

Assembly Connect

Presbytery of Chicago Presbytery Assembly | February 16, 2019

Chicago Presbytery commissioners assembled for worship and work on Saturday, February 16 at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Installation of new Assembly Moderator Paige Stephan, Assembly Moderator-Elect Sandy Zeles, and Stated Clerk Ken Hockenberry. Paige currently serves as a chaplain at Rush Hospital and adjunct faculty at McCormick Theological Seminary. Sandy is a Ruling Elder at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Downers Grove, and Ken serves as Pastor of Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Skokie.
- Recognition of the leadership of Assembly Past Moderator John Chu, and outgoing Presbytery Coordinating Commission Moderator Greg Boyer.
- Recognition of the ministry of Deb Roberts, as Co-Pastor at Knox Presbyterian Church, upon her retirement.
- Recognition of the faithful ministry of the Evergreen Park Presbyterian Church, which will celebrate their final worship service on March 3, 2019.
- Introduction of the Presbytery Staff (long-serving and new), led by Executive Presbyter Sue Krummel:
 - Earnestine Norwood, Director of Internal Affairs (full time)
 - Barbara Wilson, Director of Collaboration & Community Partnerships (full time)
 - Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig, Ministry Coordinator (full time)
 - Eric Heinekamp, Treasurer (part time)
 - Ken Hockenberry, Stated Clerk (part time)
 - Dennis Cobb, Communication Specialist (part time)
 - Jodi Craiglow, Recording Clerk (part time)
- A “yes” vote for all but one of the Proposed Amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution. Action on the remaining item was postponed to the May 2019 meeting.

Highlights, cont’d:

- Approvals for the following items:
 - To serve as guarantors on a \$11,350 Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) loan to Calvary United, Park Forest, so that they can repair their air conditioning system.
 - The formation of the Commission on Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE), which will help to educate, equip, encourage, and empower us as a presbytery to live into our future as a truly inclusive, anti-racist, multicultural institution.
 - The formation of a new Mission Committee which will serve as a “one stop shop” for presbytery-related mission funding requests.
 - A Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, which will enable us to respond to disasters within our bounds much more nimbly and effectively.
 - Mandatory annual Boundary Training event for all minister members (and strongly encouraged for ruling elders) involved in the work of the presbytery; the next training event is on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 1:00 (same day as Assembly meeting).
 - Dismissal of the Cosmopolitan United Church of Melrose Park (CUC), to the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church (no current PCUSA members in this church).
 - Empowered the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church Downers Grove to handle real estate dealings for property of Downers Grove St. Luke’s (who will be purchasing the Downers Grove First Church property).

The Presbytery was blessed to hear the Rev. Terra Winston, Associate Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life at Lawrence University (Appleton WI), preach on Ecclesiastes 3:1-11. She challenged us not to kill ourselves in striving for perfection -- instead, we should work in the power and through the leading of God’s Holy Spirit.

Rev. Jim Kirk, Associate for Natural Disaster Response with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, encouraged us with stories of global work and witness made possible through the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. As a presbytery assembly, we collected \$2,263.50 toward the OGHS fund.

Rev. Shawna Bowman, pastor at Chicago Friendship, encouraged us through artwork to stand with and support our siblings in Christ inside and outside the presbytery.

Over the lunch hour, we had the opportunity to attend one of six enrichment activities.

Moderator Paige Stephan and Stated Clerk Ken Hockenberry commissioned the members of our all Commissions of Chicago Presbytery

With thanks to those who planned and hosted our first assembly meeting, the next meeting in our “One Year, One Church” initiative will take place at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at Fourth Church, Chicago.

For more details on this Assembly Meeting, please go to bit.ly/2019FebMeetingDetails