



***e-News* from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay**

4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, Florida 33615

Presbytery of Tampa Bay Stated Meeting: August 28, 2014 Summary

The Presbytery met at the First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven and was graciously hosted by the pastors, staff, and members of the congregation. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Ruling Elder Patrice Hatley. The Reverend Juan Herrera was the preacher at the service of worship and communion. The offering, which will go to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, was \$1,356.

Ruling Elders Barbara Heck-Englehart and Terry Dennis presented the final reports of the Administrative Commissions for Faith, Seminole, and for 4704 Kelly Road, respectively, and both administrative commissions were, on motion, dismissed with gratitude.

Two of the Presbytery's commissioners to the 221st General Assembly, Teaching Elder Joy Laughbridge and Ruling Elder William Trautwein shared impressions and reflections on the context, process, and actions.

The living and active witness character of the Stated Meeting continued into the morning with the report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, which included the presentation of three Inquirers for advancement to Candidacy, Felinto Almeida (St. Andrews, Dunedin), Meghann Pabst (First, Brandon), and Michael Lyle (First, St. Petersburg). It may not have been these young people's first experience of the peculiarly Presbyterian practice of first voting to arrest and then to sustain examinations, and it almost certainly will not be the last. Certified Christian Educator Sue Moore, Chair of the CPM, encouraged the Commissioners to save their hard balls for the later innings and to throw soft ones. All three candidates, each one completely different, bore convincing witness to their faith.

Continuing to reflect the life-cycle of the larger Church and on motion from the Commission on Church Vitality, the Presbytery voted that Springwater Fellowship of Brandon be organized as Springwater Church of Brandon. Organizing Pastor Keonbae Kim was recognized, with members of our newest congregation, with applause.

After a tasty lunch of barbeque chicken, blessed by Teaching Elder Virgie Pickering and served by members of Winter Haven, First, the Presbytery resumed the formal work of the meeting with a report of another successful summer, going into an active fall season, by the Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center.

The next two presbytery life-cycle stages emerged from the report of the Commission on Ministry, delivered by Ruling Elder Jerry Smith. The first stage was the hardball inning predicted by the CPM Chair. Presbytery examined two Candidates for Ordination, Margaret (Peg) Roy and Deborah (Deb) Belusa. Each preached and then successfully connected with the craftiest curmudgeonly curves thrown, resulting in sustained examinations and spirited prayers.

The second life cycle brought by the COM was the approval of the status of Honorably Retired for Gail Zoya and the recognition of the retirement of the Reverend Ray Larson (UCC), whose lengthy service at Lake Hamilton PC was recalled by Teaching Elder Steve Negley.

Officer and Staff Reports (continuing the life cycle): Moderator Hatley spoke glowingly about the number and variety of installation she had participated in lately, with notably increased attendance by pastors and commissioners. Vice Moderator Fullerton described the recent meetings of each of the three Regional Commissions and noted that the Coordinating Team was beginning to work on refinement of the Bylaws as we live into them and that it had appointed two committees to fulfill the recommendation of the AC on 4704 Kelly Road: one to pursue selling the property and one to scope out the needs of a Presbytery office. The Interim Executive Presbyter and the Stated Clerk both provided dramatic visual images of current aspects of Presbytery life: One, the Presbytery and the three Regional Commissions as analogous to the building of the transcontinental railroad, where the tracks were being laid barely ahead of the moving train, and the Second, akin to the old Vaudeville act, wherein the performers attempt to keep a set of spinning plates on a table, spinning, by dashing from one to the next.

The meeting concluded with another stunning PTBTube – thank you, Shaun Hartsell.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting with a prayer and invited us to sing the Lord’s Prayer.

Charles

Louis Charles Willard
Stated Clerk

Telephone (813) 868-4800 / Fax (813) 200-1054
www.presbyteryoftampabay.com