

**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
ASHTABULA, 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 September 28, 2009, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve:

1. Opened with a prayer from the book, "Prayers for the New Social Awakening."
2. Received the Stated Clerk's report, which included information that the final draft report of the Form of Government Task Force to the 219th General Assembly is available on Facebook as well as online at www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment.
3. Approved the Consent Agenda, which included the renewal of the Hunger Action Enabler Covenant that may provide the Presbytery a grant of up to \$5,000 for the hunger action portion of its ministry; the enrollment of Anthony Damelio as Inquirer for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament; approval of the requests of Candidate Kimberly Wagner to be ordained by the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia; and approval of the request of Candidate Jeff Binder to be ordained by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.
4. Accorded the Rev. Dick Seawright the status of Honorably Retired and honored his ministry with words of appreciation and a litany.
5. Approved a 1% increase in minimum terms of call for pastors for 2010, a 2% increase in the reimbursed professional expenses, and a corresponding 1% increase for pastors currently serving churches in the Presbytery. This results in a minimum income of \$40,541; study leave expenses of \$714; and mileage and miscellaneous professional expenses of \$3,978. With Board of Pensions dues, the minimum total package will be \$57,219. Clerks of Sessions will receive formal notification with details from the Stated Clerk's Office in October.
6. Received the Rev. Walfred "Wally" Scofield (UCC) into temporary membership while he serves as Interim Pastor for Trinity Church in Ashtabula.
7. Received the Rev. K. Dean Myers, Honorably Retired, into membership of the Presbytery.
8. Received the Rev. Kathryn "Katie" Rivera Torea into membership of the Presbytery with the status of Member-at-Large.
9. Approved the appointment of an Administrative Commission for First Church, East Cleveland. On September 13, the congregation voted to close the church with the final worship service to be on November 1, 2009.
10. Received the written report of the Committee on Ministry which included an Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Adrian Lynum as Pastor at St. Mark's Church on October 11 at 11:30 am; the addition of the Rev. Arvid Whitmore to the Pulpit Supply List; and approvals of interim pastor position descriptions for the Medina and Avon Lake Churches.
11. Heard that the Just Reach Ministry is organizing two workshops on the topic of health care reform, the 2009 Matthew 25 focus. More information will follow in the Presbytery's e-announcements. Rick Stein, Moderator of the Just Reach Ministry, reported that on the evenings of October 14, 20 and 27, Lakewood Presbyterian Church will host discussions on health care reform and asked congregations to inform him of any events they might have planned on this topic.
12. Learned about the Young Presbyterian Scholars Program at Westminster College in Pennsylvania. Congregations may recommend one student per year to receive a 4-year scholarship of \$16,000 per year.
13. Heard that registration for the Clergy and CLP Retreat continues through October 1. The Retreat will be at River's Edge from 2:00 pm on Thursday, October 15 through 2:00 pm on Friday, October 16. The theme is "Spiritual Gifts to Maximize Our Ministry."
14. Was warmly welcomed to First Presbyterian Church, Ashtabula by its Pastor, the Rev. Stephen Long. The congregation is the 4th oldest in the Presbytery having been chartered in 1821. It has a rich history of helping people in need including helping runaway slaves get on ships to Canada through the Underground Railroad in the 1800's. Current outreach

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includes a ministry to the mentally challenged; housing volunteers for the local Habitat for Humanity; providing food and funds to the local battered women's shelter and food pantry; and a tutoring program. Their youth participate in mission trips with the Ashtabula Cluster of Presbyterian Churches.

15. After a delicious meal, worshiped with the Rev. Sandy Seaton-Todd preaching the sermon, "Why Is It So Hard?" Ms. Lyn Rocco was the organist.
16. Heard the good news of the Presbytery as reported by the Rev. Liza Hendricks, General Presbyter:
 - Highland Sixth, Glenville New Life, and Christ Presbyterian Churches partnered in holding a 9-11 memorial worship service.
 - The Lyndhurst Church has started a tutoring program. So far, 90 children and 20 tutors have signed up to participate.
 - Pioneer Church had a moving youth service led by those who participated in this summer's Youth Triennium. One of their youth, Brittney Shook, was featured in *Presbyterians Today* as a 'youth to know.'
 - Four of the Presbytery's Candidates have been ordained in 2009 with two more to be ordained in the coming months.
 - The Rev. Ken Jones is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination on October 5.
 - Laurie Steidel was recognized for 20 years of service on the Presbytery Staff.
 - The Rev. Rick Gillespie-Mobley apologized for an article in *The Layman* about Glenville New Life Community Church. He said that the church was portrayed incorrectly. Their desire is to build up the body of Christ. Rick asked for forgiveness if anyone was hurt by the article.
17. Heard a request from Derry Stauffer, Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), that when someone hears that a person is considering pursuing Ministry of the Word and Sacrament, they should contact the CPM as soon as possible in order that the process begins according to policy.
18. After examination, enrolled Logan Skelly (Fairmount) as a Candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.
19. After examination, enrolled Terra Winston (Fairmount) as a Candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.
20. Heard from Gina Hansen (Parma-South) and Margie Coffey (St. Andrew's) about their mission trip with the South Africa Mission Partnership.
21. Received a report of the Administrative Commission for Calvary Church from the Rev. Robin Schreiber and Elder Walter Glenn (Glenville). Concerns of the church are the same as for other urban churches. The commission is considering if the congregation can be viable outside of its current building. Elder Sharol Cremeans (Faith, Lakewood), Moderator of the Commission, was not able to be present due to the deaths of her aunt and younger brother. The Presbytery was asked to keep Sharol and her family in prayer.
22. Learned from Elder Judy Mitchell, Moderator of the Mission Council, that a hearing on the proposed Presbytery Bylaws and Manual of Operations was held on August 31st at Fairmount Church and further revisions have been made. Ms. Mitchell explained that the purpose of the bylaws is to define who we are. The purpose of the manual is to define how we will do our tasks.
23. Heard that the Committee on Nominations has submitted a draft of a policy for electing commissioners to General Assembly and the Synod. The Mission Council will review the draft at its October meeting.
24. Received the proposed 2010 budget for a first reading with a comparison of per capita in the presbyteries of the Synod of the Covenant. Western Reserve has the lowest at \$11.96 and Scioto Valley (Central and South-Central Ohio including Columbus) has the highest at \$24.09. 2010 per capita for the General Assembly is \$6.15 and for the Synod is \$3.18. If the Presbytery's proposed per capita is approved with the budget in November, the **total per capita for Western Reserve members in 2010 would be \$21.29.**
25. Adjourned at 9:10 pm with prayer offered by the Rev. Rick Gillespie-Mobley to serve God in Christ's love until the next stated **meeting on Monday, November 23, 2009 at Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian** in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.