

Highlights of the Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2011
Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA

We gathered in the Eastminster Presbyterian Church sanctuary for a time of worship and to celebrate the Lord's Supper. We remember two ministers and twenty-two elders in the presbytery who entered the church triumphant during the past year. Rev. Julie Ferguson and Rev. Pete Ullmann were worship leaders and Rev. Jack Waskey was our preacher. Kirkwood PC Music Director Heidi Hanz was the organist. We received an offering of \$783.50 for famine relief in Africa through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

Moderator Velma Tilley (Cartersville First) recognized those in attendance: 44 ministers, 50 elder commissioners and 23 visitors, for a total of 117. Rev. Tim McConnell brought greetings from the Eastminster congregation and session.

District Representative Clark Simmons brought greetings and news from the Board of Pensions of the PC(USA).

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator Rev. Fritz Bogar introduced Candidate Elizabeth Luangphakdy, who recently passed her final ordination exam and will move forward to final assessment. Presbytery approved the CPM recommendation and elected Rev. Carol Scott and Elder Teri Abercrombie (Trinity) as Southeast Region ordination readers from Cherokee Presbytery and Rev. Ron Stoker as Alternate.

Committee on Ministry Moderator Rev. Dave Grove announced that on October 6, 2011, the COM reviewed transfer requests for Rev. Bill Ford and Rev. Cido Araujo and approved their dismissal from Cherokee Presbytery to the Presbytery of the Southeast, Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Grove introduced Tara Bulger, Candidate under care of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, who has been examined by the COM for membership in Cherokee Presbytery. Following her faith statement and a time for questions, Tara Bulger was approved, pending her ordination on November 27, 2011, to receive a call from the Acworth PC session and congregation.

Rev. Grove introduced Rev. Blake Hudson, Minister Member of Mid-South Presbytery, who has been examined by the COM for membership in Cherokee Presbytery to receive a call from Eastminster PC as Associate Pastor effective December 5. Following his faith statement and a time for questions, Presbytery approved recommendation of his membership.

Rev. Grove introduced Rev. Cathy Meyer, Minister Member of Muskingum Presbytery, who now lives in the bounds of Cherokee Presbytery and serves as Chaplain of *At Peace Hospice Care* in Calhoun. Following her faith statement and examination by Presbytery, Rev. Meyer was approved as a member in Validated Ministry.

Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk Rev. Rebecca Blackwell presented awards to Rev. Fred Boozer, who has been serving as Moderator of Session for Acworth PC for three years, and to the leaders at Acworth PC, for rebuilding their financial health and regaining their strength.

Spiritual Development Team Moderator Rev. Pete Paulsen presented gift books to the three newest members received by Presbytery.

A report was given on behalf of the West Cobb Visioning Team by Elders Pat Alverson (Calvary), Freida St. Germain (Woodlawn) and Charles Allen (Southminster), presenting a 2012 timeline for movement to a new witness in south Cobb County.

Copies of a CD of Advent scripture reading in the Lectio Divina format was distributed by the Spiritual Development Team.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and reconvened in the Christian Life Center.

Nominating Committee Moderator Rev. Ted Smith made a report, calling attention to vacant slots which need filling. Presbytery approved and elected six members of committees, commissions and teams.

Parkway Administrative Commission Moderator Rev. Julie Ferguson presented and summarized the report of the Commission, indicating three tasks are pending that could possibly take three more weeks to complete: minutes of session turned over to Presbytery; bylaws and articles of incorporation amended and registered.

Ministry Support Team Moderator Rev. Maryellen Hittel and Treasurer Rev. O. Gregory Moore presented and reviewed Presbytery financial statements, including the 2012 proposed budget in the amount of \$720,480.30. Presbytery approved action of Heritage PC to seek a lower loan rate through Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program.

Presbytery affirmed the Moderator's appointment of a Committee to discern the viability of the Euharlee Presbyterian Church to continue its ministry, and for the Committee to become a Commission if needed.

Cherokee Retreat Center board of Directors Chair Nate Marini (Marietta First) presented and reviewed CRC year-to-date statistics. Request was made to add CRC to local church budgets.

Stated Clerk Rev. Rebecca Blackwell invited clerks of session, and others who wish to attend, to a workshop on December 3 at the Presbytery office to discuss changes in the Book of Order and to reshape the checklist for reviewing session minutes. In her role as Mission Coordinator, she presented a "Field Report" booklet which tells the connectional mission of Cherokee Presbytery with first-person stories from staff and team members.

Summerville PC Stated Supply Pastor Rev. Ken Terrell reviewed a request from the session to donate the Summerville PC building, which in need of extensive repair, to a non-denominational church in the Summerville area. Presbytery approved their request to donate and vacate the building by the end of the year and use the manse as their worship space.

Presbytery shared many celebrations and concerns and, led by Rev. Rebecca Blackwell, prayed with and for each other.

Presbytery acted on its vote earlier in the meeting to revisit the Gracious Dismissal Policy with open discussion. Following discussion, motion carried to refer the Policy back to the Coordinating Team.

The Consent Agenda with six action items was approved.

Motion to adjourn carried. The meeting was closed at 2:50 p.m. with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

The next Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery will be Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. The location has not been determined.

Full minutes of the meeting will be available at www.cherokeepresbytery.org.