

## **Report of the Face to Face Event April 9<sup>th</sup> in Heartland Presbytery**

It was a great joy to celebrate a first time Face to Face event at First Presbyterian of Osawatimie on behalf of Heartland Presbytery. The goal of this event was at least two fold. We hoped to provide support for churches that are pursuing pastoral leadership and redevelopment of their ministry. Additionally, we hoped to make Heartland Presbytery a deliberate stop for candidates seeking calls to Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

In our first time effort, we hosted three candidates and four churches that registered. The churches were diverse throughout Heartland Presbytery. The candidates came from Western Kansas, Central Missouri and one candidate, for whom we provided a scholarship, came from Arizona. This was a day full of one hour interviews. In two additional time slots, churches were able to have a "Presbytery conversation" with our Executive Presbyter and our Presbytery's Moderator Elect, Ms. Bev Barr as well as a "Redevelopment Conversation" with myself and our Information and Technology director, Lisa Hastings. Candidates were able to have conversation with the Executive and Moderator Elect over lunch.

While we are not certain about any matches, the benefits of the event are already quite obvious to us. Just to name a few . . .

1. Some churches were able to sit down in face to face interviews for the first time because it was cost effective to do so.
2. Some churches who did not know where to start in their redevelopment efforts had the opportunity to practice having discussions and interviews with candidates.
3. The candidates met with very distinct churches and were perhaps challenged by the various stages of life in which these churches find themselves.
4. The Presbytery was able to grow in its knowledge of and relationship with each church.

Currently, we are reviewing the feedback of the participants and modifying for our next Face to Face event scheduled for Fall of 2010. We engaged some of the vocational directors at Louisville, Dubuque and Austin seminaries and will expand those conversations in preparation for the fall event.

If you have questions or general interest in this event, I would be glad to speak with you.

Faithfully,

Rev. Leslie King