

PRESBYTERY IN BRIEF

The 2010 stated spring meeting (May 23) of Providence Presbytery afforded commissioners and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of God's creation as we met together in the outdoor tabernacle of Tirzah Presbyterian Church in Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Opening worship was led by retiring Moderator, The Rev. David Bender, and candidate for ordination, Mary Anne Welch. During worship, a commissioning service was held for Youth Triennium delegates, Montreat Middle School Conference conferees, and Bethelwoods summer staff.

Elder Murray White of the Unity Church in Fort Mill was elected Moderator, and one of his first actions was to commission our General Assembly Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate who will be attending the 219th General Assembly meeting in Minneapolis July 3-10. Elder Commissioners are Harriet Brown (Covenant) and Tim Cureton (Pleasant Ridge). Minister Commissioners are the Rev. Jill Duffield (Unity) and the Rev. D.C. Horne (minister-at-large). Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) is Kelsey White (Union 1st). Churches were asked to pray General Assembly and all commissioners on Sunday, June 27, the Sunday prior to the opening of the Assembly.

The presbytery had the joy and privilege to unanimously approve the petition to charter Faith Presbyterian Church – our new church development in Lancaster County – as a member church of Providence Presbytery. All the churches of Providence Presbytery are invited to gather for the chartering worship at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 3, 2010.

Other highlights of the meeting included:

- Updates about Second Harvest Partners, Habitat Faith Build, and campus ministry
- Progress report on Haiti Disaster Response: Since January you have donated over \$17,000, assembled 500 hygiene kits and 21 baby kits, and donated over 200 volunteer hours. A “shower” for Haiti moms and babies will be held on August 29. Stay tuned for details.
- Approved a new timeline for our budgeting process

- Approved moving our spring stated meeting from May to June beginning in 2011
- Approved the creation of a Mission Discernment Assessment Task Force. The task force will review our foundational document, *A Time for Folding Tent*, approved by Presbytery in 2006, and bring back recommendations for changes concerning our structure, our three Presbytery emphases, and any other recommendations they deem necessary and helpful as we seek to live out our mission
- Examined for ordination and admission to Providence Presbytery Mary Anne Welch, a candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. Mary Anne is serving the Great Falls Church as their temporary supply
- Examined the Rev. Jason Davenport who has been called to serve the Riverview Church as their pastor (3/4 time)
- Approved Anna Fulmer, a member of the Oakland Avenue Church and student at Columbia Seminary, as a candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament

The next meeting of Providence Presbytery will be August 15, 2010, hosted by Hermon Presbyterian Church and held on the campus of Clinton College in Rock Hill.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Mark Verdery

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