

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PALISADES
April 15, 2008
(*Consent Agenda Item)**

FOR ACTION BY THE PRESBYTERY:

1. The Council **PLACES IN NOMINATION** one additional Minister to serve on the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Passaic. She is the **Rev. Kimberly Chastain**. Her election will increase the Commission to eight members (a *minimum* of 7 is required), evenly divided between Ministers and Elders.

*2. The Council, having convened as the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery, **RECOMMENDS** the following for **APPROVAL**:

At its June 21, 2005 Stated Meeting, the Presbytery, upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees, **VOTED** "to **APPROVE** the request of the New Milford Presbyterian Church to sell the "old" manse (the Church owns *two* manses, only one of which is used to house Pastors of the Church), located at 725 River Road (Block 607, Lot 2.01), in New Milford, New Jersey, at an estimated selling price of \$325,000, in accordance with guidelines and policies established by the Presbytery for such transactions."

The Board of Trustees now **RECOMMENDS** that, *contingent upon the approval by the congregation at a Special Meeting scheduled for April 13, 2008 (the Session having already VOTED its approval)*, Presbytery **AMEND** the above action by **GRANTING PERMISSION** to the New Milford Presbyterian Church *to add* to the property for sale, a 75' x 100' portion of the "back lot" behind the "old manse" (Block # 607, Lot # 2.04), in order to make the property more attractive to commercial buyers.

[BACKGROUND: the Church has been advised, by appropriate professionals, that the addition of this portion of the "back lot" would not only add more property to the parcel already for sale, but would also provide a driveway to Trenton Street, which runs parallel to, and behind, the heavily traveled River Road, allowing better and safer access to the property by vehicular traffic. The result could make the sale (which has been pending since the summer of 2005) more attractive, overall, to prospective buyers. The "front lot," including the "old manse," is currently priced at \$480,000 (*higher* than the original estimate of \$325,000, in 2005), and the addition of this portion of the "back lot" could further enhance the overall value of the parcel, *and* make it easier to sell. Furthermore, this area of River Road is zoned for both residential and commercial use.

Meanwhile, the Church has adequate property for its own needs, including the Church building, which also houses offices, class rooms, meeting rooms, and a nursery school; a Manse for the Pastor; and a parking lot with driveways to both River Road and Trenton Street.]

*3. Upon the advice of Elder Richard Jones (Ridgewood, West Side), Chair of the Personnel Committee, and a licensed attorney in the State of New Jersey, the Council **RECOMMENDS** that Presbytery **APPROVE** the following:

In order to protect the trust clause interests of the Presbytery of the Palisades and the

Presbyterian Church (USA) in the real estate of the Claremont Lafayette United Presbyterian Church of Jersey City (CLUP) in the pending lawsuit between CLUP and Dr. Rudolph Daniels, Sr. *et al* and the Presbytery, the **STATED CLERK**, acting as the designated representative of the Presbytery in that lawsuit, **RECOMMENDS** that the Presbytery engage an attorney or law firm to file a counterclaim against Dr. Daniels.

FOR INFORMATION:

At the February 5, 2008 Regular Meeting... the Treasurer, Mr. Paul Karoyan, reported that the Haggerty Group accounting firm was retained to transfer financial data to the Presbytery's new ACS system. Haggerty will also submit names of potential candidates for the part-time Bookkeeper position that is still pending.

The Stated Clerk gave a brief update on the status of the pending, "third party law suit," brought against the Presbytery by Daniels et al.

The Presbytery's insurance carrier has referred the matter to an attorney at the law firm Harwood Lloyd, LLC, in Hackensack, which specializes in defending clients in insurance litigation.

The Stated Clerk has submitted to the attorney all requested paperwork to date, and the matter is in very capable hands.

The Stated Clerk also reported that, because his medical condition limits his ability to travel long distances comfortably, he has invited the Rev. Katherine Cunningham to avail herself of the "Stated Clerk's Seat" at the upcoming Meeting of the General Assembly this June, in San Jose, California.

Discussion then took place on a matter raised in email communications by the Moderator, Elder Barkley Calkins, namely *What is the relationship of the Council to Committees and Units of the Presbytery?*

The *prompting issues*, according to Elder Calkins, include:

-Crisis prevention (encouragement of, and/or pertaining to):

Day-Care, pre-school, and nursery programs housed at many of our Churches

Long-term facilities management plans for Churches

-Development of a plan to make better understood and appreciated Presbytery's mission to *"equip and empower congregations and individuals to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ"*

How can Council:

a) clarify the empowering message(s) we want to bring, and

b) become more proactive in outreach, e.g. through COM Triennial Visits

The Presbytery's **Standing Rules, Article IV, Section 1**, under **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** of the Council, reads as follows:

1. *The general purpose of the Presbytery Council is to promote the growth, work and health*

of the Presbytery as an instance of the body of Christ. It shall have special concern for the relationship of the Presbytery to its congregations and the coordination and effectiveness of the work of its Ministry Units.

a) The Council shall have Presbytery-wide responsibility to support the Churches in the specific areas of:

- Ministry and Mission Vision and Planning*
- Finance and Property Administration*
- Spiritual Transformation*
- Lay Leadership Development*

b) The Council shall review at least annually the functional relationship between the Presbytery's structure and its Mission Statement.

c) It shall review and evaluate at least annually the goals and accomplishments of Presbytery's Ministry Units.

d) It shall carry out an on-going planning process.

e) It may appoint task forces of limited duration to complete work not already included in the work of the Ministry Units or Standing Committees.

The Stated Clerk noted that the Council's responsibilities with respect to the "coordination and effectiveness of the work" pertains, specifically to the five *Ministry Units* of the Presbytery, as outlined in **Article IV, Section 2** (CPMS, Mission Communications, CSR, SJP, and SDT); and that many of the *Committees* of the Presbytery already have Constitutionally-prescribed structure, functions, and accountability (e.g. COM, CPM, Nominating, Representation).

Among the questions/issues raised by the Council were the following:

- What do we want to know (about the work of the Ministry Units)?
- What would be helpful for the Presbytery to know (about the work of the Ministry Units)?
- What could the Council do for the congregations of the Presbytery that they could not (or otherwise, might not) do for themselves?

The Council agreed to continue the conversation along these lines, at subsequent Meetings. Meanwhile, the Revs. Harold Thornton and Bruce Tischler, and Elders Barkley Calkins, Joseph Faragalla, and Willa Mae Taylor, agreed to function as "work groups" to begin to formulate plans to address the two-fold focus of the Council as outlined in its **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Congregations and Ministry Units**.

The question of the absence of a *Chair* for the Spiritual Development and Theology Unit, was discussed, along with the necessity for more members of the Unit itself. All agreed about the centrality of Worship at Meetings of Presbytery, and that the Council can, and should, play a significant role in this. The Nominating Committee has been alerted; and in the meantime, the Revs. Beverly Dempsey, David Thornton, and Donald Brown agreed to formulate general plans for Presbytery Worship for the remainder of 2008.

It was noted, also, that the Spiritual Development and Theology Unit has been given responsibility for planning and carrying out such events as Clergy Retreats.

The Stated Clerk had earlier in the evening circulated, by way of email and hard copy to Council members, a translation, by Elder Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, of a letter from the Rev. German Suarez, regarding ongoing conversations about a possible partnership between the Presbytery of the Palisades and the Central Presbytery Corporation of the Reformed Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. Because the letter had only recently arrived, the Council agreed to postpone discussion/action to subsequent Meetings of the Council.

It was noted that the Council of Presbyterian Ministries of Paterson - consisting of representatives from our four congregations in Paterson (United, St. Augustine, Iglesia, and Westminster) - had submitted an update of its work to the January 22nd Regular Meeting of the Presbytery Council; and that this Paterson Council was seeking an “endorsement” of its work and a “partnership” with the Council and the Presbytery, in this regard.

Discussion will continue at subsequent Meetings of the Council.

The matter of the bid from Commercial Wall Systems of Planview, New York, to reconfigure the Presbytery Office space, was again raised, specifically within the context of the importance, now and in the future, of securing *multiple* bids, especially for capital expenditures.

The Stated Clerk noted that the Presbytery, in *approving* this recommendation at its January 29, 2008 Stated Meeting (pending approval by the “landlord,” Trinity Presbyterian Church of Paramus), had in effect given the “go-ahead” with an *upper dollar limit* on the expenditure.

Since *no* contracts have been signed to date, and approval by Trinity is pending (as of this date), the Council/Trustees may certainly seek other bids and select one that is *lower* than that offered by Commercial Wall Systems, before proceeding with the project.

The Multicultural Presbyter, Elder Joseph Faragalla, reminded the Council’s about the 9th **National Multicultural Conference**, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, from April 10 - 13, 2008.

He noted that there is opportunity (though limited because of time deadlines) for “scholarships” and/or “discounts” for teams of participants from Presbyteries.

The matter *has been* referred to the CPMS Unit, although the Unit is currently not scheduled to meet until the latter part of March.

Some attendees have already been identified, and others have expressed their desire to be a part of the event.

At the March 4, 2008 Regular Meeting...the Stated Clerk reported that, at its February 28, 2008 *Special Meeting*, the Presbytery determined, in accordance with **Book of Order G-6.0702**, that Dr. Rudolph Daniels, Sr. was in fact persisting in work disapproved by the Presbytery, and was therefore presumed to have renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Dr. Daniels’ name was, therefore, deleted from the Roll of Ministers of the Presbytery of the Palisades, and appropriate Church and secular entities have been/will be so notified

The pending, three-part law suit remains in the hands of attorneys for the respective parties, including Mr Michael Oropollo, Esq., of the law firm Harwood Lloyd, LLC, of Hackensack, who

has been assigned, by the Presbytery's insurer, to represent the interests of the Presbytery of the Palisades.

The Treasurer, Mr. Paul Karoyan, who was excused from this Meeting, submitted a YTD report. It was noted that, although income from investments is down, overall performance is good relative to what is happening in the rest of the market.

Elder Margaret Meyer reported on behalf of the Council's Finance Committee. A question was raised about the purpose and authorization for disbursement of the various special offerings of the denomination, e.g. Peacemaking and Pentecost.

The Council **VOTED** that the Presbytery's portion of such offerings be set aside in *restricted* accounts, for use in accordance with the purposes specified by the denomination in connection with these offerings (e.g. Pentecost Offering for youth and young adults "at risk"); and that authorization for disbursement of Presbytery's portion reside with the Congregation Support and Resourcing Unit (Pentecost Offering) and the Social Justice Priorities Unit (Peacemaking Offering).

Discussion followed about the fact that the Friendship Baptist Church of Paterson, which purchased the building of the former East Side Presbyterian Church (and for which the Presbytery continues to hold the mortgage), was recently, together with its nursery school, put out of the building for reasons of health and safety because asbestos was discovered in the lower basement. The Rev. Bruce Tischler reported that, in 1995, when a similar discovery of asbestos was made, the Presbytery agreed to share the cost of the asbestos removal/abatement (Presbytery's contribution was \$5,870.50), in exchange for a *formal, executed Release* from any further responsibility in this matter.

It was noted that the asbestos problem has since been *resolved*, and that the Church and its nursery school have been permitted to resume their occupancy of the facility.

The Stated Clerk reported that the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Passaic held an initial, organizational meeting on February 21st.

The Council **VOTED** to make available for the Commission's work of assisting the Church in its "marketing" of the Church property for sale, an initial allocation of \$10,000 (to be used for securing professional appraisals, etc.), the monies to be set aside in a "Restricted Exchange Fund." It is understood that all such expenditures will be reimbursed from the proceeds of the eventual sale.

The Council then heard from its two work groups (established at the February 5th Regular Meeting).

1. The group comprised of the Revs. Bruce Tischler and Eileen Lindner, and Elder Barkley Calkins (exploring the implications of the relationship of the Presbytery - specifically through the work of the Council - to the Churches of the Presbytery) submitted the following, written report:

The overall purpose is to begin the process of identifying ways in which Presbytery can be more proactive and effective in its mission to "*equip and empower congregations and individuals,*" and ways in which the Presbytery Council can exercise its "*special concern for the relationship of the Presbytery to its congregations.*"

Some guiding principles:

- Look for opportunities for Presbytery to facilitate collective action around things that Churches could do better when acting *cooperatively* rather than on their own
- Create *inviting* events to which congregations are encouraged to send leaders to share issues of concern, and to meet appropriate resource people. Participants could share both “best practices” as well as concerns
- Develop strategies and activities to *change* the prevailing view of the Presbytery from “regulator” to “relationship facilitator”

Against that background, some specific ideas, all of which would need further development in cooperation with the appropriate Presbytery Committees/Units are:

Celebrate Pentecost that afternoon (to avoid conflict with regular Sunday morning worship) with a focus on a number of Churches coming together around some form of service. The Habitat for Humanity house is one possible model for the kind of service Presbytery would encourage/facilitate. Holding a Taize style worship service is another; this might be a service in Paterson, perhaps with an emphasis on the crisis in Darfur.

Encourage the development of more regional clusters of churches. Several models already exist, i.e. the Englewood/Leonia/Teaneck Cluster, the Paterson Council of Presbyterian Ministries, and one just forming around the Churches in the Wayne area. Might a Presbytery representative visit a future meeting of one or more of those clusters to review how they came into being, and to identify what is working, what could be improved, what messages they would have for other Churches considering forming clusters, etc.?

By June, encourage all Churches to have named their Stewardship chair for the coming year, and then develop an “event” for the chairs, to be hosted by a good resource person (such an idea to be developed with the appropriate Unit of the Presbytery).

Council at each meeting could pray for some of our congregations by name, and could let them know they have been prayed for. A “prayer calendar” could be established. Churches on such a prayer list would be contacted so that they are aware that they are being lifted up in prayer. Specific prayer requests could be elicited. *(The Council then identified the following Churches for an initial “prayer calendar,” and Council members were given responsibility for making appropriate contact: Allendale, Bayonne, New Garden, South, Carlstadt, Clifton, Oasis, and Franklin Lakes.)*

Council could develop the practice of a regular periodic message (quarterly?) that would go out to all congregations reminding them of ways in which Presbytery could

be a resource. Reporting on *positive developments* around the Presbytery could be a part of that message. It could also provide an avenue for congregations to respond to the Presbytery, indicating ways in which the congregations think that the Presbytery could be more helpful.

Bulletin inserts highlighting the Churches and ministries of the Presbytery could be made available, such a project to be coordinated with the Mission Communications Unit.

Develop some kind of resource for Churches with day care, pre-school or nursery school programs. Rev. Kent Smith and Elder Dorothy Vanderwerf are already at work on something along these lines. A resource developed by Rev. Eileen Lindner several years ago could also be useful.

Session meetings could be made more *inspirational and effective*. This would lend itself to the development of an event to which people could come to hear about “best practices.”

Presbytery leaders, including the Moderator, Multicultural Presbyter, Transformational Presbyter, Council members, etc. could arrange to visit congregations at their regular Worship time, with the offer in advance to bring a brief message from the Presbytery, with agreed-upon “talking points,” such as promoting Presbytery Day, Pentecost plans (as above), other things going on, and inviting conversation after Worship.

2. The work group comprised of the Revs. Joseph Faragalla and Harold Thornton, and Elder Willa Mae Taylor gave the following report:

This group met to respond to the need for Council to maintain contact with the Ministry Units of the Presbytery. Acknowledging that the Council has no authority to *direct or instruct* the Units as they seek to fulfill their respective roles in Presbytery, the Council nonetheless has, in accordance with the **Standing Rules**, a responsibility to *maintain communication*. (See “Duties and Responsibilities” of the Council in the **Standing Rules**)

It was thought wise to suggest some guidelines to help the Council better understand the work of the Ministry Units. These suggestions could be helpful to members of Council who may be asked to serve as *liaisons* to the Ministry Units, and to give reports to the Council about the ongoing work of the Units.

Our suggestions are presented as questions of the Ministry Units:

a. Could each Ministry Unit develop a “handbook” that could be used to orient new members to the Unit? Such a document could also orient Council to the work of the Unit in an objective way.

- b. Could the Unit develop minutes for at least 18 meetings to give new members and the Council background of the Unit's work?
- c. Could the Units provide orientation for a new member, using the handbook and old minutes?
- d. Could the Unit provide new members and the Council with a summary of their significant accomplishments and challenges?

Using this information, the Council could begin to understand in a broad way the work being done by the Ministry Units.

(As a personal experience, Rev. Harold Thornton noted that he served on a Unit without any orientation and lost much time just trying to understand what the Unit's work was and how they had been going about getting it done. They offered no history of the Unit's work nor any rationale for the way in which they were doing their work. When such information was eventually provided - by someone who was *not* serving on that particular Unit at the time - there was greater understanding of how the Unit worked.)

The Council then turned its attention to some property issues.

The Council **ELECTED** the Rev. Harold Thornton to serve as Chair of the Council's Property Committee.

In response to a request from the Palisade Avenue Presbyterian Church of Union City, the Council **VOTED** to contribute \$5,000.00 - from the Maintenance of Church Buildings line item of the Budget - toward the cost of the recent renovations to that Church's facility (the total cost was \$48,500, with the Church's insurer paying \$43,500).

It was reported that we have received a second bid (of \$23,650 - \$25,200) from FurnitureWise of Long Beach, New York, for the materials and labor to reconfigure the Presbytery Office. This compares to the approximately \$18,500 figure from Commercial Wall Systems. Both estimates *include* the "corridor" in the Conference Room, an item which is "off the table" in accordance with the wishes of the landlord, Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Each company will be asked for a revised bid to take into account that change; and a *third* bid may also be solicited, for the sake of overall comparison..

The Council then turned its attention to the overall issue of Worship and Spiritual Growth in the life of the Presbytery.

Rev. Beverly Dempsey, Chair of the Social Justice Priorities Unit, reported that the Worship themes and preaching schedule for the Presbytery for the balance of 2008, will follow the results of a recent survey, by the Unit, of those areas of greatest interest and concern to the Presbytery. Hence...

-April 15th Stated Meeting - Emphasis upon the *environment* - the Rev. Fletcher Harper, of GreenFaith, preaching; request for space for a Pre-Presbytery event, beginning at 3:00 P.M. (*Rev. Dempsey to make arrangements with the host Church, Carlstadt, First*)

-May 17th **Presbytery Day - 2008** - Theme: Multiculturalism, Racism, Immigration Concerns. Include ESL provisions; Rev. David Bowie, plenary speaker

-June 17th Stated Meeting - Theme: War and Peace, with preacher selected accordingly

-September 16th Stated Meeting - The “Moderator’s Meeting” - Elder Barkley Calkins, preaching; themes: hunger, homelessness, poverty, genocide in Darfur...

-November 18th Stated Meeting - Themes: Child Welfare, Health Care, Water resources, NOLA redevelopment...with preacher selected accordingly

Rev. Dempsey also reported that the Rev. Carroll Arkema has offered to lead “Clergy Colleague Groups (as sponsored and funded by the Board of Pensions) within the Presbytery.

It was the consensus of the Council that the offer will be noted if/as the need arises. (Other such “informal” groups have been meeting on a regular basis throughout the Presbytery, offering care and support for colleagues in ministry.)

The Rev. Donald Brown reported on the upcoming Disaster Preparedness Training events, to be held at Stony Point and Syracuse. A desired outcome of these events is for Presbyteries to have trained Response Teams in place, to assist the Presbytery in responding to a whole host of disasters, natural and human. In addition to Rev. Brown, Rev. Harold Thornton and Elder Paul Mensing (Ridgewood, West Side) have been identified as interested persons.

The Multicultural Presbyter, Elder Joseph Faragalla, reported briefly on the upcoming Multicultural Conference, noting that some scholarship monies are available for a team of 8-10 people who are representative of the various cultures and languages of our Presbytery.

*At the April 1, 2008 Regular Meeting...*it was reported that Mr. Paul Karoyan (Paramus, Armenian), Treasurer, submitted his formal resignation after the March Regular Meeting. The Presbytery Nominating Committee has been so informed.

The Council **VOTED** to convene as the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery, and the President, Elder Margaret Meyer, assumed the Chair.

The Trustees **VOTED** to invite Elder Kurt Kaboth (Ridgewood, West Side) to serve as Treasurer *Pro Tem* of the Presbytery, pending his formal nomination for election by the Presbytery, at its April 15, 2008 Stated Meeting, to the current, unexpired term (which runs through December, 2009). Mr. Kaboth is experienced in this position, having last served as Presbytery Treasurer during the 1980's. He was formally introduced to the Trustees and briefly outlined his preparation to date.

The Trustees also **VOTED** to add the name of Elder Kurt Kaboth to the list of signatories on the Presbytery’s accounts. The appropriate corporate resolutions will be prepared, signed, and submitted to the respective financial institutions.

The Trustees then turned to the request of the Session of the New Milford Presbyterian Church for permission to amend the terms of the proposed sale of the Church's "old manse" to include a 75' x 100' portion of the "back lot," in hopes of making the property more attractive to prospect buyers, both commercial and residential.

Following discussion, the Trustees **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the following recommendation for presentation to the Presbytery at its April 15, 2008 Stated Meeting...[see Action Item #2 above]

There being no further Trustee business to transact, the Board of Trustees **VOTED** to **ADJOURN** and to reconvene as the Council; and the Rev. Beverly Dempsey assumed the Chair.

The Treasurer *Pro Tem*, Elder Kurt Kaboth, presented a brief report.

Conversation then ensued about the implications of the fact that the Session of the West Side Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood, the largest congregation in the Presbytery of the Palisades, recently voted to *reduce to zero* its General Mission Giving. This represents a loss of some \$70,000, to the denomination, including \$45,000 to the Presbytery.

The Rev. Beverly Dempsey, Interim Associate Pastor at the West Side Church, expressed her own pain and sorrow over this development.

It is apparent that there is anxiety across the Presbytery surrounding dwindling membership, aging facilities in need of renovation and repair, shrinking (or no!) endowments, compounded by uncertain financial times, job losses, and market instability. This is taking a heavy emotional toll on members and officers, and could continue to have negative implications for overall stewardship, and mission giving in particular.

It would also appear that a perceived lack of a *clear sense of vision* on the part of the Presbytery with respect to its *mission*, including serious questions about the staffing pattern, are contributing to an overall sense of *dis-ease!*

The Moderator and Vice-Moderator agreed to convene meetings to begin to address these critical issues - both the immediate financial implications *as well as* the broader issue of the emotional and spiritual toll this is taking on the Presbytery. A high priority will be to provide support to Ministers.

Elder Richard Jones (Ridgewood, West Side), a licensed attorney in the State of New Jersey, then addressed the Council on the advisability of the Council's recommending that the Presbytery join the pending, three-part law suit by filing a counterclaim against *Daniels et al.*

The Council agreed, and authorized Elder Jones to work with the Stated Clerk in drafting the appropriate recommendation to bring to the Presbytery at its April 15, 2008 Stated Meeting.

That recommendation (subsequently drafted) is as follows...[see Action Item #3 above]

The Council then took up the continuing issue of the reconfiguration of the Presbytery Office space, in light of the fact that the newly ratified lease agreement no longer includes the two small offices in the rear of the Conference Room.

The original proposal for the delivery and installation of removable partitions, and the accompanying price tag, were *approved* by the Presbytery, contingent upon the concurrence of the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Paramus (the landlord). The landlord subsequently modified the original proposal, reducing the scope of the proposed project.

Although given authorization to proceed, and with sufficient financial considerations already in place, it was the *sense* of the Council, nonetheless, to *not proceed* with the project, *at this time*, given some of the questions/concerns/uncertainties about the current (and in some cases, *temporary*) staffing pattern.

It was the consensus of the Council that there is at present adequate space for the current staff *without* the necessity of reconfiguration; and that the matter may be taken up again as/should the need arise in the future.

The Council then turned its attention to a time of sharing of joys and concerns on behalf of those congregations identified at the March 4th Regular Meeting, to be lifted up for prayer. They included Bayonne, Bergenfield, New Garden, Carlstadt, Clifton, Elmwood Park, Oasis, Franklin Lakes, and Mideast...

Some of the joys and concerns which surfaced:

- Continuation/Completion of renovations to facilities
- Multi-generational ministries
- “Restoration Sales” drawing community support
- “Vibrancy and Joy”
- Hosting Presbytery
- Anniversary Celebration with a Special Service of Worship
- Vision Statement for the next 5 years
- Building fund for a new facility
- Prayers for a former Pastor and his family
- Relationships within a congregation
- Long history of commitment to social justice issues
- “New Beginnings” with a new Pastor
- A long-awaited, new Youth Pastor

During the next month, the focus will be upon Edgewater, First through Hackensack, First.

With respect to the upcoming **Presbytery Day - 2008**, the Council **VOTED** to allocate up to \$3000.00 for related expenses.

The Rev. Beverly Dempsey reported that the Rev. Fletcher Harper, Director of **GreenFaith**, will be the Guest Preacher at the April 15th Stated Meeting. He will also be leading a Pre-Presbytery Seminar, focusing upon environmental issues. The Rev. David Thornton agreed to assist in the design of the Service of Worship.

The Presbytery Administrator reported that the Congregation Support and Resourcing Unit will be dismantling the current Resource Center.