

Heartland Presbytery Meeting Highlights November 11, 2008

The Presbytery gathered with prayer at the First Presbyterian Church of in Paola, Ks, under the leadership of Moderator Rev. Tamara Miller from the Linwood United Church in Kansas City, MO.

Beginning with worship, Rev. James Wilkins from St Paul church in Kansas City, MO, preached the morning's sermon on "**To Each is Given**" which highlighted the covenantal value "to affirm and give thanks for the variety of our gifts so that our common ministry maybe enriched by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:4-7). The presbytery was led in the celebration of the Lord's Supper by Rev. Davis Young, HR and his daughter Rev. Kimby Young (Associate Pastor, Grace Covenant). The presbytery's offering which benefited the Paola Area Church Action fund and the Osawatomie was \$1,050.00.

It was reported that a decision was rendered by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in the appeal of the Synod's PJC decision being brought by **Elder Robert Sundquist, First, Paola, KS; Rev. Mark Hawke, First, Olathe, KS; Rev. Elise Sharrett-Hawke, Member at large; Elders Di and Chuck Lupton, First Olathe, KS vs Heartland Presbytery.** The GAPJC sustained the decision of the Synod of Mid-America's PJC. The full decision and an interpretative letter from the committee of counsel are posted on the presbytery's website.

The presbytery paused at 10:55 a.m. to remember and honor our veterans on **Armistice Day.**

The presbytery approved some **new policies** including encouraging congregations not to accept gifts of **cemetery plots**; clarification of proper **representation on presbytery council**; clarification about which groups may ask for **display space at presbytery meetings**; clarification of how **ministers identify themselves in the media**; and a "**Covenant of Closure**" for pastors and churches as they part ways. The presbytery also approved the **2009 Minimum Effective Salary for Full Time Pastors** at \$35,560 plus benefits.

The presbytery commissioned **Elder Paul E. Moss** from Covenant, Kansas City, MO, as the temporary supply lay pastor at First, Kansas City, KS.

Presbyterian Children's Services, Presbyterian Manors and Heartland Presbyterian Center presented reports updating the presbytery on their missions and needs.

The presbytery also established an **administrative commission at the request of the Ruskin Heights session (KCMO)** to assist them in determining future mission in their location and possibly dissolving their congregation before next summer.

The Board of Trustees reported on several church loans in which they have been involved including **New Horizon, Odessa, MO; Leawood; and Kaw Prairie, Lenexa.** The presbytery approved a purchase of the New Horizon loan from Church Development Corporation for up to \$600,000; approved Leawood's purchase of the house and lot next door; and the necessary documents for Kaw Prairie to finalize their loan through the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

The Council reported that 27 churches have endorsed the **covenantal values** and more endorsements come in every week. At the February 2009 meeting of presbytery, these churches will be presented with framed certificates.

The presbytery also set the dates for the **2009 Meetings of Heartland Presbytery** and those are posted on the website.

The presbytery debated and subsequently approved a resolution to study the issue of **Immigrant Detention.**

The presbytery also elected many persons to our various committees, divisions and boards to serve in the Class of 2011. There are still places to serve and any active church member may nominate himself or herself to service. Nomination Forms are also posted on the presbytery website.

The **next meeting of presbytery** will be Saturday, February 21, 2009 in the Parkville Presbyterian Church beginning at 9:00 a.m. when Elder Jack Schrimsher will be installed as Moderator for 2009.