

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Presbytery in Brief

April 28, 2009

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC) met on April 28, 2009, at the Montreat Conference Center in Upper Anderson Auditorium. The meeting was opened with a prayer of John Calvin (in honor of his 500th anniversary) by Moderator Luke Harkey. Pete Peery, President of the Montreat Conference Center, gave a gracious welcome to all. The Moderator appointed a standing committee for a resolution of thanks. A quorum was declared, and the docket approved as presented.

The Omnibus Motion was passed without exception. Robert Garrison of the Presbytery staff was congratulated as this day was his birthday. The Stated Clerk, James Aydelotte, then gave his report, which was approved. The Bethel Administrative Commission was discharged with thanks to all “for a task well accomplished.” Four recommendations from the Duncan’s Creek Administrative Commission were also approved, placing that congregation under the pastoral care of Bart and Betty Shaw.

The Stated Clerk also reported that all the amendments from the 2008 General Assembly have passed with a majority of the Presbyteries except 08-B, regarding the ordination of officers. There will, therefore, be no change in the *Book of Order* G-6.0106.b.

The Presbytery was led in worship by R. Jackson Sadler, liturgist, with John McCall preaching, and Margaret C. Neale accompanying. John shared in his sermon some of his experiences as a missionary in Taiwan regarding “The Christ the World Sees.” Members of the Montreat and Black Mountain Churches were the Communion Servers.

On recommendation of the Coordinating Council, Becky Stanley was elected a Synod Commissioner, and Sue Burton thanked for her previous service in that role. Gratitude was expressed to the Synod for a grant of \$45,000 to assist with the defense of the PC (U.S.A.) Constitution.

The Nominating Committee recommended 17 names to fill existing vacancies, which were approved. A Search Committee to seek a replacement for the Stated Clerk, whose term will be ending in July 2009, was elected: Mary V. Atkinson, Patricia Clark, Pat Green, Ike Kennerly, Calvin Lewers, Don Scofield (chair), and Otis Wilson.

Becky Stanley spoke eloquently regarding the need for evangelism. She highlighted the *Acts 16:5 Initiative* and reminded presbyters that another one-day (compressed) seminar with Stan Ott is scheduled for May 8.

On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Michael Poulos introduced Timothy David Ware, a student now enrolled as a student at Union/PSCE Charlotte. He was approved as a Candidate for Ministry. Bill Lowe presented the charge, using Paul’s words to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:2-5). A prayer was offered by his pastor, Nancy Mugford of Shiloh.

Doug Michael spoke of PWNC’s partnership with two Presbyteries in Guatemala. Pastors and Sessions in Guatemala are promoting health care, as are the local health care workers.

Ron Vinson, new leader of the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, invited all to visit the new exhibits.

Allen Huff, of the Mission Committee, led Presbytery’s commissioning of two of the team members to Malawi: Grace Boyer from the PWNC office and Tommy Burleson (neither David Meecham nor representatives from the Korean church were able to be present).

Arthur Burgess gave a report on the current state of Presbytery’s finances, noting a decrease in contributions. He also shared a good report from the auditors.

Presbytery heard good reports from the Hunger Committee. (“Souper Bowl” raised funds which were matched and matched again to produce an amount that can feed many hungry people) and the Committee on Self-Development of People (Thanks were given for the *One Great Hour of Sharing* contributions).

Grace Boyer led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession before recess for lunch, after which Past Moderator Bill Kantonen presided as Luke Harkey had to attend a funeral in his parish. The Presbytery gladly heard three church stories of *good news*: Morrison's, Wendell Ligon, Arbor Dale's, Tee Gatewood, and Unity's, Carol Clark.

Lamar Williamson led a Bible Study on Luke 24:13-35, John 10:11-18, and John 15:1-8, reminding the attendees that Easter continues until Pentecost! His study included consideration of art work by Rembrandt, sculpture by Walker, and drawings by other artists, including church school students.

General Presbyter Bobbi White presented a report emphasizing the upcoming one-day seminar on the *Acts 16:5 Initiative* (May 8). She encouraged churches to look at the present and value it, and then to move on to do more. Those churches which commit to the three-year Acts Initiative program are to come together on September 12.

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry, James Bernhardt introduced the concept of Auxiliary Lay Pastors (former Commissioned Lay Pastors with five years experience), which was approved. Franklin Jones was recommended to be the Designated Pastor (2 years) at Brittain and Union Mills Churches (in the Rutherfordton Larger Parish). Franklin presented a short sermon on Luke 15. Afterwards, he was approved for ordination and installation. Bobbi White presented Franklin with a stole made in Guatemala, symbolizing the yoke of Christ.

Chairman Bernhardt next asked Presbytery to participate in the commissioning of two Lay Pastors: Bill P. Wuehrmann to be a chaplain at the Hospice of Carolina Foothills in Columbus, NC, and Betty Shaw to Duncan's Creek and Ryburn Memorial Churches. Both were approved and commissioned by Presbytery to their respective assignments.

COM introduced two new ministers: Lee Bowman, as pastor of Highlands Church from Transylvania Presbytery, and David Stover, as honorably retired from Providence Presbytery, who will serve as Stated Supply at the Canton Church.

COM approved the requests for Honorable Retirement from William H. Serjak, effective June 30, 2009, who has been pastor of the Sylva congregation for 35 years; and for David L. Morgan, effective April 1, 2009, as co-pastor of the New Hope Church; and for Jim Cockerham, effective January 1, 2009. All three were commended for their many years of faithful ministry.

The COM also recommended the validation of the ministries of Carol Steele as Associate Director, Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Montreat Conference Center; Lynn Michie as Chaplain, Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women; Donaldson Woods as missionary to Mongolia; and Albert G. Peery, Jr. (Pete) as President, Montreat Conference Center. On motion, Presbytery approved all of them.

On behalf of the Youth Committee, Aimee Buchanan shared current "in" phrases used by teens, as well as programs planned for them in the coming summer months.

Mae Weed and Julie Lehman shared information about activities at Warren Wilson College and a brochure was included in the PWNC packet regarding Campus Ministry at the various schools in PWNC.

Stated Clerk James Aydelotte reported that total attendance for this meeting was 268, including 131 ministers, 86 elders, 6 Certified Christian Educators, 7 committee chairs, and 38 visitors.

A Resolution of Thanks from Calvin Chesnutt and Linda Ligon closed the meeting. Calvin expressed appreciation for the use of the Montreat Conference Center and Linda offered a prayer of thanks for God's presence and guidance in the deliberations.

Moderator Bill Kantonen declared the meeting adjourned after a prayer by Franklin Jones.

Submitted by,
Carolyn (Cardy) White
for the Communications Committee