark, Rev. Peter Del Nagro, Bill Melver, Randee Pipe; JBM—Rev. Larry Bowald, Charles Chalker

Personnel Committee Moderator Nick Mager shared with the presbytery that, due to decreases in revenue, the positions of Financial and Clerical Assistant has been eliminated immediately and the position of Resource Center Coordinator will end on June 30, 2012.

Trustee President Rusty Cowden introduced a DVD distributed to presbyters at registration intended to interpret the collecting of per capita. The Trustees recommended and motion prevailed that per capita for 2012 be set at \$30 (G.A. \$6.63, Synod \$3.25, Presbytery \$20.12) and that an administrative budget for 2012 be set in the amount of \$150, 851.

Representing the JBM Committee, Rev. Steve Fortenberry introduced the new Onsite Coordinator, Ms. Shawn Price, who will handle scheduling and “meet and greet” duties at the camp. Steve described the partnership that has developed between Goodness Grow, a non-profit developed by the Common Ground Church Community, and the camp. A grant for \$12,000 has been received from the Presbyterian Hunger Program for the development of education and job training through local agricultural ventures promoting food justice.

Committee on Ministry Moderator Debby Dockstader brought the following items for action which were approved by the presbytery: Grant Rev. Reford Nash permission to labor outside the bounds of Eastminster Presbytery so that he might serve as interim pastor of the Rittman Church; approve relief of conscience with the Board of Pensions for the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Warren; and continue the commissions of Bo Schneider with the Lake Milton Church and Pete Macaulay with the Akron Allenside Church.

Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council Moderator Derek Starr Redwine called the attention of the presbytery to an evaluation form in the packet for the purpose of seeking feedback on what presbyters like and don't like about the new presbytery meeting format.

Self-Development of People Committee Moderator Jim Ray announced that there are two recipients of presbytery SDOP funds in 2011—Five Star Construction in Warren (rehabbing abandon houses) and the Front Porch Café in Akron (hiring the chronically unemployed). Also representing the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Team, Jim shared that Peacemaking Offering funds were provided to Goodness Grows in North Lima and Open M in Akron.

Mission Committee Co-Moderator David Joachim recommended and motion prevailed that the presbytery endorse the mission trip to Haiti through CODEP July 13-21, 2012. Attention was also called to the report on Dakota Presbytery.

Synod Commissioner Trella Johnson updated the presbytery on the Nov. 4-5 Synod Assembly.

Miscellaneous Business was provided by Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator Ben Graves who recommended that Candidate Francis Fisher be given permission as an elder to celebrate the Lord's Supper at the New Covenant Community Church in 2012.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Dr. Mindawati Perangin-angin at 8:50 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery will be held on March 13, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church in Columbiana.
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