

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

August, 2009

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met at the First Presbyterian Church of Paducah, Kentucky, on August 8, 2009. Warm greetings and a delicious brunch awaited members and guests of Presbytery as they gathered in the church's fellowship hall prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., with prayer by Elder Willee Cooper, Moderator.

Morning worship was led by Ms. Clemette Haskins, a candidate at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and currently working with The Presbyterian Church at Bowling Green, Kentucky. Ms. Haskins read from Proverbs 3:3-6 and from the Gospel of St. John 6:15-21. In a sermon entitled "When the Strong Wind Blows", Ms. Haskins reminded us that we were all in the boat with the Disciples and stressed our constant role as advocate for those less fortunate.

Rev. Dr. Lynn Shurley, Jr., pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Paducah, welcomed members and guests to the church. He told about the history of the church and the tremendous positive changes in the church's surrounding neighborhood as a center for arts and artists.

Elder Willee Cooper led in the introduction of corresponding members and first-time attendees at Presbytery. Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of Presbytery, declared a quorum present. With no changes called for, the docket for the day was approved.

Leadership Development Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis presented a packet describing the activities of the Youth Council. He reported that Sunday, September 27, 2009, had been set aside as Harvest Fest Sunday and that the annual Harvest Fest activities would be held simultaneously at Bowling Green, Mayfield, and Madisonville. The focus of the event would be on Psalm 96.

Rev. David Montgomery presented Sophia Dixon and Ellen Kerchenski of the First Presbyterian Church of Russellville who reported on Youth activities this summer at Montreat. They presented a slide presentation depicting many of the activities in which they participated as a part of their report. The young ladies thanked Presbytery for its support and encouragement. Moderator Cooper commented "Our youth are great!" Presbytery concurred.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis moved that Rev. Archie Fugate be nominated to serve on the Leadership Development Committee (class of 2011). The motion carried. He reported that a vacancy existed on the Bellewood Board (class of 2010). Rev. Davis commented that local churches would soon receive information regarding opportunities to serve on various Presbytery committees.

Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Lon Lorton moved that Clemette Haskins status be changed from that of "inquirer" to "candidate". The motion carried.

Presbyterian Women

Elder Anne McNeilly reported on the success of the Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Louisville. She also told of a preview event regarding the Bible Study of the

Book of Joshua, the next topic for study. Elder McNeilly reported on plans for the Fall Gathering to be held at First Presbyterian Church of Henderson on October 17 with Ms. Clemette Haskins as the speaker.

Personnel Committee

Rev. David Montgomery commented on the pleasure of all of us on Rev. Rich Cooper's successful sabbatical in and safe return from Spain. Rev. Montgomery thanked those individuals who helped provide leadership during Rev. Cooper's absence including Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, and Elders Lisa Troutman, Willee Cooper, and Guen Crane.

Rev. Montgomery also commented on the continuing successes and activities of Campus Ministries programs in our Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. Shurley offered a prayer of thanksgiving as Presbytery adjourned to enjoy a delightful lunch prepared and served by members of First Presbyterian Church of Paducah. A number of the church's young people assisted in the serving. Following lunch and fellowship, Elder Cooper reconvened Presbytery.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington reported on changes in the calls of Rev. Timothy Davis, Sharon Murray, Ann Mills, David Dossett, Rob Wilson, and Don Barger. He also moved that Beth Walden-Fisher and Gordon Gartrell be allowed to labor out of the jurisdiction of Presbytery. Motions carried.

Rev. Dr. Covington reported on the situation involving Rev. Dae Hyuk Kang. It was moved and carried that his current ministry at a nondenominational church in the community near his previous pastorate at the Korean Presbyterian Church be disapproved by Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery reported on the continued success of the Commissioned Lay Pastor's Program and commended everyone for their encouragement of and support for the program.

Mission Development

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone reported on the success of the Clean Water University's successful meeting with over twenty people in attendance. He stated that there would be a Camp Hopewell training session in the Spring of 2010. Rev. Dr. Faraone commented on the "Five Practices for a Fruitful Congregation" program soon to be made available and implemented in the churches of Presbytery. There will be three cluster meetings to make information more available to be held in October at Paducah, Madisonville, and Russellville.

Presbyterian Homes & Services

Mr. Mark Gray of Crestwood, Kentucky, reported on the Presbyterian Homes and Services program. He told of the efforts of 19th Century church leader Mrs. Rosanna Hughes and her efforts to secure such services for seniors. Mr. Gray showed a video clip demonstrating the successes of the organization.

Finance Committee

Rev. Rich Cooper reported for the committee. He said that things were going well and that Presbytery had not yet had to touch its reserve funds. "God provides for us," stated Rev. Cooper.

Trustees

Elder Ray Kramer reported that everything was in order. He brought a motion to approve an audit for 2008. The motion was seconded and carried.

Elder Kramer presented a motion regarding the Highland Presbyterian Church's plan to purchase property adjoining the church for expansion purposes. Highland Presbyterian Church would be responsible for securing financing of the purchase. The motion was seconded and carried.

Executive Presbyter's Report

Rev. Rich Cooper commented on the "great experience" of his recent sabbatical and promised a more detailed report at the November meeting of Presbytery. He thanked those who assisted during his absence. Rev. Cooper noted that he would happily be available to attend any session meetings to answer questions. He asked for prayers for ministers: Doug Blair and Don Troutman; and CLP David Dossett who currently have health issues and for Rev. Helen Jordan whose brother recently passed away. He asked prayers for Rev. Jennifer Rogers who recently began a new assignment with the U.S. Army in Germany and reported on Rev. Rogers' recent engagement to Adam Cooper, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Rich Cooper. The wedding will be in January, 2010, in Germany.

Committee on Thanks

Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier presented Rev. Dr. Cheryl Duke who led in a prayer of thanksgiving, praising God for the First Presbyterian Church of Paducah and its smiling people; for Ms. Haskins; for Elder Cooper; for Rev. Rich Cooper's safe return; for our youth and their leaders; for the successes of Montreat events; for those who had traveled long distances; for the blessings of the day.

Joys and Concerns

Joy was expressed for the continued healing of Rev. Don Troutman, Rev. Doug Blair, and Mr. Don Barger.

Rev. Troutman thanked his two "best nurses", wife Lisa and daughter Abby, along with the leadership of the Highland and Lester Memorial Presbyterian Churches.

Karen Cone celebrated the safe return of her son from Iraq and God's care for him while he was away.

Joy was expressed for successful surgeries for Elder Logan Blewett, Rev. John Griffith, and Martha Jo Ross.

Rev. Sallie Pendleton of Bellewood commented on the joys felt as children graduated from Bellewood.

Rev. Lon Lorton announced the 175th anniversary of the Madisonville Church and plans for a celebration to be held on September 13, 2009, marking this event.

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone led in the singing of the hymn "Blest be the Tie that Binds".

Elder Willee Cooper reminded us that we never go anywhere by accident. She said, "Wherever you are, God put you there. Believe this".

There being no further business, Presbytery was adjourned with prayer at 2:30 p.m. We will meet next at First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville on November 10, 2009.

Upcoming Events

Harvest Fest – Sunday, September 27, 2009 at Bowling Green, Hopkinsville and Mayfield

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

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville, Kentucky

Highlights August, 2009

During the Presbytery meeting someone spoke to me and said, "Isn't the Presbytery meeting going well and smoothly!" That certainly captures the situation at Paducah on the only Saturday meeting that we hold during the year! It may have been a small Presbytery crowd but they were "big" on getting some things done and keeping things "decent" and "orderly". We owe the Moderator

(Willee Cooper) a great deal of thanks for her keeping us on track! We also owe the Stated Clerk (Charlie Evans) and the Permanent Clerk (Wayne Goolsby) our thanks for their good and efficient work!

It was 2 years ago at the August meeting of Presbytery (also in Paducah) when we prayed for and layed hands on Chaplain (Captain) Jennifer Rogers (US Army). Jennifer has deployed to Germany in early August. Some of you heard that Willee and I are proud to announce that she and our son, Adam, will be married in Germany later on this year. I can't help but make that note for Highlights!

In addition to the report from our youth trips to Montreat we heard from Mark Grey. Mark is the CEO of Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky. They do great work for our "seasoned" citizens and would really like to expand to the Owensboro area. Because we have available the former St. Andrew property, I challenge you to pray hard for a way for them to move ahead financially. Mark reminded me that in their more than 100 years of service they have never had to ask a person to leave their facility (facilities) due to financial reasons! Let's all pray that they can get the money necessary to make the Owensboro site work!

There really are a lot of things to be thankful for in our Presbytery. If you or your church don't (doesn't) participate in the Youth Council and the many retreat / mission possibilities, make sure you get in touch with us at the office. We'll be glad to put you in touch with the right person.

Blessings,

Rich Cooper