

August 19, 2009

As announced, two more Town Hall meetings were held at Springhill in August.

- On August 2, two EPC speakers addressed questions about their denomination: Doug Brown, pastor of the Greeley, CO, church, and Ruth Baer, women's ministry leader for the Presbytery of the West.
- On August 16, the pastoral team and others spoke on behalf of the PC(USA) and the Presbytery of Yellowstone. Susan Thomas, moderator of the presbytery, moderated the meeting. Speaking from the presbytery were: Jody McDevitt, Freeman McCall, George Goodrich, Kathy Goodrich, Ron Hanson, Everett Lensink of Bozeman 1<sup>st</sup>, and Susan Thomas. Debbie Funke sent a letter which was read to the gathering. There was opportunity for questions/answers, and everyone was welcome to speak. The following statement from the Committee on Ministry was read aloud.

*The Yellowstone Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) pledges to work with and assist those desiring to remain in the PCUSA by supporting you as Springhill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) as we have for many years. Although other options are available, i.e. joining other existing PC(USA) churches in the area, the COM assures you that we will help you assess your needs and develop a plan to achieve your goals and dreams. The COM will provide financial support, personnel resources, and networking with other churches on similar journeys. We will engage in thoughtful prayer for you and with you as we fellowship together.*

*In the beginnings of the Springhill Church, the Yellowstone Presbytery was instrumental in the life of the church. We find ourselves in that position again and with the faith of a few strong people, the work of many, along with the Holy Spirit, we will help you pursue the ministry and mission that Christ has for you.*

Alongside this process of meetings with the congregation, the pastoral team has continued to meet with the session and its appointed "dismissal team." On August 10, several hours of a session meeting were devoted to discussion of the documents prepared by the dismissal team in accordance with the dismissal policy of the presbytery. Two of those documents were approved by the session, with pastoral team approval, as amended in the discussion.

- a docket for the August 30 Congregational Meeting
- a ballot, along with voting procedures

In addition, an appraisal report for the property has been completed and submitted to the presbytery. Other documents are in process, awaiting the outcome of the August 30 vote.

On Friday, August 21, the Springhill church has called for a day of prayer and fasting, with prayer focused around the congregation's future and ministry. The congregation will gather for prayer and a picnic to break the fast in the evening. Yellowstone Presbytery is invited to pray and fast at the same time, in whatever location, and to communicate with the session of Springhill church (clerk of session, John Grossenbacher, [geez40@msn.com](mailto:geez40@msn.com)) that you are standing before God with them, seeking God's leadership.