

Heartland Presbytery Meeting Highlights June 10, 2008

The Presbytery gathered with prayer at the South-Broadland Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, under the leadership of Moderator Rev. Tamara Miller from the Linwood United Church in Kansas City, MO.

Beginning with worship, Rev. Tom Thomas, pastor of the First, Higginsville and Corder Presbyterian Churches preached the morning's sermon with assistance from the Worship and Fellowship Division. The presbytery commissioned its 218th General Assembly Commissioners and celebrated the Lord's Supper. The offering from worship (\$945.98) was designated by the Council for the Emergency Fund for Community Mission of the Harold Thomas Center which benefits the neediest in the area around the presbytery offices through the ministry of Rev. Bill Johnson.

The Stated Clerk reported that correspondence was received from **Rev. R. Kent Mathews** renouncing the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) effective April 21, 2008; the presbytery's oldest minister member Henry Barnett died May 12th just short of his 98th birthday; and an investigative committee had been dismissed because the minister renounced jurisdiction.

Reports were heard from Stewardship and Mission Interpretation who demonstrated a true "Minute for Mission" and provided a flyer in the presbytery packet about the availability of Ms. Veeda Javaid, from the Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan who also shared a report on their work with the presbytery.

The Presbytery enrolled John Welton as a candidate for the ministry of Word and sacrament; elected Rev. Don Wilson as the presbytery's Theological Fund representative and examined and approved Dan Clark from the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas for ordination and installation to be the pastor of Barbee Memorial church in Excelsior Springs. The Presbytery also elected its ordination examination readers for October 2008. Mr. Clark will be ordained and installed on Sunday, July 13, 3:00 p.m.

The Presbytery recognized the honorable retirement of Rev. Joseph Pallikkathayil with good words from Rev. Andy Cullen, Rev. Bob Lehleitner and many members of the St. Luke congregation.

The Presbytery then examined Elder Rodney Nitz from the Presbytery of Northern Kansas for commissioning to the Interim Associate Lay Pastor position at Rolling Hills in Overland Park. After examination, Elder Nitz was commissioned by the Presbytery for service.

The Presbytery also examined Rev. Al Zimmerman for membership in the Presbytery in order to accept the call of pastor at First, Atchison, KS. After successful examination, Rev. Zimmerman was welcomed back to Heartland Presbytery.

Reports from the Executive Presbyter, the Church Resource Center, and the Committee on Nominations were presented. The Social Justice Ministries Division presented a PowerPoint on caring for the environment including cost savings associated with "going green."

The Presbyterian Urban Ministry Network provided a clever "radio talk show" educating the Presbytery about the mission and ministry of the more than a dozen urban churches in the presbyteries. Rev. Scott Meyer provided a beautiful brochure about those churches and their ministries to the Presbytery. Copies are available for use in other congregations for "Minutes for Mission".

The Presbytery Council reported on their meeting's discussions including the evaluations of the presbytery meetings, continued implantation of the covenant values through committees, divisions and presbytery meetings; and the appointment of overture advocates: Rev. Jay McKell and Elder Diane Waddell.

Business Affairs Committee through the Council's Report provided the 2009 Budgets for their first readings. Budgets will be adopted at the September presbytery meeting.

The Presbytery will be facing some major repair and renovation expenses with the roof and brick walls of the Harold Thomas Center. There are also 1 or 2 presbytery guaranteed loans for congregations which may require financial assistance from the presbytery to keep the loans from going in default.

The Presbytery adjourned with prayer at 3:22 p.m. having completed their work until September 9, 2008, at the First Presbyterian Church of Olathe, Kansas.