

Your Presbytery Link

The Presbytery of Cincinnati met on January 8, 2005
at Grace Community Presbyterian Church.

DURING THE MEETING, WE

Shared joys and concerns in prayer.

Noted and/or approved changes in calls.

Gary Brose from Presbytery of Muskingum to member at-large

Jan Dykstra to Interim Associate Pastor, Wyoming Church

Paul Hammer from Pastor, Mt. Washington Church to Honorably Retired

Santana Krishnan to Pastor Emeritus, Third Church

John Muntz to Interim Pastor, Mt. Washington Church

Bill Westmoreland from Stated Supply, Williamsburg Church to member at-large

Commissioned Lew Wittman as Commissioned Lay Pastor to Red Oak Church.

Celebrated the ministry of Jim Graham upon his honorable retirement.

Spent time "Equipping Ourselves for Transformation." Consultant Ann Philbrick compared traditional and missional congregations/presbyteries, explained organizational life-cycles, and summarized generational differences. We then broke into small groups to discuss these issues before re-gathering to hear about the importance of spiritual and relational vitality in congregations, presbytery and leaders. It was recommended that, for a presbytery to be transformational, its staff divide its time: 30% on management, 15% on pastoral care, 20% as trainer/delegator/supporter, 5% as embodiment of the tradition, and 30% on transformational leadership

Worshipped. Glenn Baaten's sermon was based on the gospel account of story of the magi and 1 Corinthians 13; it focused on the four gifts of peace, unity, purity, and love. We celebrated the Lord's Supper. The offering was designated to a hunger ministry supported by Springdale Church and to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, which hopes to raise \$2.5 million for tsunami relief.

Received an invitation to join the Peace, Unity and Purity Society (PUPS). The group of theologically diverse members of the presbytery and its congregations meets regularly for study, dialog and relationship building.

Adopted the presbytery's Shared Practical Vision and Strategic Directions for the next five years. They grew out of 1) input from focus groups, presbytery committees and a survey of elders serving on sessions and 2) analysis of the input by Presbytery Council and committee representatives at two day-long meetings and by small groups at two presbytery meetings.

Approved the position description for the presbytery's General Presbyter and set the job's minimum salary/housing at \$60,000. The position is currently vacant, and a search committee is working to identify the person(s) to fill it.

Heard that the Presbytery Council has appointed the following to the Outdoor Education Task Force: Gordon Dennis (Wyoming), Beth McHenry (Heritage), Mona Morrow (Carmel), and Stephanie Saffer (St. John's Westminster). One more member is yet to be named.

Elected Bill Westmoreland (at-large), Barbara Tesorero (at-large), Mike Mullin (designated pastor, Bethel Murdoch), and Rose Che (Kennedy Heights) to the Nominating Committee.

Voted YES to amendments that the 216th General Assembly (2004) recommended be made to the *Book of Order*:

04-A: On Amending G-7.0306 to allow an elder who has served on the Committee on Ministry to moderate a congregational meeting under certain circumstances.

04-B: On Amending G-9.0503a(2) to allow presbyteries to 1) recognize leaders of immigrant fellowships with roots in the Reformed tradition as elders and 2) grant designated leader(s) of immigrant fellowships voice and vote in presbytery meetings.

04-C: On Amending G-14.0515d to clarify under what circumstances a parish associate's relationship to a congregation ends.

The full text of proposed amendments is posted at www.pcusa.org/oga/amendments. If a majority of the presbyteries vote in the affirmative, changes will be made to the next edition of the *Book of Order*.

Encouraged participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Approved a recommendation from the Board of Trustees to use a bequest of \$125,000 from the Jean Webb estate to pay off the 5th/3rd loan of approximately \$118,369.44 for Grace Community Church. Any remaining monies from the payoff will be deposited to the Trustee Extension Fund.

Authorized the celebration of the Lord's Supper at Presbytery Youth Connection events in 2005.

Noted that information about this year's camping scholarships is posted on the presbytery's website: www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 5 and Sunday, February 6	
FINDING FAITH A PYC Senior High Winter Retreat	
Register by January 19	

Feb 15 – DISTURBANCE OF THE SOLID GROUND. An Equipping the Saints Seminar. Led by the Rev. Thomas Troeger. At First Presbyterian Church in Middletown, 8:30am-4pm. Registration required. Contact Tom Oxley, 937-258-8118 or tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org

Mar 4-5 – DESERT FLOODS: Where is the REAL in Reality? Synod Youth Symposium. To reserve a space on the presbytery's chartered bus, contact Stephanie Saffer, 513-398-7671 or saffer102@aol.com by Feb 18.

For more information, about any of the above, contact the presbytery office: 513-221-4850; 1-888-221-4238; mail@presbyteryofcincinnati.org

-- Janis Alling Adams, Stated Clerk