

PRESBY-LITE

A low-fat review of the Presbytery of Detroit meeting
of January 24, 2017, held at Detroit Hope Presbyterian Church

Strengthening and Transforming Our Congregations to be Missional, Pastoral, Prophetic

The promotion of social righteousness. F-1.0304

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" Matt 5:6 (NRSV).



CALLS AND TRANSFERS

New Calls

Edward Dunn to Pastor, **Grosse Pointe Woods Church**

Ruthanne Herrington to pastor
Garden City Church

Linda Cochran to assistant pastor,
Plymouth First

Transfers

Thomas Hartley to honorably
retired (7/1/17)

James Gear to Redstone
Presbytery

Elizabeth Rice to Scioto Valley
Presbytery

Robert Sheldon to Peace River
Presbytery

Carol Tate to Middle Tennessee
Presbytery

Peter Smith to Chicago
Presbytery

Nancy Devries to Minnesota
Valleys Presbytery

MAJOR ACTIONS TAKEN

New Directory of Worship.

Without discussion or dissent, Presbytery voted *yes* on Amendment H, which, if approved by a majority of the presbyteries, will replace the current Directory of Worship.

Installation of the 2017

Moderator and Vice

Moderator. In a worship service that included the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Presbytery installed Ruling Elder Stefanie Lewis, a member of Detroit Hope, and John

Judson, pastor of Birmingham First, as 2017 Moderator and Vice Moderator.

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Ranney-Balch Fund. On motion from the Coordinating Cabinet, Presbytery approved the grants from the Ranney-Balch Fund.

The funds for the Barnabas Project have not yet been released by the Trustees.

2017 Theme. In 2016 the Presbytery adopted the theme *Seek the Welfare of the City. Jeremiah 29:7* as the theme for the year. It emerged from a paper prepared for and approved by the 2014 General Assembly called *The Gospel from Detroit*, written by Kevin Johnson and Gloria Albrecht. Over the course of a year, each Presbytery meeting included an hour for presentation and discussion. All but the January sessions were videotaped and can be found at the Presbytery website. With this meeting, Presbytery began the first of a series of discussions and presentation on the theme *Great Ends of the Church: The Promotion of Social Righteousness. F-1.0304.*

MISCELLANEOUS

State of the Presbytery. The Presbytery Executive gave his annual State of the Presbytery Message. He noted that the

Presbytery continued to decline, as it has for many years (as have the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and almost every denomination in the US). Nonetheless, many of our congregations have grown. Those that have are not clubs, but have taken initiatives to reach out and serve their communities for Jesus Christ.

Board of Pensions. Doug Portz, Presbytery's rep at the Board of Pensions reported that the state of the pension fund is strong: it is 123% funded. He noted some changes, including the requirement that churches as employers must annually report their annual benefits, and members must annually register. The Board has expanded its program to allow enrollment of non-ordained church employees.

Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program. James Rissler, the president of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program explained the kinds of loans they make available to churches, including loans for energy conservation and handicap accommodation. The program encourages borrowers to invest in PILP as a part of its funding process. If over 20% of the loan amount, it will rebate funds to those churches. Since the Trustees have invested Presbytery funds in PILP, Mr Rissler delivered \$11,000 in refund checks to five churches.