

MINUTES OF NORTHEAST PRESBYTERY, ARPC
Spring STATED MEETING – March 1 – 2, 2007
Presbyterian Church of the Atonement, Silver Spring, Maryland

The Stated Spring meeting of **Northeast Presbytery, ARPC** was held on March 1 and 2, 2007 at the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement, 10613 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, Rev. Curtis Young, Pastor and Rev. Fred S. Carr, Associate Pastor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007 – SESSION ONE

Members and friends of the **Presbytery** began gathering in Rankin Hall at 3:30 PM for registration, securing documentation, fellowship, refreshments and general acclimation to the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement.

The Moderator of the **Presbytery**, the Rev. David Johnston, called the **Presbytery** to order at 4:15 PM to begin the first session of the meeting. The Moderator welcomed all those who were present and announced the anticipated late arrival off additional friends and presbyters.

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer, in which he petitioned for GOD's blessings and guidance upon this meeting of the **Presbytery** and also remembered the special needs of Ron and Jean Bell, and also for traveling mercies on those still on their way to the meeting.

The Principal Clerk, the Rev. GJ Gerard, announced changes to the Docket and encouraged everyone to pick up all the reports that have been set out. Everyone was encouraged to sign the Registration roll.

The Rev. Curt Young welcomed the **Presbytery**. He introduced Wes Robinson as an Elder Delegate from Church of the Atonement. Curt provided several logistical announcements (bathrooms, snacks, copy provisions, etc.).

The Rev. Bill Sutherland, of Credentials, announced his Team's report was on the literature table and should be secured by all delegates.

The Clerk declared a quorum was present (see Appendix A).

It was Moved, Seconded and Carried (M/S/C) to grant the Rev. Ed Brogan of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel the opportunity to address the Presbytery on Friday and for him to be granted the privilege of the floor.

The Rev. James Wittke announced that the Rev. Alan Avera, Executive Director of Outreach North America will address the **Presbytery** during the Outreach Northeast Team report.

It was M/S/C to approve the amended Docket (ie., Moving “Business” from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM, and placing the Worship Service at 7:30 PM, with refreshments and fellowship to follow the Worship Service (see Appendix B).

It was M/S/C to Recess to a Season of Sharing and Prayer – led by Rev. David Johnston, in the absence of Rev. Kent Moorlach, Spiritual Life Director.

The **Presbytery** shared personal and mutual concerns and spent over an hour in corporate intercessory prayer, and the singing of hymns and the sharing of scripture verses.

At 5:45 the **Order of the Day** was called and the **Presbytery** transitioned to a time of food and fellowship at area restaurants.

EVENING BUSINESS SESSION

The **Presbytery** reconvened at 7 PM and was led in prayer offered by the Moderator.

The Moderator recognized the attendance of additional Presbyters as well as several guests who were all duly introduced.

Announcements were made by the Clerk and the Moderator regarding logistical concerns and also the schedule to be followed for this brief business session.

The Moderator introduced the Rev. H. Paul Matthews as his Vice-Moderator, and the Rev. Kent Moorlach whom he has appointed to serve as the Spiritual Life Director for this meeting of **Presbytery**.

The Moderator appointed Student of Theology Nathan Carlson to serve as the Reading Clerk.

The Moderator appointed Ruling Elder Wayne Greenwood and the Rev. Peter Kemeney to serve as his Resolutions Committee.

Minutes from Lifeline, Faith of Olney, New Windsor, and the Presbyterian Church of Atonement will be read. The Moderator appointed the Rev.’s Kent Moorlach and Fred Carr to serve as his Committee to Review Session Minutes with Student of Theology Rick Anderson to also serve if necessary.

The Rev. Kent Moorlach, Director of Communications reminded the **Presbytery** there is a Xanga account which can be accessed for **Northeast Presbytery**. The Rev. Fred Carr will provide information on how to access and enroll on the Xanga website to the Clerk and this information will be placed in the minutes.

PRINCIPAL CLERK REPORT

It was M/S/C to approve the minutes of October, 2006 as distributed, with the correction that Ruling Elder Van Watts was present, representing the Communion Presbyterian Church.

Correspondence Received: The Clerk reminded all presbyters of the critical need to keep all personal data information up to date with the ARP Center and to provide current E-Mail, telephone number and mailing addresses to the Clerk and to the ARP Center. It has been announced that Mr. Paul Bell will become the new Director of the ARP Center in July, upon the retirement of Mr. Ed Hogan who has served for over 33 years.

It was agreed by consensus to defer action on the second reading and voting on the proposed *Form of Government* amendments until Old Business on Friday afternoon.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report of the Principal Clerk.

REPORTS OF ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION TO ORGANIZE THE GOOD NEWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. James Wittke, Chairman of the Commission to Organize the Good News Presbyterian Church of Frederick, MD, reported the Church was duly organized on December 3, 2007, with the Rev. Peter Kemeney installed as Pastor and the election and installation of three Ruling Elders. A Report has been given to the Clerk for the Minutes (see Appendix C).

The Principal Clerk, on behalf of the ARP Synod, presented the “Set of Five” History Books to the Rev. Peter Kemeney and Ruling Elder Steve Manning, who served for many years on the Provisional Session of the Good News Church. Ecclesiastical Commissions

It was M/S/C to receive the Report and to discharge the Commission with the thanksgiving of the **Presbytery** for its fine work in fulfilling its responsibilities in a timely manner.

COMMISSION FOR KINGSBOROUGH CHURCH PROPERTY

The Rev. GJ Gerard, Chairman, deferred to Elder Mike Ritchie who is providing current oversight regarding the property and maintaining contact with attorney who has been given the responsibility to secure the transfer of the property title to the **Presbytery**. Elder Ritchie reported there has been significant progress made with the proper filing of requisite papers with the Fulton County Court. The Commission is awaiting a response from the Court at this time. All bills (property and liability insurance, boiler inspection fees, etc.) have been paid by Elder Tom Cambron, who is serving as Treasurer pro-tem for the financial assets of the Kingsborough Church. The Living Hope congregation continues to use the property and pay all operational costs as it has since November, 2003. (see Appendix D for additional information.)

It was M/S/C to receive the Report.

The **Order of the Day** was called, and the Presbytery recessed to the Evening Worship Service. It was announced there would be No business conducted after the Worship Service, however Teams and Committees may meet as called by the respective Chairmen.

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The **Presbytery** gathered in the sanctuary of the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement for Worship. The Rev. Curt Young led the Worship Service with Student of Theology Rick Anderson preaching. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed with Elders from the PCOTA assisting the Rev. Curt Young.

The Worship Service was closed with prayer by the Rev. Curt Young and Curt Young (see Appendix E for Worship Bulletin).

Following the Worship Service the **Presbytery** enjoyed fellowship and rest for the evening.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2007 – SESSION TWO

Members and friends of the **Presbytery** re-gathered in Rankin Hall on Friday morning at 8 AM for fellowship and refreshments

The Moderator called the **Presbytery** to order at 8:45 AM and introduced the Rev. Kent Moorlach, Spiritual Life Director for this meeting of the **Presbytery**. The Rev. Kent Moorlach led the **Presbytery** in a season of Praise and Thanksgiving, giving special attention to the work and witness of the congregations of the **Presbytery**, and remembering specific needs at this time.

The Moderator called the **Presbytery** to reconvene for business at 9:35 AM. The **Presbytery** reconvened with prayer offered by Vice-Moderator Paul Matthews.

The Moderator welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made to new arrivals.

Logistical announcements were made by the Principal Clerk. Student of Theology Rick Anderson was asked to read Session minutes.

ADDRESS BY THE REV. ED BROGAN

The Rev. Ed Brogan, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Council Chaplains and Military Personnel was introduced. The Rev. Brogan addressed the **Presbytery** and provided information regarding current needs and opportunities for chaplaincies with the Armed Forces of the United States (see Appendix F). The Rev. Alan Avera led the **Presbytery** in prayer, remembering the needs of the PCCMP and all ARP Chaplains.

ADDRESS BY THE MODERATOR

The Moderator addressed the **Presbytery** and emphasized the need for effective communications (see Appendix G). What are we doing to help our churches flourish? Our Presbytery is small and scattered over a large area. We need to improve communications. Use current technology – E-Mail and teleconferencing. Web Services. Prayer Time on a monthly basis. Network. Let us use current technology as “glue” to keep the **Presbytery** bonded together.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report and to amend future Dockets to include a time for a Moderator's Report at the beginning of the Friday business session.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Reading Clerk Nathan Carlson read the Report of the Executive Committee (see Appendix H). It was M/S/C to receive the Report. It was recommended not to use SOT's as an abbreviation for Students of Theology. The correct spelling of Elder Javad Pishghadamian was also noted.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY TREASURER

The Rev. Paul Matthews, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee presented the Report of the Treasurer. The Chairman spoke about the need to keep a \$20,000 reserve in the current expense budget to provide for any emergencies. It was moved and seconded to receive the Report. Discussion: It was suggested to place a portion of the reserves in a savings account, and to transition to the line item budget. These matters will be considered by the Stewardship Committee. The Report was approved as printed and distributed (see Appendix I).

REPORTS OF PRESBYTERY LIAISONS

WORLD WITNESS

No Report. A written report will be requested for the minutes (see Appendix J). The Rev. Curt Young asked that an Address by Nairy O. be given later in the meeting.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Rev. Robert Whittet, Liaison, provided an oral report on changes at the Synod's Office on Christian Education. Rev. Brent Turner is the new Director. Rev. Greg Hamer is the new Events Director/Coordinator. Rev. Whittet spoke on the need for local church resources to be shared with the Synod Office, as well as the opportunity to secure resources for local use. The current resources are being updated and new indexes will be issued. Request to share resources from the local congregations. Send to Synod for placement in the Synod Lending Library. Youth camps coming soon. C.E.M. will be "de-centralizing" and "going on the road" with resources. Encouraged participation in the Appalachian Outreach Ministries by church youth. Advertising. Spring Break. Work with C.E.M. to sponsor youth/family camp in the Northeast... perhaps with Virginia Presbytery.

Vivian Foster and R. Whittet spoke about a conference in October for leadership to be held at the Kirkridge Church. For youth leadership training. Saturday, the 13th of October. Sponsored by Kirkridge but C.E.M. will be asked to support and publicize.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report of the Christian Education Liaison.

The Moderator announced a ten-minute refreshment break.

The Moderator called the **Presbytery** to order to continue to conduct business at 10:45 AM

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rev. H. Paul Matthews, Chairman, reported on reduced financial commitments to the **Presbytery** by Piney Creek and New Windsor are not philosophical but simply in facing present financial realities.

The Chairman reminded the **Presbytery** that with the adoption of the Line-Item Budget, reimbursements for expenses should be directed to the Treasurer with information copies sent to the Stewardship Committee. Teams and Committees and Officers should notify the Stewardship Committee of anticipated needs for 2008 by September, 2007 so a 2008 Line-Item Budget can be presented at the Fall meeting of the **Presbytery**.

It was M/S to approve the 2006/2007 line item budget (see October 2006 minutes, page D-6) be adopted as the 2007 calendar year budget. The Treasurer will transition his tri-annual reports over to the Line Item Budget categories. The Motion carried..

It was M/S/C to authorize the Stewardship Committee to place the majority of reserve funds in an interest bearing, "funds immediately available" savings account.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report of the Stewardship Committee.

WORLD WITNESS

The Rev. Curt Young reported that Ruth Bonilla of World Witness was at Atonement to conduct a short-term missions seminar in late February.

Rev. Young introduced Miss Nairy O. who is serving as a cooperative missionary with World Witness with the Turkey Team. Miss O. Provided an update on Turkey. She served many years as a campus minister with IVCF and is now working with the Brunsons, Mebergs, and others in Turkey under auspices of World Witness. This June will be six years since planting a church in Izmir and starting a university ministry. There are about 8 evangelical churches, with less than 500 believers in a city of four million. The Internet Café ministry is presently closed due to government persecution. New avenues of outreach being sought. Miss O. distributed prayer card calendars and encouraged the **Presbytery** to be active in supporting the work of World Witness and the mission team in Turkey. The Rev. Curt Young led the **Presbytery** in prayer with special attention to these needs.

TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Rev. Ron Pritts reported the Trustees are working the Ecclesiastical Commission on Kingsborough Property and providing input as needed.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Rev. GJ Gerard, Chairman reported for Nominations Committee (see Appendix K). It was M/S/C to lay the Report on the Table to be considered immediately after the lunch recess. \

REPORTS OF MINISTRY TEAMS

Outreach Northeast Team

The Rev. Jim Wittke, Chairman reported for the Team (see Appendix L).

It was Moved to adopt recommendation #1. Second and Carried.

Rev. Dr. Lee reported for the Global Vision ARP Church in Flushing, NY. Starting a house church. Planning “step by step” approach. Try to speak to 3 to 5 people each day. Bible studies in the morning. Having studies at home. Looking for location for worship outside of the church. A friend who has built a new church has donated pews, grand piano and pulpit furniture which is presently in storage. Praying for people to establish church. The Moderator led in prayer for the work in New York City amongst the Korean people.

Rev. Kent Moorlach reported for the Communion Presbyterian Church, Anaheim, CA. Progressing well. Battles and blessings. Enthusiastic but sometimes overextended. Many duties to take care of. Come and visit. Concern on how to get the Word out in Irvine which is the “centerpiece” of Orange County. Renting an un-occupied elementary school which is fully available. Provisional Session is considering a second staff person to help in the work. An invitation to all to come and visit. Irvine is multi-cultural and Communion wants to become more multi-cultural. Peter Kemeny led the Presbytery in prayer for Kent and wife and family and the Communion Church. Contact Kent at kmoorlach@communionpres.org

An E-Mail Report was received from Rev. Clyde Reed for the Good News Presbyterian Church, Gilbert, AZ. Attendance in the 30's, beginning to consider securing a church planter. This need will be communicated to ONA (see Appendix M).

Rev. Wittke spoke on the current situation at the Faith Presbyterian Church, ARPC, Scranton, PA, and the particular needs of the Rev. Dr. Bell and his wife.

Recommendation #2 - Read by J. Wittke. It was Moved/Seconded. Discussion. Amended so \$10K should be considered as a diaconal matter and funding will be from the general fund and not from the church plant fund. The recognition of the need for the Pastoral Support team for Pastor Bell was affirmed. The motion carried.

Recommendation #3 – Moved by Committee. Discussion. The Motion carried.

Recommendation #4 – It was M/S/C to grant the Rev. Alan Avera to address the Presbytery.

It was M/S to adopt report.

Rev. Carr asked for opportunity to speak on Iranian Congregation of Washington, DC.

The **Order of the Day** was called for a lunch break. The Moderator led in prayer asking for GOD's blessing upon the food and fellowship and to sustain the **Presbytery** physically, mentally and spiritually. The **Presbytery** recessed for food and fellowship.

The **Presbytery** reconvened at 1:30 PM and led in prayer by the Moderator

The Report of the ONE Team was resumed.

The Rev. Fred Carr reported on the status of the Iranian Congregation of Washington DC. Progress is being made for leadership and also progress to become an organized congregation. Leadership concerns will be addressed by the Pastoral Support Team.

Rev. Gerard reported on inquiries from Korean churches wanting to affiliate with First Presbytery, even though they are predominantly located in the NYC area. Hopefully, a meeting with interested persons may be held in late April, early May to determine a future course of action. Rev. Gerard will be meeting with the Korean Division in the coming week(s) to arrange this meeting.

Rev. Alan Avera, Director of Outreach North America, addressed the Presbytery on the work and future goals of ONA. Rev. Avera emphasized the use of the “Christianity Explored” program for effective evangelism outreach by local churches. Week 3 is “Why Jesus Came” which very effectively, openly, boldly and Biblically focuses on the “sin” question. “C.E.” is a Reformed alternative to the Alpha program. The presbyteries in Virginia, North and South Carolina are working together for a new church networking program. It is very important to get people working together in church planting rather than maintaining an individualistic approach.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report of the ONE Team as a whole.

Credentials Team

The Rev. William Sutherland, Chairman, presented the Report of the Credentials Team (see Appendix M).

Rev. Sutherland reviewed the several topics contained in the Report. There were no items requiring action by the **Presbytery**.

Rev. Sutherland invited comments from the presbyters regarding licensure requirements and procedures as well as the need and focus and place of multiple sermons by Students of Theology.

The need for increased coordination with Pastoral Support (for Students of Theology) and with ONE (for churches desiring to affiliate with their installed pastors) was stressed as being important to prevent misunderstandings and “things falling through the cracks!”

It was M/S/C to receive the Report.

Pastoral Support Team

The Rev. Fred Carr presented the Report of the Pastoral Support Team (see Appendix N).

Students of Theology Nathan Carlson and Rick Anderson presented oral reports on their seminary studies and preparation for the Gospel Ministry.

Rev. Carr presented a report regarding the funding of Nathan Carlson's studies at Biblical Seminary. No action is needed by the **Presbytery**.

Rev. Carr presented a report to the Executive Committee regarding Javan Pishghadamian and his status of being ordained by the Presbyterian Church of Iran (North American Presbytery) as a ordained minister. Potentially he would be able to transfer to NEP as an ordained minister.

It was M/S to receive the Report for information. Discussion. Mr. P. would have to meet with the Credentials Team to determine if he meets the requirements of the *Form of Government*. The motion was amended to ask the Inter-Church Relations Committee of the General Synod to determine the relationship of the Iranian Presbyterian Church and the ARPC, and if there isn't one, to determine if there should be one, and to so pursue this action.

The **Presbytery** recessed from business and was led in prayer by Rev. Curt Young for a young man (M.P.) who came to the door of the church (M.P.) believing to be demon possessed, and with his girl friend, for his deliverance and for both to be kept free from the influences of Satan, but for M.P. and his girlfriend to come to Jesus, and receive Him as Saviour and Lord.

The **Presbytery** returned to the Pastoral Support Team report.

Additional discussion on the motion concerning the status of Javan Pishghadamian and his eligibility to be received as an ordained minister to serve as the Pastor of the Iranian Congregation of Washington DC (mission church). The Motion carried.

Rev. Carr presented the Team's Recommendation to establish a **Presbytery** supported Scholarship Fund (see Appendix N). The Recommendation was moved and seconded. It was M/S/C to table action on the Recommendation until the June meeting of the **Presbytery**.

Rev. Ron Pritts reported he has accepted the call to the Faith Bible Church (independent Presbyterian) in Brick, NJ. He went on the field in December 2006. It is a small congregation (20-25) but has potential for an encouraging future. The **Presbytery** reaffirmed its permission to Rev. Pritts to labour out of bounds as pastor of the Faith Bible Church.

The Team reported ministerial reports were received from Rev. GJ Gerard and Rev. Milad Doss.

It was reported that the Rev. William Forsyth has gone to his eternal reward in late February, with the Rev. John Hoeprich attending the memorial service as a representative of **Northeast Presbytery**. Rev. C.B. Foster and Elder Steve Manning have been asked to prepare a Memorial Tribute for Rev. Forsyth to be placed in the 2007 Minutes of General Synod.

Rev. Carr distributed condolences cards for presbyters to sign, to be sent to Mrs. Isabel Forsyth, and also for Rev. Jeff Seeger, whose father recently died in an automobile accident in Florida.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report of the Pastoral Support Team as a whole.

Rev. Moorlach led in prayer on behalf of Ron Pritts and his work in New Jersey.

Congregational Life Team

Leadership for the Congregational Life Team is needed (see Nominations Committee Report).

It was reported that the annual approval of Rev. Ryung Chun to serve as Stated Supply for the Holy Grace Church and for Rev. David Johnston to serve as Stated Supply for the Lifeline Fellowship Church, was given at the Fall meeting of the **Presbytery**.

A Report on New Windsor ARP Church was given by Ruling Elder Lou Schillinger (see Appendix O).

It was M/S to approve Recommendation #1 of the Committee. The **Presbytery** discussed the Recommendation and the Motion was carried.

It was M/S/C to approve Recommendation #2 of the Committee.

It was M/S/C to approve Recommendation #3 of the Committee.

It was M/S/C to engage in Prayer with Thanksgiving to GOD and commitment to continued intercession for New Windsor. The **Presbytery** was led in prayer by the Rev. Fred Carr and other presbyters.

It was M/S/C to receive the Report of the Congregational Life Team.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The **Presbytery** considered the Report of the Nominations Committee.

It was M/S/C to elect the persons so nominated for the positions of Treasurer, and membership of Teams and Committees as given in the Amended Report (see Appendix K).

It was M/S/C to elect the Moderator, the Rev. David Johnston, to serve another year as Moderator of the **Presbytery**, with his term expiring on June 30, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

It was M/S/C to accept as a First Reading the 13 Proposed Amendments to the MOP to be acted upon at the June Meeting (Sess Appendix P).

SECOND READING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The **Presbytery** considered the proposed amendments to the *Form of Government*. A second reading of each proposed amendment was made, followed by discussion and a standing vote. (see Appendix S, Minutes of October 2006).

The results of voting for each proposed amendment are:

Amendment #45 5 yes 10 no 0 abstentions

Amendment #46 15 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

Amendment #47 15 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

Amendment #48 15 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

Amendment #49 15 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

It was M/S/C to instruct the Clerk to forward the vote totals to the Principal Clerk of General Synod.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT ON PROPOSED DIRECTORY OF WORSHIP

The Rev. Curt Young distributed a collation of comments on the Proposed Directory of Worship he has received from five Sessions. Additional comments will be added and sent to the Synod within the week. There is a need to send additional comments to Rev. Young within the week to be added. A copy of the comments will be placed in the minutes (see Appendix Q).

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT

No Report received. A written report will be requested and placed in the Minutes (see Appendix R).

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

It was M/S/C to accept the Invitation of the Kirkridge ARP Church, Manchester, MD to host the Fall meeting (to be held in October) of the **Presbytery**.

REPORTS OF MODERATOR'S COMMITTEES

REVIEW OF SESSION MINUTES COMMITTEE

Rev. Fred Carr reported the minutes of Faith, Olney, MD, New Windsor, and Lifeline were read and recommended for approval (see Appendix S). It was M/S/C to adopt the Report of the Committee. The *Manual of Procedure, Appendix A*, needs to be followed. Several Sessions need to bring their minutes to the Fall meeting for approval.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Elder Wayne Greenwood reported for the Resolutions Committee (see Appendix T). It was M/S/C to adopt the Report of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved to adjourn at 4:50 PM. The motion was seconded and carried. The **Presbytery** stood to sing Psalm 133 and to be dismissed with prayer, led by Moderator David Johnston, who concluded with the pronouncement of the Apostolic Benediction.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Rev. GJ Gerard
Principal Clerk

Rev. David Johnston
Moderator