

Minutes
Called Meeting of Transylvania Presbytery
July 15, 2008
First Presbyterian Church -- Stanton, Kentucky

3a

The called meeting of Transylvania Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, The Rev. Susan Warren at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer. The following members were present:

Ministers: Susan Warren, James H. Rucker, Richard Smith, Melissa Sevier, William VanZant, Tom Farmer, Jon Martin, Anthony Gilbert, Susan Alley, Rene Whitaker, Betsy Steiner, John Manon, David Chumney, Mary Reed, Justin Marple, Jackie Lindberg, E.G. Clark, Geary Scott, Janet Prewitt, Beth Garrod-Logsdon, Curtis Christian, Lisa Eye Taylor, Harry Spickler, Maurice Hibbard, Fred Hood, David Duggan, Ellen Peach, Diane Baldwin, David Rule, Woody Berry, James Brazell, Howard Moffett, John White, Pat Chamberlain

Commissioned Lay Pastors: Lyndon Eberly, Greg Whitaker, Bill Reed, Larry Snyder, Les Grooms, Howard Bentley, Gayle Burns

Elders: Jane Bond-Prestonsburg, Greg Kupar-Maxwell Street, John Pendly-Maxwell Street, Kathy Moecht, Ken Moecht –Flemingsburg, Joyce VanZant-Canada, Bennett West-Canada, Chris Doll-Hazard, Paul Leveridge-Frenchburg, Grace Gutekunst-Richmond, Franklin Miller-Phelps, Jean Harney-Danville, Don Malone, Mary K. Motley-Ezel, Suzi Kifer-Hunter, Scott Resinger-Danville, Bobbie Brown-Second, Karen May-Second, Susan Wood-Flemingsburg, Betsy & Kent Kalb-Flemingsburg, Barry Bainum-Flemingsburg, Tim Carter-Flemingsburg, Juanita Callahan-Jackson, Betty Morton-Hazard, Julie Maggard-Ashland

Elders from Coordinating Council: Linda Crawford, PW; Bill Owens, Nominating; Richard Eads, Staff Services;

Visitors: Doug Craven, Joan Spickler, Betty Hibbard, Robert Hamilton

Staff: Sharel Templeton, Robyn Justus

The call for the meeting was presented by the Stated Clerk and found in order. The notice as published was as follows:

Notice of Called Meeting

There will be a called meeting of the Presbytery of Transylvania on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Stanton, Kentucky. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the reports and to act on any recommendations of:

- (1) The Judicial Business Committee
- (2) The Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- (3) The Committee on Ministry

No other business may be conducted at this meeting.

The meeting has been called by the moderator, The Rev. Susan Warren at the request of Ken Simpson, elder, First Presbyterian Church of Middlesboro, Pat Harney, elder, First Presbyterian Church of Millersburg, Rev. David Chumney, and Rev. Erin Rouse.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the three items listed in the call for the meeting constitute the docket for this meeting.

- (1) The Judicial Business committee report was presented by the committee chair, The Rev. Susan Alley. Following the report the committee *moved and the motion carried* that the following resolution be adopted by the presbytery:

RESOLUTION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA
COMMENDING OLD PAINT LICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WHEREAS, Old Paint Lick Presbyterian Church has been a constant Christian witness in Garrard County and Paint Lick, Kentucky since 1783; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the members of Old Paint Lick Presbyterian Church have made our Presbyterian witness a lasting, fruitful ministry in that place; and

WHEREAS, Old Paint Lick Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 225th anniversary on August 3, 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Presbytery of Transylvania, in duly constituted session, honors Old Paint Lick Presbyterian Church for its 225 years of Christian testimony and commends the members of the congregation, past and present, for their faithful service and stewardship to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2008.

- (2) The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reported that they were prepared to recommend two candidates for ordination and installation – Doug Craven and Robert Hamilton. (*Appendix A*) The presbytery was divided into two groups and heard sermons preached by the two candidates on the text provided by the committee.

Following the sermons the candidates were presented separately for examination by the Presbytery. Doug Craven was asked questions posed by the committee and by members of the presbytery and it was *moved, seconded and unanimously carried* to sustain the examination of Doug Craven and approve him for ordination. Candidate Robert Hamilton was asked questions posed by the committee and by members of the presbytery and it was *moved, seconded and unanimously carried* to sustain the examination of Robert Hamilton and approve him for ordination.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented the following recommendation:

Recommends that an alternate form of examination for candidate Peter Jones be used in order to satisfy the Standard Ordination Examination in exegesis as required by the Book of Order for Candidate Peter Jones, such examination to be of equal difficulty to the standard denominational examination, and that the following persons be elected to structure, administer and grade the examination: Rev. Kathy Riley, ch., Rev. David Chumney, Elder Joanie Lukins (Danville) and further recommend that Rev. Jerry Sumney, professor of Biblical Studies at Lexington Theological Seminary be a consulting member of the committee.

Candidate Jones has twice taken the exegesis and twice received a failing grade. In the last instance members of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry read his examination and, concluding it was passing work, filed an appeal with the Office of Examination Services asking that the grading be reviewed and a passing grade granted. The appeal was denied.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is very satisfied with the candidacy of Peter Jones and finds him well prepared to receive a call. We request the alternate exam in exegesis because of our confidence in Peter's ability and the fact that he has graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary with excellent grades and was awarded the seminary's prize as the top student in Greek.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the Presbytery.

- (3) The Committee on Ministry presented a report of actions taken by the committee:
 - a. Received Robert Hamilton into membership and approved his terms of call for the Highland Presbyterian Church, Canada. Those terms of call are: Salary \$29,900, Housing - manse and \$1,200 escrow, Utilities \$2,500, SECA \$2,570.40, Full BOP dues \$10,584, 4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks study leave, Travel at IRS rate, Continuing Ed. \$750.00. This is pending his ordination.
 - b. Received Doug Craven into membership and approved his terms of call for the First Presbyterian Church, Flemingsburg. Those terms of call are: Salary \$21,500, SECA \$3,060, Housing \$14,500, Utilities \$4,000, Full BOP dues - \$12,600. Four weeks vacation, two weeks study leave (accumulating to 6 weeks), moving expenses \$1,000, travel at \$.585/mi \$2,500, continuing ed. \$750. Start date August 1, 2008. This is pending his ordination.
 - c. Permitted Ashland, First to elect a PNC.
 - d. Appointed various persons as mentors for new pastors.
 - e. Appointed a committee to review PIFs for the designated pastor position at Lexington, Chapel Hill

The Committee on Ministry recommended for Presbytery approval of the following actions:

(A) Election of Fred Hood as moderator of the Cynthiana Church, and Sam Pendergrast as moderator of the Normal and Bellefonte, Ashland, Ky churches.

(B) The election of the following commission to ordain and install Doug Craven on Sunday, August 10, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Flemingsburg. Ministers: Susan Warren, Sam Pendergrast, John Manon. Elders: Kent Kalb, Flemingsburg, Andrew Wood, Maysville. Dean Thompson of Louisville Seminary to preach.

(C) The election of the following commission to ordain and install Robert Hamilton on Sunday August 17, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at Highland Presbyterian Church. Canada:
Ministers: Bill VanZant, Richard Smith, Justin Marple.
Elders: Johnny Hiers, Canada, Jane Bond, Prestonsburg
Rev. Jack Wilkins, Pastor Third Presbyterian Church Staunton, Virginia invited to sit with the Commission as a corresponding member from Shenandoah Presbytery.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the three recommendations of the Committee on Ministry be approved and adopted.

There being no further business properly before the Presbytery it was ***moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned.*** The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted
James H. Rucker, Stated Clerk

Faith Journey 2008

Doug Craven

In looking to the shaping of my faith and the defining of my calling I can see how many points in my life's travels have molded me. Through these points and travels, I can now see how God was shaping and directing my life to lead to this point in my life. This process of the Lord shaping my life began as a child.

As a child I spent a great deal of time with my grandparents. During this time my grandfather began sharing the Bible with me on almost a daily basis. This period gave me a great foundation for my early church life and at the age of nine I found myself moved to express my love for Jesus by making my profession of faith and was baptized in the Baptist Church. This early foundation has been a major source as I grew older. While developing into a teenager and young adult, I felt the call to serve the Lord and others. My education path begins with input of parents, friends and others helping steer my idea of service toward psychology and medicine rather than following my feelings and sense of call. Before graduation my wife and I pondered choices considering graduate school and even the seminary. But, we received little support from our families regarding focusing on the church, and, with the push of my academic advisor, chose training as a psychologist. I was accepted to the University of South Carolina and moved to Columbia. During this time my wife and I learned to lean on each other and strengthen each other, and through this process we both developed an even closer walk with God.

I graduated with my Masters at the University of South Carolina and I started my doctoral path and earned an Ed.S while also taking on the responsibility of the program for students with disabilities. However, several times I was asked by administrators to give false statements and documentation on students for the benefit of the University. I refused to do these things and I decided that it was best to leave. But, instead of following my heart to ministry for Jesus I followed my head and returned to the business sector, even though my faith was my strength. Even as I went back to the business world, the Lord did not give up. Within 2 years, my wife and I again discussed the sense of being called with our minister and even began an application in 1989 but never finished as we were promoted and sent to San Antonio, Texas. It was in San Antonio my true successes in the business world began to happen, and over the course of the next seven years I was promoted and relocated four more times. Our moves included Atlanta, Brunswick and even back to Charleston. I had become an analyst of problem operations and developing turnarounds for the company.

After settling back into our old church, I once again began to discuss with our minister my sense of call. Over the eighteen months prior to seminary, my family and I met with ministers, church officials and friends about what we felt was a call to service in the ministry. No longer was there hesitation about commitment to the ministry. We had been encouraged by two church families and, we had direction and support from friends, like the Rev. Deck Guess and Rev. Michael Castronis, who helped us to work through

our sense of call. We believe it was our call that lead us to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. As a family we are committed to the process of training in the ministry and then fulfilling our call. Coming into the ministry now gives me an outlook and understanding of life that I would not have had earlier in life. I now know with all my heart that I am to work in the service of our Lord and those who seek His blessings. My family related the same empowerment of our call based on the experiences they have had since arriving. I also know that I shall be better prepared for the role of servant to share God's Word and help others navigate the road on which faith can take us.

Presently, I serve as the Supply Pastor at Trinity United Presbyterian Church of New Washington, Indiana. In this position I am involved with all phases of worship and ministry in the church. This position has allowed me to interweave preaching experiences, with the opportunity to develop programs that can remain to help the church grow long after I am gone.

I believe the Lord has called me along with my family to the ministry, a ministry open to the needs of the parishioners and those outside the church, longing for the love of the Holy Church of our Lord.

Brief Statement of Faith

Doug Craven

The Trinity remains a key central point of my belief system and it is very similar to the reformed church tradition. As related in the *Westminster Confessions of Faith* in the second chapter as noted most specifically in article 6, the Church notes: God as creator, Jesus as the son, and the Holy Spirit as a separate entity. Similarly, I believe God who is eternal, and God to be the “creator” of the universe and life itself. Further, Jesus Christ the son, and our source of forgiveness of sins and open grace. I believe Jesus the Christ to be begotten of God in human form, yet fully equal. And that Christ existed as part of God for all time as shared in John 1:1. As well, the Holy Spirit is to power of God poured out to humanity.

God is sovereign above all, and is the source of all things. God created the universe as we know it and chose humankind to be as servant, and yet as children chosen to develop themselves toward God’s own image. In *The Shorter Catechism*, God is noted as: “spirit, infinite, eternal and unchanged in being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.” (7.004) God is creator and concerned parent, overseeing the creation.

I believe that Christ Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Christ was on Earth as God incarnate, born of Mary as human yet, divine as the Son of God. Christ was born into the world to teach us about God’s love and how to treat others. Also, Christ was sent to create reconciliation between humankind and God. Christ was persecuted by humans and yet took the sins of his fellow humans upon himself at his death. Christ was raised from the dead by the creator and remains the head of the church universal. This belief is similar to the statements found in the *Confessions of 1967* and its extensive description of Christ in relation to the world.

I believe in the power of God and Christ Jesus flowing through the creation in the form of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that strengthens and inspires us while binding believers into a body of faith as Christians. As stated by Calvin, the Holy Spirit is the binding form that ties Christ to God, us to Christ and the creation to God. It is the Holy Spirit that carries us until the time when Christ Jesus returns. I believe the Holy Spirit is the Ultimate empowerment of love being shared with us by God and Jesus Christ.

I believe that if one stands still and opens one’s mind and heart to the power of creation one can sense the presence of God in the creation. God is the underlying presence in the world and the expanse beyond. I appreciate the gift given to us in Grace, from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus taught how we as the chosen of creation should live; it is our choice to embrace this open ended offer of Grace. Jesus further taught what we should look toward, upon our death. Finally, the Holy Spirit is the bond and tension that holds us to God and to the Grace given to us in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit can maintain us, lift us up or help carry us to the end of the journey of life. Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the foundation of belief it offers to all.

Robert Hamilton

I was born in Philadelphia on May 6, 1974. My parents lived in Wilmington, Delaware. Soon after my birth, I was baptized at Limestone Presbyterian Church, where they were founding members. Within a year, my father got his professorship at a medical school in North Carolina. My family transferred our memberships to a Moravian Church in Kernersville, near Winston-Salem. When I was in first grade, I was diagnosed with dyslexia, which is a reading disability. In school, I struggled with reading and writing. Teachers worked with me using strategies and accommodations to help me to cope with my disability. In my freshman year of high school, we moved to Toledo, Ohio, where we transferred our memberships to Christ Presbyterian Church.

After high school in Toledo, I enrolled at Muskingum College, a Presbyterian Church (USA) related college. I explored several majors: theatre, psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience. Finally, my advisor told me that I had to declare a major. Sitting in my dorm room, I looked at the college catalog and thought about the courses I had taken so far and the professors that taught these courses. The professors that had strong impressions and had shown some value and interest in me were the religion and philosophy professors. The next day, Though this God informed me about major. I informed the advisor about my major next day. During my senior year, I made a choice to go to a seminary. After graduating from Muskingum, I went to McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. It was there that I met and interacted with people with different experiences and backgrounds. I have developed an appreciation and respect for different points of view, which I still carry to this day.

After graduating from McCormick with a Masters of Divinity degree, I had passed one of the ordination exams, which was sacraments. Because of my dyslexia, I struggled with passing the remaining three ordination exams. At Maumee Presbytery, there was a miscommunication on both sides about testing accommodations for the exams. At that point, I followed my wife moved to Staunton, Virginia, because of her job. I, then, transferred to Third Presbyterian Church in Shenandoah Presbytery. Here, I was able to develop better relations with the CPM. They worked to understand my disability and accommodations, and they were able to work with me. I was able to pass the remaining exams using alternative means.

Since I moved to Staunton, I have been an active elder of Third Presbyterian Church. During my service as an elder, the church was undergoing a change in organizational system, which was replacing the committee system with ministry team system. I also served on several committees and ministry teams such as church growth, Christian education, church life, and church communications. I was a chair of the nominating committee. For one year, I was on a youth ministry team. I have led youth sleep-overs and youth Bible studies. In addition to these duties, I have been a delegate to the Shenandoah Presbytery and to the Mid-Atlantic Synod. I have been called to be pulpit supply in local Presbyterian churches, including Third.

I've been on call when the pastor was out. At Third, I have assisted in communion and worship services, and taught Bible studies. I am an active member of the choir, and have assisted in the search for a new choir director. My experience with the church growth ministry team was valuable. On the team, we had discussions on the

church's strengths and weaknesses, which is still on-going. I prepared and presented the church's statistics to the team, and I've made a new church pamphlet for members to share with their neighbors and friends. I've called and pushed for small group ministry, which is in discussion with the team. I've assisted Meals on Wheels with delivering meals and creating a pamphlet. Currently, I am working with other church members on developing Third Presbyterian Church website. For the past two years, I have been a representative from Third for Southside Staunton Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service where I have led worship and preached a sermon. I have also been actively engaged with a Deaf Christian Fellowship in Staunton, helping to set up a Passover meal this year.

Robert Hamilton
Statement of Faith

I believe in one God, in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe, through the grace of God, nothing can separate us from the love of God. I believe in the Father who created all things. All that we are and have is a gift from the Creator. When we fail to see creation as a gift from God, we sin. Sin is a broken relationship with God; Sin is a dead relationship to a living God. Yet the judgment of God on our sin is not the final answer

I believe in God the Father who loves the creation so much that God could not be apart from the creation. God overcame our sin. God the Father gave us His son, the only human born of the divine. Jesus Christ is our Advocate. Christ died for us and is resurrected so that we have the hope of the eternal life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the person of God who gives and renews life. The Holy Spirit frees us to accept our limited selves. The Holy Spirit is experienced in the signs and symbols of God's reconciliation in this world.

We encounter the Gospel of reconciliation in the Scriptures, experience the baptism into the community of faith, and partake the communion as a faith community. Through the church's expression of these signs and symbols, we experience God's covenant with us, come to a deeper understanding of God, and live out our faith. We come and believe what God calls us to do: reconcile with God and reconcile with one another. Reconciliation is the key to the Christian life.