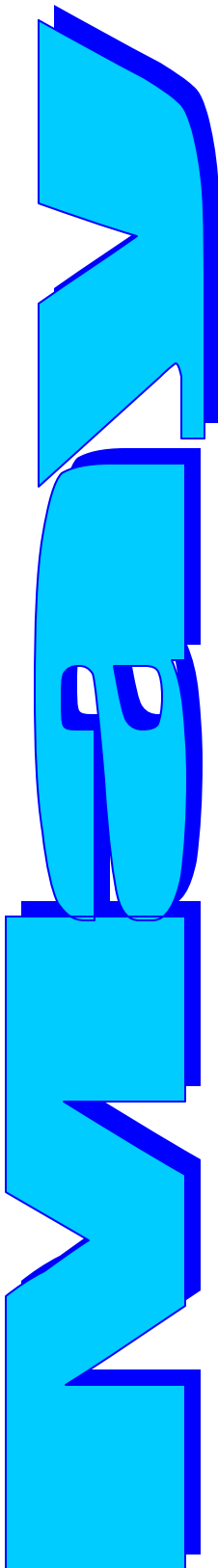


**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
CHESTERLAND, OHIO**

(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 May 27, 2009, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve:

1. Held a pre-presbytery program on the book, The Shack, led by Dr. Malcolm Peel.
2. Opened with prayer in song led by *Praise Fire*, Christ Church's band.
3. Received the Stated Clerk's report which included information regarding denominational resources available on line at www.pcusa.org; that the Rev. Margaret Haney, former Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Miami Valley, will be the Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant effective June 1, 2009; that invitations from churches to host stated meetings in 2010 are being requested; and that the 2008 minutes of the Presbytery were approved by the Synod with one exception (no Committee on Representation report).
4. Approved the Consent Agenda, which included information from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that Candidates Jeff Binder (Parma-South) and Kimberly Wagner (Forest Hill) were certified as ready to receive a call.
5. Heard from the JustReach Ministry about a Health Care Reform program on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Cathedral with T. R. Reid as the speaker. For more information call the Presbytery office (216-241-3966).
6. Learned about the *Bread for the World* organization and were given the opportunity to write letters to our Representatives to support H.R. 2139 in addressing issues around hunger, unsafe drinking water, and poverty.
7. Heard from Leadership Development Ministry about the program, "Signposts of Renewal: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith," with author Diana Butler Bass scheduled for September 12, 2009 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at Trinity Cathedral on Euclid Avenue and East 22nd Street in Cleveland. Contact the Presbytery Office to register.
8. Heard about this year's Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) conference and were encouraged to consider attending next January. For more information, visit www.apcenet.org.
9. Learned about Joseph Badger Meadows Camp from its director, Doug Hoffman. The Presbyterian camp and conference center is located in Burghill, Ohio. For more information visit www.Josephbadgermeadows.com or call 330-772-3931.
10. Was warmly welcomed to Christ Presbyterian Church by its Pastor, the Rev. Randy Working. Since he arrived from the West Coast last summer, the church has hired an outreach director and has been doing long range planning in the hope of becoming a church that Chesterland cannot live without.
11. After a delicious meal, worshiped with the Rev. Charlie Hurst preaching. The South Africa Mission Partnership (SAMP) delegation was commissioned and Bread for the World letters were dedicated.
12. Was encouraged by the Committee on Nominations to submit names of church members for service to Presbytery ministries. Bulletin inserts were available in the registration area and had been included with the call to the meeting.
13. Approved an administrative commission to work with North Presbyterian Church in selling its current site and finding a new location within its neighborhood.
14. After examination, approved Candidate Steven Brand (First, Elyria) for ordination to the position of Stated Supply Pastor for the Wickliffe Church.
15. Validated the ministry of the Rev. Bob Armstrong as pastoral counselor with C. J. Hendry & Associates in Westlake, Ohio.
16. Approved the Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Arvid Whitmore from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Ashtabula effective July 1, 2009.
17. Approved the Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Jim Gilbert from Medina Presbyterian Church effective August 1, 2009.
18. Approved the 2009 Clergy Compensation Report.



19. Closed the Associate Pastor position at John Knox Presbyterian Church.
20. Heard from COM Moderator Malcolm Shields about the process for assisting congregations in filling pastoral positions that are less than full time.
21. The following items were included in the written report of the COM:
 - ◆ The renewal of the appointment of the Rev. Bill Keene as Parish Associate at Parma-South Church
 - ◆ The renewal of the Stated Supply appointment of the Rev. Anne McCabe at Boulevard Church
 - ◆ The renewal of the Stated Supply appointment of the Rev. Charlie Hurst at North Church
 - ◆ The appointment of an administrative commission for the ordination service of Steven Brand on Sunday, June 14, 2009 at 2:00 pm at First Church in Elyria
22. Heard from the Rev Dan Marvin, Synod Commissioner, that this year's Covenant Gathering – a week of learning, laughter and worship – will be held from June 28-July 3. Registration forms are available at www.covenantgathering.com.
23. Heard the good news of the Presbytery as reported by Elder Judy Mitchell, Mission Council Moderator:
 - Forest Hill and Avon Lake Churches are putting into practice *The Parable of the Talents*.
 - A group from Lakewood Presbyterian Church went on a field trip to Zelionople, PA to visit the Calvin Presbyterian Church where Graham Standish is pastor. The Lakewood Session will be discussing the experience and talking about what they might do.
 - Old Stone Church designed their Lenten devotional around scripture and quotations from Diana Butler Bass's book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, in preparation for our upcoming fall workshop led by Ms. Bass.
 - The Church of the Covenant kindergartners thru senior highs planned and led a worship service that celebrated our Creator and creation and lifted up the talents of student musicians and actors. The "Parable of the Prodigal Offspring Retold" put the well known story into a modern context as a young girl told her mother she wanted to have her trust fund so she could leave the family farm and go to Vegas.
 - At Rocky River four young people engaged in a Parable Mix-up. They each read from four familiar parables, hitting the main points of each parable but together the parables were scrambled in a way that broke the Word open in new ways for the congregation
 - The Glenville congregation has established a pattern of fasting for twenty-four hours once every four weeks from all electronics and one other day they fast from food.
 - David Jewel, once Moderator of COM and now a candidate under care of this presbytery, graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and was awarded the Alumni Award for the Outstanding Graduating Senior, the top honor available to the graduating class and an award for outstanding achievement in biblical studies.
 - Kitty Borchert received her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve and won the Jane & Cecile Lyman History Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Department of History.
 - Jim Butler received his D.Min from Princeton after writing his thesis on pastoral care for families who have experienced suicide.
 - "Date Night"—the Kingsville and North Kingsville congregations are checking each other out to see what they might be able to do together.
 - The Presbytery's Congregational Strategy Task Force is considering some questions, beginning with "what are God's wildest dreams for our congregations and our Presbytery?"
24. Received the treasurer's 2008 annual report and learned that investment loss was 31% which offset the gains in 2007 but we do have a good cash position. The Presbytery's financials through April 2009 were also reported. Investments were down about 10% the first two months but back up to even the Friday before the meeting. Spending is within budget. The key to staying even with the budget is receiving per capita and mission pledge payments.
25. Received a draft of proposed revised bylaws and a manual of operations for a first reading. Questions and comments may be submitted in writing to Mission Council Moderator Judy Mitchell (gofk@wowway.com). Presbyters were also invited to submit ideas for a cover for the manual.
26. Approved criteria for churches to receive urban ministry funding.
27. Adjourned at 8:59 pm with prayer offered by the Elder Nan Dorer (Noble Road) to serve God in Christ's love until the next stated **meeting on Monday, July 27, 2009 at Korean Central Presbyterian Church** in Brecksville, Ohio.