

## Assembly Received a Warm Welcome from Peabody Staff, Residents and Preschoolers...

*The Reverend Dr. Laura Reason, Presbytery Moderator*

On a beautiful spring day, the Assembly was welcomed to **Peabody Retirement Community** in North Manchester for the May assembly. Greeters at the parking lots and golf carts running between the parking lot and the registration area were the first hints of the expansive welcome planned by the Center for the Assembly. Peabody's **Executive Director Jeff Jarecki**, **Administrator Jillian Everett** and **Chaplain Sue Babovec** all welcomed us at the beginning of the business meeting in the Chapel. A surprise visit by the Peabody preschoolers, singing for us, was greatly appreciated by the assembly.

Approval of the docket included the serving of the Lord's Supper during worship, the receiving of \$552.55 for Pentecost Offering to support PC(USA) ministries for youth, young adults and children at risk and moving the report on University Church to the time of the Council report. After receiving the items on the consent agenda, the Stated Clerk told the assembly that the ACs for Ladoga and Rensselaer are continuing their work.

**Rev. Alan Griffin** presented the 2012-13 budget, which moves us from a calendar year to a fiscal year accounting and reporting period (July 1- June 30). While a balanced budget was presented, the loss of members and the ending of transfers from a multiyear settlement in 2015/2016 were noted as matters that will affect future income. The floor was opened for questions and questions were encouraged over lunch to Alan and Eric before the assembly would be asked to approve the budget in the afternoon. The 66 congregations that have paid their per capita in full in the past year were thanked.

The Commission on Ministry report time included a reminder about the next mandatory Boundaries and Ethics training for teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders to be held Wed, May 23rd. We recognized the honorable retirement of teaching elder **Rev. Rudy Gourdine, Chaplain** at Oaklawn Center in Elkhart and parish associate at First Elkhart and commissioned **Ruling Elder Jeff Brown** to Faith Presbyterian in Kokomo. A proposal from COM to allow for the naming of Administrative Commissions between assemblies to commission ruling elders in their ministry sites was amended to include 5 members on such a commission and then passed unanimously.



**Rev. John Ritchie**, Moderator of the new Care for Pastoral Leadership

Committee, took a moment to recognize the 40 year ordination anniversary of teaching elder **Rev. Carol McDonald, Synod Executive**, ordained on May 21, 1972. Carol spoke of her deep appreciation for colleagues in ministry in Wabash Valley, her presbytery throughout her years of service.

Under the report of Council, the Assembly voted to establish an Administrative Commission to work with Faith, West Lafayette, which has notified the Presbytery of its' intention to disaffiliate from the PC(USA). Members of the commission are Teaching Elder **Rev. Kevin Bowers (Moderator)**, TE **Rev. Justin Schlesinger-Devlin**, Ruling Elder **Sara Stallings**, RE **Marijane Miller** and CRE **Rick Ryan**.

The University Church Restatement of Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were before the floor for adoption, as the UC is a specialized ministry of the presbytery. After questions, the Assembly was reminded that adoption of the Articles of Incorporation would include the election of the initial Board of Directors, including the Council's recommendation of **Marylynn Boatright**. There being no nominations from the floor for the Board of Directors of UC, these items for UC were adopted, including the election of the Board.

In the Moment of Connection from home, **Phyllis Wezeman** talked about how meeting folks from Malawi in the South Bend area first interested her in being in mission in Malawi and led to the creation of the ministry **Malawi Matters Inc.** Assisted by board member **Judy Friend**, they provided an overview of how the ministry provides education about HIV and AIDS to church leaders in Malawi, who in turn teach in a variety of settings. See [www.malawimatters.org](http://www.malawimatters.org) for more information or to schedule a visit by Phyllis to your congregation.



Worship was themed to the day of Pentecost, led by **Rev. Justin Schlesinger-Devlin**, **Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick** and **Rev. Jessica Wietzke** and supported by **Lois Dickinson**, choristers and community members from Peabody singing and serving communion. After lunch, the Assembly re-gathered to approve the budget, elect those recommended by the Nominating Committee to particular service, approve the serving of communion during summer camp at Geneva Center under the supervision of **Rev. David Lawrence** and participated in the commissioning of shepherds for summer camp.

The Transformation Ministry Team noted that the first set of churches are finishing their three year commitment and a fourth wave will begin in January. **Ann Bingaman** asked commissioners to complete a quick survey about the Ministerial Excellence Program as part of the application for the extension of the grant from Lilly Foundation.

There being no further business, the Assembly adjourned until the annual retreat and meeting will be held on September 14-15 at Geneva Center.