

**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN  
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 November 23, 2009, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve:**

1. Held a pre-presbytery discussion on T. R. Reid's book, *The Healing of America*. Dr. Sheryl Buckley (Lakewood) facilitated the discussion.
2. Opened the stated meeting with a prayer written by Maya Angelou.
3. Received the Stated Clerk's report, which included information that the Rev. Clover Beal has agreed to serve as an ecumenical liaison to the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations; that Elder Doris Evans (Presbytery of the Western Reserve, First Presbyterian Church, East Cleveland) was elected Vice-Moderator of the Synod of the Covenant; and that membership of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, East Cleveland, will be the Presbytery of the Western Reserve until members of that closed congregation request letters of transfer to other congregations.
4. Received an overture from the Stated Clerk for a first reading: On amending 3.0109 of the Report of the Form of Government Task Force to allow more flexibility in the composition of committees.
5. Approved the Consent Agenda, which included the guaranty of the \$50,000 loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to the Orwell North Church for the construction of an elevator; the approval of the Committee on Representation Report; the report that the Committee on Preparation for Ministry granted permission for Candidate Linda Eastwood (Lyndhurst) to circulate her Personal Information Form; the report of the Committee on Session Records.
6. Received the third quarter treasurer's report from Elder Bob Baker (Covenant): Because a CPA now prepares the reports, the new format was explained. Bob reported that 2009 expenses are within projections through September 30<sup>th</sup>. If congregations fulfill their mission pledges, we should meet our budget.
7. Approved the 2010 budget in the amount of \$565,182 (2009 budget is \$566,339) including **per capita of \$21.29** (PWR = \$11.96; General Assembly = \$6.15; Synod = \$3.18).
8. Approved the funding of 14 mission partner programs for a total of \$53,000. Just Reach Ministry commended the following projects, which they did not fund, for individuals and congregations to consider supporting: Church of the Covenant, Saturday Tutoring Program; Cleveland Jobs with Justice, Campaign for Medicare Reform; Community Service Alliance, Touched by Health; Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Project Renewal; Inter Faith Hospitality Network – Homeless Family Support Project; and Puerta de Salvación, Immigrant Mission and Children's Church.
9. Elected Presbytery officers and committee members including: Elder Don Sinko (Parma-South), Moderator; the Rev. Missy Shiverick, Vice-Moderator; Elder Bob Baker (Covenant), Treasurer, and the Rev. Ogie White, Mission Council Moderator.
10. Elected the following people to be commissioners to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in July 2010: Elders Bob Baker (Covenant) and Susan Gillespie (PWR, First Church, East Cleveland); the Reverends Carol Duffy (MAL) and Harry Eberts (Lyndhurst); and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Emily Wollaeger (Forest Hill).
11. Was informed about Youth Triennium 2010 from Elder Bette Case (Lakewood), Triennium Registrar. This will take place July 20-24 at Purdue University. A deposit of \$75 must be received by January 15. Total cost is \$409. For more information contact Bette at (440) 716-9149 or [bbtcase@aol.com](mailto:bbtcase@aol.com) and visit [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).
12. Was warmly welcomed to Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian by its Pastor, the Rev. John Lentz. Earlier this year, the congregation participated in "The Big Give." Members received \$50 each to multiply by using their talents. The original \$15,000 that was distributed was returned along with additional funds of over \$14,000. The Abundant Acres program is a church garden with produce given to hunger programs. The Faith Leaders program has transformed the church by developing leaders through developing their faith. The Rev. Lentz offered grace before a delicious meal prepared by their member, Morag Keefe.
13. Received information about the Board of Pensions (BOP) from the Rev. Ernesto Badillo, Regional Representative. He thanked presbyters for their gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, half of which is used to support the BOP's Assistance Program. This program gives assistance to church workers going through difficult situations and offers seminary debt assistance grants to graduates who accept calls to small churches with low budgets. The BOP website is [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).

**November Summary**

14. Heard the good news of the Presbytery as reported by the Rev. Liza Hendricks, General Presbyter:
  - The Rev. Francis Miller and a member of Noble Road Church traveled to Liberia as part of a plan to support building a school there. Parma-South Church has raised some funds to assist this project.
  - The youth at Lakewood Church have been fund-raising for about a year and reached their goal of \$5,000 to gift a heifer ark through the Heifer Project.
  - John Knox Church had a day of mission. One of the crews went to First Church, East Cleveland, to help to sort through items and clean.
  - Rocky River Church held its first Alternative Christmas Bazaar and raised \$8,000 for 11 charities.
  - The Rev. Jon Fancher won his bid for a seat on the Rocky River School Board.
  - The denomination's Young Adult Volunteer in Service program got a boost from CNN, which interviewed one of the volunteers after his return from Kenya.
  - Members who have served on Presbytery committees and who have agreed to serve on committees were thanked for their service.
15. Learned from Elder Susan Vlcek (Medina) about the South Africa Mission Partnership. A flyer with details was distributed with the call.
16. Learned from Mission Council minutes that invitations have been accepted to host presbytery meetings in 2010 as follows:
  - January 25 at Independence in Independence
  - March 22 at Glenville New Life Community in Cleveland
  - May 24 at Breckenridge Village in Willoughby
  - July 26 at First Church in Elyria
  - September 27 at East Side in Ashtabula
  - November 22 at Parma-South in Parma Heights
17. Elected the following persons to the Committee on Nominations: Elder Lynn Bondurant (John Knox) as Moderator; the Reverends Dean Myers and Katie Rivera Torea; and Elder Ricky Havens (Lakewood).
18. Approved the formation of the Vital Congregations Network and suspend the work of Church Development and Redevelopment Ministry for a one year trial period.
19. Had a first reading of an overture from Church of the Covenant on amending G6.0106b replacing the current text with the following:
 

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.
20. Thanked Elder Judy Mitchell (St. Andrew's) for her three years of service as Presbytery Vice-Moderator and Moderator, and Mission Council Moderator. Ms. Mitchell thanked presbyters for their support and prayers.
21. Heard a report from the Administrative Commission for First Church, East Cleveland and celebrated the 202 years of ministry of the Church. The congregation's final worship service was on November 1, 2009.
22. Received the Rev. Sam Hobson into membership pending his transfer from the Presbytery of North Alabama. The Rev. Hobson is serving the Medina Church as Interim Pastor.
23. Received the written report of the Committee on Ministry which included
  - The dismissal of the Rev. Gary Burnett to the Presbytery of East Iowa
  - The appointment of the Rev. Bob Armstrong as Parish Associate at John Knox Church
  - The appointment of the Rev. Floyd Rhodes as a temporary supply pastor to serve Calvary Church
  - The placement of the Rev. Dean Myers and the Rev. Roger Perks on the Pulpit Supply List
  - The invitation of the Rev. Bill Lindeman to be Interim Pastor for Avon Lake Church.
24. Heard Elder Doris Evans and the Rev. Dan Marvin, Synod Commissioners, present a summary of the November Synod Assembly. Ms. Evans referred people to chapter 12 of the Form of Government to learn about what a synod is and to the Synod of the Covenant's website: [www.synodofthecovenant.org](http://www.synodofthecovenant.org).
25. Worshiped with the Rev. Ogie White preaching the sermon, "One New Humanity." Ms. Ann Wilson, organist, led the music. During worship, elders who died in the past year were remembered; the sacrament of the Lord's supper was celebrated; and the new moderator and vice-moderator were installed.
26. Adjourned at 9:50 pm with benediction offered by the Rev. Ogie White to serve God in Christ's love until the next stated **meeting on Monday, January 25, 2010 at Independence Presbyterian Church** in Independence, Ohio.