

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

December, 2008

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The gloomy morning was soon forgotten as members and guests of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky were welcomed by the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, Kentucky, on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, as Presbytery gathered for its quarterly meeting. A delicious brunch awaited as those attending registered.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Moderator, who then recited the haunting "In Flanders Field" as a tribute to Armistice Day and to our veterans and men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces.

Worship

Worship was led by Rev. Sharon Murray of First Presbyterian Church, Sturgis, and Rev. Lon Lorton of First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville. Rev. Lorton read from John 17:13-19 and in a message entitled "Commit" reminded us of the importance of committing to our communities, our churches, and our Lord. Beautiful music was provided by First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis organist Mrs. Betty Sue Rich.

Rev. Sharon Murray welcomed members and guests of Presbytery to the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis.

Rev. Dr. Napier led in the introduction of new members and guests.

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis of the Nominations Committee presented the names of Elder Willee Cooper of First Presbyterian Church, Hopkinsville, and Rev. James Stahr of Central Presbyterian Church, Princeton, to serve as Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively, of Presbytery for the year 2009. There being no further nominations, Mrs. Cooper and Rev. Stahr were elected. They will be installed at the February, 2009 meeting of Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, declared a quorum present. He also presented minutes of various committees for approval.

Mission Coordinating Council

Elder Bell Muth moved that Mr. Don Barger and Rev. Lon Lorton be elected to the Nominations Committee, Class of 2011. Motion carried.

Bills and Overtures

Elder Bell Muth introduced Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green who led Presbytery through responses and votes on several bills presented at the 218th General Assembly during the summer of 2008. A majority of the items were voted on with limited discussion. When discussion followed certain items, debate was carried out in a traditionally Presbyterian decent and orderly manner. A task force is being established by the Presbytery to help local congregations better understand some of the issues facing our denomination.

Dr. Napier led Presbytery in singing "Be Present at our Table, Lord" by way of grace prior to lunch served in the fellowship hall.

Following a delicious bar-be-que lunch, with a variety of homemade desserts provided by the Sturgis congregation, Presbytery reconvened.

Trustees

Elder Ray Kramer reported on the status of the Gilmour Funds. He moved to approve the 2009 budget for the funds. Motion carried.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dr. Lynn Shurley, Jr., introduced Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery who reported on the Commissioned Lay Pastors Program. She stated that a number of new Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary teachers were helping with the program and invited any interested individuals to join. There will be a slight change in scheduling beginning in January, 2009.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis thanked members of the Nominations Committee and especially the Presbytery staff for their help. He presented a slate

of individuals to fill the vacancies on the various committees and moved that they be accepted. With no nominations from the floor, the motion carried.

Moderator of Presbytery: Elder Willee Cooper, Hopkinsville
Vice-Moderator of Presbytery: Rev. James Stahr

TRUSTEES

Class of 2011: Mrs. Vickie Davis, Sturgis

MISSION COORDINATING COUNCIL

MODERATOR OF COUNCIL: Rev. Patrick Napier

Class of 2011: Mrs. Willee Cooper, Hopkinsville

Class of 2011: Dr. Alan G. Johnson, Madisonville

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Class of 2009 Mrs. Jane Stevenson, Hopkinsville

Class of 2010: Mrs. Becky Durham, Henderson

Class of 2011: Rev. Sharon Murray

Class of 2011: David Muffett, Bowling Green

Class of 2011: Rev. Wes Kendall

Class of 2011: Mr. Rob Wilson, Madisonville

Co-opted Member: Rev. David Montgomery

MISSION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Class of 2011: Rev. Jon Faraone

Class of 2011: Rev. Gordon Foltz

Class of 2011: Ms. Ann Mills, Paducah

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Class of 2011: Mr. Wayne Goolsby, Hopkinsville

Class of 2011: Rev. Archie Fugate

Co-opted Member: Mr. John Gramling, Bowling Green

ECUMENICAL & INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Class of 2011: Karen Napier, Auburn

Class of 2011: Mr. Ronnie Groom, Hopkinsville

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Class of 2009: Mr. Jim Brown, Mt. Zion

Class of 2011: Mr. Don Fleming, Murray

Class of 2011: Rev. Sam Yang

Class of 2011: Rev. Matthew Covington (Moderator)

Class of 2011: Rev. Jonathan Carroll

Class of 2011: Debbie McCoy, Owensboro First

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION – CLASS OF 2009

Ethnic Female: Moderator Thelma Baker, Cecelia Memorial

Ethnic Male: Rev. Sam Yang

Majority Female: Helen Jordan, Auburn

Majority Male: Rev. Don Troutman

Youth Female: Miss Rachel Stevenson, Hopkinsville

Youth Male: Mr. Chris Bowers, Owensboro

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2010: Juanita Park, Rockport

(Permanent Judicial Commission continued)
Class of 2011: Rev. Kenneth Dick
Class of 2011: Mrs. Vickie Davis, Sturgis

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Class of 2011: Rev. John Guthrie
Class of 2011: Mr. David Dossett, Mt. Zion

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Class of 2011: Rev. Tony Barta
Class of 2011: Mrs. Martha Haynes, Bowling Green

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Class of 2012: Jane Berdine, Henderson

COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES (CLASS OF 2009)

Rev. Jon Faraone
(2008 Principal Minister Commissioner)
Rev. Lon Lorton
(2010 Principal Minister Commissioner)
(Bills & Overtures Committee continued)
Mr. David Dossett
(2008 Principal Elder Commissioner)
Mrs. Donna Houston
(2010 Principal Elder Commissioner)
Rev. Patrick Napier
(Mission Council Moderator)
Rev. Charlie Evans
(Stated Clerk Advisor)
Rev. Rich Cooper (Presbytery Executive Advisor)

BELLEWOOD BOARD

Class of 2011: Mr. Harvey Johnston, Bowling Green

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DELEGATES TO ANNUAL MEETINGS

Class of 2011: Mrs. Fran Griffith, Owensboro

KENTUCKY CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD

Class of 2011: Mr. Wayne Goolsby, Hopkinsville

2009 PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Ken Wolf (2011) - Chair / KCMB Representative
Mr. Don Barger (2009) - Vice Chair
Mr. Don Fleming (2009) - Treasurer
Rev. Jonathan Carroll (2011)
Chris Bowers (2011) - Student President
Mrs. Kathie Fleming (2009)
Rev. Jon Faraone (2011)
Dr. Mica Howe (2010) - Faculty Advisor
Mr. Wayne Goolsby (2010) - Secretary/KCMB Representative
Dr. Sam McNeely (2009)
Ms. Andi Denney - Campus Ministry Intern
Ms. Anna Kimbro - Administrative Assistant
Rev. David Montgomery - Campus Minister
Rev. Rich Cooper - Executive Presbyter

Synod of Living Waters Committee on Representation, Class of 2011: Rev. Jonathan Carroll

Synod of Living Waters Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2014: Rev. Charlie Evans

Leadership Development

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis introduced Adam Quine of the First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro who reported on the success of the youth retreat on November 7-9, 2008, held at Camp Loucon in which those in attendance discussed the Great Ends of the Church. He stated that it was a time of great unity and bonding and that part of the worship had been led by members of the First Korean Presbyterian Church's group "Cornerstone".

Mission Development

Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta reported on the success of the Acts 16:5 Program in the Presbytery and the conclusion of the committee that it had some considerable benefit to those who participated.

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery commented on its success with the First Presbyterian Church of Murray. Rev. Dr. Barta stated that the committee would continue to seek out and provide similar workshops for the congregations.

Finance Committee

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone presented the budget for 2009 and moved that it be approved. Motion carried.

Personnel Committee

Rev. David Montgomery thanked the Presbytery staff for their devotion to their positions. He moved that Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Director of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, be granted a sabbatical from late May through early August,

2009, for the purpose of study and renewal. Rev. Cooper presented tentative plans for the time. Motion carried.

Presbyterian Women

Elder Anne McNeilly reported on the October spiritual retreat held at Pennyroyal Forest State Park with forty-five women from thirteen congregations in attendance. She told of a roll call in which those present responded with the name of a mission to which they were devoted. There was a tremendous amount of diversity shared. An offering was taken with \$400.00 each provided to Bellewood and Buckhorn. Plans are currently being made for a spring gathering to be held at Mayfield, Kentucky.

Church and Society

Rev. Bill Krepps thanked the Presbytery for its support of the program presented at the August, 2008, meeting and urged members to be aware of those concerns expressed at that time.

Administrative Commission Report

Elder Frank Montgomery reported on the progress and success at the First Korean Presbyterian Church. He moved that the commission be dismissed. It was suggested that the motion include the words "with thanks". Motion carried.

Elder Montgomery thanked the members of the committee for their hard work and devotion. Rev. Sam Yang expressed thanks to Elder Montgomery, the committee, and the Presbytery.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Lon Lorton introduced Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary student Christine Coy-Fohr, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro. Rev. Lorton moved that Mrs. Fohr's

status be changed from "inquirer" to "candidate". Mrs. Fohr spoke about her faith journey and answered questions from the floor. Motion carried.

Ecumenical & Institutional Relations Committee

Rev. James Stahr introduced Rev. Art Turner of Bellewood. Rev. Turner reported that it was time to renew Presbytery's covenant with Bellewood. He reported that Bellewood hoped to expand its board of directors by five members from the community who would possibly represent denominations in addition to our own. This would allow for more diversity and possible funding for the institution. The committee moved to approve such a change. Motion carried.

Executive Presbyter's Report

Rev. Rich Cooper expressed thanks to Elder Bell Muth for a job well done. Mrs. Muth was presented a gift certificate for her three years' service. Rev. Cooper thanked Elder Frank Montgomery and the committee for their tireless work and devotion at the First Korean Presbyterian Church. He offered thanks to the Presbytery for extending to him the opportunity to learn and grow through the sabbatical experience. Rev. Cooper gave thanks for all the mission work of the Presbytery, stressing the work of the Commissioned Lay Pastors Program and Campus Ministry at both Murray State University and Western Kentucky State University. Rev. Cooper thanked Elder Lisa Troutman for her continued services at the Presbytery Office. He also thanked Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier for his outstanding work as Moderator of Presbytery this year.

Committee on Thanks

Elder Bell Muth offered thanks to the Sturgis' congregation for its invitation to worship in their "medieval refractory" and for providing such beautiful music and delightful foods. Thanks, too, to Elder Montgomery and the committee and to the First Korean Presbyterian Church's leaders and membership. She extended thanks for the new task

force, given the opportunity to help us have "open minds and open hearts". Thanks, too, to the Presbyterian Church for allowing people to exchange heartfelt thoughts. Mrs. Muth thanked God for His sense of humor in sending Rev. Cooper to the Pyrenees Mountains and wished Rev. Cooper a great sabbatical experience.

Joys and Concerns

A number of joys and concerns were expressed by those present. They included:

*Elder Logan Blewett of United Central Presbyterian of Paducah who expressed concern for two members with health issues

*Rev. Jon Faraone who told of a Stewardship session in Kansas City

*Elder Willee Cooper of Hopkinsville First who expressed concern for the family of Helen Jordan and a recent loss

*Elder Willee Cooper who informed Presbytery of a series of evening sermons devoted to spiritual renewal to be hosted by First Presbyterian of Hopkinsville and led by Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone

*Rev. Art Turner who told of the 100th birthday of Mr. Logan Bohannon who came to Bellewood in 1923 and served in many capacities at Bellewood through the years

*Mrs. Velma Yeomans of First Presbyterian of Paducah who expressed concern for a member who was being treated in Louisville

*Rev. Don Troutman who invited Presbytery to meet at the Lester Memorial Presbyterian Church at St. Elmo, Kentucky, in February, 2009

*Rev. Sharon Murray of Sturgis who celebrated all of us being together, remembering that we are all the children of God and will stay together that way

*Elder Anne McNeilly of First Presbyterian of

Paducah who told of concern for a member of their congregation who is ill in Knoxville, Tennessee

*Rev. Rich Cooper who asked for continued prayer for Rev. John Griffith and Mrs. Tommy Preston who is at Walter Reed

*Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier expressed gratitude for serving as Moderator of Presbytery between Elders Bell Muth and Willee Cooper

There being no further items, Presbytery adjourned with prayer by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Duke at 3:00 p.m. Presbytery will gather again at Lester Memorial Presbyterian Church in February, 2009.

Annual Statistical Reports for 2008

Please be aware that the 2008 Annual Statistical Report information will go out to all the Clerks or the designated person around December 10th. Pastors PLEASE contact your Clerk of Session or designated person to see if he/she received the envelope containing this information. The deadline to send your on-line information is February 24, 2009. If you have any questions regarding the Annual Statistical Report, please call the Presbytery Office at 1/800/811-9170 or email Lisa Troutman at lisat@newwavecomm.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Coordinating Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at Lester Memorial Presbyterian Church in Pembroke, Kentucky

Highlights November 2008

I am always pleasantly inspired when our Presbytery meets to discuss issues that often cause other presbyteries to have people who behave ungraciously. We seem to be able to negotiate the waters of disagreement and come to our required decision with a measure of civility that other presbyteries don't experience. Thank you for your kindness one to another.

Growing out of our discussion concerning the Amendments to our Constitution, a Task Force will be meeting to frame some opportunities for discussion and discernment. These opportunities will be publicized as widely as possible. Please look to the future of this Presbytery and watch for the opportunity for discussion "in your neighborhood." As the new year begins, I anticipate that you'll have an opportunity to meet with other Presbyterians to talk about those things that unite us and some of the things that cause us heartburn in our life together.

Some of you who read this may not know that the Presbytery meeting offered special meaning to me. I have been granted an opportunity for Sabbatical next summer. I shall be off to Spain to be a pilgrim on the Camino del Santiago de Compostela. In English that is known as "the Way

of St. James." It is a 500 mile journey from southern France to northwest Spain (Santiago). My friend and retired Episcopal Priest, John Klein, will be my guide and spiritual partner for the trip. John has been a pilgrim 2 other times and we will walk the journey (with our packs and all our belongings) for about 5 or 6 weeks beginning around June 1st. Pilgrims have been making the journey for over a thousand years and I hope to return refreshed, albeit a bit weary from the journey!

Finally, I would like to say that both Lisa and I wish you a wonderful holiday season. We hope you had a great Thanksgiving. We pray you will have a very **Merry Christmas** and the *most prosperous New Year ever!* Most don't think about Epiphany when they think of the season, but we wish that your Season of Light will be the brightest you have ever had!

Rich Cooper

Lisa Troutman