

Some Reports and Actions Taken at the January 15, 2008, Council Meeting

Justice and Reconciliation: Rev. Hrachovec presented a proposed outline for the February 12th presbytery meeting, as compiled by the J & R committee. It follows:

- A. Morning: four Bible study groups would meet simultaneously for up to 45 minutes. Leaders would be members of the J & R committee. The studies would be on peace or justice issues as these engage present-day Christians. Following this there would be:
- B. A 35-minute audio-visual presentation about U.S. immigration laws, past and present. This has been recommended by Julia Thorne, Immigration Counsel, Presbyterian Church (USA). Then comes...
- C. Lunch: during the meal a leader at each table will present facts and/or questions (supplied by the J & R Committee) for discussion.
- D. Afternoon: A 15 to 20-minute discussion of the immigration situation in Oklahoma. Presenter: Jason Woods, recent mission volunteer to Peru. This will be followed by...
- E. A time of sharing ideas and plans for future activity.
- F. A half-hour walk-through of Beyond Hola, a study book. The purpose: to show how an immigration study might be done in Cimarron churches.
- G. The Council **accepted by mutual consent** the J & R Committee's planned presbytery presentation.

The J & R Committee also asked the Council to **support its nomination** of Stillwater 1st Presbyterian for the Florence Iverson Kraft award. This will be given in June 2008 by the Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network to a congregation which (over several years) has been outstanding in advocating for mentally ill people by accepting them, serving them, and seeking improvements in mental health care at county, region, state and national levels.

Rev. Smith **moved** that the Council endorse the J & R Committee's request. Elder Campbell **seconded** the motion, which was then **Voted**.

Committee on Ministry and Preparation: Moderator Smith reported that:

The Rev. Dave Schneider, an interim ministry specialist, and First Presbyterian Church of Guymon have entered into a contract. Schneider will begin at Guymon on February 10th. He is a member of Grace Presbytery, Synod of the Sun. Rev. Smith acted as COM liaison during the search.

- A. The Perry Church has issued a call to the Rev. Rick Rhodes. He will begin his ministry on February 10th. Rhodes is a member of Boston Presbytery.
- B. The anticipated visit of Cimarron pastors to South Louisiana Presbytery (for relief of disaster-wearied ministers there or for other duties assigned by that presbytery) has been set for the 30th of March.

C. Susan Winsor Kenna's ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament was set for January 13th at Stillwater 1st Presbyterian, her home congregation. Kenna is now Manager of Pastoral Care in a 156-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation unit of the Adirondack Medical Center, Lake Placid, NY. She has transferred from the care of Cimarron to membership in Northern New York Presbytery.

Evangelism and Nurture Committee: Jenna Campbell, moderator.

A. The presbytery has received \$1750.00 from the synod for implementing the congregational visioning and planning program known as "Percept." Campbell reported that a list of interested churches is being assembled and training sessions will be set up.

B. A Cimarron Youth Council (CYC) of eight members was organized on January 13th, 2008. CYC goals are to (1) provide leadership for presbytery-wide youth retreats; (2) provide a leadership model for individual youths, which model, it is expected, will flow into various local youth groups; (3) provide a Youth Forum for discussing, learning about and being aware of youth issues in other youth groups in Cimarron Presbytery; (4) advocating for presbytery opportunities in the youths' home churches, thus providing information, awareness and excitement, and (5) establishing a presbytery youth web-site for "blog" about Cimarron youth.

C. A time-line has been set for reaching a **Presbytery-wide Child Protection Policy** this year. The schedule is: Feb. 12th, the policy will be presented to the presbytery; March 31st, all Cimarron churches will provide their input to the Evangelism and Nurture committee; April 8th, changes in policy will go before Presbytery's Council; May 6th, changes in policy made by the Council will go to Presbytery for final consideration.

D. Each congregation in the presbytery will be responsible for writing its own child protection policy.

E. Sheri Dittman, Christian Educator at Blackwell, has been named the presbytery's POINT representative. She will attend two days of training in San Diego in February. POINT is "Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching," a network in which members visit with local Christian education committees to discuss existing programs and brainstorm new possibilities for ministry, including evaluating curricula to meet educational goals.

Mission and Promotion of Stewardship: Rev. Roy Schneider, reporting:

- A. The new committee acronym (MAPS) connotes the breadth of the church's opportunities for outreach.
- B. Objectives for 2008 are: (1) to inform churches about how mission initiative matching grants can help them take part in true biblical stewardship; (2) for

one committee member to visit every session, to encourage and inform them; (3) to e-mail a “Biblical Stewardship Principle” to church leaders each month and also place it on the presbytery’s page in the synod SUN and Web site, cimarronpresbytery.org.

- C. Matching Mission Initiative Grants made were: (1) \$700 to Stillwater to help provide hymnals to a Youth Program in Cameroon; (2) \$1,000 to Stillwater to assist in the formation of a mission to Stillwater area Hispanic/Latino families; (3) \$500 to Stillwater to assist in sending Chris Murphy to a Presbyterian Women’s mission event on the U.S./Mexico border in April, and in support of Mrs. Murphy’s interpretation throughout the synod afterward.
- D. The committee sent \$462.44 (the October 2007 Presbytery offering) to the Federated Church, Kingfisher, for flood relief.
- E. The committee will prepare the Cimarron Presbytery entry for the 2009 “Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study.”

Presbyterian Women: Mary McKinley, Moderator:

- A. Cimarron Women collected \$2,112 for the “Thank Offering” last year. Forty per cent, at least, of this amount must go to health-related projects; 49 such projects, worldwide, have been designated by a national PW committee. Of 16 projects in the U.S., one is Saline County Safe Haven in Benton, AR, within the Synod of the Sun. This domestic violence shelter will receive \$30,000 for expansion of facilities.
- B. Presbyterian Women of Cimarron have pledged \$7,388 (plus \$500 more from Guymon PW) toward worldwide mission in 2008.
- C. The PW Spring Gathering will be April 7, 2008 in Stillwater. Sheron Antczak, PW moderator in the Synod of the Sun, will be the guest speaker. The Council was asked to approve of Leah Hrachovec, Associate Pastor at Stillwater, as officiant at Holy Communion worship on that occasion. This was **Moved** by Mrs. McKinley, **Seconded** by Charles Smith, and **Voted**.
- D. Sydney Reding, moderator-elect of Cimarron PW; Betty Bays, Synod PW Search Committee, and Mary McKinley, present moderator, Cimarron PW, will attend the Synod Coordinating Team meeting in Irving, TX Feb. 29 to March 2nd, 2008.
- E. Chris Murphy, Stillwater PW member, will represent the PW of the synod at a “Focus on Immigration” mission experience for one week in April. Visiting mission projects in both El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The participants will study immigration and its relationship to violence, poverty, racism, exploitation of women and children, and global economic policies.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS

Presbytery Moderator Barbara Ware sketched out some high points of a recent meeting of fellow moderators in the Synod of the Sun. The meeting’s theme was “Surrender and Prayer.” Mrs. Ware experienced different forms of worship at the

Dallas event. Attendees were urged to “surrender control” and “follow God daily.” Thus “movement happens.”

Mark Tammen of the church’s Louisville office told the moderators that the meeting “was not about ‘us’ saving ‘our’ church. That can be done only through God.”

Mrs. Ware said that each presbytery moderator was invited to form a group that would meet once a month to pray. This was recommended because “we can’t count on Presbyterian culture to hold us up.”

Rev. Smith **moved** that the offering at the Feb. 12th meeting be given to the MAPS committee. Betty Selby **seconded** the motion. It was **voted**.