

Southeastern Illinois Connection

Connect, Equip, and Inspire Presbyterians as we walk with Jesus Christ



Who is the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois?

As we move through 2016, we are 83 congregations, 99 Teaching Elders and Camp Carew. Our churches span from Hoopeston to the north and Cairo to the south from communities all along the Indiana border from Paris, New Providence and Shawneetown to Tilden and Chester on the west.

We also have within our bounds two service organizations, Kemmerer Village and the Illinois Presbyterian Home, that have Board members from the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and our neighbor to the north, Great Rivers Presbytery. We even have a university in our midst that has roots in the Presbyterian Church - Millikin University.

The Presbytery comes together in meetings 4 times a year in which commissioners appointed by each congregation and the minister members make decisions concerning the ministries of the presbytery.

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois was formed in 1972 from 3 presbyteries. Our oldest churches include Donnellson and Golconda, both were organized in 1819. Our newest one, Copper Creek was organized in 2012.

We look forward to celebrating 45 years in faithful ministry together in 2017.

The presbytery committees are composed of volunteers from Ruling Elders from the 83 churches and the 99 minister members. There are 22 churches being served by full time called and installed pastors. As of today, our smallest church has 5 members and the largest church has 687 members.

Submitted by Stated Clerk Cindy Bean

New Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator Elected

The Presbytery met on Thursday, November 19th at Kemmerer Village and elected Ruling Elder Jan Mandernach, Decatur, First as Moderator and Teaching Elder Laurie Fields, Member at Large as Vice Moderator until the end 2016.

The Presbytery honored and thanked the outgoing Moderator, Teaching Elder Dennis Hamilton for his years of thoughtful leadership in many capacities and his outstanding service in 2015.

MISSION AND MINISTRY GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Presbytery's *Mission and Ministry Grants* applications are available. The project must be **sponsored by** a congregation in our presbytery.

The grant committee **encourage new** projects but will consider an already operating project (e.g. support for individuals going on a mission trip).

Please *get in touch with the Presbytery Office* to **have an application** emailed or mailed to you. The deadline for receiving applications is **Wednesday, March 30.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Committee on Ministry
Thursday, 7th / 10am—3pm

General Council
Thursday, 14 / 10am—3pm

Presbytery Office Closed
Monday, January 18th

APCE
27th—30th / Chicago

Camps and Conferences
Saturday, 30th / 9:30am

Camps & Conferences
Sunday
Sunday, 31st

FEBRUARY

Committee on Representation
Thursday, 4th / 10am
Effingham, First

Ash Wednesday—10th

Stated Meeting
Sunday, 21st / 10 am
Greenville, First

MARCH

Personnel
Tuesday, 15th / 9:30am
Effingham, First

Camp Carew Work Day
Saturday, 19th





Rantoul Presbyterian Church closed its doors

The Presbyterian Church on Klein Avenue in Rantoul started in 1951 in a home, then moved into a National Homes duplex. The present church building was added onto the duplex, which is still there. The church last worship service was held Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015. They Presbytery took action to close the church at its Special Called Meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORTS

*During 2015, action was taken on the following churches to either be
DISMISSED or DISSOLVED*

Cairo, First was **DISSOLVED** effective December 29, 2015. The church had 16 members.

Decatur, Lampstand was **DISMISSED** to ECO on December 31, 2015. The church had 333 members.

DuQuoin, First was **DISSOLVED** effective November 19, 2015. The church had 39 members.

Macon was **DISSOLVED** effective November 19, 2015. The church had 37 members.

Mt. Carmel has formed an AC to close and it has 5 members.

Ridgway has formed an AC to close and it has 7 members.

Sparta, Trinity was **DISMISSED** to the EPC on January 24, 2015. The church had 89 members

According to this report, the Presbytery lost 514 members in 2015.

We give thanks for the many years these congregations served faithfully in the PC(USA) and wish everyone well as they participate in new ways in the body of Christ.

MALAWI FAMINE

Don't forget to support the Malawi Famine Relief Project. Central Region of Malawi estimates there are 100,000 families affected by the famine. Donations may be sent to Marion Medical Mission, 1412 Shawnee Drive, Marion, IL 62959.

Presbytery Committees

If you or someone you know would like to serve on a Presbytery Committee please contact the Moderator of Committee on Representation Dennis Hamilton, at tildenpc@frontier.com

Urbana, First OVERTURE

Worship Committee proposed changes to the Book of Order W-2-4011 regarding who can partake in Holy Communion. Currently it excludes those developing Christians who have not been baptized. It was *VOTED to approve the Overture. The overtures will need the approval of two presbyteries before it can be submitted to GA for their consideration.* The Presbytery's Bills and Overtures Subcommittee have overtures from four Presbyteries to consider – Fossil Fuel Divest from San Francisco Presbytery; adding Caring for God's Creation to Amendment G-1.0304 from New Castle Presbytery; Amending G-3.0203 to Allow for Virtual Attendance in Session Meetings when appropriate technology is available – from Lake Erie Presbytery; and Amend W-4.9000, Marriage from Kiskiminetas Presbytery.

DAVE RAMSY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, Illinois, is hosting Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University.

The course consists of nine one and a half hour lessons. Financial Peace University will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., starting on January 12th, and ending on March 8th. The cost is \$93 per couple, or individual, and scholarships are available.

Find our class on Dave Ramsey's website under class finder, or contact Monticello, First at 217-762-7861.

Submitted by Andrea Garnett, Secretary of Monticello, First

Newsletter Articles will be published during the month of January, April, July, and October. All articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the Presbytery office three weeks prior to the published month. Send your articles to office@psei.net, or 132 S Water, Suite 352, Decatur, IL 62523.

All articles will be approved by Bill McLean and Cindy Bean before being inserted in newsletter

Office hours: Monday—Friday 9am—4pm

PASTORAL CHANGES

At the November 19th Stated Meeting Teaching Elder Geoff Huish was granted Honorably Retired status. Rev. Huish formerly served as pastor of the Lawrenceville, First church for seven years. Teaching Elder Jim Montgomery was dismissed to Whitewater Valley on August 26, 2015. The Presbytery approved the status of Pastor Emeritus to TE Dan Whitfield at the Marion, First Church. Dan retired as pastor of the Marion church in 2007.



Illinois Presbyterian Home Names New Executive Director

Kathleen Cross has been named the new Executive Director of the Illinois Presbyterian Home. She succeeds Thomas O'Fallon who served as Executive Director since 1977.

Kathleen looks forward to meeting congregational members and leadership of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. As you are available and in the Springfield area, you are invited to call the Illinois Presbyterian Home at [217.546.5622](tel:217.546.5622) to schedule a meet and greet with Kathleen and tour this gracious senior living community