

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS

November 17, 2016

Our meeting opened in worship, led by members of the Sudanese Presbyterian Church which worships in Lincoln First Presbyterian. In addition to native songs, the message was brought by Rev. Jock Pelak who also shared his faith and personal journey from Sudan to Ethiopia, Kenya and finally to Lincoln.

The Executive shared some statistics of Homestead over the past 10 years. And highlighted to last eight: 1) Homestead is a presbytery dominated by small churches. 60% of the congregations have membership of under 100; 2) Since 2009, Homestead has lost 1,120 members. This loss represents approximately \$65,000. That figure is significant because it represents the amount of money difference between what the committee's and the M&Ms requested from the 2017 Budget, and what was able to be funded; 3) The statistics shine the light on the issue facing all of our congregations. There are fewer members giving fewer dollars. An inventory of our strengths needs to begin so that we all can have the most effective mission and ministry among our members and in our communities.

New office help was introduced and welcomed: Renee King and Joan Bergland.

New members of the Class of 2019 in each committee was elected.

Three recipients of presbytery grants made presentations to presbytery: New Zion shared a video of their biennial mission trip. Greg Bolt and Duane Westing presented separate workshops, sharing new things they learned from recent conferences: Stressors in congregations; Dealing with racism.

A third workshop by Doc and Kris helped identify how hospitality is affected by architecture and maintenance as well as tips for members.

The Rev. Nanetter Tomlinson-Knoell was Honorably Retired. Farewell and Godspeed was shared with Greg and Heidi Bolt who have accepted a co-pastorate in Red Wing, MN.

Two new policies were approved: Bereavement for pastors; Training for moderators of sessions who are not PCUSA clergy.

The next Presbytery *Prime* will be February 18, 2017 at Lincoln Good Shepherd.