

# Y our Presbytery L ink

The Presbytery of Cincinnati met at Covenant-First Presbyterian Church on March 9, 2004. Here is a *summary* of what we did.

Shared joys and concerns in prayer.

Approved requests from churches to apply for loans:

Wyoming Church plans to upgrade their rental property.

Cherry Fork Church plans to purchase property for a parking lot.

Heard an update from Presbytery Council and the General Presbyter Search Committee. Council has hired the Rev. Ann Philbrick to serve as consultant to the entire presbytery as we undergo a thorough process to discern what God is calling the presbytery to be and do. The Search Committee will also be working with Ann.

Heard updates from Minner Serovy concerning the Board of Pensions and the many services it provides. For more info, she encourages folks to visit the board's website: [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).

Examined and moved Greg Boettner (Mt. Washington) from Inquirer to Candidate as he prepares to become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Greg will be serving as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate from McCormick Seminary to this year's General Assembly.

Examined and approved Markus Watson (a Candidate under care of the Presbytery of San Gabriel) for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Also approved the call for him to serve as Associate Pastor of Union Church.

Approved changes in ministerial relationships:

The Rev. Edwin Dykstra to Interim Pastor, Sycamore Church

The Rev. Ronald Lukat from Pastor, Batavia Church to Pastor, First Church in Alexander City, AL

The Rev. C. Patrick Hartsock from Pastor, College Hill Church to Pastor, Central Church in Downingtown, PA.

Authorized Commissioned Lay Pastors to perform additional functions:

Elder Lynne Wells to serve as Moderator of Session of Bond Hill Church

Elder Sandra Fox to serve as Moderator of Session of Eastminster Church

Elder Vicki Abend (Presbyterian Campus Ministry) to administer the Lord's Supper and perform a service of Christian marriage with the prior approval of the Campus Ministry Board.

Voted on proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*:

YES – Clarifying Involuntary Dissolutions – On Amending G-9.0505b

YES – Expanding the Category of "In Correspondence" – On Amending G-15.0201

YES – Obtaining a Stay of Enforcement – On Amending G-15.0201

NO – Administrative Leave in Cases Alleging Sexual Misconduct Towards a Minor – On Adding Section D-10.0106

YES – Granting an Extension of Time for an Investigating Committee to File Charges When Civil Authorities Become Involved – On Amending D-10.0401a

The entire text of these proposed amendments and the Churchwide vote tally is posted at [www.pcusa.org/oga/amendments.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/oga/amendments.htm)

Modified the charge to the Grace Community Administrative Commission by returning the responsibility for personnel matters to the Session. The commission will retain responsibility for the management of property through the sale of the site of the former Hopkinsville Church.

Dismissed Administrative Commissions that  
Installed the Rev. James Brazell as Pastor, Sharonville  
Worked with Crestview Church during times of difficulty.

Heard an overview of the ministry of Winton Hills Community Church in 2003 and a glimpse of their plans for 2004.

Elected alternate commissioners to this year's General Assembly who will serve as commissioners in 2006:

Elder Christine Harrison (Carmel)  
The Rev. Robert Keefer (Pastor, Pleasant Ridge)  
Elder Tren Meyer (Wyoming)  
The Rev. Russell Smith (Pastor, Covenant-First)

Elected Morgan Moore (Heritage) as a Youth Advisory Delegate to this year's Assembly.

Were reminded that the Small Church Committee still has grant money for small churches to purchase or upgrade computer equipment.

Were informed about the campus ministry activities at the University of Cincinnati.

Redressed the minister/elder imbalance and the racial ethnic imbalance by requesting that the following churches send an additional commissioner to presbytery meetings: Blue Ash, Indian Hill, and Union to balance ministerial staff; Bond Hill, Carmel, Kennedy Heights, Korean, Third, West Cincinnati, and Winton Hills Community to redress racial ethnic imbalance.

## Upcoming Events – details are posted at [www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org](http://www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org)

Mar 12: Maryville College Choir at Venice Church  
Mar 13 & 14: MUSE Choir at Mt. Auburn Church  
Mar 14: St. John Passion Play at Pleasant Ridge Church  
Mar 16: "Protecting the Children and Those Who Protect Them" at Lakeside Church  
Mar 19 & 20: Emerging Worship Workshop at Mt. Washington Church  
Mar 20 & 27: Justice for Women Lenten Series at presbytery office  
Mar 21: Open House featuring Building Expansion at Wyoming Church  
Apr 3: Jr. High Event "Overcoming Obstacles" at Mt. Washington Church  
Apr 18: Brass Fellowship Concert at Mt. Auburn Church  
Apr 23-24: Presbyterian Men Gathering. At Long Beach, CA  
Apr 26: Presbyterian Missionary from Malawi at Pleasant Ridge Church  
May 8: Conflict in the Middle East. Former GA Moderator Fahed Abu-Akel at Northminster Church  
May 22-23: "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." Marcus Borg at Knox Church  
Jun 18-20: Presbyterian Women Synod Spirituality Retreat at Deer Creek Resort, Mt. Sterling, OH