



July 2014

Members of Session

Class of 2014

Heather Alexander
Karen Peters
Tim Reed

Class of 2015

Debbie Daly
Kim Newton
Joe Stephenson

Class of 2016

Jim Burdick
Walt Cottongim

Members of Deacon Board

Class of 2014

Becky Burdick
Betty Eichelberger
Joe Johnson

Class of 2015

Wayne Buckhout
Elizabeth Mozea
Mercy Ofosuhene

Class of 2016

Karen Greenhow
Stacey Ross
Doug Thompson

Wayne Buckhout
Clarion Editor

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Cincinnati Presbytery Report

2014 PCUSA General Assembly Decisions

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." -- Ephesians 4:1-3

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As you may already know, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meeting last month in Detroit, approved two measures addressing the issue of marriage.

The Assembly approved an authoritative interpretation (AI) of our Constitution which permits teaching elders (ministers) and ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (CREs) to officiate at same-sex marriages in any state or jurisdiction where these are legal; this interpretation was effective as of Saturday, June 21.

The Assembly also proposed an amendment to the *Book of Order* which, if approved by a majority of the presbyteries, would change the definition of marriage from being between "a man and a woman" to being between "two people, traditionally a man and a woman." In order to take effect, this measure requires approval by a majority of the 172 presbyteries. The Presbytery of Cincinnati would likely address this proposed amendment in either February or May 2015. You can read the complete language of these measures: the [authoritative interpretation](#) and the [proposed amendment](#).

Some members of our presbytery are rejoicing because now same-sex couples can receive the same pastoral care and support that traditional couples receive. Others are deeply pained by these votes and believe the General Assembly as erred in its interpretation of the Scriptures.

It is important to note that neither the immediately effective interpretation, nor the proposed constitutional amendment if approved by the presbyteries, is prescriptive.

No teaching elder or ruling elder commissioned to pastoral service is compelled to officiate for a same-sex marriage, nor is any congregation compelled to host a same-sex wedding; indeed, sessions can categorically prohibit the use of the congregation's facilities for such a wedding. The decision is left to the teaching elder, CRE, and the sessions, as guided by their consciences before God and consistent with their understanding of Scripture.

(continued)

Be aware also that the General Assembly passed by an overwhelming margin a resolution directing denominational officers and leaders to work to bring about reconciliation within the PCUSA. You can read that statement [here](#). We join this call for all of us to seek the mind of Christ together and to join together working for reconciliation and understanding.

God is clearly doing good work in and through the congregations of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, and our prayer is that together we can all continue to move forward in God's mission in our community.

In Christ,

Elder Rob Heidenreich, Moderator, Presbytery of Cincinnati
The Rev. Dr. K. Nicholas Yoda, Vice Moderator, Presbytery of Cincinnati
The Rev. Dr. Kevin Stainton, Chair of Presbytery Council
The Rev. James DiEgidio, General Presbyter
Elder Janis Alling Adams, Stated Clerk

CSPC Christian Education Update – Plans for Fall

Sunday School

The Christian Education committee met on July 1 to discuss educational opportunities for the fall. We began planning Sunday School, which will begin on Sept. 7 at a new later time: 9 AM. Offering and teachers are still being finalized, so look for more details next month. If you are interested in co-teaching our Middle School class, please contact Heather Alexander.

IGN

IGN (Intergenerational Night) will start back in September with a few changes to help better accommodate some of the needs of the congregation.

We will meet every other Wednesday starting Sept. 10. IGN will now start at 6 PM with a themed potluck-style meal, followed by Bible Study programs for men and children from 6:45-7:30 (Women will have Bible Study on the opposite Wednesdays but there will be no meal on those weeks).

There will be a sheet each week for sign-ups to bring an item to contribute to the meal. Instead of a weekly fee for meals, there will be an opportunity to donate toward incidentals for those who are able to do so.

So mark your calendars for Sept. 10 and 24, Oct. 8 and 22, and Nov. 5 and come out to CSPC for good food and good fellowship.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin on Sept. 17 at 7 PM. We will meet every other Wednesday. If you are interested in exploring a certain topic during this offering, please contact Heather Alexander.

Sadly, we will have to postpone even our Fall offering of VBS.

A great big thank you to all of the women who have volunteered to teach the children during Kid's Worship this summer. I know the kids have been having fun learning about God's Word with Legos. We still have an opportunity for you to volunteer on July 20. Please contact Heather Alexander if you are able to help. Remember, there is very little preparation required, and you don't have to be female!

- Heather Alexander

Come have a dip with the CSPC family

The Fellowship Committee will again host an **Ice Cream Social**, this year on July 20 at 6:30 PM. There's a sign-up sheet in narthex for those who will be making ice cream or bringing toppings.

Mission Outreach

River Ridge Family Resource Center Pocket Folders with prongs, all colors; Colored Pencils; Crayons, packs of 24; Dry erase markers; Girls and boys pants, sizes 6 and 8..Also, Please donate money, food or paper items for Jim and his four children to help in this difficult time. Many things are not covered by food stamps.

Scott Scholarship Awards announced

Congratulations to Nana Boateng, Grace-Marie Thompson, Ashley Powers, J.D. Boyd and Chris Boyd, who have received Robert and LaVerne Scott Scholarship awards for 2014-2015. Nana will be a freshman at Berea College, Grace and J.D. are enrolled at the University of Kentucky, Ashley is a student at Eastern Kentucky University and Chris is attending Northern Kentucky University.

Can you hear (from) us now?

Are you receiving email communications from CSPC? If not, please email the church office (cspresby@gmail.com) requesting that you be added to the distribution list. Make sure you are not missing out on the Clarion newsletter, weather-related updates, reminders of upcoming events, and other important communications!

Session Minutes

Stated Session Meeting - May 12, 2014

Moderator: Rev. Chuck Myser

Moderator's Time/Docket Building

Rev. Chuck Myser led a devotion by reading a passage from Harry Emerson Fosdick, "The Manhood of the Master," talking about prayer. He handed out a sheet with different kinds of prayer. The devotion time concluded with singing The Lord's Prayer and taking prayer concerns.

Approved Motion: to approve docket as written

Interim Pastoral Committee

Rev. Bobbie Bella is committee's liaison. Rev. Bella will meet with Chris Torrey and may recommend possible candidates. The committee will update church information and an interim pastor job description. The committee will request that the worship committee schedule pulpit supply through July.

Personnel Committee

Tina Klare, nursery attendant for 9 years, has resigned. Marissa, the younger attendant, intends to stay. A question arose about supplementing the nursery with volunteers, but it was thought that not enough would volunteer. People who use the nursery have been asked to support giving Tina a gift card.

Approved Motion: Purchase a gift certificate in the sum of \$100 to recognize her many years of service.

Building and Grounds Committee

An appraisal on the Lorraine Court property states that if the upstairs and basement of the house were fixed, it would sell between \$125,000 and \$145,000. The committee obtained an estimate to fix the upstairs, not including the bathroom, for \$8,000 from Jerry Hinnens. Jerry wasn't interested in doing the work. He said fixing the bathroom would be another \$5,000. As-is value is about \$100,000, with an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 including the additional lot. There was a suggestion to get another estimate, perhaps using Ed Letsinger. Another recommendation to get an estimate on the Western Reserve house as well. Plans for use of the proceeds of any sale were discussed. Noting that financial reserves are dwindling, it was suggested that proceeds be used as much as possible to pay off mortgage.

Status rent payments from the manse tenant were also discussed. Reported that rent is being paid.

Suggested to include the properties topic for discussion at the upcoming congregational meeting on June 1 for electing officers. Session tentatively agreed.

Approved Motion: Request a congregational meeting June 1 for permission to sell Lorraine Court house and Western Reserve house.

Nominating Committee

Committee has three candidates for elder, including one two-year term. Two candidates for deacon, but awaiting response from a third person for deacon. One or two people are available to do officer training. Rev. Chuck Myser also suggested Dave Klahr at Union, as a possible trainer.

Rev. Chuck Myser said he will moderate the June 1 meeting. Hoping to train in May, then have elections June 1, and installation and ordination following either June 8 or June 15.

Approved Motion: To request a congregational meeting June 1 to elect elders, deacons and the new nominating committee.

Worship Committee

Rev. Myser willing to serve through June 15.

Deacons

Written reports distributed.

Christian Education Committee

Heather Alexander has someone who is willing to organize volunteers for Vacation Bible School, so that will be happening this year in June. VBS is scheduled for June 24-26 in evening, Tues-Thurs. (VBS now postponed)

New Business

Approved Motion: Request to move June 9 session meeting to June 16.

Coordinating Committee Meeting

Jim Burdick will put info together from meeting listing activities in the church, and Doug Thompson will print posters. The church will be doing a breakfast once a month. The first one will be hosted by the men's group/softball team, 8:30 a.m. June 1.

Approved Motion: To support with baked goods Esther Kang's recital on June 4 (at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian).

Closing Worship

Karen read a devotion based on Isaiah 6:8; then session offered joys and concerns. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Myser at 9:10.

Called Session Meeting -May 25, 2014

Moderator: Rev. Chuck Myser

Guests: Dan Alexander

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Chuck Myser at 11:15 AM.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive a finance committee report about selling church-owned houses on Lorraine Court and Western Reserve Road. Dan Alexander shared a Finance Committee report that recommends selling the houses on Lorraine Court and Western Reserve Road. Two main reasons:

- The maintenance and management is more than the congregation can handle given the size of the church.
- The property can be turned into cash for the church.

Finance Committee estimates net proceeds from each of \$125,000. The committee is proposing using \$200,000 from proceeds to pay down the church mortgage. The remainder could be put in the general fund to cover any budget shortfall. If approved by the congregation, the Presbytery would have to approve the sale, with the first opportunity being Sept. 9.

Approved Motion: to present the sale of Western Reserve, Lorraine Court and a vacant lot to the congregation for approval at the congregational meeting June 1.

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, June 1, 2014**Moderator:** Rev. Chuck Myser

Purpose: to elect the 2017 Class of Elders and Deacons and the 2014-15 nominating committee and to seek the congregation's approval for the sale of the house and property on Lorraine Court and the sale of the house on Western Reserve. A quorum was present.

Opened with prayer by Rev. Chuck Myser at 11:05 a.m.

Nominating committee proposed two candidates for the Elder and Deacon boards for the class of 2017 and one candidate for an unfulfilled elder seat from the class of 2016. No nominations from the floor.

Approved Motion: to accept the slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee and approve by acclamation.

The following officers were elected:

Elders

Class of 2017: Dan Alexander and Meaghan Mullin

Class of 2016: Jeff Buckhout

Board of Deacons

Class of 2017: Sarah Cottongim and Sheryl Eichelberger

Nominating Committee for 2014-15:

Jim Burdick, Scott Mozea and Erin Murphy

Finance Committee report recommends selling the properties for two main reasons:

- The church spends a lot of effort and energy maintaining and keeping the houses rented.
- The property could be turned into assets for the church. The expected value of the properties would be \$250,000. One recommendation would be to pay off a large portion (\$200,000) of the \$345,000 debt the church owes on the sanctuary. The remainder of the loan could be refinanced to save on the monthly payment from \$2,600 to \$1,100. The finance committee recommends using the remaining funds to rebuild church reserves.

Approved Motion: To amend the Finance Committee motion to sell vacant property and houses on Lorraine Court and Western Reserve Road to exclude the vacant lots because the lots already have received approval.

Approved Motion: To approve the sale of the houses on Western Reserve Road and Lorraine Court.

Financial Report

| | May Budgeted | May Actual | YTD Budgeted | YTD Actual | YTD Difference |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Income | \$13,210 | \$10,462 | \$67,050 | \$64,951 | (\$2,099) |
| Expense | \$16,441 | \$14,085 | \$78,219 | \$71,572 | (\$6,647) |
| Difference | (\$3,231) | (\$3,623) | (\$11,169) | (\$6,621) | |

| | June Budgeted | June Actual | YTD Budgeted | YTD Actual | YTD Difference |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Income | \$13,210 | \$15,023 | \$80,260 | \$79,975 | (\$285) |
| Expense | \$15,570 | \$13,586 | \$93,789 | \$85,157 | (\$8,632) |
| Difference | (\$2,360) | \$1,437 | (\$13,529) | (\$5,182) | |

Calendar

July 10 – Tabitha Guild 12 PM

– Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM

July 13 – Worship, Communion 10 AM

July 14 – Men's Softball – Pioneer 2, 6:15 PM

Session Meeting 7 PM

July 19 – Men's Fellowship 8 AM

July 20 – Ice Cream Social 6:30 PM

July 24 – Happy Travelers –10 AM Meeting and lunch at Eagle Creek Winery

July 28 – Men's softball – Lincoln Ridge – 6:15 PM