

**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT LAKEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
LAKEWOOD, 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 March 31, 2008, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve:

1. Opened with prayer by Elder Judy Mitchell (St. Andrew's), Moderator.
2. Received the Stated Clerk's annual report for 2007. Members received increased from 2006; however, the losses were significantly higher. Total membership in 2007 is 13,388 as compared to 13,973 in 2006. No equalization of elders and ministers was needed. The Rev. Borchert thanked Clerks of Session, Pastors, Church Treasurers, and all others involved in the reporting of annual statistics. Staff member Lee Lohr was accorded special thanks for her hours of dedication to this annual task.
3. Approved the Consent Agenda, which included resignations from and elections to committees/ministries; the welcome and enrollment of the Rev. Mark L. Juengel (Redstone Presbytery) and the Rev. R. J. Kang (Chicago Presbytery) as corresponding members; and approval of resolutions from the Administration Ministry/Board of Trustees regarding the sale of the Immanuel Church property.
4. Approved the recommendation from the Church Development and Redevelopment Ministry to change the name of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (Mentor) to Faith Community Church. The sign will indicate that it is a Presbyterian church. This change is related to an ongoing process of transformation at the church.
5. Learned the following from Leadership Development Ministry (LDM):
 - ◆ "Stewardship Kaleidoscope (The Local Version)" will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 8:30 to 11:00 am at Independence Presbyterian Church.
 - ◆ Coffee House Conversations with Bruce Reyes-Chow, a New Church Development Pastor, will be held at Trinity Commons in Cleveland on May 12, 2008.
 - ◆ Covenant Gathering (formerly Synod School) will be held from June 29 – July 4, 2008 in Hillsdale, Michigan. For more information visit www.covenantgathering.org. LDM has scholarships available for first time attendees. Contact Nona Holy at 216-241-3966.
 - ◆ Scholarships are also available to individuals and church groups for Outdoor Ministry. Contact Nona Holy at nholy@preswesres.org or 216-241-3966.
 - ◆ Graham Standish, author of *Becoming the Blessed Church* and *Humble Leadership* will be the featured speaker at a fall leadership event on September 12-13, 2008. Details to come.
 - ◆ Save the dates, September 12-13, 2009, for a leadership event with Diana Butler Bass, author of six books including the best selling, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.
 - ◆ The Presbytery Resource Center catalogue is now on-line at www.preswesres.org. Click on the Resource Center link.
6. Examined and approved Alfred Chapman (Calvary) as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
7. After examination, commissioned Elder Wayne DeMarco to First Presbyterian Church, Lorain as their Commissioned Lay Pastor.
8. Learned that Megan Case (Trinity, Ashtabula) was enrolled as an Inquirer and that Inquirer Byron Bufkin (Bay) was removed from the roll at his request.
9. Approved the following Committee on Ministry (COM) items:

MEMBERS

- The dissolution of the commission of Elder Joyce Shellhammer as lay pastor for North Kingsville Presbyterian Church.
 - The call of the Rev. John Wahl as Designated Pastor for Valley Presbyterian Church.
 - The enrollment of the Rev. R. J. Kang into the membership of the Presbytery as a Member-at-Large.
 - The call of the Rev. Mark L. Juengel as Pastor for Parma-South Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Juengel was received into membership of the Presbytery and an Administrative Commission was approved for his service of installation on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 3:00 pm at the church
 - The dissolution of the call of Associate Pastor Bob Armstrong and Bay Presbyterian Church; that this action and terms of the separation agreement not be construed to imply any form of discipline; and that effective May 4, 2008, Mr. Armstrong be granted the status of Member-at-Large.
10. Approved a by-laws change which would ask the Committee on Nominations to assist Mission Council in its task of nominating members to the Committee on Nominations.
 11. Concurred with proposed changes in the Synod of the Covenant By-laws regarding structural change.
 12. Learned that the Rev. Catherine “Kitty” Borchert will retire as Stated Clerk effective August 1, 2008.
 13. Was warmly welcomed to Lakewood Presbyterian Church by Pastor Jim Butler, who offered grace before dinner. The church recently completed major refurbishing.
 14. Worshipped and commissioned the following participants on a journey to South Africa for Joining Hands Against Hunger: Liza Hendricks (General Presbyter), Jenny Himmelman (Forest Hill), Edward Malone (St. Mark’s), Vanessa Mullins (St. Mark’s), and Edna Swoope (Calvary).
 15. Heard a presentation from members of the Special Administrative Review Committee regarding PCUSA beliefs and practices, including the viewing of the DVD, *Together in Ministry & Mission*, produced by the General Assembly Council. Links to background information and documents to all commissioners in preparing for the May 28, 2008 presbytery meeting may be found at www.preswesres.org.
 16. Had a motion presented from the Session of Bay Presbyterian Church (BPC), represented by Elder Ken Simmons, to dismiss BPC to the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Their terms include dismissal no later than June 1, 2008; a total of \$550,000 payable by BPC to the Presbytery in 10 installments; quit claim deed from PWR to BPC with no deed restrictions; and BPC retains its name. The full terms are available upon request from the Stated Clerk’s office or by going to www.baypres.org and clicking on “Q&A Denominational Issues.”
 17. Heard a response from the Presbytery Negotiating Team, represented by Elder Don Sinko (Parma-South). The team looked at their role as stewards of the Presbytery and its congregations as well as the entire denomination. Mr. Sinko explained the reasoning for requests that were made during the time of negotiation. The Presbytery Negotiating Team’s report is available by following the link on the Presbytery’s website.
 18. Was encouraged to submit questions about the BPC dismissal issue in writing to Catherine Borchert, Stated Clerk by e-mail (cborchert@preswesres.org) or by sending them to 2800 Euclid Ave., Suite 500, Cleveland, OH, 44115. These questions will be distributed to everyone on the call list for the Presbytery, as well as to the Session of Bay Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery’s Special Administrative Review Committee.
 19. Defeated a motion to refer the original motion and the negotiating process back to the Session and congregation of Bay P. C.
 20. Approved an overture on examinations for ordination requesting models for reflection and discernment for making decisions. The full text of the overture may be found at www.preswesres.org
 21. Approved a moratorium on the death penalty. The full text may be found at www.preswesres.org.
 22. Adjourned at 10:05 pm with prayer offered by the Rev. Willy Nieves to serve God in Christ’s love until the next stated meeting on **WEDNESDAY, May 28, 2008 at Valley Presbyterian Church in Bainbridge Center, Ohio.**