

DIGEST
71st STATED MEETING
THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE
JULY 17, 2007
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENVILLE, NC

Attendance

Ministers	97
Corresponding Members	18
Elders	115
CLP/Lay Pastors	10
Inquirer/Candidate	5
Lay Member of Council	3
Visitors	223
Staff	<u>5</u>
Total:	478

Call to Order

Reverend Joe Harvard, Moderator called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with prayer.

Approval of Docket

The docket was approved with the addition of the supplemental materials.

Welcome by Hosts

Reverends Wanda and Bill Neely welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville.

Appointment of Standing Committees

The following persons were appointed to serve the committees as listed:

Resolutions: Ministers: John Speight (Moderator), Mary Banner and Richard Rice and Elders: Kaye Massengil, Holly Burton

Attendance: Ministers: Thomas Wilson and Bettie Kirkpatrick and Elder Herbert Dail (Moderator).

Introduction of First Time Commissioners

First time elder commissioners were introduced and welcomed. An orientation was available for all elders prior to the meeting.

Appointment of Standing Committees

The following ministers and elders were seated as corresponding members: Marcia Mount Shoop (Presbytery of San Francisco); Ann Brinson (Salem Presbytery); Sunny Chang (Hanmi Presbytery); Theodore Churn (Boston Presbytery; Moffett Churn (Boston Presbytery); Walter Griffith (Presbytery of Tampa Bay); Jack Haberer; Rebekah Hutto (Foothills Presbytery); Helen Locklear; Gordon Marshall (Flint River Presbytery); William Nickels (Eastern Virginia Presbytery); Dawn Stoker (Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley); Richard Weikel (United Church of Christ); Roger Horne; Jose Perez (Presbytery of Coastal Carolina); Ruth Mosley; Raymond Privett (Southern

Baptist Convention); Jack Walchenback (Florida Presbytery); Robert Yoder (Presbytery of Coastal Carolina).

Meditation

The presbytery heard the sermon of Sung H. Kim. This portion of his examination was sustained.

Report of Stated Clerk

Barbara Campbell Davis

The Presbytery received the following information:

1. Minutes of commission to ordain and install Alan Koeneke as Pastor of Oxford Presbyterian Church on March 4, 2007
2. Minutes of the commission to install Ronald Stoker as Pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, NC on April 29, 2007.
3. Minutes of the commission to Commission James Manley as Commissioned Lay Pastor of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Franklinton, on March 25, 2007.
4. Resolution from Calvary Presbyterian Church, Wilson, for Connie Hendley Banks.
5. Resolution from Calvary Presbyterian Church, Wilson, for Dorothy Cannon Battle.
6. The complaint from Frederick Nash Westbrook to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic against the Presbytery of New Hope: Concerning failure of the Committee on Ministry to report to the Presbytery its actions regarding a request from Mr. Westbrook to grant the status of validated ministry to his work.
7. Report of the Administration Commission for Clayton New Church Development
8. Sessional Records as listed in the committee report.
9. Richard McDuffie was elected to serve on the Clayton New Church Development Administrative Commission.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

1. William Brown (Pastor, First Rocky Mount) whose brother was seriously injured in an automobile accident.
2. Portia Turner Williamson (MAL) who has recovered from back surgery and requests prayers for her mother, Ruth R. Turner, who is suffering with dementia.
3. Herbert Dail (CLP, Macclesfield) whose wife, Patricia, is recovering from back surgery.
4. Jane Wilson (AoP, White Memorial, Raleigh) who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

5. Chad & Cynthia Neal (Co-Pastors, Fuquay Varina) whose son, Cameron, is recovering from surgery.
6. Peggy Kearney (Elder, St. Paul) who is recovering from spinal surgery.
7. John Fricks (Elder, Durham, First) who is recovering from surgery.
8. Leigh Gillis (Pastor, Cann Memorial) who is recovering from knee surgery.
9. Barbara Campbell Davis (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk) who is recovering from knee surgery.
10. Carole McCartney (HR) who is undergoing treatments.
11. Nita Harrell (Elder, Macclesfield) who is recovering from a stroke.
12. Ann Cobb (Elder, Pinetops) who is recovering from a broken arm.
13. Sheila Barrick (AoP, Raleigh First) who is recovering from back and neck problems.
14. Edna Davis (Elder, Davie Street) who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

CONGRATULATIONS:

1. Butner Presbyterian Church on their 50th anniversary June 24, 2007.
2. Nutbush Presbyterian Church on the 250th anniversary April 29, 2007.
3. Roberson Chapel Presbyterian Church on their 75th anniversary June 3, 2007.
4. Janise Smith (AoP, Triangle) and husband, Derek, on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Renee Smith, June 15, 2007.
5. Allen Proctor and Caroline Craig Proctor who were married on May 26, 2007.
6. Tom Watson (Pastor, Covenant, Wendell) and wife, Julie, on the birth of their son, Jackson Lee Watkins, June 5, 2007.
7. Rev. St. Paul Epps (HR) for receiving the Edler Hawkins Award at the meeting of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus.
8. High School and College graduates that were recognized from the congregations of the Presbytery.

CONDOLENCES TO:

1. The family of Mary Ellen Montague (Elder Timothy Darling) who died on March 7.
2. Mildred Hoggard (Elder, University, former Moderator of New Hope) whose husband, Lara, died on March 16.
3. Jose Perez (Laboring in Bounds serving Manantial deVida Hispanic Ministry at Willow Springs) whose wife, Orene, died April 29.
4. The family of Rose Tyson Gardner (Member, West Haven, first female elder of Edgemont) who died on April 21.
5. Ray Cobb (Pastor, Triangle) and wife Diane, on the death of her grandparents who were killed in an auto accident on April 13.

6. Danny and Sandra Saunders (Elders, William and Mary Hart) on the death of Danny's father, Claude, on March 14.
7. Mary Gale (AoP, First Kinston) and James Gale (Pastor, Rivermont) on the death of Mary's grandmother.
8. Mike Nevling (Pastor, Saint Andrews) on the death of his sister.
9. The family of Rev. H. Williams Vassey (Former Pastor of St. Giles) who died on May 1.
10. Omtolokun Omokunde (Pastor Timothy Darling) and wife, Dawn, on the death of his cousin, Ann Ramsey.
11. Helen Gay and Fatina Gaston (Elders, Mount Pisgah) on the death of their brother Edward "Ron" Parker, on June 11.
12. Martha Stith (Elder, Mount Pisgah) on the death of her sister-in-law, Gwendolyn C. Davis on June
13. Ellen Hall (Elder, White Memorial, Raleigh) on the death of her mother-in-law, Luci Farrow Hall, June 19.
14. Calvin Parks (Retired Certified Educator) whose wife, Helen Parks, died on June 25, 2007.
15. The family of Daphine Ellis (Elder Geneva) who died on July 2, 2007.
16. John Meacham (Lay Pastor) whose father, Hudson Meacham died July 4, 2007.
17. The family of Daphine Ellis (Elder and Director of Music, Geneva) who died on July 2, 2007.
18. Leigh Gillis (Pastor, Cann Memorial) and husband, John, on the death of his father, John James Gillis, who died on July 6, 2007.

Report from Board of Pensions

Reverend Helen Locklear, Regional Representation of Board of Pensions spoke on the benefits and current actions of the Board of Pensions.

Report of Nominating Committee

Ellen Hall, Moderator

The following persons were elected to serve in the position and class as follows:

Church Development & Evangelism:

Class of 2008: **Ron Stokes; Ophelia Noble**

Class of 2009: **Margaret Brown; Brookie Alexander**

Committee on Representation:

Class of 2009: **Lisa Clevenger Nance**

Sessional Records:

Class of 2007: **Nancy Winslow**

Class of 2009: **Ann Huckenbeck**

Organizational Review & Evaluation:

Class of 2009: **Robert Sturdivant**

Multicultural Committee:

Class of 2008: **Howard Herring; Moongil Cho**

Finance and Property:

Class of 2008: **Margaret Purser**

Stewardship Education Committee:

Class of 2008: **Phyllis Kort**

Report of Council

Rev. Ingram Hedgpeth, Moderator

The Presbytery approved the following:

1. Support to the Session of Nut Bush Presbyterian Church to rent a tent for their 250th Anniversary Celebration.
2. That the Board of Directors of Camp Albemarle will be provide \$40,000 additional funds to be taken from the reserve fund for Camp Albemarle to help fund projects: replace boats, rebuild the pier and develop a master plan for the future of the camp.
3. That the grant to Rev. David Keck from Louisville Institute's Pastoral Leadership Grant Program be administered by the Presbytery of New Hope.
4. That the Session of Englewood Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount encumber the church property to secure a loan of \$50-85,000 for the repair of the roof over the Fellowship Hall and Christian Education Wing.
5. That the Session of Peace Presbyterian Church, Winterville, secure a loan in the amount of \$1,351,000 for their new building construction.
6. That the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Wendell, purchase property at a cost of \$45,000.
7. The Presbytery will support the North Carolina Council of Churches for support of Grant Request from Peacemaking Offering.
8. Contribution to the Presbyterian Historical Society for \$500.00 towards the publishing of a special issue of the Journal of Presbyterian History.
9. That the Session of Macclesfield Presbyterian Church sell their manse.
10. That the Session of Faith Presbyterian Church purchase property for a new facility for a price of up to \$450,000.
11. Pledge to Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in the amount of \$5,000 to fulfill commitment of grants to students.
12. That the Youth Council be commissioned and recognized annually at the February stated meeting of Presbytery.
13. Restricted funds held by the Presbytery of New Hope be transferred to the Board of Directors for Camp Albemarle as follows: Funds restricted for purchasing boats \$1,057; Funds restricted for general improvements \$10,712; Funds restricted for pier repairs \$9,139; Funds restricted for general use \$17,637. (According to 2005 audit)
14. The following office schedule for the Presbytery Staff: Fridays in August 2007 the office will be closed. Beginning January 2008 the office will be open 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 12 Noon on Friday.
15. That the Executive Presbyter, Barbara Campbell Davis, be given a medical leave beginning on June 4 through June 30, 2007 to recover from her knee surgery.
16. That the Executive Presbyter, Barbara Campbell Davis, be given a sabbatical leave from May 15, 2008 through August 31, 2008.
17. That the Presbytery of New Hope contract with Church Financial Campaign Service to organize and participate in a capital campaign.
18. The locations for Stated Meetings in 2008: February 16, 2008 – Hudson Memorial, Raleigh July 15, 2008 – Western Boulevard, Raleigh October 18, 2008 – Vance Granville Area - hosted by Vance/Granville Area Churches
19. Approved the minutes of the April 17, 2007 called meeting.
20. Approved the minutes of the 70th Stated Meeting held on February 24, 2007.
21. That the proposed challenge budget for 2008 be set at \$1,929,000.
22. That the budget for 2007 be reduced to \$1,899,131.
23. That the following persons be appointed to serve as the Committee of Counsel to address the complaint by Reverend Fred Westbrook to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: Ingram Hedgpeth, Ed McLeod, Anna Pinckney Straight. Cader Howard and Ann Barnhill will be legal counsel to the committee. (The committee of council was formed by calling a meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council so that a response could be prepared for the Synod prior to the July 8, 2007 deadline.)

Report of Congregational Ministries

The Growing Together Committee presented a skit to promote attendance at the Growing Together Educational Event to be held on September 15, 2007 at Johnston Community College.

Mrs. JoAnne McMenamin and Rev. Carole McCartney, on behalf of the Older Adult Committee, recognized the Older Adult Nominees from Churches throughout the Presbytery. Each nominee was presented with a certificate and book.

A manual of the Congregational Ministries Committees was provided for information on the workings of the Division.

Report of Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Steve Wicks, Moderator

Rev. Christopher Edmonston gave the report for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Received as an Inquirer: Stephen Surer (New Hope-Willow Springs)

Certified Ready to Receive a Call:

Jim Davis (Wake Forest)

Johanna Nygard (Kirk of Kildaire)

Lindsey Wells Perry (Kirk of Kildaire)
Charles Jones (First, Rocky Mount)
Received as Candidates with reception:
Tully Fletcher (Westminster, Durham) introduction written by Nancy Rozak
Marguerite Moore (White Memorial, Raleigh) introduction written by Rev. Art Ross
James Graham (Davie Street) introduction written by Rev. Byron Wade.
The applicants were presented by Rev. Christopher Edmonston, examined by Rev. Joe Harvard, who also asked the constitutional questions and declared their candidacy. Rev. Christopher Edmonston gave the charge to the applicants and offered the blessing.
Ordination readers for 2007:
Steven Wicks, Susan Mazzara, Debbie Osterhoudt, Drew Clark, Gun Ho Lee and alternates: Betty Berghaus and Donovan Drake.

Presbyterian Outlook

Rev. Jack Haberer, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook spoke to the presbytery about the publication and brought good news of the denomination.

Report of Task Force on Issues that Matter

Rev. Jim McKinnon, Moderator, gave a report on the results of the called meeting of April 17, 2007. (See attached)

Report of Commissioned Lay Pastor Committee

Rev. David Garrison, Moderator
The following Lay Pastors were recognized for completing the program as noted.

Level I Students – Bud Crumpler, Glen Evans, Cyril Jarrett, Scott Hardy, Anthony Kamau, Douglas Loftin, Paul Rowland

Completion of Program - Howard Herring, Rebecca O'Dell, George Snead, Wally Spragins, Nancy Stokes, George Dudley, Judy Deme, Jan Maynard, Ann Stephenson, Felecia Hardy, Steve Mabie, Eric Tellefsen

Worship

Reverends Wanda Neely, William Neely, Kerri Hefner led the worship service for the presbytery, with participation by J. David Roberts, the liturgical dancers, choir of First Greenville, and the flute choir. Reverend Claude Godwin and Reverend John A. Brothers, Jr. were recognized and Honorably Retired during the service. The offering was collected for: Habitat for Humanity of Pitt County; The Haiti School of Nursing in Leogane, Haiti; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Shower Trailer; The Food Bank of Eastern and Central NC; Rocky Horse Ranch and The Greenville Community Shelters.

Report of Committee on Ministry

Rev. Jonathan Wallace, Moderator

The Presbytery approved the following:

Interim Supply:

1. William Martin Hager and First Presbyterian Church, Washington effective May 1, 2007 through April 20, 2008. Terms: Salary \$55,000; Housing \$20,000; Accountable Reimbursement \$9,000; Board of Pension \$9,000; Social Security \$5,738. Total \$100,089. Four weeks vacation and two weeks education leave. Compensation to include moving expenses up to \$6,000.
2. Clyde Wiley and Providence Presbyterian Church, Angier, effective April 15, 2007 through July 15, 2007.
3. David Keck to serve as Interim Associate Pastor of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Durham, effective May 21, 2007. Terms: Salary \$21,523; Housing \$18,000; Social Security \$3,023; Accountable Reimbursement \$5,568; Pension/Medical \$13,667. Total \$61,781. Four weeks vacation and two weeks continuing education.
4. Jane Love and First Presbyterian Church, Roanoke Rapids effective June 10, 2007. Terms: Salary \$24,000; Housing/Utilities \$19,200; Social Security \$3,304.80; Medical/Pension \$13,608; Accountable Reimbursement \$4,000; Moving Expenses \$3,000. Total \$67,112.80. Two weeks vacation and four weeks continuing education.
5. Robert Clark and Bear Grass/Roberson Chapel Presbyterian Churches effective June 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007. Terms: Total of \$34,319 split between churches: Roberson Chapel \$17,159.50 and Bear Grass \$17,159.50. Four weeks vacation and two weeks continuing education.
6. William Nickels and First Presbyterian Church, Wilson, effective March 15, 2007. Terms: Salary \$39,000; Housing \$36,000; Social Security \$5,738; Pension/Medical \$23,625; Accountable Reimbursement \$7,500. Total \$111,863. Four weeks vacation and two weeks continuing education.
7. Mary Holmes Banner and First Presbyterian, Smithfield, effective July 15, 2007 through January 15, 2008.

Stated Supply:

1. Raymond Privott and Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church effective April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

Temporary Supply:

1. Bonnie Pettijohn and Geneva/Hebron/Oak Hill Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2007 through July 1, 2008.

Commissioned Lay Pastor:

1. Robert Owens and Benson Presbyterian Church effective March 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008.
2. Frank Day and St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Lay Pastor:

1. Steve Mabie and Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church for up to six months beginning May 9, 2007.

Dissolution:

1. Caroline Craig Proctor and University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, effective June 15, 2007.
2. Sandy McGeachy and Selma Presbyterian Church effective April 8, 2007.
3. Mary Seeger and Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Durham, effective April 8, 2007.
4. David Keck and Northgate Presbyterian Church, Durham effective May 20, 2007.

Moderators:

1. Ron McMenamain and Cornerstone Presbyterian Church effective March 14, 2007 through September 30, 2007.
2. Rocky Stone and Jason & Snow Hill Presbyterian Churches effective July 1, 2007 through July 1, 2008.

Dismissal:

1. Sam Hope to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina effective March 14, 2007.
2. Mary Seeger to Transylvania Presbytery effective March 14, 2007.
3. Karla Miller to UCC Disciples of Fellowship effective January 1, 2007.
4. Shirley Smith Rogers to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina to serve as Pastor of Antioch Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, effective January 1, 2007.
5. Richard Hildebrandt to Salem Presbytery effective May 9, 2007.
6. James Lawton to National Capital Presbytery effective March 27, 2007.

Approved the Following:

1. John Brothers to be Honorably Retired effective September 1, 2007.
2. Claude Godwin to be Honorably Retired effective June 30, 2007.
3. Anne Brinson to provide pastoral services to West New Bern Presbyterian Church, New Bern, while the Pastor is on Sabbatical leave effective May 20, 2007 through August 23, 2007.
4. Roger Horne to be added to the Supply List for New Hope Presbytery.
5. Sunny Chang to be added to the Supply List for New Hope Presbytery.
6. Caroline Craig Proctor to be added to the Supply List for New Hope Presbytery.
7. Jim Holderness to Labor Outside the bounds of New Hope Presbytery to work as part-time Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington from June 4, 2007 through August 16, 2007.
8. Leroy Huizenga to Labor within the Bounds of Blackhawk Presbytery as a Supply Pastor effective March 14, 2007.
9. Sam Jenkins to continue to Labor within the Bounds of New Hope to serve Fairfield/Eno Presbyterian Churches through October 15, 2007.

10. John Edgerton to serve as Part-Time Pastoral Care at Pinetops Presbyterian Church. Salary of \$250 per Sunday.

11. Upon ordination, Sung Kim be granted permission to Labor outside the Bounds to serve in the Presbytery of San Jose, pending his transfer and reception by the Presbytery of San Jose.

12. Validated Ministries handbook. (Can be found on website: www.nhpresbytery.org)

The following Calls were approved:

1. William Nickels become a Minister Member at Large and serve as Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Wilson.
2. Sunny Chang become a Minister Member at Large.
3. Marcia Mount Shoop become a Minister Member at Large.
4. To Stephen Herring to serve as Designated Pastor of Pinewood Presbyterian Church, Goldsboro, effective April 23, 2007. Terms are: Salary \$816; Housing \$784; Accountable Reimbursement \$400. Total Compensation \$2,000 monthly.
5. To Moffett Churn to serve as Associate Pastor of West Raleigh Presbyterian Church effective May 6, 2007. Terms are: Salary \$14,556; Housing \$30,000; Social Security \$3,409; Accountable Reimbursement \$3,000; Medical/Pension \$14,035. Total \$74,300. Four weeks vacation and two weeks continuing education.
6. Theodore Churn become a Minister Member at Large.
7. That Sung Kim be approved for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament.
8. To Dawn Stoker to serve as Part-Time Pastor of Efland Presbyterian Church effective August 1, 2007. Terms are: Salary \$20,000; Social Security \$1,530; Pension/Medical \$8,472; Accountable Reimbursement \$1,920. Total \$31,922. Vacation and continuing education leave will be provided.
9. To Gordon Marshall to serve as Pastor of Cotton Memorial Presbyterian Church, Henderson effective July 25, 2007. Terms are: Salary \$28,800; Housing \$14,000; Social Security \$3,509; Pension/Medical \$14,448; Accountable Reimbursement \$4,700; Other Applicable income \$1,868; Deferred Income \$1,200. Total \$68,525. Four weeks vacation and two weeks continuing education.

The following Commissions were approved:

1. To install Stephen Herring as Designated Pastor of Pinewood Presbyterian Church on July 22, 2007 at 7:00 PM. Members of the Commission: Ministers: Claude Andrews and Mary Harris Todd and Elders: Christine Battle. Frank Day. Guest Minister Reverend Willem Bodisce Massink will sit with the Commission.
2. To Install Moffett Churn as Associate Pastor of West Raleigh Presbyterian Church on August 26, 2007 at 3:00 PM. Members of the Commission: Ministers: Joe Ward, Art Ross, Herb Underwood and Marilyn

Hein and Elders: Sue Ramsay, Elizabeth Day and William Smith.

3. To Ordain Sung Kim as Minister of Word and Sacrament on July 22, 2007 at 2:00 PM at DuRaleigh Presbyterian Church. Members of the Commission: Ministers: Moongil Cho, Peter Park. Elders: Hwaam Lee, Soon S. Hong, Barbara Campbell Davis, Youngil Cho and guest minister Hak S. Yoon.
4. To install Gordan Marshall as Pastor of Cotton Memorial Presbyterian Church, Henderson on September 16, 2007 at 3 PM. Members: Antonia Lawrence, Toure Marshall with others to be named.
5. To install Dawn Stoker as Pastor of Efland Presbyterian Church on August 19, 2007 at 3 PM be approved. Members: Ministers: Byron Wade, Margo Hausmann and Elder: Karen McAdams.

Report of Examinations Committee

Rev. Matthew Hardin, Moderator

The examinations of the following ministers were sustained: William Nickels; Sung Kim; Sunny Chang; Marcia Mount Shoop; Moffett Churn; Theodore Churn; Dawn Stoker; Gordon Marshall

Report of Standing Committees

The report of the Resolutions Committees was approved as presented by Rev. John Speight, Moderator
The report of the Attendance committee was approved as presented by Herbert Dail, Moderator.

Adjourn

There being no further business the 71st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Hope was closed with prayer by Reverend Joe Harvard, Moderator at 4:00 PM.

Next Stated Meeting

**Saturday
October 20, 1007**

**Outer Banks
Presbyterian Church
Kill Devil Hills**

June 10, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Presbytery of New Hope:

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

As members of the Presbytery Task Force on Issues that Matter, we wish to express our gratitude to the participants of the April 17, 2007, Called Meeting of the Presbytery. Under the process leadership of consultant, the Rev. Alan Thames, it was felt by most all who attended to be an afternoon where our collective witness as disciples of Jesus Christ and part of the larger Body of Christ honored and brought praise to our Lord, the Head of the Church.

After processing the notes and comments that were submitted by the 27 different Table Groups, representing over 65 congregations and over 200 individuals, Rev. Thames has submitted to the Task Force a synopsis of the recorded comments from the Table Groups. Rev. Thames has also included his own observations and reflections that we submit for your information as commissioners and encourage you to share with your Sessions.

You will notice that many strengths and positive reflections were articulated which can serve to give hope and encouragement to the Gospel witness of the members of the Presbytery of New Hope. Examples of these include: the opportunity to openly and honestly communicate and listen to others; the relationships that were strengthened by such conversations; and the sense of covenant that was fostered with the help of the Holy Spirit that afternoon.

We also hear and recognize the frustrations that still remain and the weaknesses in the process in which we participated. Cognizant that the goal of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for conversation and dialogue and not to take action or engage in debate over issues surrounding the PUP report or ordination standards of the PC(USA), we, the Task Force, believe it is important to name the challenges and wrestle with them openly. These points of concern include:

- Fear and mistrust exist within our larger faith community, partly due to past actions and future possibilities within our congregation, the Presbytery of New Hope, and the PC(USA) in general.
- Creating small group community in the setting of a Presbytery meeting can seem artificial although they clearly produced beneficial results on a micro level. However, these results are difficult to transfer to the larger group or to duplicate at later events.
- As many have noted, the issues surrounding the PUP Report, ordination standards, and biblical authority were intentionally not the primary subject of conversation within the Table Groups. While most discussions included individual feelings concerning these presenting issues, there is a need that has been articulated to confront and discuss these issues head-on.

It is clear to see that while the afternoon of April 17th was a good day in the life of the Presbytery of New Hope, it was but one step in a long journey of living together as a connectional church. Currently the Task Force on Issues that Matter is reviewing five recommendations from Rev. Thames ranging from a similar event to that which was held on April 17th in preparation for the February 2008 Stated Presbytery Meeting, where the resolution concerning the Presbytery's interpretation of "shall" in the Book of Order is scheduled to be voted upon, to a time of mutual invitation being utilized at that meeting as a part of the discussion and discernment process. You can expect a further report in the coming weeks as we discern together the appropriate course of action in this circumstance.

It is vitally important to understand that this will be a multi-step approach, and that any benefit of the event on April 17th is integrally tied with a growing reality of community and shared witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ seen and heard within us all as the Presbytery of New Hope and members of the PC(USA).

In Christ,

Jim McKinnon, Ray Cobb, Bill Hawkins, Ingram
Hedgpeth, Barbara Campbell-Davis, Drew Clark

For the Task Force on Issues that Matter
Presbytery of New Hope