

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

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PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at the First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville, Kentucky. A warm welcome and delicious snacks were made available to the members and guests of Presbytery as they gathered for the day's activities.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Elder Willee Cooper, Moderator, at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Cooper read from Ephesians 1:19. She then introduced Katie Strednak who led the morning worship service.

Rev. Lon Lorton, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville, Kentucky, led the greeting and the call to worship from Psalm 9. He introduced Katie Strednak who read Psalm 20: 1-5 and from the book of Deuteronomy 10: 17-22. Katie presented a sermon entitled "Loving the Strangers Among Us". She pointed out how difficult it often is in today's world to recognize those in need as contrasted with people of the ancient world. She urged those present not to hesitate to seek help from the surrounding community of Christians. In prayer, Katie Strednak allowed those present time to ask God for things related to their personal needs. Beautiful music was provided by Morgan Coffee, organist.

Rev. Lon Lorton welcomed members and guests of Presbytery to the First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville.

Elder Willee Cooper, Moderator, led the introductions and seating of corresponding members. Rev. Dr. Curry Davis presided over the election of Rev. James Stahr of

Central Presbyterian of Princeton as Moderator of Presbytery for 2010 and Elder Jane Berdine of The Presbyterian Church of Henderson as Vice-Moderator. Rev. Davis moved that these two be elected. The motion carried.

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans declared a quorum present. He presented the names of excused members and the working docket for the day. It was moved and carried to meet at Round Pond in May, 2010.

Mission Coordinating Council

Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier presented a report from the Mission Coordinating Council. Rev. Dr. Napier moved that Mrs. Helen Jordan and Rev. Curry Davis be elected to the Nominations Committee for the class of 2012. The motion carried.

Finance Committee

Rev. Dr. John Guthrie presented the proposed 2010 budget. He noted that we had not, to date, had to touch our reserve funds. He stated that the proposed budget was one based on experience. He moved to approve the budget as presented by the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Personnel Committee

Rev. David Montgomery thanked members of Presbytery for their prompt responses to the evaluation forms for employees of Presbytery. Rev. Montgomery reported that there was a display in the fellowship hall with information regarding Presbyterian Homes. Rev. Betty Shepperson informed Presbytery of the values of

sabbaticals. Rev. Rich Cooper reported on available funds for ministers of smaller churches to avail themselves and their congregations of sabbaticals. Elder Marisue Coy reported on the Theological Education Fund and urged the churches of Presbytery to contribute to this endeavor. She commented on her own daughter's experiences at Seminary and urged prayers for the inquirers and candidates.

Discernment Group

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Carroll reported on the strides being made by the seven-member group that was organized one year ago. They have met ten times in the past eleven months for serious discussions regarding issues affecting the denomination. He stressed the importance of the connectional church in the community of faith and the need to move through and not around complex issues. He reported on a retreat for ordained clergy and lay pastors to be held January 15-16, 2010 with Rev. Dr. Joe Small as the keynote speaker.

Trustees

Elder Ray Kramer reported on the use of the Gilmour Funds. He presented the budget for the Gilmour Funds and moved that it be passed. The motion carried.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis presented a slate of candidates to fill the positions on the various committees of Presbytery. He noted that a few vacancies were still in existence. Pete Phelan volunteered to serve as the lay person on the Committee on Ministry. Rev. Davis moved to approve the individuals named. Motion carried.

MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY: Rev. James Stahr
VICE-MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY: Jane Berdine, Henderson

TRUSTEES

Moderator: Mrs. Vickie Davis, Sturgis
Class of 2012: Mr. Larry Isakson
Class of 2012: Rev. Anthony Barta

MISSION COORDINATING COUNCIL

MODERATOR OF COUNCIL: Elder Willee Cooper
Class of 2012: Mrs. Helen Jordan
Class of 2012: Mr. Larry Isakson

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Class of 2012: Rev. Curry Davis
Class of 2012: Mrs. Adele Ambler, Calvert City
Class of 2012: Mrs. Jane Stevenson, Hopkinsville

MISSION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Class of 2012: Katie Strednak
Class of 2012: Mabeth Cortner, Princeton

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Moderator: Wayne Goolsby, Hopkinsville
Class of 2012: Mr. John Gramling, Bowling Green
Class of 2012: Rev. John Griffith

ECUMENICAL & INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Class of 2012: Kathie Fleming, Murray
Class of 2012/Moderator: Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Class of 2012: Mr. Jim Brown
Class of 2012: Pete Phelan, Madisonville
Class of 2012: Rev. Lon Lorton
Class of 2012: Rev. Gordon Foltz

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION – CLASS OF 2010

Ethnic Female: Moderator Thelma Baker, Cecelia Memorial
Ethnic Male: Rev. Sam Yang
Majority Female: Helen Jordan, Auburn
Majority Male: Rev. Don Troutman
Youth Female: VACANT
Youth Male: Mr. Trey Wall, Murray

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2012: Mr. David Dossett
Class of 2010: Rev. Jonathan Carroll

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Class of 2012: Rev. Tim Davis
Class of 2012: Mrs. Beth Mullen, Highland

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Moderator: Rev. Cheryl Duke
Class of 2012: Rev. Archie Fugate
Class of 2012: Mr. Don Barger

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Moderator: Mr. Franklin Berry, Bowling Green
Class of 2013: Rev. Jon Faraone

COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES (CLASS OF 2010)

Rev. Jon Faraone
(2008 Principal Minister Commissioner)
Rev. Lon Lorton
(2010 Principal Minister Commissioner)
Mr. David Dossett

(2008 Principal Elder Commissioner)
Mrs. Donna Houston
(2010 Principal Elder Commissioner)
Elder Willee Cooper
(Mission Council Moderator)
Rev. Charlie Evans
(Stated Clerk Advisor)
Rev. Rich Cooper (Presbytery Executive Advisor)

BELLEWOOD BOARD

Class of 2012: Mr. Kenneth Royse, Bowling Green
Class of 2012: Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr.

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DELEGATE TO ANNUAL MEETINGS

Class of 2012: Mr. John Gramling, Bowling Green
Class of 2012: Rev. John Griffith

KENTUCKY CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD

Class of 2012: Mr. Terry Shoemaker, Bowling Green

2010 Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Ken Wolf (2011) - KCMB Representative
Mr. Don Barger (2012) - Vice Chair
Dr. David Pizzo (2012)
Rev. Jonathan Carroll (2011)
Sarah Caudill (2010) - Student President
Mrs. Bev Reuter (2012)
Rev. Jon Faraone (2011)
Dr. Mica Howe (2010) - Faculty Advisor
Mr. Wayne Goolsby (2010) - Secretary/KCMB Representative
Dr. Sam McNeely (2012)
Dr. Jim Barnett (2012)
Ms. Brittany Hesson - Service Intern
Ms. Ellen Bravard - Program Intern
Ms. Amber Ash - YNL Intern
Rev. David Montgomery - Campus Minister
Rev. Rich Cooper - Executive Presbyter

NOMINATIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS 219th (2010) General Assembly July 3-11, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Principal Minister Commissioner: Rev. Lon Lorton
Principal Elder Commissioner: Mrs. Donna Houston, Franklin
Principal Youth Delegate: Miss Brianna Sutton, Madisonville
Alternate Minister Commissioner: Rev. John Guthrie
Alternate Elder Commissioner: Mrs. Willee Cooper, Hopkinsville
Alternate Youth Delegate: VACANT

Mission Development

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone reported for the committee. He noted that a training session for individuals interested in participating in the Living Waters University was being planned for March, 2010.

He reported that ten churches had participated in the Fruitful Congregation course and that additional information and help would soon be available to those congregations.

He urged a focus on missionaries and the adopting of a missionary by local congregations. Rev. Faraone noted that presently 220 missionaries represent us around the world.

He reported on the success of the Korean Ministry in Murray and plans for its continued support.

Rev. Faraone brought news of a program "Mission Insights" that will aide congregations in a demographic study of their local neighborhoods. He related that additional information would be provided at the February, 2010 meeting of Presbytery.

Rev. Faraone discussed the Mission on the River program headed by Ann Mills and the preparation of Christmas boxes for individual who were working on the river during the holidays.

Rev. Faraone also urged those present to consider helping prepare Christmas boxes for military personnel serving overseas.

Rev. Lon Lorton offered a prayer of Grace and Thanksgiving prior to the noon meal. A delicious bar-b-que lunch was served by members of First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville in the church's fellowship hall.

Presbytery reconvened following lunch.

Ann Mills reported that during lunch, twenty-seven boxes were packed for the Mission on the River program. She stated that it would reach around 250 people. She prayed a prayer of blessing for the boxes.

Presbyterian Women

Elder Anne McNeilly reported on the October 17 meeting of Presbyterian Women with its theme "God's Realm: A Patchwork Quilt". Worship was led by Rev. Betty Shepperson and Clemette Haskins. An offering of \$400.00 was taken and presented to the Trilogy Center in Hopkinsville. Mrs. McNeilly reported that the women were enjoying the challenging study of the book of

Joshua. The Spring Gathering will be on Thursday, April 15, 2010, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Paducah. She urged Presbyterian Women to "think outside the circle" as they continued their mission work.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington thanked the members of Presbytery on the way their work touches the lives of the ministers and their ministry. He then presented Katie Strednak and Kara Hildebrandt for examination prior to their installations at Franklin Presbyterian Church and The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, respectfully.

Following questions on theology, church polity, and worship, which both candidates answered with assurance and competence, it was moved and seconded to sustain the examination and proceed with plans for ordination and installation. Motion carried. Katie Strednak will be ordained and installed as pastor on November 22nd at the Franklin Presbyterian Church. Kara Hildebrandt will be ordained and installed as associate pastor at The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green on December 20th.

Rev. Covington presented Sharon Fesmire, candidate for Commissioned Lay Pastor at United Central Presbyterian Church in Paducah. She told of her faith journey and studies in the CLP program. Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery and Rev. Rich Cooper asked Sharon Fesmire the appropriate questions related to the call. Elder Logan Blewett represented the United Central Presbyterian congregation. Rev. Dr. Montgomery led in prayer for Ms. Fesmire.

Leadership Development

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis reported on the recent youth retreat at Camp Loucon. Rev. David Montgomery narrated a slide presentation of the event featuring photographs made by Rob Wilson. Becky Durham reported on coming events for youth of Presbytery including a Summer, 2010 trip to North Carolina; a Youth Council retreat in February, 2010 in Henderson; and the annual Middle School City Lights, City Sights program to be held in Murray in July, 2010. Information will be sent to the congregations regarding these programs. Mrs. Durham urged churches to encourage participation of their youth in these programs and commented that it was a great way for youth group members to become better acquainted.

Executive Presbyterian's Report

Rev. Rich Cooper narrated a slide presentation of his pilgrimage last summer to Spain. He noted that the 500 mile trek took thirty-six days and that it afforded him one day to pray for and focus on each of the thirty-six churches in the Presbytery. Commenting on the need to travel light, Rev. Cooper said "the thing I carried with me most was y'all".

Committee on Thanks

Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier presented CLP Don Barger who expressed thanks for hospitality shown by the host church; the time of worship and the theme of both reaching out to others and taking care of ourselves; volunteers; sabbaticals; seminaries and seminary students; those who gather in time of discernment; budgets; Christmas on the River; Presbyterian Women who, like quilts, cover our needs; exams and candidates; Youth and their leaders; pilgrimages; and memories shared.

Joys and Concerns

The birthday of Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery was noted with joyful singing. The return of the Montgomery's oldest son from a two-year stint with the Peace Corp and the up-coming marriage of their youngest son were celebrated.

Logan Blewett celebrated the new Commissioned Lay Pastor at Paducah's Central Presbyterian and that congregation's plans for a Parents' Night Out.

Katie Strednak expressed joy to be a part of the Franklin congregation and thanked the many members of that congregation who accompanied her to Presbytery.

Ann Mills expressed appreciation for the support of the Christmas on the River project.

Lon Lorton noted that he had known Katie Strednak's parents eighteen years ago when he was a seminary student.

Jon Faraone reminded the Presbytery of the military care packages.

Willee Cooper expressed joy at the recent marriage of her and Rev. Cooper's younger son and the upcoming marriage of their older son.

Joy was expressed at the success of the Pastor Nominating Committees of the Presbyterian Church and how they really do work. Joy was noted for Katie Strednak and Kara Hildebrandt.

In closing, Elder Willee Cooper reminded us that wherever we go, Christ has something He wants us to do there. She commented that so often God's other name was "It just so happened".

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mrs. Cooper.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be on February 9, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church of Hopkinsville.

Annual Statistical Reports for 2009

Please be aware that the 2009 Annual Statistical Report information will be mailed out to all the Clerks of Session 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 23, 2010. 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 12, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Highlights – November / Dec 09

Another great Presbytery meeting in Madisonville! Hopefully, each presbyter had a chance to thank the folks who worked hard to make the day successful. It is great to visit each of our historic churches throughout the Presbytery.

We certainly were (are) blessed to have the two new pastors who we examined at Presbytery. Kara Hildebrandt and Katie Strednak will be wonderful additions to the Presbyterian Church in

Bowling Green and Franklin Presbyterian Church AND the Presbytery. It was good, also, to hear about the many ministries of our Leadership Development Committee for our young people. Please keep all those leaders in your prayers.

Because of my past, I regularly think of our missionaries to the military during this time of year. Ch(COL) Tommy Preston, Ch(LTC) Pete Brzezinski, and Ch(CPT) Jennifer Rogers always need your prayers as they minister to soldiers, families, and civilians in the Army. We're proud of each one who travels the world bringing Jesus Christ to folks. Oh, and it is an especially blessed Christmas for two of them, Jennifer and Pete, because they both have new spouses! Pete married his wife, Wendy, in September, and she has joined him at Madigan Army Hospital in Washington (state). Many of you know I am especially proud to go to Germany right after Christmas to conduct the Christian Service for Jennifer who married our son, Adam!

Finally, let me say that it continues to be a blessing to labor among folks in Western Kentucky. Willee and I feel exceptionally blessed to be a part of the ministry here. We hope you are equally blessed!

And please accept our fondest hope for a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year from Lisa and me!

Rich Cooper

Lisa Troutman