



PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO ASSEMBLY MEETING SUMMARY
Flossmoor Community Church, 6/16/15

As Nehemiah proclaimed, “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). The Presbytery of Chicago gathered with joy at the Flossmoor Community Church to worship, work, study, and break bread together.

We were reminded of our national connections when we met Mr. Norman Clearfield, the Presbytery’s new Hunger Action Enabler, and Rev. Jonathan Seitz, a PCUSA Mission Coworker in Taiwan. The Hunger Action Enabler position is funded by the Presbyterian Hunger Program of the General Assembly, and the Presbytery’s Shared Mission Giving helps support our PCUSA Mission Coworkers abroad. The General Assembly will meet next June in Portland, OR. Chicago Presbytery will send ten commissioners. The Committee on Nominations invited ruling and teaching elders to submit nominations. Commissioners will need to be elected in November.

Speaking of the Committee on Nominations, the Assembly approved an amendment to the Manual of Operations that consolidated all nominations in CON, and elected four new people to that body. Additional members are needed.

Rev. Mike Miller, Jr. reminded the Assembly that technology, in the form of computers, smart phones, tablets, the internet, has changed the way the world works. Rev. Miller encouraged the Presbytery to embrace the change so we can meet our neighbors and meet the future. While the means of transmitting may be different, the message we share about the kingdom of God and the salvation of Christ, is the same. The Assembly responded to this Good News by taking the Pentecost Offering and tweeting our gratitude.

The Presbytery of Chicago is a leader in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in ecumenical and interfaith relations. The Presbytery’s Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group led the Assembly in studying and discussing a draft statement on Presbyterian-Jewish relations in the Presbytery of Chicago. The draft, titled “In Our Time,” proposes a theological and relational framework for the Presbytery to affirm and live out its relationship with the Jewish community.

Following dinner, the Presbytery approved the ordination of Sung Yeon Choimorrow. Sung Yeon has been called to serve as an organizing director for Interfaith Worker Justice.

With great joy, the Presbytery welcomed a new congregation into our midst. The nearly 100 members of the Chicago Joyful Community Church of Skokie, an independent Korean-speaking congregation, unanimously requested that their congregation be declared an organized congregation of the Presbytery of Chicago and the PCUSA. The pastor, Rev. Juyoung Kim, was received into the Presbytery in September, 2014. The Presbytery of Chicago welcomed Chicago Joyful with joyous prayer and singing.

The Presbytery also set necessary boundaries. Last November, the Presbytery’s Safe Boundaries policy was amended to provide consequences for teaching elders, commissioned local pastors and certified Christian Educators who are out of compliance with the requirement of regular participation in boundary training. Four teaching elders are three or more years behind. The Assembly voted to remove three of these teaching elders from the rolls and to declare that the fourth is no longer engaged in a validated ministry. The consequences will take effect on September 1, 2015, to give these teaching elders another opportunity to attend boundary training. They will be notified of the Assembly’s action by certified mail.

The Assembly also took additional actions, including:

- Delegated the authority to hire the Transitional Executive Presbyter to the Presbytery Coordinating Commission, so that the TEP can start earlier than the September Assembly meeting;
- Appointed a discernment team to meet with Christ Church, Chicago, as it “attempts to discern God’s will for denominational affiliation;”
- Approved a gradual raise in the Presbytery’s minimum clergy salary to \$50,000 by 2018; and
- Appointed an administrative commission to the North Branch Bible Church of Glenview, at the session’s request.