

Your Presbytery Link

The Presbytery of Cincinnati met at Loveland Presbyterian Church on May 11, 2004. Here is a *summary* of what we did.

Shared joys and concerns in prayer.

Approved changes in calls:

Ed Dykstra from Interim Pastor, Sycamore to Interim Pastor, Mt. Auburn

Larry Kent (Lake Huron Presbytery) to Pastor, Sycamore

Bruce Archibald from Pastor, Glendale First to Honorable Retirement

Richard Fouse (Grand Canyon Presbytery) to Member at-large

Gary Califf from Member at-large to Pastor, First in Dubois, PA

Appointed Charles Jones (CLP, Bantam) as Moderator of Bantam's Session.

Celebrated the ministry of Bruce Archibald upon his Honorable Retirement.

Examined and approved Amy Merrill Willis (Seventh) for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. She has been called to a tenure-track position at Gonzaga University where she will teach Old Testament.

Elected Michelle James (Associate Pastor, Mt. Washington) to the General Presbyter Search Committee, Tim McQuade (Pastor, Loveland) to the Committee on Ministry, Venetia Springs (Winton Hills) to the Ethnic Church Affairs Committee, and Santana Krishnan (HR) as Commissioner At-large to the Synod of the Covenant.

Encouraged one another to participate in the Pentecost Offering, a PCUSA special offering for children at risk, the Young Adult Volunteer program, and youth & young adult ministry. The session of each participating congregation determines how 40% of the collection is to be used; 60% is forwarded for use in General Assembly programs.

Worshipped as Barbara Jean Havens (CLP, Cherry Fork) and Lynne Wells (CLP, Bond Hill) shared reflections on Romans 12 and God's call to congregations. The offering was collected for hunger ministries designated by Mt. Auburn and by St. John's Westminster.

Commissioned people for service at the 216th (2004) General Assembly:

Commissioners

Ruth Dunn (Stated Supply, Sardinia First)

William Lewis (Elder, Sharonville)

Rebecca Lindsay (Elder, Community of Faith)

Martha Sexton (HR)

Youth Advisory Delegate Morgan Moore (Member, Heritage)
Alternate Commissioners

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

Received an invitation and encouragement from Ed DeLair (Miami
Presbytery) to use the camp and conference facilities of Kirkmont Center
near Logan, OH.

Heard an update on the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel. It is still accepting
applications for scholarships to help children and youth attend PCUSA
camps and conferences this summer. Application forms are posted in the
"Document Center" at www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org

Approved requests from Northminster and Carmel to apply for loans in order
to renovate their facilities.

Encouraged one another to learn more about and participate in PCUSA
worldwide mission.

Welcomed Ann Philbrick, a consultant who is assisting the presbytery
through a thorough process of discerning God's will for our life together. Ann
reminded us that, over time, human organizations (including presbyteries and
congregations) tend to drift from their purpose and instead focus on
maintaining programs, facilities, and staff. The Presbytery Council and
General Presbyter Search Committee recognize that it is time for the
presbytery to take some time to take a long, hard look at our purpose. The
data-gathering portion of the effort will include focus groups, session member
surveys, and congregational surveys. Please encourage your session to
schedule a congregational survey. In addition to providing information for the
presbytery, the results can be used by a local church as a tool in its own
discernment process.

Renewed Yvette Dalton's contract to serve as Associate General Presbyter
for two years.

Dismissed the commission that installed Markus Watson as Union's
Associate Pastor.

Endorsed Gregory Boettner (Member, Mt. Washington) as a Theological
Student Advisory Delegate to this year's General Assembly.

Removed Judith McBride (Chaplain, Hospice at Children's Hospital) from the
presbytery's rolls of ministers of the Word and Sacrament. She has been

accepted into membership of Community Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends.

Noted recent developments in PCUSA judicial matters:

The Madeira-Silverwood Session has filed a remedial complaint
against the presbytery concerning the Wildwood Endowment Fund. The
session's Counsel and the presbytery's Committee of Counsel are in
conversation, hoping to settle the matter before it goes to trial.

The Synod of the Covenant's Permanent Judicial Commission has
ordered that the decision of the Presbytery of Cincinnati's PJC [in finding that
Stephen Van Kuiken had committed an offense by performing marriage
ceremonies for same-sex couples] is reversed and the rebuke of him is
removed. The Prosecuting Committee has filed a notice of appeal of the
synod's decision. The full text of the Synod PJC decision is posted at
www.synodofthecovenant.org.

Judicial developments after the presbytery meeting.

*On May 11, 2004, Stephen Van Kuiken renounced jurisdiction of the
Presbyterian Church (USA). And so, in accordance with D-3.0106, the
General Assembly Permanent Judicial dismissed the appeal of the synod's
decision. If he had not renounced jurisdiction, the GAPJC would have heard
the appeal.*

Presbytery Youth Council

is accepting applications for membership!
Contact the presbytery office for more information.
Phone: 513-221-4850 or 1-888-221-4238
Email: mail@presbyteryofcincinnati.org