

Highlights

of the 140th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern New England February 6, 2010

Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford, CT

There were 64 ministers, 53 elder commissioners, and 6 elder Council members present and voting. Twenty-two of the Presbytery's 34 sessions were represented. There were 16 observers at the meeting. The total attendance was 141.

Ecclesiastical Relations Committee

Rev. Barbara Hager presented the overture from four sessions:

New Haven: First

Stamford: First

Waterford: Crossroads

West Hartford: Westminster

"Request the Presbytery of Southern New England to send the following overture to the 219th General Assembly:

The Presbytery of Southern New England respectfully overtures the 219th General assembly (2010) to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the present paragraph G-6.0106b [be stricken and be replaced in its entirety with: "Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, has established standards for church officers (G-6.0101). These standards are contained in the Scriptures rightly understood in the light of the Confessions, and expressed in *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. The constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003) shall guide those responsible for examination as they discern with an individual that person's calling, gifts, and preparation for their willingness to adhere to church standards. Those seeking office shall demonstrate their understanding of and affirm their willingness to adhere to church standards."

Elder Cathy Thomas (Wilton), Rev. Graham Robinson, Rev. gretchen Sausville, and Elder John Harter (Stamford) spoke in favor of the overture. Rev. Bill Gestal and Rev. Bill Maxwell spoke against the overture.

The Presbytery VOTED 79 to 38 to send the overture to GA.

Were You There ...?

- ... when Presbytery worshipped with Gathering Music by Liz, Duane and the Chancel Choir, and "Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore"?
- ... when Rev. John Sandel reminded each of us that " whenever folks feel heard and feel known as unique individuals – God's grace beaks in – and it is truly amazing"?
- ... when Rev. gretchen Sausville and two of the youth spoke about their mission trip to the Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia?
- ... when Rev. Dana Lindsley asked us to "believe", to believe that God is a "good painter" and that God will create something beautiful and good for our future?
- ... when commissioners and members were asked to complete their meeting evaluations with ideas, even radical ones, in planning for future meetings?
- **If you weren't there** ... well, you missed a lot!

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. David Van Dyke presented the report of the Committee of Preparation for Ministry.

- The Committee **MOVED**, and Presbytery **VOTED** to enroll Jennifer Davis as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

The Committee **MOVED** and the Presbytery **VOTED** to transfer the covenant relationship with Candidate **Kelly Pitman** to the Presbytery of Detroit.

Stewardship and Mission Committee

Rev. Tracy Johnson, on behalf of the committee, **MOVED** and Presbytery **VOTED** to match up to \$10,000 of mission money for aid to Haiti. Presbytery will match the gifts to the PDA's Haiti Fund with funds from savings.

Treasurer's Report

Rev. Bill Showalter reported that we received 98% of the budgeted funds for General Mission and Per Capita. Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the Treasurer's report.

Council Report

Elder Schimpf reported that several churches challenged the procedures for the election of the members of the Nominating Committee. The By-laws were not followed. A sub-committee of the Council nominates members of the Nominating Committee to the Council, who presents the nominees to the Presbytery. In order to follow this procedure:

The Council respectfully requested and the Moderator declared the election of the current members of the Nominations Committee as null and void because of failure to be in compliance with the Presbytery By-laws.

The Council, after meeting the requirements of the By-Laws, **MOVED** and Presbytery **VOTED** to elect the following individuals to the Presbytery Committee on Nominations

- Rev. James Glenn, Class of 2010
- Elder Herb Smith, Class of 2010
- Rev. Robert J. (Jud) Wiley, Class of 2010
- Elder Shirley Dudley, Class of 2011
- Elder Tom Taylor, Class of 2011
- Elder Lois Maxwell, Class of 2012
- Elder Patricia Wales, Class of 2012
- Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, Class of 2012

Rev. Mary Marple Thies and Rev. John Merz did not desire re-election.

Nominating Committee

The committee **MOVED** and Presbytery **VOTED** to elect the following persons for GA Commissioners and Alternates for the General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota from July 3-10, 2010:

Clergy Commissioners to GA:

Rev. Thomas Speers
Rev. Frank Robertson

Alternate Clergy Commissioner:

Rev. Stephen Clark

Elder Commissioners to GA:

Elder Ernest G. Jung, Brookfield: Valley
Elder Tom Taylor, Darien: Noroton

Alternate Elder Commissioner:

Elder Mark Doescher, Sr., Westerly: Dunn's Corners

Youth Advisory Delegate:

Emily O'Shinskie, West Hartford: Westminster

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery
will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at
First Presbyterian Church,
Stamford, CT

Committee on Ministry

- Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the Rev. Paul Gilmore into membership as Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, CT, if the way be clear, upon his dismissal by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities, effective March 8, 2010.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the Rev. Katherine Stanford into membership as Interim Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, CT, if the way be clear, effective Feb. 6, 2010, upon her dismissal by the Presbytery of Hudson River.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to dissolve the Designated Associate Pastor relationship between the Rev. Susan Arner and the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, CT effective February 21, 2010, if the way be clear, pending the congregational meeting scheduled for February 28, 2010.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Ruth Chartier and the congregation of the United Parish of Fall River effective February 1, 2010, if the way be clear.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the request of the Rev. Susan M. Pfeil to be Honorably Retired effective February 1, 2010.
- Presbytery **VOTED** to refer the proposed Member at Large policy back to the Committee to be considered at the May meeting following the reception of comments.
- The Committee presented the proposed revision of the Policy on Validated Ministries for the first reading.

Trustees

Rev. Bill Showalter presented the Trustee's Report.

- Rev. Showalter discussed the difference between per-capita received from congregations and distributed to General Assembly as noted in the Trustees proposed policy:

that the policy of the Presbytery shall be to contribute per capita funds to General Assembly (GA) and the Synod of the Northeast (SNE) to the extent that they are received from the congregations of the Presbytery

The Presbytery **VOTED** to postpone the discussion on the proposed policy to provide Sessions with time to discuss the proposal.

- The Trustees moved and Presbytery **VOTED** to approve that mileage for volunteers be reduced from \$0.55 to \$0.50 to be in compliance with the IRS allowed amount.