

# PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALPHA

## Theme:

- Rev. Larissa Kwong-Abazia, Vice Moderator of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, joined us for the meeting. A Q&A with Larissa provided an opportunity to hear more about the positive things happening in the PCUSA as well as the issues and challenges. She also was the preacher for the worship service. Larissa was a member of Kitchell Memorial Church and was shepherded through the preparation process in Newton Presbytery.

## Highlights:

- Katy Shevel was examined and approved for ordination. She will serve as the Temporary Supply pastor at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church.
- Terry Dougherty was moved from Inquirer to Candidate following the successful completion of his examination.
- The Presbytery approved the recommendation to move forward with the transfer of the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church from Palisades Presbytery to Newton. The Synod of the Northeast will now consider our request later in September for recommendation to the General Assembly.
- A video was shown on the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Newton Presbytery is organizing a group to attend. Churches are encouraged to send as many youth as possible. We are also looking for additional leaders (especially males) to join Rev. Rebecca Segers and Rev. Carie Morgan.
- An interpretive video on ways we use our financial resources was shown. Consideration of the 2016 Budget will be at the November 14 Presbytery meeting at Blair Academy.

## Notes:

- Applications for nomination to serve as a Commissioner to the General Assembly in June, 2016 in Portland Oregon are due by October 15. These are available on the Newton Presbytery website or by contacting the Presbytery Office.
- Presbyterian Women are providing quarter banks for each church to support scholarships for children in Nairobi. If you didn't pick yours up at the Presbytery Meeting contact the Presbytery Office for info on how to get your church's bank.

- Upcoming workshops and gatherings: The Missional Practice of Spiritual Discernment (Sept 19), Presbytery Clergy Retreat (Oct 27-28), Come to the Table – Fellowship Gathering of the Synod of the Northeast (Oct 30-31), Boundary Training (Nov 12). Information on these can be found on the Presbytery website.

### Committee on Ministry (COM) Notes:

- 2016 Minimum Terms of Call information is available on the website as are worksheets for 2016.
- The approved 2015 Terms of Call spreadsheet for all pastors is available upon request from the Presbytery Office or Stated Clerk.
- Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf, minister in the United Methodist Church, is the new pastor at the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church. She has been granted status as a temporary member of Newton Presbytery while she serves at the church.
- Rev. Dr. Nancy Young will begin serving as the Interim Pastor at the Wharton United Community Church on September 20, 2015.
- Rev. Dr. David Lawrence began his service as the part-time Stated Supply and the Union Hill Presbyterian Church on September 1, 2015.

*Thank you to the Session, staff, and congregation of the United Presbyterian Church, Alpha for hosting the meeting and for making everyone feel welcomed!*

Contact Information for questions about the Presbytery meeting:

Newton Presbytery website: [newtonpresbytery.org](http://newtonpresbytery.org)

Presbytery Office: [office@newtonpresbytery.org](mailto:office@newtonpresbytery.org)

Stated Clerk: [statedclerk@newtonpresbytery.org](mailto:statedclerk@newtonpresbytery.org)