

Highlights of the Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2009, Silver Creek Presbyterian Church

(Full minutes will be posted at www.CherokeePresbytery.org.)

The key word for the day was change. We came with anticipation of new things as we gathered on the beautiful grounds of the historic Silver Creek church. Even the weather followed the theme with a few changes.

The pre-presbytery, stewardship workshop on *Year 'Round Planning* was attended by 28 church leaders. Our hosts cooked and served an outdoor meal and provided for fellowship during registration.

Moderator Gary Pichon called us to order at 5:30 p.m. There were 45 minister commissioners, 55 elder commissioners and 69 visitors present.

The Stated Clerk's Report included an omnibus motion with 16 actions. A memorial was presented to minister member, the Reverend Paul Kapperman, who passed away on April 16, 2009. Reports of Divisions, Committees, and Commissions were received as information. The report of the Nominating Committee was received and presbytery elected 13 people to leadership positions for openings on the 7 Teams, 4 Committees, 3 Commissions, a Coordinating Team, and Retreat Ministries Board.

Fritz Bogar reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that candidates Clyde Bearrs and SherylLynn Frazier had been certified ready to receive a call, and that Clyde Bearrs, Paul Sherwood and Elizabeth Luangphakdy had received their M.Div. degrees. Presbytery approved the transfer of Eunsung Park to Eastern Korean Presbytery and Alcenir Oliveira was given permission to do ministry in the Presbytery of San Francisco.

Presbytery applauded the ministry of the Reverend Vance Nesbit, who has served as pastor of the Kirkwood church for 15 years, and granted him Honorably Retired status effective June 30, 2009.

Report was heard from Retreat Center Director Kelly Howington on 2009 cash flow projections and new leadership under a Board of Directors.

Communicator Dan Boles unveiled the newly designed presbytery website www.CherokeePresbytery.org, along with plans for its continued expansion and improvement.

Worship, blended throughout the meeting, was led by minister member Sid Gunter, who preached on *Pentecostal Possibilities*. Jerry Black was organist. Beverly Downing provided special music. We received an offering of \$869.56 for the Lindale/Silver Creek Ministerial Association.

Division chairs Jack Foley (Administration), Susan Reggin (Congregational Support), John Wells (Mission), Jean Strain (Nurture) and Cheryl Jenkins (Retreat Ministries) spoke of significant accomplishments under guidance of the Divisions. Beginning June 1, 2009, ministries will commence under a new structure.

Retreat Ministries Chair Cheryl Jenkins led the commissioning of 2009 Summer Camp staff members Julie Baue, Josh Bayerl, Jan Day, Andrew Errickson, Stephen Fearing, Andy Hendrix, Kelly Howington, Joseph Lowery, Karl Maassen, Kayla McCarthy, *Heather McConnell, Andrew McIntosh, Ian McKenzie, Carolyn Smith, Megan Smith, *Laura Southwell, and Jayne Woodward. (*Not present.)

Chair Ben Laughlin reviewed work of the Implementation Team, which resulted in the 296-page Ministry Manual. Included in the Manual are Bylaws and guidelines for work of the presbytery. Presbytery unanimously adopted the Bylaws and Ministry Manual effective June 1, 2009, rescinding all previous Bylaws, and approved minor editing by the Stated Clerk. The moderator dismissed with thanks Implementation Team members Erma Jones (John Knox), Rev. Ben Laughlin, Rev. Ken McKenzie, Gary Pichon (New Lebanon/Grace), and Coy Temples (Dalton First).

Interim General Presbyter Gail Neal charged the presbytery to see what might be the future of Cherokee Presbytery, and to make it happen. A banner on the Great Ends of the Church was presented to her as a gift, and presbytery stood to applaud her work in the presbytery since 2006.

Search Moderator Ken Terrell reviewed the work of the Committee and their choosing of a final candidate. Following her introduction, the Reverend Rebecca M. Blackwell spoke on what excites her about the possibilities of the future of Cherokee Presbytery. The motion was approved to receive her as a member. She was elected Mission Coordinator effective June 15, 2009, and Stated Clerk for a three-year renewable term effective June 15, 2009. Her terms of call were approved and the date of her installation was set for Saturday, July 25, 2009, during the stated meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

The moderator dismissed the Mission Coordinator Search Committee with thanks. The Committee consisted of Chuck Frew (Eastminster), Howard Frost (Calhoun First), Rev. Dave Grove, Rev. Maryellen Hittel, Todd Johnson (Cohutta), LaVert Jones (John Knox), Rev. Ken Terrell, Velma Tilley (Cartersville First), and Rev. Julia Wiley. Condolences were expressed for the family of Committee member Howard Frost, who passed away on May 14, 2009.

The meeting was closed with a Litany of Celebrating God's Providence and Grace and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Benediction at 8:45 p.m. Members of Scout Troop #81 guided safe exit from the parking area.

Future meetings will also involve change. There now will be six meetings each year instead of four. Two of them will be on Saturday, two on Tuesday morning, and two on Tuesday night.

We will gather again on Saturday July 25, 2009, 10:00 a.m., at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Marietta.