

Nine 1st Timers at May Assembly... 100 Participating in the Work of the Church

Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk

More than 100 ruling elders and teaching elders across our presbytery gathered Tuesday for a beautiful day at Geneva Center to do the collective work of ministry in northern Indiana. Repeatedly praying for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Assembly:

- Experienced the Word through **Rev. David Comstock's**, Munster Westminster Presbyterian Church, preaching on the Babel story from Genesis and the story of Pentecost in Acts 2, then shared the Lord's Supper
 - Contributed \$523 for the Pentecost offering
 - Traveled further along the path of our Joshua Journey by watching *The Art of Possibility* as described by Ben & Rosamund Zander and talking around tables about how this approach intersects with Jeremiah 29 and invites possibilities for Wabash Valley: *"I know the plans I have in mind for you...they are plans for peace...to give you a future filled with hope..."* **Carol McDonald**, Synod Executive and **Steve Braden**, Honorably Retired, encouraged those gathered to continue being involved in this visioning process through the [online survey](#) and participating in remaining retreats.
- Elected Ruling Elder **Jill Kitowski**, The Presbyterian Church, LaPorte, as Vice Moderator of Assembly for 2014; **Nick Hill**, Thorntown Presbyterian Church, as member of COM; and **Steve Braden**, Honorably Retired, as Vice Moderator of Visioning Ministry Team and member of Council.
- Approved written criteria proposed by COM for validating non-parish ministries annually.
- Approved the fiscal year 2013-14 budget for presbytery shared mission and basic operations, noting no increase in the presbytery portion of *per capita* during this transitional year of re-envisioning the ministry of presbytery.
- Voted to approve all amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution proposed by the 220th General Assembly, except to vote no on 12-B, intended to amend G-2.0104a on gifts and qualifications for ordination.
- Recognized those teaching elders recently approved as Honorably Retired,





Rev. John Gilbert, Rev. Stan Wilson, Andy, Rev. Marge & Rev. Steve Braden

with stories about **Steve Braden** from seminary classmate Gretchen Seidler-Gibbs; about **Stan Wilson** as told by Stan Kessler; and about **John Gilbert**, as written by his wife, Sally.

- Heard liaison **John Ritchie**, Huntington First PC, explain three proposed models for

allocating costs between congregations and members for medical benefits dues under consideration by the Board of Pensions.

- Voted to approve terms of agreement to dismiss Faith Presbyterian Church, West Lafayette, to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and expressed gratitude to the Administrative Commission and its moderator **Justin Schlesinger-Devlin**, Dayton Memorial Presbyterian Church, as it seeks to complete its work.
- Enjoyed a role play presentation by New Ministry Development Team members **Anna Parkinson**, Goshen First PC and **David Lawrence**, Elkhart First PC, as they demonstrated ways to engage in conversation, one-on-one, to invite others into the church community.
- Welcomed nine Elder Commissioners attending assembly for the first time, and celebrated ordination anniversaries of 23 teaching elders with gifts provided by the Ministerial Excellence Fund.