

The Cincinnati Presbytery's "E-TEAM"

annual report to the Presbytery Sept 14, 2010

The 'E-Team' was approved as the Cincinnati Presbytery's Evangelism Network by the Cincinnati Presbytery Council on Wednesday, February 24th, 2010.

A number of evangelical pastors and lay people of the presbytery had met regularly since April of 2000 as an affinity group whose purpose was "to be supportive of one another as we respond to Christ's upward call on our lives." This included prayer and sharing of resources. We tended to not be issues-oriented, but to be informed so that we could respond individually or congregationally to issues, as led.

As the Presbytery Transformation Process and Networks evolved, it made sense to formally declare that the group was "a coalition of clergy and laity committed to developing and providing resources to equip the Cincinnati Presbytery and the Tri-State area to more perfectly fulfill the Great Ends of the Church — *Book of Order* (G-1.0200): the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world."

FIRST SUCCESSFUL EQUIPPING EVENT

The E-Team and the Miami Valley Presbytery's Evangelism Network worked together to plan and implement a major evangelism equipping event for the Tri-State area. On Saturday, March 13, 2010, the *21st Century Evangelism Event* was held at Lebanon OH Presbyterian Church, which provided easy access to attendees from both presbyteries.



The keynote speaker was Rev Dr Steve Hayner, the new President of Columbia Seminary. Steve has been on the cutting edge of 21st Century Evangelism training as a former President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and as Evangelism Professor at Columbia Seminary. Steve's focus was on

being church, not doing church.

Designed as 'not your father's style of Evangelism,' the advertising featured our mascot, Albert, and a novel play on words: $e=mc^2$ Einstein's equation was basic

to releasing the power of the atom. This evangelism event **NEW $e=(mc)^2$** was designed to provide exciting resources to mend and mobilize Christ's church — to release the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus



Christ. The Leaders of the 12 workshops were excellent national and regional resources who addressed real challenges, real problems, real needs, with real passion & energy and put 'practical shoes' on evangelism.

SUMMARY Through the support of Equipping Ministries Int'l, registration was online, by phone and by mail. E-advertising was key. 211 attended the all day event. They were from 60 different churches. A majority of the attendee's churches were PCUSA. However, Baptist, Catholic, Nazarene, Evangelical PC, Evangelical Free, Non-Denominational, United Methodist, and several Vineyard churches also participated. Registration fees (\$15/20) fully offset the \$4500 cost. The event's Resource Center sold more than \$1000 of books/CDs and other materials to facilitate further equipping.

SAME TIME NEXT YEAR? Steve Hayner developed credibility and spoke with humor and candor about evangelism...why 'old-style' evangelism doesn't work. During the final session, Steve asked attendees to stand if they would be interested in attending a similar evangelism event next year? Then he asked, "Would you bring others with you?" The response was overwhelmingly positive. People left wanting more.

RESERVE SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

A joint planning team from the Cincinnati and Miami Valley Presbyteries will begin planning the E-event August 25th. Steve Hayner eagerly agreed to return as keynote. Crestview PC will host the event the last weekend before March Madness. Mark your calendars and invite others!

NEW E-OP...RON RAND's F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Training

Dr Rand has offered the E-Team 'in church' training in *relational evangelism* for three churches in the Cincinnati Presbytery. Watch for details of how your church can be involved. For more than 30 years, Ron had done evangelism equipping, nationally and internationally.

Questions/Comments? Sharlyn 'Sam' Stare, E-Team Convenor: 513.542.2442, starecvg@aol.com