

**Whitewater Valley Presbytery -- Stated Meeting -- March 4, 2006**

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
[Link to Irvington Presbyterian Church](#)  
 55 JOHNSON AVE., INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
 Phone: (317) 356-7225

**INDEX – FIRST POSTING**

These postings are the equivalent of a First Class Mailing.

In response to feedback regarding on-line Presbytery papers, all action items are incorporated within the docket. However, all relevant documentation and complete reports are posted as reflected on the Index page.

**It is your choice which reports you print and bring to the meeting,  
 Remember that you may simply want to read longer, non-action items on line.  
 You have the ability to pick and choose which specific papers you want to print.  
 Extra sets of papers are not normally available at the meeting.**

<b><u>PAGE #</u></b>	<b><u>DOCUMENT</u></b>	<b><u>NOTE</u></b>
	<a href="#">Map Link to Irvington</a> <b>Important note:</b> Although this map shows Johnson Ave., the <b>entrance to the parking lot is best accessed by turning SOUTH on SOUTH AUDOBON RD</b> from Washington St. (Rt. 40). You will see the church parking lot on the right hand side	
1	History – Irvington Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis	Information
2-4	Presbytery Docket	<b>APPROVE</b>
<b><u>ACTION ITEMS</u></b>		
5-7	Equalization of Commissioners Report	<b>APPROVE</b>
8-10	Coordinating Council	<b>APPROVE</b>
11	Committee on Ministry Mick Saunders – CLP Examination – Statement of Faith	<b>ACTION</b>
12	Committee on Preparation for Ministry Tim Thomas – Inquirer to Candidate	<b>ACTION</b>
	<a href="#">Pyoca Camp Conference &amp; Retreat Center</a> <a href="#">“Spirit Poster”</a>	Information

# 100 Years of Christian Ministry

## A Brief History of Irvington Presbyterian Church

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, Irvington was a bustling community several miles east of Indianapolis. As the home of Butler College and on the major east/west route through Indiana, Irvington became a center for artists and professionals. At this time several families came together to form a Sunday School and then a worshipping community. In 1906 a group of 123 people petitioned the Indianapolis Presbytery to charter a church and on June 10, 1906 Irvington Presbyterian Church was founded.

Irvington Presbyterian Church grew quickly, meeting in tents and various venues. In 1909 a lot was purchased for \$1600 and a cornerstone was laid for the building of a "Red Brick" church. By 1927 the church had 486 members and had outgrown its facility and a decision was made to demolish the "Red Brick" church and build a new building. This new, gothic-style church was completed in 1929 and included a beautiful sanctuary, large stained-glass windows and a full gymnasium. Quickly the church became a center of activity and mission in Irvington. Scouting became an important feature of IPC, and in 1937 the first Girl Scout troop in Marion County was meeting here. Women's and men's ministries, theatre and social groups, and many outreach programs solidified IPC's significance. IPC is proud to say that in 1933 it became the first Presbyterian church in Indianapolis to elect a woman elder. At its peak membership reached over 2000 members.

Many long-term pastorates gave IPC stability over its hundred years. Dr. John Ferguson served as Senior Pastor from 1930-1949; Dr. Howard Stone 1949-1972; Dr. Thomas Hilton 1973-1983; Rev. Coburn Colwell 1984-2001. Dr. Galen Schwarz joined the staff as Associate Pastor in 1988 and Rev. Robert Heimach became Senior Pastor in 2003.

With 81 new members received in the last two years, with new energy and vision for ministry, and with a joyful spirit and a certain trust in God, the congregation of Irvington Presbyterian Church celebrates 100 years of ministry and embraces the hope for 100 more.

**PROPOSED DOCKET**


Whitewater Valley Presbytery – Stated Meeting  
 10 00 a.m. Saturday, March 4, 2006  
 Irvington Presbyterian Church, 55 Johnson Ave., Indianapolis 46219  
 Phone: 317-356-7225 [Link to Irvington Presbyterian Church](#)

**SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR**

**Rev. Kathleen Splitt**, Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, received Certified Christian Education recognition at the recent Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.

**Rev. Amy Williams Fowler**: Completed Interim Pastor Trainer program and is now certified to train Interim Pastors.

**THESE ITEMS NEED YOUR ATTENTION**

1. **ON-LINE PAPERS**  
 All action items are incorporated within the docket. However, all relevant documentation and complete reports are posted as reflected on the Index page. ***It is your choice whether or not to print the reports and bring them to the meeting with you.*** Note: Items listed as PUP will be posted by February 28.
2. **MEALS**  
 Meals are **\$6.50 per person. [approved as part of Operating Budget Adjustments]**
3. **ELECTRONIC PRESENTATIONS AT THE PRESBYTERY MEETING**  
 Please note that the time prior to the Call to Order and during the lunch break is reserved for scrolling **announcements** and other previously approved presentations. Contact the Presbytery office no later than February 23rd to insure they will be seen. No changes to presentation may be made after March 1st. Announcements in the meeting will be strictly limited in favor of this avenue of communication.
4. **MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**
5. **WHAT'S NEW AT THE WEB HOME PAGE:** [www.whitewatervalley.org](http://www.whitewatervalley.org)  
 NQR Dental Team; Video and Interactive Programs for Westminster, PYOCA, and other Presbytery missions; EZ News.

**DOCKET**

- 9:30 A.M. Registration, Coffee, Fellowship  
 9:30 a.m. TRAINING & ORIENTATION FOR NEW COMMISSIONERS  
 (INCLUDING NEW PASTORS IN THE PRESBYTERY)
- 10:a.m. **TAPESTRY OF CELEBRATIONS: PART I**
- 10:10 A.M. Opening Hymn  
 10:15 A.M. Call To Order – The Moderator, Rev. Glen Bell  
 Presbytery constituted with prayer  
 Stated Clerk's Equalization of Commissioners Report and Adoption (**pp 5-7**)  
 Establishment of roll by registration and establishment of quorum  
 Introduction of new pastors by COM (Rev. Alan Thames)  
 Placing Calls in Hands of New Ministers  
 Introduction of new Elder commissioners  
 Seating of Corresponding Members  
 Moderator's Report on Installations/Ordinations  
 Welcome by host church [History]  
 Concerns of the Presbytery

Announcements (maximum one minute; see Stated Clerk before meeting begins—and please note #3 above.) Stephen Ministries.

**ACTION** Approval of Docket

{Requests to place additional items for discussion or action on the Presbytery docket must be submitted to the Stated Clerk prior to approval of the Docket on the day of Presbytery; a two-thirds vote of Presbytery, **as determined by enrollment at the beginning of the meeting**, is required to suspend this rule. All such items will be presented to the Presbytery for inclusion as 'New Business' at end of the docket. [9/93]

**ACTION** Presentation of OMNIBUS MOTION on Reports (by Stated Clerk)

*Madam Moderator, I MOVE that all non-action portions of Committee and other reports be received as printed (includes Commission reports)*

**ACTION** Presentation of CONSENT AGENDA MOTION

*Madam Moderator, I MOVE that for all reports with more than one action recommendation, all recommendations we taken as a single vote unless specific items are pulled from the motion.*

(10:35) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

(10:40) **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

- Final Educational Series on Preparing Candidates---including questions for examination.

(10:55) **VALIDATED MINISTRIES: REV. BILL BARRETT, CHAPLAIN, UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

(11:05) **Coordinating Council Report (pp 8-10)**

**Report from Budget Review Task Group of Council** (including request to extend to May 3 Council recommendations for balancing budget due to any recommendation will involve Personnel issues).  
Mission Support Unit Session Visits to say Thank You (and to begin sharing the vision and ministries of the presbytery).

Greetings from Northern Quintana Roo Commission

(11:25) **TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS REPORT**

(11:35) **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Fourth Quarter 2005 Treasurer's Report  
Report on 2006 Pledges, Per Capita Payments, and Membership  
Revised 2004 Audit Report  
See Finance Committee Report for Update on 2006 Organization, Goals, 2006 Working Budget as of February 6; and Objective.

(11:50) **SIMON PARK: MISSION INTERPRETATION: HURRICANE AND PDF RELIEF EFFORTS**

(12:05) **LUNCH** \$6.50 per person

(12:55) **TAPESTRY OF CELEBRATIONS: PART II**

(1:05) **VALIDATED MINISTRIES: REV. BOB HUNTER, STAFF, SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

(1:15) **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

- Examination of Mick Saunders for Commissioned Lay Pastor (Rushville, Trinity) **(pp 11)**
- Examination for Pastor Myungku Lee, , transfer into Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pending completion of CTS Polity Course and with conditions of G-11.0404a & b (Statement of Faith – 2<sup>nd</sup> Post)

- (1:45) **Hispanic Ministry Lead Team**
- (1:55) **VALIDATED MINISTRIES: REV. JOHN THOMAS, COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS**
- (2:05) **TAPESTRY OF CELEBRATIONS: PART III**
- (2:15) **WESTMINSTER NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES**      Announcement of Work Teams for Summer 2006
- (2:20) **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**  
    Ordination Anniversaries Report – (2<sup>nd</sup> Post – in Omnibus Motion)  
    Stated Clerk's Summary Report of Correspondence – (2<sup>nd</sup> Post -- in Omnibus Motion)  
    Session Records Reviews Schedule
- (2:25) **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**  
    Tim Thomas Inquirer to Candidate **(pp 12)**

**OTHER BUSINESS/POSTPONED BUSINESS/ADJOURN WITH WORSHIP BENEDICTION**

- (2:40) **WORSHIP**      Celtic Celebration

Next Presbytery Meeting  
Wednesday, June 7 at John Knox Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

CLERGY-ELDER IMBALANCE CORRECTION for 2006(G-11.0100}

\* = 2006

Bold = b&gt;2005

&lt; &gt; Extra Commissioner = 2004

Presbytery Standing Rules require that to balance the number of Elder Commissioners at Presbytery, the Stated Clerk invite (selecting alphabetically from Areas and rotating each year) sufficient congregations with one Elder Commissioner (and 10% of number needed from congregations with 500+ members), to send an additional commissioner elected to a one-year term, March 1 to February 28.

"G-11.0101b &amp; "Presbytery Policies" III H.

Elders Needed to Balance: **38**

40 churches asked to send an additional Elder

Area #1 [9]**\*<Bluffton>**

\*&lt;Decatur&gt;

\*&lt;FW United Faith&gt;

**FW, Calvary-3rd United****Ft. Wayne, Grace**

\*&lt;Ft. Wayne, Trinity&gt;

**Liberty**

\*&lt;Ft. Wayne, First (00)(02)(04)(06)

**\*Ossian****Portland**

(6)

Area #4 [11]

\*&lt;Anderson, First&gt;

**\*Elwood****Hartford City****Marion, Grant County**

\*&lt;Marion, Westminster&gt;

\*&lt;Muncie, St. Andrew&gt;

\*&lt;Muncie, First&gt;

(01)(02)(04)(06)

\*&lt;New Castle&gt;

**Tipton**

Union City

**Winchester**

(5)

Area #2 [8]**\*Brookville, Mt. Carmel****College Corner****Connersville**

\*&lt;Lewisville, First&gt;

\*&lt;Lewisville, Ebenezer&gt;

\*&lt;Richmond, 1st United&gt;

\*&lt;Richmond, Reid&gt;

(5)

Area #5 [9]**<Boggs town>**

\*&lt;Edinburgh&gt;

\*&lt;Franklin, First&gt;

**\*Franklin, Hopewell****\*Greenwood, First****G'wood, Center Grove****Indpls., Southport ((01)(03)(05)**

\*&lt;Clayton&gt;

\*&lt;Plainfield&gt;

(6)

Area# 3 [9]**<Greenfield, First>**

\*&lt;Greensburg, First&gt;

**\*Greensburg, Kingston**

\*&lt;Greensburg, Springhill&gt;

**Indpls, S'minster**

\*&lt;Knightstown, Bethel&gt;

**Rushville, First****Rush  Trinity**

\*&lt;Shelbyville&gt;

(5)

Area #6 [7]**<Avon White Lick>****\*Indpls, Fairview****Indpls, 1st Mer Hghts**

(01)(03)(05)

\*&lt;Indpls, John Knox&gt;

\*&lt;Indpls, St. Andrew&gt;

**Indpls, Witherspoon**

[

\*&lt;Zionsville&gt; (00) (02)(04)(06)

(4)

Area #7 [8]

**Fishers, New Hope**

\*<Indpls., Faith> (04) (06)

**<Indpls, Korean>**

**Indpls., Northminster**(99)(01)  
(03)(05)

\*<Indpls., Orchard Park>

(98) (00) (02)(04)(06)

**\*McCordsville, Christ**

\*<Noblesville>

\*<Westfield>

(5)

Area #8 [7]

**\*<Indpls., Immanuel>**

**Indpls., Irvington** (01)(03)(05)

**Indpls., Second** (00) (02)(05)

\*Indpls., Tabernacle> (99)(01)(04)

**<Indpls, Wallace St.>**

**\*Indpls, Westminster**

\*<Indpls., Washington St.>

(4)

**CLERGY/ELDER IMBALANCE**

Total Clergy 1/1/06*:	165	
Non-Resident Clergy/Unable to Participate	<u>-25</u>	
<b>TOTAL RESIDENT:</b>		<b>140</b>

Total Churches 1/1/06 .....	68	
Number with more than 1 Commissioner: .....	<u>12</u>	
Churches with 1 Commissioner: .....		<b>56</b>

Churches with more than one Commissioner:

Indianapolis, Second: .....	7	
Zionsville .....	4	
Orchard Park, Southport, F.W. First .....	(3 x 3) = 9	
Tabernacle, Muncie 1st, Irvington, New Hope, Faith .....	(5 x 2) = 10	
Total: .....		<b><u>30</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....		<b>86</b>

Elders on Council: .....	<b>16</b>	
Presbytery VM & Council Moderator .....	<u>2</u>	
<b>TOTAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS:</b> .....		<b><u>104</u></b>

Number of Elders needed to correct imbalance of Presbytery:..... **38**  
 {Number of Churches invited to send second Elder: 36

*Number of Clergy 1/1/05 .....	163
Losses:	
Death: .....	1
Transfer: .....	10
Removed from Rolls:.....	1
Dismissed Other Denomination .....	
Total: .....	<b><u>12</u></b>
	151
Gains: Received: .....	8
From Other Denomination.....	2
Ordained: .....	<u>4</u>
Total: .....	<b><u>14</u></b>
Number of Clergy 1/1/05	165

The following churches have been invited to send an additional commissioner to Presbytery in 2006.

Anderson	
Bluffton	
Brookville, Mt. Carmel	
Clayton	
Decatur	
Edinburgh	
Elwood	
Franklin, First	
Franklin, Hopewell	
FW, First	
FW, Trinity	
FW United Faith	
Greensburg, Kingston	
Greensburg, First	
Greenwood, First	
Indpls, Fairview	
Indpls, Faith	
Indpls, Immanuel	
Indpls, John Knox	
Indpls, Orchard Park	
	Indpls, St. Andrew
	Indpls, Southminster
	Indpls, Tabernacle
	Indpls, Washington St.
	Indpls, Westminster
	Knightstown, Bethel
	Lewisville, First
	Lewisville, Ebenezer
	McCordsville
	Marion, Westminster
	Muncie, St. Andrew
	Muncie, First
	New Castle
	Noblesville
	Plainfield
	Richmond, First
	Richmond, Reid
	Shelbyville
	Westfield
	Zionsville

**(SEE page 10 FOR ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY)**

The Coordinating Council of Presbytery met on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenfield. A quorum was present and the meeting was opened with prayer by the Council Moderator, Elder Jean Dodds, at 6:03 p.m.

The Executive Staff shared joys and concerns of the presbytery and Keith Geckeler led the Council in prayer for Judy Lovejoy, John Constant, Laurie (Saunders), : Fabio and Linda Socarraz , Linda Matlock, Kevin and Mary Jane. Bausman, Don MacPherson, Craig Shaw.

The Minutes of the November 2005 Council and September and December 2005 Presbytery Meetings were Approved.

The Docket for the Council meeting was approved as amended.

Bob Anderson reported on the results of Council responses to the "interim four questions". The answers wee consistent with those issue generated at the Council retreat.

The Council was informed of inconsistency in class assignment of Executive Committee member Sandra Reid. The Stated Clerk will confer with her to see if she will accept a position as Class of 2009 representative from the Middle Sized Network and ask Nominating Committee to put another person in nomination as Elder At Large Member for Class of 2006.

Council APPROVED recommendation from Executive Committee to poll people who leave presbytery meetings early to gain insights into how to improve meetings and engage people so they want to stay to the end.

Meetings of Presbytery:**MEETING DATES** {Request for Achurch history@ from host church}

All dates approved.

2006

March 4th	Irvington (I)
June 7th	John Knox (I)
Sept 9th	Franklin, First (S)
Dec. 6	Muncie, First (NE)

2007

March3	FW Calvary-Third (N)
June 6	Indpls, Second (I)
September 8	Anderson, First (I/N)
December 5	Greenwood, Center Grove

2008: Betty Alice working on these

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

. 2005 RETREAT RESPONSES: (See attached)

Budget Review TF

**G** Report: Bob Anderson. **Have held their first meeting and are requesting extension to May Council meeting.** There are several issues that need to be addressed so that budget is reviewed in light of broader concerns  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL; REFER TO PRESBYTERY.

. PRESBYTERY PRIORITIES PROCESS PLANNING TEAM:

**Recommend postponing and incorporating into "Self-Study" by Council. FOR 2006, THE PRIORITY WILL BE "TRANSITION ISSUES".**

Bob Anderson and Paula Mann APPROVED BY COUNCIL

REQUEST FROM WALLACE STREET REGARDING PEACE, UNITY AND PURITY TF REPORT

The Executive Committee reviewed a request from the Session of Wallace Street Presbyterian Church to "invite a member of the evangelical church groups to speak to the presbytery on the TFPUP Report...[because] no one with an opposing point of view has been asked."

The Executive Committee unanimously approved responding negatively to the request on the grounds that the report was approved unanimously by the TF, there are a multitude of individuals and groups opposed for a multitude of reasons, neither speaker presented any position other than that of the TF, and the presbytery is offering multiple opportunities to discuss the report. Wallace Street was encouraged to bring in a speaker on their own and presbytery would be happy to communicate such information to other churches. COUNCIL CONCURRED.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MISSION UNITS

MISSION DELIVERY UNIT:

APPROVED FOLLOWING:

**Request for 10 minutes of docket time at March Pby**

**Approved request for 80 minutes (including Hispanic themed worship) at June Presbytery to roll out new DVD and interpret Hispanic Ministries.**

Transforming Congregations: 7 congregations are enrolled.

APPROVED: **Giving 10 minutes at March Presbytery meeting.**

Presbytery Meetings Review Team (Amy)

APPROVED recommending incorporating into Council Self-Study and the development of greater clarity about what Council wants to have happen in presbytery meetings. (See Priorities above)

MISSION SUPPORT UNIT:

NQR Report: Plans for 2006 are underway.

PYOCA. -- Request for Peacemaking Funds

Westminster Neighborhood Ministries -- Request for Peacemaking Funds

*APPROVED: up to \$4,000 of Peacemaking Funds for above, pending written application.*

EXECUTIVE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Bob called attention to the need for the Executive Committee to initiate discussion as to next steps in the search process for new Executive. **15 minutes of next Executive Committee will be docketed for such discussion.**

Per Presbytery Policy, up to **30 minutes of March Presbytery meeting shall be for interpretation of the work of ministers in Validated Ministries.**

*Approved inviting Simon Park to speak for 15 minutes at March Presbytery. PDA and Mission.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personnel Committee:** No Report

**Hispanic Ministry Lead Team:** Will Update at Presbytery meeting.

**PYOCA Camp and Conference Center:**

The Advisory Council had first of its two two-day retreats last weekend with a focus on Funds Development with Lisa Longo. All task assignments have been organized. The AC approved the complete Policy Manual for the camp which represents four years of writing, editing, consolidating,, and producing.

**E-Z News:** Kristy reported that this will move to a weekly format.

**Mission Celebrations:** Felipe reported on plans to begin calling on Sessions in the next few months to say thank you for mission support and to discover and celebrate the mission work being carried out by our congregations---so they can be lifted up at presbytery meetings.

**Finance Committee:**

Betty Alice reported on the work of the Council Budget Review Task Force. They have begun reviewing budget options in terms of increasing income and decreasing expenses but have realized much of their discussion will involve Personnel. They will have a complete report ready to present as part of the action to postpone final report until the May Council and June Presbytery meeting.

Keith presented first draft of 12/3/12005 Treasurer's Report and report of Mission Pledging by Churches for 2006 Mission Budget. (As of 2/6) it appears amount pledged will be within about \$4,000 of what was budgeted, but that leaves a projected deficit for 2006 of approximately \$30,000.

Bill Howell reported on plans for the Finance Committee for 2006.

**2005 Council Retreat Report:**

Keith presented the final report/summary of the committee that addressed Systemic Issues at the January 2005 Council Retreat. Many of the issues identified in that report are ones the Council committed to addressing in 2006.

**Review of 2006 Council Retreat**

Council members found the retreat to be stimulating, refreshing, and very helpful. They believe we have gained greater clarity about the Council's tasks for 2006.

**Council Meetings, 2006:**

May 3, College Corner; August 2, Winchester; November 1, Marion Westminster.

**Presbytery Docket:**

Council reviewed and approved major items for the March Docket, including three 10-minute Tapestries of Celebration of Presbytery life.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by Rev. Linda Philabaun.**

Budget Review TF

**The Council recommends granting the Budget Review Task Force of Council an extension to the May meeting of Council to prepare a Balanced Budget for July-December 2006 and for 2007---and that Council bring such Budgets to the June meeting of Presbytery.**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL -- REFER TO PRESBYTERY.**

Nominating Committee Nominees

**The Presbytery Council places the following names into nomination for the Presbytery Committee on Nominations and Representation:**

**Class of 2007 (Unexpired Term)**

**Rev. Hal Thomas, Minister, Fort Wayne United Faith**

**Class of 2008**

**Dr. Thomas Kim, Elder, Indianapolis, Korean**

**Mr. Joe Matthews, Elder, Indianapolis, Immanuel**

**Ms. Mary E. Payne, Elder, Indianapolis, Southminster**

**Moderator: Elder Joan Lee (2006)**

**Vice Moderator, Rev. David Crowley (2006)**

## COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR EXAMINATION

**Robert M. "Mick" Saunders**

Elder: First Presbyterian Church, Lewisville

Church requesting Lay Pastor Commission: Trinity Presbyterian Church, Rushville

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe there is one universal God, eternally existing in three persons. Creator God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is the creator and ruler of the world and all that is within it. I believe that God inspires all of Scripture, which is the written and authoritative revelation of God's self to humankind. God helps us discern the Word by the illumination of the Holy Spirit that works through the Holy Scripture and within us.

I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, the virgin birth, Christ's sinless life, and the miracles of Christ's ministry. Christ's death on the cross provided a means for our redemption. I believe in Jesus' bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven and in Christ's present ministry of intercession for us. I believe in Christ's promise of a return to earth in power and glory.

I believe the Holy Spirit equips us for the work of God's kingdom on earth. God calls and ordains us in order to serve and glorify God.

I believe humankind was created in the image of God, but because of sin and free-will to choose sin, was alienated from God. Only through faith and trust in Christ alone for our salvation made possible by Christ's death and resurrection, can the alienation be removed.

I believe Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be Holy Sacraments. Baptism is a sign of the presence and power of Christ and a seal of our covenant with God, engrafting us to Christ, welcoming us into the body of Christ, the church. As believers, we have the opportunity to renew and reflect upon our baptism. As a congregation, we have a responsibility for inclusiveness, teaching, and bringing newly confessed believers up in the body of Christ.

I believe in the sacrament of Holy Communion in which we respond in remembrance of Christ. This sacrament brings us into unity with other Christians and witnesses to the memory of Christ's life, death and resurrection. According to the Reformed Tradition, the elements of the bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Christ in which we proclaim the gospel and experience the spiritual and personal presence of Christ.

I believe that I must truly and earnestly repent of my sins and intend to lead a new life following God's commandments as I draw nearer to God in my faith journey.

**Tim Thomas' Spiritual Autobiography**

Member, Southport Presbyterian Church, Intern, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church

**Inquirer to Candidate Interview**

When I reflect on my spiritual growth, I look to the places/cultures and individuals that have influenced my intimate relationship with God. I also became aware of how God was preparing me for pastoral ministry with diverse life experiences. In addition, I see God's timing and I have experienced two distinct periods of Christian spiritual life. The first period was from my birth (1953) to my early college years (1974). The second period of Christian spiritual life was from my return to the church (1996) to the present.

During the first period, my parents were the dominant Christian influence. They were the ones who taught me my love of God. Because of their vocations (ordained pastors), I was nurtured and educated in an open, loving, communicative Christian home. I also experienced a diversity of cultures and environments because of the many places we lived, which ranged from West coast to central Indiana. However, it was during this period, I began to resent God's influence and dominance within my family. This resentment developed into an angry rebellion with God and the Church. As a result of my rebellion, I left the Church and attempted to hide from God, thus closing the first period of active Christian life.

The second period of Christian life began with the wedding of my oldest daughter in September of 1996. The wedding was held at Southport Presbyterian Church and, while rehearsing for the wedding, I met the next influential spiritual leader—James Capps (Senior Pastor at Southport Presbyterian Church). Because of his friendliness and genuine care during my daughter's wedding, I began my return to God and God's church. After a few months, Jim and I began sharing many conversations and shared experiences concerning God, God's love, and God's desire for my life. Jim was instrumental in helping me discern my calling to pastoral ministry.

Another significant spiritual influence during this time has been the many support groups and friendships developed as a member at SPC and Christian Theological Seminary. From this Christian community, my spiritual life was taught, supported, and challenged. This community continues to be an active integral part of my spiritual life.

A final influence, during this time, has been my wife, Linda. She is the one who knows me best. She lives and endures my transition from the old life to the new life. From her loving spirit, she keeps the truth of God before me. She does not allow me to live in the abstract, but forces me to open my heart so that I can share God's love with all individuals I encounter.