

The General Council of the Presbytery of Shenango met in a regular stated meeting, Tuesday, April 05, 2011 at the Mt. Jackson Church, New Castle, PA. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Elder Arnie Morris, at 9:30 a.m. and opened with devotions by Brett Householder, youth leader at First Church, New Castle, and prayers by Dave Dawson and Brett.

The roll was taken with the following present:

Eric Peters	John King
Jack Hanes	Amy Na
Pam Maloney	Bob Dayton
Dave Dawson	Barney Scholl
Jim Latta	Tom Gomola
Howard Moss	Glenn Hink
Steve Stelle	Bob Bardeen
Donna Heard	David Dobi
Elaine Taylor	Miriam Gwin
Arnie Morris	Teresa Kendall
Nancy McMillan	

The minutes were approved as distributed at the February 22, 2011 meeting of the presbytery.

Dave Dawson presented his report as Executive Presbyter. Dave shared pastoral concerns.

Jerry Mahaffey presented his report as Stated Clerk.

Jerry also reported for the Steering Committee. Dave Dawson presented a recommendation to the Council from the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee recommends that the Council form a Special Committee to Monitor Denominational Issues. It further recommends that the moderators of Council and Presbytery (Arnie Morris and Glenn Hink) recruit this committee.

Rationale: The likely approval by presbyteries of Overture 10-A from the 2010 General Assembly will remove the "fidelity and chastity" section (G-6.0106b) from the Book of Order. This does not immediately alter everything, but it is one of many significant developments within the PC(USA) that indicate important changes. Therefore Shenango Presbytery needs to proactively monitor the situation on behalf of our churches and ministers. It is our hope that we can do together whatever we do as a Presbytery so that our congregations can concentrate on the important ministry and mission that God has given to us.

Tasks: The committee will collect information and provide founs for teaching and ruling elders to review and discuss developments within the PC(USA). It is anticipated that the committee will function at least until the 2012 General Assembly in Pittsburgh.

Notes:

Possible activities for the Special Committee:

- *Provide written pieces (blogs) that will inform*
 - *Ray Hylton's piece for Presbyterians for Renewal*
 - *The White Paper <http://www.fellowship-pcusa.org/>*
 - *Tod Bolsinger (chair of the Middle Governing Body Commission) <http://bolsinge.blogs.com/weblog/>*

- *Etc.*
- *Review the changing character of denominations*
- *Monitor and communicate with the Middle Governing Body Commission*
- *Consult with knowledgeable persons involved in church-wide discussions (Paul Detterman, Clark Cowden, the Fellowship meeting in Minneapolis [8/25-27], etc.)*
- *Theological reflection re: unity & diversity; theology of church; etc.*
- *Conversations with other denominations: Episcopal/Anglican (Ken Bailey), ELCA, EPC, etc.*
- *Review possible overtures for the 2012 General Assembly*
- *Report progress to council regularly and make any appropriate recommendations*

Possible Sunday evening forums between now and the 2012 General Assembly:

- *Worship, presentation, responders, comments, questions, small groups, prayer*

Members of the committee (begin with the Steering Committee):

- *Glenn Hink and Bill Hoffman (commissioners to the 2008 GA)*
- *Women/men, ruling/teaching elders, etc.*

Meet soon after Easter.

The Council approved the recommendation of the Steering Committee.

Arnie Morris reported on the work of the Millennium Update. The group has been meeting regularly and is working on a report with recommendations to the council and presbytery.

The report of the Budget and Finance Committee was presented by Jack Hanes. The Treasurer's reports were reviewed. Attention was called to the report of the unpaid presbytery per capita.

Steve Stelle reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee met with the staff and reviewed the surveys. All reports were positive for Jerry and Dave. The committee recommends a 2% raise for all staff for 2012.

Dave Dawson reported for the Leadership Development Team. Plans are underway for the fall leadership retreats.

Jack Hanes reported for the Property Committee. Westfield Church has approved investigating entering into a gas and oil lease. The Council approved their request for permission to continue investigating a lease agreement.

Tower Church plans to enter into a project of \$650,000 to incorporate an elevator and modifications to their entrance area near the church office. The congregation has received pledges for \$550,000 over three years. The church has entered into a loan program with Presbyterian Church Investment Loan program which will give them \$450,000. Council approved the plans for Tower and the loan application.

Teresa Kendall led the council in a time of prayer for our churches and our decisions.

David Dobi reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. A candidate for ordination will be presented at the presbytery meeting. Four elders who have finished their training as CLPs will be ready for commissioning.

Pam Maloney reported for the Committee on Ministry. She reported the unusually high number of churches seeking pastoral leadership.

Jim Latta reported for the Evangelism Committee. He reported a successful conference event with the second "Reversing the Decline" event.

Bob Bardeen reported for the Christian Education Committee. Bob shared concerns of the committee regarding LeaderFest 2012. The committee feels necessary to change the date to January 14, the second Saturday of January 2012. The location will include portions held in the New Wilmington Church. The plan is to modify the workshops to include expanded seminars for Elders, Deacons, Trustees and Pastors.

Miriam Gwin reported for the Mission, Communications and Stewardship Committee. Presbyterian Media Mission will be presenting during the report at the presbytery meeting. A mission event is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at the New Wilmington Church. Bernie Scholl reported on the Peer Network. The group is planning on an event on June 4, 2011.

The Presbyterian Women's report was presented by Nancy McMillan. She called attention to an event to be held at Villa Maria Conference Center. Spring gathering will be April 28, 2011 at North Liberty Presbyterian Church.

Bob Dayton reported for the Synod Commissioners.

The docket for the presbytery meeting at Enon Church, April 26, 2011 was approved.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Tom Gomola at 11:35 a.m.