

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2011

H-1

The following items from the July and August committee meetings are for presbytery action:

Concerning Jenks, St James / Jane Huffstetler

The committee recommends that Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery concur with the pastor and the congregation in the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Jane Huffstetler and St James Presbyterian Church, Jenks, effective September 21, 2011.

Concerning Marcus Barber

The committee recommends that Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery bestow upon Marcus Barber the status of Honorably Retired, effective July 31, 2011.

Concerning Sapulpa, First / Craig Gibson

The committee recommends that Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery concur with the pastor and the congregation in the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Craig Gibson and First Presbyterian Church, Sapulpa, effective August 31, 2011, with continuation of full terms of call through December 31, 2011, unless other full time employment is secured before then. Greg Coulter moderated the meeting of the congregation on August 21st.

The following actions were taken by the Committee on Ministry at its July and August committee meetings and will be included in the presbytery minutes:

Concerning 2012 Minimum Pastoral Compensation

The Board of Pensions reported that the median effective salary for 2012 will be \$53,300 (up \$400 from 2011). Per presbytery policy, the 2012 minimum effective for Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery will be \$34,645 (65% of the median salary). Pension and medical dues will rise from 31.5% in 2011 to 32.25% in 2012 (and 33% in 2013).

It should also be noted that, for those who fall under the minimum participation basis with the Board of Pensions, the minimum participation basis for the major medical program in 2012 will change from 65% of the median salary to a flat rate of \$38,000. (In 2012, the projected minimum participation basis is \$40,000.) The result of the new dues rate and the change in the minimum participation basis will be in an increase in pension and medical dues of about \$1,000 in 2012 for those who are under the minimum participation basis. Please call Greg Coulter if there are any questions about this.

Concerning Recommended Cost of Living for 2012

Per presbytery policy, the recommended cost of living increase for 2012 is 3.6%

2012 Minimums and Guidelines:

FULL TIME	Clergy	CCE	CACE	CLP
Minimum Effective Salary (required)	\$34,645	\$27,716	\$24,252	\$24,252
Pension	full	full	full	full
Continuing Education	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Vacation	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
Study Leave	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
Cost of Living Adjust. (recommended)	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%

Concerning Sand Springs, First / Lynn Simpson

The committee approved the interim pastor contract between the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Sand Springs and Rev. Lynn Simpson, effective September 1, 2011, with the following terms:

Salary	\$30,000	Travel/Prof Expense	\$ 4,500
Housing	\$15,000	Pension - 12% post-retirement dues	
½ SECA	\$ 3,443		

The Committee on Ministry has completed the required clearance and background checks.

Concerning Presbyterian Women’s Retreat / Alice King

The committee concurs with the request that Alice King (a commissioned lay pastor in Northern Kansas Presbytery) be authorized to serve Communion at the Sept 24-25 EOP Presbyterian Women Retreat at Dwight Mission. This motion for presbytery action will come in the Council Report.

Ordination and Installation Commissions

- (none)

Moderators appointed

- Rodgers Spencer Wilburton, First effective July 1
- Michael Homan Sapulpa, First effective Sept 1
- Rodgers Spencer Jenks, St James effective Sept 22

Concerning Pulpit Supply List

The committee approved the pulpit supply list.

Concerning Continuing Education Opportunities

The committee reviewed and approved the attached list of continuing education opportunities.

Pastoral Concerns

- Robert Bain, Commissioned Lay Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Wilburton, passed away June 21

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
SEPT 2011

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION:

- available from Louisville Institute (502-992-5431 or www.louisvilleinstitute.org)
 - Pastoral Study Project Grants
 - Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Middle America Wee Kirk Conference - Western Hills Guest Ranch - Wagoner, OK

Annual three-day retreat sponsored by Presbyterians for Renewal, focused on ministry resources and encouragement for small congregations and their leaders.

2011 dates: October 4-6 [*registration deadline Sept 19*]

Cost: Sliding scale, based on church membership (\$60-165)

Website: www.pfrenewal.org

Small Church Pastors Event - Mo-Ranch - Kerrville, TX

An annual four-day conference for small church leaders.

2011 schedule: October 17-20

Cost: \$197 (double); \$272 (single)

Website: <http://www.moranch.com/index.php?c=12&sn=123&conf=28>

Center for Non-Violent Communication

A nine-day intensive training in empathic listening and conflict mediation.

Cost: \$1,840 tuition; \$650 room/board; plus transportation to Albuquerque, NM

Website: www.cnvc.org

More information: Rev Ann LaMar (St Andrews Presbyterian Church - 918-949-6084)

Festival of Homiletics

An annual conference on preaching styles and resources.

Cost: \$250 tuition

Website: www.goodpreacher.com/festival

More information: Rev Jane Huffstetler (St James Presbyterian Church - 918-299-9988)

Midwinter Lectures - Austin Seminary - Austin, TX

An annual lecture series for pastors and church leaders (late January or early February)

Cost: FREE (plus lodging)

Website: <http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1012>

More information: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Continuing Education Opportunities at Princeton Seminary - Princeton, NJ

Website: <http://ptsem.edu/offices/coned>

More information: contact Princeton Theological Seminary

Institute for Pastoral Leadership [2011: Feb 28-Mar 4 & Oct 3-7; 2012: June 11-15 & Oct 1-5]

Institute of Theology [July 18-22, 2011; July 16-20, 2012]

Institute for Worship [July 24-29, 2011; July 22-27, 2012]

Engel Institute of Preaching [July 24-29, 2011; July 22-27, 2011]

Interim Pastor Training - Austin Seminary - Austin, TX

Annual regional Interim Pastor training

(Interim training is also offered at different sites other times during the year)

Cost: \$550 (includes room and board - double occupancy)

Website: http://events.synodsun.com/IPT_files/Broch%20&%20reg%202011.pdf

More information: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Omaha Presbyterian School for Pastors - Hastings College - Hastings, NE

Annual workshops for Pastors & CLP's (early July)

Cost: free (includes room and board - double occupancy)

Website: <http://omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org/>

More information: Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation

Pulpit Supply List
September 2011

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The following ministers and lay preachers may be available to preach at your congregation. You may call any of them directly or. For further assistance or information, you may call the Presbytery Office at 918-582-3077 or 800-533-1324. **This list is updated quarterly.**

The recommended honorarium for pulpit supply is \$75 per Sunday, plus appropriate mileage.
(the 2011 IRS standard mileage rate is 55.5 cents/mile, effective July 1, 2011)

PASTORS:

Ed Bernard	Hugo	580-326-6381	
Fran Callaway	Bristow	918-367-6680	
Jim Chamblee	Bartlesville	918-331-9357	(prefers 2 weeks notice)
Jill Clupper	Tulsa	918-528-6093	
Greg Coulter	Tulsa	918-582-3077 or 800-533-1324	
Jan Dittmar	Poteau	918-647-5359	
Nancy Covington	Tulsa	918-743-4313	
Jeff Francis	Tulsa	918-631-2084	
Charles Freeland	Owasso	918-272-9829	
Craig Gibson	Jenks	918-346-0839	
Judy Henderson	Tulsa	918-622-4403	
Ray Hickman	Tulsa	918-261-2500	
Bob Hyatt	Fort Smith, AR	479-434-2080	
Craig Kilgour	Tulsa	918-749-6560	(Presbyterian Church of New Zealand)
Jae-Ho Kim	Claremore	918-343-7714	
Chuck Kriner	Tulsa	918-488-9105	
Archie Lawrence	Collinsville	918-371-2489	
Mary McAnally	Tulsa	918-583-3651	
Denise Odom	Bartlesville	918-331-3650	(occasionally)
Linda Reis	Tulsa	918-742-2028	
Don Roulet	Broken Arrow	918-451-0718	
Rodgers Spencer	Okmulgee	918-756-2194	
David VanDonkelaar	Tahlequah	918-718-9699	
Ann Wasson	Skiatook	918-578-5378	
Bill Westmoreland	Jenks	918-296-3940	
Lee Woodard	Sallisaw	918-775-9470	(Disciples of Christ)

LAY PREACHERS:

Some travel funds are available through the Presbytery Office for congregations and lay preachers.

James Allen	Pawhuska	918-287-2376	
Rider Allen	Broken Arrow	918-355-8484	(within 60 miles; 10 days notice)
Dana Bailey	Muskogee	918-683-9365	
John Batchelor	Fort Gibson	918-478-3755	
Allen Beck	Tishomingo	580-443-3509	
Don Best	Tulsa	918-491-1138	(occasionally)
Leon Bohanon	Watson	580-244-3311	
Mary Carter	Broken Arrow	918-251-5174	(days)
Pam Crawford	Bartlesville	918-333-1129	
David Dearing	Hugo	580-326-7568	(Goodland Academy)
Annette Haskins	Tahlequah	918-456-2463	
Robert Kelly	Bartlesville	918-333-2637	
Tom Lackey	McAlester	918-334-3140	
Pat Lucy	Tulsa	918-712-1059	
Bill Reynolds	Bixby	918-252-9945	
Bonnie Smith	Tahlequah	918-456-3156	
Wes Smith	Park Hill	918-207-7022	
Eveline Steele	Broken Bow	580-584-2410	
Tommy Stephens	Pryor	918-809-0265	
Bill Wiles	Tulsa	918-747-9416	
Cleland Willis	Idabel	580-286-2829	

If you (or someone you know) would like to be considered for Pulpit Supply in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, please contact:

Committee on Ministry
 c/o Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
 700 S. Boston, Suite 200
 Tulsa, OK 74119-1629
 Phone: 918-582-3077 or 800-533-1324
 Fax: 918-582-3078
 Email: cop@sbcglobal.net

Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
NOMINATION FORM

I-1

Please type or print.

Name of person being nominated: _____

Telephone Number: Home _____ Office _____

Mailing Address: _____

Church Membership (for lay persons) - please include both name of church and city:

Gender: _____ Male _____ Female

Age: _____ 25 & under _____ 26-45 _____ 46-65 _____ 65 & up

Racial/Ethnic Identification: _____ (A)sian, (B)lack, (H)ispanic, (N)ative American, (W)hite, (O)ther

Is the nominee: _____ an Elder? _____ a Certified Educator?
_____ a person with disabilities (we seek to include all people)

Endorsement for EOP Committee:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of Church Professionals | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Judicial Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting Congregations | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developing Cong's & Evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation for Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Representation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Resourcing Congregations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> Council (at-large member) |

Endorsement for other positions recommended by EOP Nominating Committee:

- Dwight Mission Agency Representative
- Dwight Inc. Representative
- Synod Commissioner (2011-12)
- General Assembly Commissioner (2012) (include letter of recommendation from Session)
- GA Young Adult Advisory Delegate (2012) (include letter of recommendation from Session)

Comments: _____

Nomination submitted by _____ Date _____ Phone _____

Please submit this form to: Nominating Committee
c/o Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
700 S Boston, Suite 200
Tulsa OK 74119

6/1/10

DESCRIPTION OF COMMITTEES & AGENCIES OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY

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JUNE 2010

Presbytery Assembly:

- The presbytery is the governing body, responsible for mission, program, oversight and policy for the congregations in Eastern Oklahoma
- Meets quarterly (typically in March, June, September, December)

Presbytery Council:

- Comprised of moderators of standing committees and three persons elected at large
- Serves as the coordinating council for the presbytery
- At-large members serve as the presbytery meeting planning team
- Meets quarterly, about four weeks prior to each presbytery meeting

Care of Church Professionals Committee:

- Responsible for pastoral care and support of pastors and church professionals
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Connecting Congregations Committee:

- Responsible for ministries linking congregations to the presbytery, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the world
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Developing Congregations Committee:

- Responsible for ministries and strategies in support of congregational development and vitality in the presbytery and its congregations
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Finance & Administration Committee:

- Oversees the presbytery budget and investments, including its monthly expenses
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Ministry Committee:

- Oversees and provides models for pastoral leadership within the presbytery
- Meets 9-12 times per year (not on Committee Days)

Mission Committee:

- Responsible for developing and implementing a mission strategy for the presbytery, interpreting and promoting presbytery mission causes, and assisting congregations in mission
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days (subcommittees meet as needed)
- Subcommittees: Malawi Partnership; Social Concerns

Nominating Committee:

- Provides nominees for presbytery officers, committees, and moderators of committees, as well as Dwight Agency, Synod and General Assembly
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Permanent Judicial Commission:

- Serves as ecclesiastical court for matters referred in accord with *Rules of Discipline*
- Meets as needed

Personnel Committee:

- Oversees presbytery staff and develops/applies personnel policies
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Preparation for Ministry Committee:

- Oversees inquirers and candidates for ministry
- Meets 6-8 times per year, including Committee Days

Representation Committee:

- Encourages full participation by all constituent groups in the life and work of the presbytery
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Resourcing Congregations Committee:

- Responsible for ministries and resources in support of congregations and their programs
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days
- Subcommittees: Youth Council

Trustees:

- Oversees the real property of the presbytery and serves as liaison between the presbytery and its congregations in matters of their real property
- Meets quarterly, on Committee Days

Dwight Mission Agency Board:

- Oversees program and facilities of Dwight Mission Camp & Conference Center
- Meets 4-6 times per year, not on Committee Days (meetings rotate between all 3 presbyteries)

Dwight Mission, Inc:

- Oversees investments and real properties of Dwight Mission
- Meets at least annually, not on Committee Days

Commissioner and Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly:

- Serves as commissioner to week-long General Assembly (usually in June or July)
- Elected for two-year terms (elected in Sept or Dec of odd years for even-year Assembly meeting)
- Must be able to attend orientation prior to GA and report to presbytery after return (June or Sept)
- Lay persons must also submit a letter of recommendation from Session
- Young Adult Advisory Delegate must be 18-23 years old on the day General Assembly convenes

Commissioner to Synod:

- Serves as commissioner to Synod meetings (typically three 2-day meetings per year)
- Elected to two-year terms (new class elected each year)

ELECTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS I-4

One of the responsibilities of a presbytery is to elect persons to serve as commissioners to the General Assembly. Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery currently is required to elect two ministers, two elders, and one youth advisory delegate for each Stated Meeting of the General Assembly. In addition, the presbytery elects an alternate commissioner for each of those five positions. Alternate commissioners are eligible and will normally be elected as commissioners to the next General Assembly. In preparation for that service, the presbytery will pay up to \$800 for each alternate to attend the previous General Assembly.

In 2010, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery's commissioners and alternates were:

Elders

Robbie Burke (Tulsa, First)
David Dearing (Hugo, First)

Alternates

Martha Dale Wettstain (Hugo, First)
Craig Henderson (Sapulpa, First)

Ministers

Heather Bartlow
Dan Milford

Alternates

Fran Callaway
Marcus Barber (will not be able to attend 2012)

Youth Advisory Delegate

Michael East (Sapulpa, First)

Alternate

Kyle Elliott (Claremore, First)

The normal process for the election of commissioners for General Assembly is that candidates complete an application, including a written statement indicating why the person wants to be a commissioner and what the person considers to be the greatest challenges facing the church today. Elders and youth must also submit a letter from their Session, indicating they are a member in good standing. The application also indicates service within their own congregation and the presbytery. The Nominating Committee reviews each of the applications, meets with the candidates, and recommends to the presbytery those persons who can best serve our presbytery.

Nominees are reported to the presbytery. Nominations from the floor are always in order. However, each nominee must be prepared to satisfy all of the requirements set by the presbytery (completed application; statement of issues facing the church; Session endorsement)

It is important to remember that:

- we elect commissioners to General Assembly (and to Synod), not delegates
- we discern whether these persons are of good faith and experience within the Church and thus able to represent the will of Christ as they serve the presbytery and the General Assembly (we don't examine candidates, based on how they might vote on issues)
- we elect persons and charge them to study the issues, pray, and listen to the Holy Spirit moving through the Church as gathered at that meeting as they vote on items of business (not to vote on our behalf)

GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS TO SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAAD's) to General Assembly and Synod of the Sun shall be elected by the Presbytery, normally at the September stated meeting. Persons may be nominated by their congregations, by others, or by themselves. In each case, the Nominating Committee must receive a nominations form and (in the case of elders and youth) a Session endorsement letter in order to verify the person's eligibility to serve. Nomination forms will be included in the March and June Presbytery mailings. While nominations from the floor will be allowed, the election of persons nominated from the floor is contingent upon verification of that person's eligibility to serve (and will require the nomination form and endorsement letter to be completed in advance of the Presbytery meeting).

Terms of service:

Terms of service for elders and ministers to the **Synod of the Sun** are two years (with reelection to a second term possible). Terms for YAAD's are one year and rotate throughout the eleven presbyteries (three of the eleven elect YAAD's for any given year). Currently, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery elects two ministers and two elders, in staggered terms. **[One elder and one minister will be elected each year.]** The Synod normally meets in May and November, but some committee assignments on occasion might include additional meetings during the year.

Terms of service for elders, ministers and YAAD's to the **General Assembly** are from the convening of one General Assembly to the convening of the next (currently two years of service). This includes one stated meeting and the possibility of being recalled for any specially called meeting prior to the next stated meeting. **[Commissioners will be elected in odd years for service beginning in even years.]** The stated meeting of the General Assembly is typically an eight-day meeting in June, but requires significant reading and preparation prior to that meeting, as well as the availability for interpretation within Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery after returning. **Beginning in 2008, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery will elect two ministers, two elders, one YAAD, plus alternates for each of those positions for each General Assembly.**

Eligibility:

1. In order to be eligible for nomination, a MINISTER shall:
 - be available to attend the meeting(s) in its (their) entirety
 - have been a member of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery for at least two years
 - have attended at least three of the last four stated meeting of the Presbytery (the only exception shall be a legitimate excused absence)
 - be known by the Nominating Committee to be active in the life of the Presbytery and to be aware of denominational affairs
 - be available to report to the presbytery on the experience of attending Synod or General Assembly

2. Other factors which will be considered:
 - number of years since ordination
 - number of years as a member of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
 - number of years since last serving as a commissioner to Synod or General Assembly
 - number of times having served as a commissioner to Synod or General Assembly

3. In order to be eligible for nominations, an ELDER shall:
 - be available to attend the meeting(s) in its (their) entirety
 - have been a member of one of the congregations in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery for at least two years and have been active in the life of that congregation
 - be a member of one of the congregations in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery which has sent a commissioner to at least three of the last four stated meeting of the Presbytery (the only exception shall be a legitimate excused absence)
 - be available to report to the presbytery on the experience of attending Synod or General Assembly

4. Other factors which will be considered:
 - number of years since that congregation last had a commissioner to Synod or General Assembly
 - number of times having served as a commissioner to Synod or General Assembly
 - previous or current service within Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

5. In order to be eligible for nomination, a YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE shall:
 - (for General Assembly) be between the ages of 17 and 23 on the date of the Assembly
 - be available to attend the meeting(s) in its (their) entirety
 - have been a member of one of the congregations in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery for at least two years and have been active in the life of that congregation
 - be a member of one of the congregations in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery which has sent a commissioner to at least three of the last four stated meeting of the Presbytery (the only exception shall be a legitimate excused absence)
 - be available to report to the presbytery on the experience of attending Synod or General Assembly

6. Other factors which will be considered:
 - number of years since that congregation last had a commissioner to Synod or General Assembly
 - number of times having served as a commissioner to Synod or General Assembly
 - previous or current service within own congregation and Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery (including Youth Council)

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMISSIONER TO
SYNOD OR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I-7

Date of Nomination: _____

Person submitting nomination: _____ Phone: _____

This nomination is for: Synod _____ General Assembly _____

The person being nominated is: Minister _____ Elder _____ YAD _____

Please provide the following information about the person being nominated:

Name: _____

Address: _____

ELDERS/YAAD'S - Church (& city): _____

Date of Membership (congregation or presbytery): _____

YAAD's - Birthdate _____

Information required, but will be held in confidence by the Committee of Representation:

Race: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____ Disability? _____

Date(s) When Served as Commissioner to Synod of the Sun: _____

Date(s) When Served as Commissioner to General Assembly: _____

Please List Previous and Current Service Within the Presbytery: _____

Please List Previous and Current Service Within Home Congregation: _____

ALL NOMINEES - Please attach a statement (no more than one page) indicating: a) why you want to serve as a commissioner, and b) what you consider to be the greatest challenges facing the church today.

ELDERS/YAAD'S - Please attach a Letter of Endorsement from your congregation's Session.

ALL NOMINEES for General Assembly will meet with and be interviewed by the Nominating Committee on October 22 (Committee Day).

Please return completed nomination form and letter of endorsement (for Elders and YAAD's) no later than October 10 to:

EOP Nominating Committee
700 S. Boston, Suite 200
Tulsa, OK 74119
918-582-3077 or 800-533-1324
Fax: 918-582-3078

Spiritual development

J-1

I have developed a spiritual discipline that involves reading the Bible and praying early in the morning before I leave the house. Monday to Friday I wake up between 4:30 and 5am for personal prayers and Bible study. Sometime I use this time to prepare my sermons for Sunday. This has also translated to the whole family. We have a schedule everyday of the week as family (my wife and our two children), praying and reading the Bible together. Each member of the family has his/her own to read and pray for the family.

Participation in the church: I participation in the worship service sometimes as liturgist and scripture reading in all three service. By doing this, I have gained confidence standing before congregation.

In the mission of the church, I started Tulsa International Fellowship (T.I.F) one year ago; the fellowship has more than seventy members. The average attendance is about 50 -60 every Sunday. I preach almost every Sunday. This has given me a lot confidence with what I and preparing me for future ministry as pastor.

Interpersonal Relations

My ministry begins at home. This is the foundation of my ministry. Without my family I don't think I can do what I do every day. We plan and work together as family every Sunday. For example, my son (14yrs) helps with sound and power point in the worship service. My wife and I do pastoral visits together unless she is not available.

My relation with my peers is good (I think). We work together with pastoral staff and I have not had any problems for those three years that I have done my internship at First Presbyterian Church. I have been in several retreats with pastors and staff and I have not felt any kind of discomfort with anyone. Our relationship has been great.

Personal Growth

Working with the international community most of the time, I have been emotional when I am helpless in some situations. It is hard to see, hear or listen to someone narrating situation he/she has gone through as an immigrant. About three months ago I was visiting one immigrant in jail because he lost his student immigration status. He could not afford school fees for a semester. I prayed with him and later mobilized his friends who helped to get him out jail and paid amount that was required. I identified with this person because I have been in the same situation. I was able to help him and hopefully solved a problem that could have been worse.

Personally I need to grow because I am dealing with very delicate issues that are beyond me. Pastorally I feel I need a lot of support from my colleagues who have been in ministry for a long

time. I need their experience. I am dealing with some people who loved God before they came to this country but after sometime they have lost hope. Their faiths have been shaken by this culture. Some don't go to church any more. They want identity but they don't want 'church.' They want to be identified with Tulsa International Fellowship in case they face situation beyond. I need my colleagues.

Professional Development

I teach Sunday school classes in the church and within the International Fellowship, I have steering committee that I lead. We meet fortnightly to address issues affecting the community and spiritual development for the international community. I have been invited three times to speak on cultural differences in Northeastern State University.

Looking ahead

A. Ordination process

I have finished my theological training at Phillips Seminary (non Presbyterian), what next?

What about all the experience I have in the ministry? Is it considered anywhere in the ordination process.

B. Educations and Wavers

- a. I have been in the inquirer process for a long time. I am just concerned what I can do to quicken my candidacy and since I have a ministry that is going on, I would like CPM to consider my case. I am not ignorant about the Process and the Book of Order, however I am limited to too many things and the ministry is growing very fast.

C. Statement of faith

I believe in God as stated in the Nicene Creed and the Apostles creed, the Triune God (God the Father, God the Son and the God the Holy Spirit). I believe that this God is the Creator of the physical world and spiritual world. I believe that God is the author of life and all things hold together through God's power.

God the father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit are all equal. There is no hierarchal order in the trinity. The reality of the Triune God is about relationship and not supremacy. The Triune God entered in the world through the God the Son and related with the creation. This relationship is sustained by God the Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Holy Catholic church; this not a about a denomination but the Church that Jesus Christ died for and the purpose of the Church is to express the love of God in the world and not necessarily to 'save' the world. Salvation belongs to God alone.

I believe in forgiveness of sin by grace. It is not what I do to be forgiven but what was done for me by Jesus Christ. I do not merit for this grace but through the divine love, God gave His only begotten Son to atone my sin. Thus, I believe that Jesus Christ is Divine God and His death atoned for all sins of the world.

I believe the acts sacraments of Baptism and Lord's Supper are acts grace. By participating in these sacraments I acknowledge and express God's grace that came through Jesus Christ.

EVALUATION OF SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2011, STATED MEETING **O-1**

The Presbytery Planning Committee and the Presbytery Council review your comments after each presbytery meeting. To help us plan more effective meetings, please take a moment to respond to the following questions.

What comments do you have about this presbytery meeting?

What suggestions do you have for future presbytery meetings (ideas for speakers, workshops, reports, meeting format, etc)?

So that we might respond, when appropriate, please provide the following optional information:

Name: _____

Congregation & City: _____

When completed, please leave on the registration table or mail it to the presbytery office. Thank you for helping us to improve the quality of our time together.

GENERAL COMMENTS
SEPTEMBER 2011

O-2

I read an interesting article lately, posted on the PCUSA Office of Theology and Worship blog. The author, Karen Russell, asked about “Theological Friendship.” In a day in which people boast of how many Facebook “friends” they have, Karen asks what it means to be a friend. She goes even further when she asks what it means to be part of a “community,” and then even further when she asks about what it means to be “communities” of theological “friends.”

Let me back up a little. She began her article with a simple statement:

I’ve never been one of those people who have a large number of people I call “friends.” I have a large circle of acquaintances, but people who I allow to know me well can be counted on my fingers, with a couple left over.

That statement caught my eye, because I could probably have written it myself. That alone was enough to keep me reading. Then she said that personal circumstances had caused her to reconsider her definition of “friend” and realize that she had far more friends than she realized and that each played a special role in her life.

Karen then defined theological friendships as:

... those relationships that are grounded in things of the faith, the relationships that have as much to do with the soul than with proximity. Trust is part of it, but the trust comes not from experience so much as it comes from knowing that our faith binds us as brothers and sisters. It’s a trust that comes from faith that in Christ, through Christ and with Christ, we hold each other accountable in love and faith.

She went on to declare:

It’s just as important to have people to tell me that I need to spend more time with scripture as it is to have people to tell me that I should never, ever consider a hair color called “chocolate cherry.” I need to have people in my life who will pray with me, for me, beside me and because of me. I need to have people to study with, to reflect with, to be faithful to and with.

Having just returned from the Fellowship of Presbyterians Conference, the words of this blog were echoing in my mind. The conference included good worship - good presentations - good conversations - challenging thoughts. What will it mean in another 5-10 years to call ourselves members of any denomination, let alone the PCUSA? What will it mean to be in committed, covenant community with brothers and sisters in Christ, subject to the authority of Christ? Who and what will make up our understanding of “communities of theological friends?”

There were several ideas / proposals put forth in the Minneapolis conference - some obviously favored over others. By in large, however, these were people committed to staying in community with each other and (for the most part) with the PCUSA.

However, I was troubled by one thing. Though there were nearly 2,000 people there, there were also many who were not. For the most part, small churches and their leaders were not there. For the most part, racial-ethnic churches and their leaders were not there. It led me to wonder how those parts of our "community" will be included in a new design.

I expect we will hear much more about the shape and function of the Fellowship of Presbyterians in the weeks to come. I hope we will have more reflections at our September presbytery meeting from those who attended the conference.

But more than that, I hope we will spend some time talking about the nature and shape of our "communities of theological friends." I hope we will spend some time talking about how to include everyone in those communities. I envision a future in which primary relationships may be theological in some situations and may be geographic in others. I envision being able to identify a number of different "friends," some of whom are there to encourage and support me, some are there to challenge me, some are there just to say, "What were you thinking?"

In a world of virtual communities and Facebook friendships, we need to allow the Holy Spirit some creative room. There will continue be a need to a physical presbytery presence - for pastoral emergencies, natural disasters, pastoral vacancies, and conflicted situations. Some things are better done face-to-face.

But other relationships and communities will extend far beyond our local, physical communities. I pray that I (and we) may be open to all that this might mean. And I look forward to conversations with many of my "friends" along the way.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve".

The Mission Committee of John Calvin Presbyterian Church invites you
to a special presentation:

O.A.T.H. Presentation at John Calvin

UNBINDING THE CHAINS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thursday, September 29th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served. A children's program will be provided during the presentation

After learning about human trafficking in 2005, Mark Elam traveled to India, South Asia and the Philippines to work with organizations that rescue girls from sex trafficking. His international organization, Angel Eyes, helps support safe houses and prevention centers in Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines. While raising awareness and support for the global problem, Mr. Elam discovered that human trafficking and child sex trafficking is happening here in America as well. After some research, Mr. Elam formed the Coalition O.A.T.H. (Oklahomans Against Trafficking Humans) in July 2008. O.A.T.H. has partnered with over 200 federal, state and local organizations to service victims of trafficking found here in Oklahoma.

The Mission Committee of John Calvin has invited Mark Elam to come to Tulsa for an "Awareness 101" presentation at our church on Thursday, September 29th. This is a convenient opportunity to hear him and ask questions.

Did you know millions each day face forced labor and sexual exploitation?

Here are the facts:

- Over 30 million known slaves in the world today - more than ever in history
- Human trafficking is a \$34 billion industry annually - the fastest growing and the second most profitable criminal activity in the world today
- Over 2 million children are sold in sex trafficking each year globally
- 300,000 of our children are at risk each year right here in America!

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