

## Heartland Presbytery Meeting Highlights November 17, 2007

The Presbytery gathered with prayer at the Brookdale Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, MO, under the leadership of Moderator Elder Sunok Pai from the Korean United Presbyterian Church in Merriam, KS.

Rev. Renee Meyer, pastor of the New Horizon Presbyterian Church in Odessa, Missouri delivered the morning's sermon which reminded us of the importance of being thankful for the bad things that happen to us as well as the good things that happen to us and those we love.

The Presbytery examined Sandra J. Stogsdill, a candidate under care of Heartland Presbytery for ordination. After a thorough examination in the area of bible, theology, polity, the sacraments and her sense of call, the presbytery gave a prayer of thanksgiving her call to ministry and asked God's blessings on her ministry as associate pastor at First, Lee's Summit, MO.

The presbytery celebrated the Rev. Clay Cook's honorable retirement as pastor of the John Knox Kirk in Kansas City, MO. Speakers included Rev. Leslie King, Rev. Bill Killam, Rev. Gene Timmons and Elder Ann Wedeman from the Kirk. Rev. Cook has served in two pastorates during his ministry. The Kirk was his second call and he is leaving after 32 years.

The Presbytery welcomed three ministers on transfer: Rev. Carol VanSchenkof, Rev. Larry Wheeler and Rev. John Swisher. Each minister was examined on the floor of presbytery.

Reports were heard from Presbyterian Women, the Church Resource Center, Stewardship and Mission Interpretation and the Executive Presbyter. The Communicators' Network now has 43 churches participating and every church should have a member designated as their "presbytery communicator". Please provide your communicator's name to the presbytery office by December 1.

The Presbytery elected Elder Jack Schrimsher from the Parkville Presbyterian Church as Presbytery Moderator Elect for 2008 and Presbytery Moderator in 2009. Rev. Tamara Miller had been previously elected as Presbytery Moderator in 2008.

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The deadline for Elder and Minister Commissioners was extended to November 30. Those applications are available at the presbytery's website [www.heartlandpby.org](http://www.heartlandpby.org).

The Mission Outreach and Social Justice Division presented two reports of great interest. Lisa Martin, Community Liaison from the Metropolitan Organization to Combat Sexual Assault (MOCSA) educated the presbytery on the prevalence of this crime against men and women in Greater Kansas City and St. Joseph. They have many free resources to congregations and their members in need from emergency response to courtroom advocates. The YWCA provides the same services to residents in and around St. Joseph.

The second report from the Mission Outreach and Social Justice Division was an overture to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to end the war in Iraq. The final version of that overture is below:

“Call upon individual Presbyterians, member congregations, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) at all levels urgently to raise its voice for peace.

Reaffirm the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's call for the church to express its pastoral concern for and offer pastoral care to members of the United States armed forces serving their country in the war in Iraq and their families as well as for veterans of the war who have returned home.

Direct the various mission program agencies engaged in relief efforts in Iraq to continue and expand the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s commitment, in cooperation with our ecumenical partners, to ministries that address human needs in Iraq caused by the war and long-term development efforts to assist in the rebuilding of the country.

Call upon the United States government to develop and implement a lasting peaceful and reaffirms the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's call for the United States government to engage with the international community through the United Nations and other international agencies to cooperate with the government of Iraq in providing security, peacekeeping forces, and funding for the rebuilding of the country.

Direct the Presbyterian Church (USA), through its Washington Office and all other means available, to advocate with the United States government a plan for a lasting peace and for engagement with the international community to support the government of Iraq, providing resources for peacekeeping and long-term development needs.”

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