

## Heartland Presbytery Meeting Highlights February 21, 2009

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

Beginning with worship, Rev. Brian Ellison from the Parkville Church preached the morning's sermon on 1Thess.1:1-10 and the covenantal value: "Proclaim and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ to one another and the world in our worship, ministry & mission. The presbytery installed Elder Jack Schrimsher as Moderator for 2009. Reverend Tamara Miller was presented with the moderator's cross engraved with her year of service as Heartland Presbytery moderator. The presbytery's offering which benefited the Heartland Presbytery Candidates' Scholarship Fund was \$1,390.

The presbytery examined and commissioned two lay preachers. Elder Will Howard was commissioned to St. Matthew Presbyterian Church in Grandview, Missouri. Elder Eddie Tanon was commissioned to NorthEastminster Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. The presbytery transferred and welcomed Reverend Jay Collins from the Presbytery of Twin Cities. Rev. Collins is the newest chaplain at John Knox Village Hospice in Lee's Summit.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry received approval from the presbytery on their slightly amended "Seminary Guidance Statement." This document is available on our website under "CPM". Those inquirers and candidates currently under care will not be impacted by this guideline.

The Social Justice Ministries Division celebrated Linwood United Church and Village Church for re-committing to the Peacemaking Commitment. The Peanut Butter Project was introduced by Zachary and Rachel, two pre-med students from Grace Covenant church that had worked in Malawi and personally seen children's lives saved by simply having 245 grams of nutrient infused peanut butter daily. Each year, 10,000,000 children die from malnutrition in Malawi while \$15 can provide enough peanut butter to save the life of one child. Based in St. Louis, the Peanut Butter Project is expanding into Sierra Leone where the child mortality rate is a devastating 28%. For more information, see [www.projectpeanutbutter.org](http://www.projectpeanutbutter.org).

The presbytery was reminded that registration is open for two events hosted by the Social Justice Ministries Division and sub-committees. The Peacemaking Festival will be on Saturday, March 28 at Colonial Presbyterian Church (Kansas City, MO). Registration is now open for the next opportunity to visit Maya Quiche during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their presbytery in late July. Heartland Presbytery travelers will depart on July 24 and may return on July 28 or 31. Call Mindy Fox or David Cliburn in the presbytery office for more information.

The Social Justice Ministries Division also celebrated the ten organizations that received mission grants in 2008 and Reverend Ky Weekley reported on behalf of the most recent travelers to our sister Guatemalan presbytery Maya Quiche.

Reverend Tamara Miller, Moderator of the Presbytery Council, gave a summary of the Council's January meeting. The Council approved the Associate Executive Presbyter's job description. The Council approved display space for the Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Children's Services, Heartland Presbyterians Pro-Life and Church World Service/CROP Walk.

The presbytery on the council's recommendation approved the dissolution of the Taiwanese Fellowship which has joined Leawood Presbyterian Church and the sale of the First Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Kansas, facilities. The congregation is seeking relocation to a more manageable plant.

The Council also recognized the 76 sessions that have endorsed the presbytery's Covenantal Values by presenting a framed certificate commemorating the event. Many churches had representatives present but those churches who did not receive their endorsement certificates may pick them up at the presbytery office or the March 7 or April 28 meetings.

The next meeting of Heartland Presbytery is a called meeting to consider the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's amendments. That meeting will be Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at Colonial Presbyterian Church (Kansas City, MO) with business beginning at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served.

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church