

Recap of January, 2010 Presbytery Meeting

Central hosted the Mid-America Presbytery meeting the last weekend in January. Our presbytery – comprised of churches within a geographic region stretching from Minnesota to Missouri and eastern Kansas to Illinois – gathers three times a year to fellowship, worship together and conduct business. Many Central members and staff participated in the January meeting.

Presbyterian churches typically place a high value on educating and examining their pastors. In the EPC, each prospective pastor must be endorsed by his or her Session prior to enrolling as a candidate in the presbytery. Candidacy is designed to help pastors-in-training prepare for ministry and navigate the ordination process. The Candidates Committee is responsible for the support, care and supervision of those pursuing pastoral ministry.

Robbie Griggs has served as chairman of the Mid-America Candidates Committee for the past three years. In January, he had the privilege of introducing Jay Thomas Hewitt and Chris Steinbarger to the delegates, who voted unanimously to take both under care.

Jay Thomas Hewitt has been on staff for seven months as our Director of Singles Ministries. He completed a two-year pastoral internship at Grace Church—Seattle and fulfilled all of the requirements for the internship for candidacy in the Presbytery Church in America (the EPC does not have a formal internship requirement). As a result, our presbytery waived the one year candidacy requirement, allowing Jay Thomas to proceed to ordination as soon as he successfully completes his written exams.

Chris and Jaclyn Steinbarger joined Central last year and have been faithfully serving in the nursery on Sundays and in the Synthesis Sunday school class. Chris is in his second year of seminary at Covenant. Prior to moving to St. Louis, Chris served in college ministry for two years at Parkview Evangelical Free Church in Iowa City, Iowa. Pray for Chris as he continues his studies and works to support his family. Both he and Jaclyn are in graduate school.

Daryl Madi was received by the presbytery as an Assistant Pastor; he was called by our Session last October to lead the Chesterfield site. The presbytery examined Daryl on his views of theology, the sacraments, the Bible, EPC Book of Government and Reformed tradition and approved his terms of call. Daryl's call is for three years and includes a salary of \$25,000, housing allowance of \$35,000, pension of \$6,000, employer's portion of social security and a \$720 cell phone allowance. All are annual amounts. Daryl last served in our presbytery from 2003 – 2006 leading the EPC's Gateway Collegiate Ministries and working with College Central at Washington University. He comes to us from Lexington Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Lexington, South Carolina, where he served as a pastor.

Cecelia Rowland made her first report as the new presbytery liaison for Women in Ministry. Among her goals for her three-year term, Cecelia hopes to visit every church in our presbytery. [Click here to read the text of her report.](#)

The spring presbytery meeting will be held April 23 and 24 at Covenant Chapel in Leawood, Kansas.