

04/13/2010

Report to Heartland Presbytery from the AAEP

I have now been serving as AAEP for nearly 3 years. This has been a very beneficial time of service for me, and I hope, also, for Heartland Presbytery. Since the AEP Nominating Committee is presenting a candidate at the April 20th meeting, my time is now very short in this position. I want to give a summary of the work I have done these past three years.

One of my favorite duties has been visiting churches and representing Christ and Heartland Presbytery. I have especially enjoyed preaching on Sunday mornings. I have preached at 31 churches (some more than once), since being AAEP, and have made Sunday visits to 24 other churches for morning worship or an installation. I have met at 31 other churches for various meetings and occasions, for a total of 86 different churches and fellowships visited (again some more than once). I believe this contact with churches is vital to the health of the Presbytery, and I am glad I was able to get around as much as I did.

I have served as support staff for five different divisions of Council: Congregational Development & Redevelopment, Congregational Ministries Division, Presbyterian Urban Ministry Network, Mission & Social Justice, and Worship & Fellowship. MSJ has three sub-committees that I resource, Earthkeepers, Peacemaking, and the Maya Quiche Guatemala Partnership (I went with the team to Guatemala twice). Most of these committees and sub-committees generally meet monthly. W&F currently meets five times a year, a week or two before Council meets.

Other duties included attending the following meetings when possible: HP staff meetings, HP Council, COM, Resource Center Board Meetings, PLACE, Interim Pastors, Associate Pastors, Juntos en Christo, serving with the Sudanese AC, serving with the Westminster ARC, helping start up the Arabic Presbyterian Fellowship, resourcing churches, and various other meetings such as with Cherith Brook, the new Synod Exec, immigration justice groups, some hospital visitation, and other drop-by visitors.

Each division and committee has different expectations of the AAEP. I have endeavored to adapt to them and to be a positive influence and an encouragement at all of these. As I have become more experienced I believe that I provided continuity for the committees as moderators and personnel change.

It has been a blessing for me to serve as AAEP. I deeply appreciate the support and encouragement of all with whom I have worked and served. I am especially thankful for the Heartland Presbytery staff and all the support they give. I will long remember my work and experiences with you.

My ending date is now set for May 23rd. Many have asked about my future plans. As of this writing I can honestly say that only the Lord knows. I do not have a position as of yet to go to. I believe the Lord will guide me and provide when the time is right. I do hope to serve in Heartland Presbytery and look forward to filling many of your pulpits as supply on Sunday mornings.

I do not plan to attend any Presbytery committee meetings for the remainder of 2010 after May 23rd to allow the new AEP to acclimate to the position. I am willing to serve in 2011 on a committee or division if nominated.

May God bless and guide each of you and the Presbytery as a whole. I urge all to seek to serve the Lord in unity and peace with glad hearts and devoted minds. Let us work together to provide a witness for Jesus Christ to the world.

Grace and Peace,
David Cliburn
Acting Associate Executive Presbyter