

Presbytery Highlights

May 12, 2015

Community Presbyterian Church, Chester

Newton Presbytery exists to serve its congregations in their calling to further God's kingdom as disciples of Christ.

Pre-Presbytery Workshops:

- ✎ Using Spiritual Discernment to Make Decisions
- ✎ Tools for Playing Fair

Themes:

- ✎ Churches Serving in Mission in Newton Presbytery
- ✎ Affirmations on Peacemaking

Highlights:

- ✎ Presentations (spread throughout the meeting):
 - First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway – Interfaith Ministry in Rockaway
 - First Presbyterian Church of Branchville – Mission Trip to Zambia
 - Presbyterian Church in Morristown – Superstorm Sandy Recovery On-going Mission
 - Highlands Presbyterian Church – All-age Mission Trips
- ✎ Discussion and Consideration of the Five Peacemaking Affirmations – the 221st General Assembly (2014) voted to send these Peacemaking Affirmations to the presbyteries for an advisory vote. They are not policy statements but ways to test the thinking and feeling of the PCUSA on peacemaking. The process for our Presbytery's consideration, we heard a short video presentation from Rev. Alonzo Johnson, the Mission Associate for Peacemaking with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and provided an opportunity for discussion/questions prior to voting on each affirmation. Following the voting we gathered into small groups to discuss ways to bring info on peacemaking to our congregations.
- ✎ Teaching Elder Stephen Choi (Stewartsville) and Ruling Elder Lisa Gray (Old Greenwich) were installed as Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery.
- ✎ Elizabeth Heyer was commissioned to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). Elizabeth will be serving in Indianapolis, living in the interfaith community and working with non-profit agencies that bring together Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Christians to serve God's world.
- ✎ Heard about the very successful meal packaging event and participated in the Bread for the World Offering of Letters.
- ✎ Pastors new to Newton Presbytery were introduced: Rev. Rebecca Segers (Old Greenwich) and Sherman and Lorrie Skinner (HR).
- ✎ New members for Presbytery Committees and Teams were elected.
- ✎ The Trustees were given authority to complete the sale of the Hamburg church property.

Committee on Ministry (COM) Notes:

- ✎ Rev. Cynthia Crowner will be retiring from her ministry as the Chaplain of Blair Academy at the end of June.
- ✎ Rev. Dr. Betsey Hall will be retiring as Executive Director of Homeless Solutions in August.
- ✎ Rev. David Wright has transferred to the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Thank you to our brothers and sisters in Christ at Community Presbyterian Church for hosting the meeting and for making everyone feel welcome!

Upcoming Presbytery Meetings

Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at United Presbyterian Church of Alpha

Saturday, November 14, 2015 at Blair Academy, Blairstown

Saturday, January 9, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Whippany