

**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO**

(The Mission Council encourages Clerks of Session to reproduce this summary for their sessions so they will be better informed of the work of the Presbytery.)

At its meeting on January 25, 2010, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve:

January Summary

1. Opened the stated meeting with prayer offered by the Moderator, Elder Don Sinko (Parma-South).
2. Received the Stated Clerk's report, which included that membership cards for 2010 are available for minister members and receipt of the report that Susan Williams was ordained to Ministry of the Word and Sacrament on December 13. Ms. LeFort reminded pastors to submit their annual terms of call form.
3. Approved the Consent Agenda, which included the enrollment of the Rev. Bill Lindeman as a Corresponding Member with voice for the duration of his service as Interim Pastor at the Avon Lake Church; removal of Candidate Alfred Chapman (Calvary) from the roll of candidates; report that Candidate Larry Rush (Glenville) was certified as ready to receive a call; and that CPM endorsed Candidate Linda Eastwood's (Lyndhurst) application to serve in the Accompaniment Program between the PCUSA and the Presbyterian Church in Colombia.
4. Learned that Session Records training will be held on Sunday, March 13 from 2:30 to 4:45 pm at Lyndhurst Church and on Saturday, March 20 from 9:30 to 11:45 am at First Church, Willoughby. Clerks, Pastors, Church Administrators and anyone else interested in learning more about records management are invited to attend. RSVP to llohr@preswesres.org or call Lee Lohr at 216-241-3966.
5. Had a first reading of an updated policy for nominating and electing General Assembly Commissioners.
6. Approved an overture on amending 3.0109 of the Report of the Form of Government Task Force to allow more flexibility in the composition of committees.
7. Learned from Mission Council minutes that a leadership retreat for all elected leaders and staff in the presbytery will be held on February 6. The topic will be supporting vital, healthy ministry and mission in our congregations.
8. Heard from Doug Hoffman, Director of Joseph Badger Meadows Camp (Eastminster Presbytery), about the program offerings of the camp which is located in Burghill, Ohio, north of Youngstown. Information is available on-line at www.faithfulness.com/jbmccc/
9. Received the Report of the Five Year (2004-2009) Comprehensive Review of the General Presbyter, the Rev. Elizabeth Hendricks and learned that responders to the review form overwhelmingly expressed confidence in Ms. Hendricks.
10. Welcomed the Rev. Bill Lindeman, Interim Pastor at Avon Lake Church.
11. Received the written report of the Committee on Ministry which included
 - The dismissal of the Rev. Timothy Jones to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley
 - The dismissal of the Rev. Gary Kornell to the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
 - The placement of the Rev. Katie Rivera Torea on the Pulpit Supply List
12. The Rev. Rick Stein, Moderator of Just Reach Ministry introduced "Restorative Justice" as the Matthew 25 theme for 2010 and announced that there will be Just Reach Ministry information and resources available in the registration area at each presbytery meeting.
13. Heard the good news of the Presbytery as reported by the Rev. Liza Hendricks, General Presbyter:
 - Churches in our presbytery are engaging in mission in addition to making mission pledges to the greater church.
 - During the second night of St. Andrew's live nativity, neighborhood teens came dressed as people of ancient times and participated in the live nativity rather than just watching.
 - Grade-school children at Forest Hill Church are baking bread to sell with proceeds going towards the "Bright Stars of Bethlehem Scholarship Fund." This program provides out-of-school enrichment for the children of Bethlehem in the West Bank.

- Lyndhurst Church has been looking at how they can deepen their spiritual lives. Last fall, rather than using the usual stewardship campaign process, each elder prayed for 6 or 7 families in the congregation. The number of pledges and the total amount pledged increased significantly over the previous year.
 - People from seven churches in Ashtabula came together for officer training and reflected on what it means to say yes when God calls.
 - Meredith White-Zeagher and some of her peers received a grant from the College of Pastoral Leaders at Austin Presbyterian Seminary for a 2-year conversation on emergent church issues.
 - Prayers were asked for the Rev. Wally Scofield, Interim Pastor of Trinity (Ashtabula) Church, who became ill during worship, was taken to the hospital, and is having tests done. Trinity Church had its live nativity interrupted before Christmas by a tragic accident.
 - According to the PCUSA website, \$209,000 has been sent for relief efforts in Haiti. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program has set a goal of \$500,000.
 - Old Stone Church was featured as the website of the day on the PCUSA website: www.pcusa.org.
14. Was warmly welcomed to Independence Presbyterian Church by its Pastor, the Rev. Leroy Ford who offered grace before the meal. Independence Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2012.
 15. Worshiped, with the Rev. Carol Wedell preaching. Mission pledges of the congregations were dedicated.
 16. Enrolled Inquirer Cassie Wolfe (Northfield) as a Candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament after her successful examination.
 17. Approved an overture from Church of the Covenant on amending G-6.0106b replacing the current text with the following:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.
 18. Heard about the work of the Self-Development of People Committee (SDOP) from its Moderator, Elder Dick Obermanns (Forest Hill). Two representatives from TriFYRE, a recipient of 2009 SDOP funds gave a presentation on their social enterprise and how the funds assisted them. SDOP grants are funded entirely through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The Presbytery committee is accepting proposals for 2010 SDOP projects through March 19. Contact Dick Obermanns for an information packet. 216-752-3301 or obermanns@aol.com
 19. Had a first reading of an overture from the Just Reach Ministry on Israel and Palestine.
 20. Adjourned at 8:47 pm with prayer offered by the Rev. Art Helin to serve God in Christ's love until the next stated **meeting on Monday, March 22, 2010 at Glenville New Life Community Church (PCUSA)** in Cleveland, Ohio.