

**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO**

(The Mission Council encourages Clerks of Session to reproduce this summary for their sessions so they will be better informed of the work of the Presbytery.)

At its meeting on January 26, 2009, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve:

1. Opened with prayer by Moderator Ogie White.
2. Approved the Consent Agenda, which included information that the Board of Trustees elected Elder Hong Chae (Korean Central) as Vice-President of the Board and approved a \$15,000 grant from the Beckwith Trust Fund to Independence Church toward the costs of boiler replacements in the church and manse; elections of persons to committees; and a report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the actions taken including the continuation of Inquirer Robin Craig (Forest Hill) for another year following her annual consultation, requesting that the Presbytery of Maumee Valley examine and ordain Candidate Olive Mahabir (Northfield), certified Candidate David Jewel (Parma-South) as ready to receive a call, recommended that COM place CLP Trainee Bob DeWitt (Highland Sixth) on the Pulpit Supply list, and removed Nilka Huff (Calvary) from the roll of Inquirers.
3. Learned that the Personnel Committee selected Elder Laura VanDale (Lakewood) to be the Hunger Action Enabler for the Presbytery for one year. A portion of her salary is being funded by a grant from the General Assembly.
4. Elected the Rev. Jody LeFort as Associate Presbyter for Equipping Leaders and Stated Clerk, effective January 28, 2009.
5. Thanked the Rev. Tim Jones for his service as Acting Stated Clerk. The Rev. Jones (HR) will continue to be a member of this presbytery while he facilitates the Bylaws Task Force.
6. Received the following ministers into the membership of the Presbytery: The Reverends Barbara Barkley (St. Andrew's Co-Pastor), Mark Griggs (St. Andrew's Co-Pastor), and Floyd Rhodes (First, East Cleveland Stated Supply).
7. The following items were included in the written report of the COM:
 - ◆ Renewal of the appointment of the Rev. Dan Marvin as Stated Supply Pastor for Trinity Church, Beachwood.
 - ◆ Renewal of the appointment of the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant as Stated Supply Pastor for Bethany Church.
 - ◆ Renewal of the appointment of the Rev. Ed Diehl as Stated Supply Pastor for Pierpont Church.
 - ◆ The transfer of the Rev. Jeff Paschal to the Presbytery of Muskingum Valley.
 - ◆ Approval of the request of Candidate Olive Mahabir (Northfield) that the position of Stated Supply Pastor for Cadmus Presbyterian Church in Adrian, Michigan be considered an ordainable position.
 - ◆ Approval of the position description for a part-time Commission Lay Pastor or Stated Supply Pastor for the Wickliffe Church.
 - ◆ Approval of the position description for an Interim Pastor for First Church, Willoughby.

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8. Elected the Rev. Jim Butler as Moderator of the Personnel Committee for 2009 after waiving Standing Rule 5.4, which limits committee moderators to a 3-year term.
9. Listened to a presentation, "Biblical Authority: The Scriptures in Theology and Practice," by Professor Robert Gagnon of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The presentation focused on the issue of homosexuality and the church.
10. Was warmly welcomed to Fairmount Presbyterian Church by Pastor Louise Westfall, who offered grace before dinner. Fairmount Church has celebrated 93 years of ministry in its richly diverse community with outreach ministries that include the Heights Youth Club and a co-op nursery school.
11. After a delicious meal, the Presbytery participated in small group discussions on the Biblical presentation and a time of questions and answers.
12. Worshipped, with the Rev. Mark Juengel preaching, special music by the Fairmount bell choir, and the dedication of mission pledges from congregations.
13. Heard the following good news of the Presbytery from the Rev. Liza Hendricks, General Presbyter:
 - ◆ A group of people from Forest Hill Church will be going to Israel in February, despite the current conflict, to meet with Palestinian Christians and Jews.
 - ◆ New Lyme Church offers its manse to several AA groups whose members recently wrote to the Presbytery to say how much their lives have been blessed by the congregation's hospitality as they try to get their lives back together.
 - ◆ Elders were asked to stand and remember their call and how their congregations recognize in them gifts for Christ's service. Pastors were asked to stand also and everyone was reminded that they are children of God, disciples of Christ, and together are called and gifted for God's mission in these challenging times.
14. Approved the Mission Council recommendation to form a Special Administrative Review Committee to relate to the Session and various groups of the Glenville New Life Community Church as they discern requesting dismissal to the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
15. Approved the recommendation that an Administrative Commission be appointed for Calvary Presbyterian Church.
16. Postponed action to ratify the two ecumenical statements that would enter the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) into agreements with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America and the Moravian Church for covenant relationships.
17. Heard from Elder Dick Obermanns, Moderator of the Self-Development of People Committee, that this year is the 60th anniversary of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which was created to show the love of Jesus Christ in a hurting world and includes support for Self-Development of People projects. Congregations were encouraged to order and use promotional materials from the Office of the General Assembly.
18. Adjourned at 9:50 pm with prayer offered by the to serve God in Christ's love until the **special meeting on Monday, February 23, 2009 at Church of the Covenant** in Cleveland, Ohio. The next stated meeting will be on **Monday, March 23, 2009 at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church** in Avon Lake, Ohio.