

# New Leaders...New Partnerships...

## Highlights of Presbytery Assembly for February:



Our Geneva Center dining room was filled with 103 elder commissioners and minister members plus 15 guests for a presbytery assembly that addressed a wide range of celebrations and concerns, conversations and contemplation:

\* **Rev. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne** (Michigan City) preached about "Fasting and Ashes," from Matthew 6: 1-6 and 16-18 in the midst of worship with confession, and celebration of the Lord's Supper.

\* All congregations and/or interested individuals were invited to partner together in Haiti missions through a new Council Committee

led by **Rev. Chuck Compton** (Flora) and **Ruling Elder Jeff Brown**.

\* Ogden Dunes Community Church Elder Commissioner **Bruce Klimek** moved a petition from the congregation and session to rescind the action of Commission on Ministry notifying the session last August COM would not approve a contract extension for their former interim pastor. After questions and answers and debate supporting or opposing the motion, the Assembly declined to support the petition by a vote of 34 in favor and 59 against rescinding the decision of its elected COM. The conversation of discernment provided opportunity to discuss key aspects of the transitional process for congregations preparing to search for a pastor, as well as many expressions of pastoral care and concern for the pain of the congregation, and prayers for healing relationships, blessing the Ogden Dunes congregation, and restoring unity in Christ.

\* Additional leaders were elected: **Bob Shoemaker** (Dyer) to the Nominating Committee, **Judy**

**Lewis** (Fowler) to the Geneva Center Ministry Team, **Rev. Justin**

**Schlesinger-Devlin** (Dayton) to the University Church Board of

Directors, and **Rev. John Ritchie** (Huntington) to the Visioning Ministry Team.

\* **Rev. Sue Babovec** and **Angie Briner** led demonstrations of the new

3B program: Body, Brain & Beliefs, a system of exercises for fitness and fellowship sponsored by

Smock Senior Ministries (**Rev. Bill Haworth**). Training in the 3B program will be provided at no cost to the first 20 churches registering for the April 20-22 workshop in Fort Wayne

\* Appreciations were extended to **Joseph** and **Leah Kiama** and **Ireen Gondwe** for their leadership in the multicultural ministry probe and completing their immigrant ministry training, and to the team that guided the former Michiana All Peoples Church probe, **Rev Steve**

**Braden** (Elkhart), **Rev Anna Parkinson** (Goshen), **Hank Harreman** (Sunnyside), **Kevin Dreyer** (South Bend First) and **Rev Mary Ann Banning** (Mishawaka); and to **Vince Catania** (Highland)

and **Linda Long** (Valparaiso) for their work on Synod's Midwest Hanmi Administrative



Commission.

\* Approved a balanced 2012 budget for Geneva Center and recognized the Geneva Center staff: **Cathy Adley, Jeff Winegardener, Lori Gibson** and the **kitchen staff**, as well as 2012 Summer Camp Director **Rev. David Lawrence** and Head Counselor **Elli Stephans**.

\* Noted the year-end financial report for 2011 that reflected two one-time contributions that brought report balances for Presbytery and Geneva Center near the projected budgets.

**The next Stated Assembly will be Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at Peabody Retirement Community, North Manchester, Indiana**