

PRESBYTERY IN REVIEW

SEVENTY-SEVENTY STATED MEETING ~ FEBRUARY 19, 2011 ~ FOREST HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbytery of the James held its 77th Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2011, at Forest Hill Church, Richmond, VA. The meeting was co-hosted with Eastminster and Crestwood Churches. The meeting was a productive and interesting meeting; the accommodations were more than adequate, and the hospitality was superb from the three hosting congregations (hosting a presbytery meeting with a neighboring congregation is a good way to share the joy!).

We installed Rev. Janet James as the 2011 Moderator, and we commissioned Ruth Brown, member of Ginter Park Church, as a mission co-worker to the Congo. We also welcomed the following ministers into the presbytery:

Rev. William Charles, Honorably Retired, from Abingdon Presbytery

Rev. Pattie Sewell, Honorably Retired, from Peaks Presbytery

Rev. Igmaria Sanchez Prunier, Chaplain with Bon Secours Health System

Rev. Mary Jane Winter, Interim Pastor, Rockfish Church, from Eastern Virginia Presbytery.

We also heard Gina Maio, POJ candidate, preach a sermon for ordination and be examined to become Minister of Word and Sacrament. She was approved for ordination and will be Head of School of the Church Hill Academy.

There were some struggles in adopting the docket due to the proposed process of considering the New Form of Government amendment to the Book of Order. In the end, Rev. Dan Williams, member of the nFOG General Assembly Committee, made a 15 minute presentation about the proposal. We had 24 minutes of debate and then voted by written ballot answering in the negative for the proposal: 130 yes; 140 no; 4 abstentions.

Several ministers and elders lodged a formal protest of the action of the presbytery which will be recorded in the minutes of the presbytery.

We were privileged to have Dr. Sam Adams, Union Presbyterian Seminary, lead us in a Bible study during morning prayers about discipleship in preparation for the Lenten Season. Also, we had an inspiring presentation by Mark Hare, missionary to Haiti, concerning the hope that exists in Haiti and for the world as we work together in God's Kingdom.

In addition, the following actions were taken by the presbytery:

Approval of the October, 2010, Presbytery minutes.

Approval of an exception for Rosewood Church not to rotate elders for the year 2011 as they consider the size of their Session.

Approval of the balancing of commissioners for 2011.

Approval that Rev. Richard Lindsey become Honorably Retired, April 1, 2011.

Approval of the following ministers to become Members at Large:

Rev. Fernando Cascante, January 1, 2011

Rev. Carol Fisher, January 16, 2011

Rev. Gay Lee Einstein, January 3, 2011

Heard a report from the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Search Committee and voted to approve their recommendation of re-electing Rev. Carson Rhyne (me!) as General Presbyter for an additional six year term and with a desire to work toward the total compensation package reaching \$135,000 by the end of the term. Mr. Rhyne was elected as Stated Clerk for a three year term in accord with the Presbytery Manual.

Elected the following persons to serve as region representatives on various committees.

Elder Gerry Nixon, Crestwood, Regions E, 2013, Committee on Ministry

Elder George Walker, New Hanover, Member at Large 2012, CPM.

Elder L Ron Inlow, Gayton Kirk, Region C, 2011, Leadership Connections Team

Elder Martha Martin, Providence Forge, Region E, 2013, Mission & Service Team

Elder Bonnie Snyder, Hartwood, Region B, 2012 Leadership Team

Changed the Presbytery Manual to ensure the Communication and Coordination membership was in accord with the By-Laws of the Trustees as that is one of their functions.

Changed the Presbytery Manual to define the functions of the three teams: Communication and Coordination, Leadership Connections, and Mission and Service.

Approved the 2011 Presbytery budget with instructions for the Budget Committee to reconsider two areas: (1) New Church Development staff person; and (2) Haiti Purpose Group funding.

*Respectfully submitted, H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.
Stated Clerk*