

Oreland Church changes denomination

Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church is the new identity of the congregation that has been worshipping at the corner of Church and Paper Mill Roads for the past 59 years.

Rev. Dr. Jim Farrell, accompanied by representative elders from the church, traveled to Dundalk Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD, on Feb 6 & 7 for the meeting of the Presbytery of the East (POTE) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). Pastor Jim was examined and approved by members of the POTE. The eighteen elders (spiritual leaders) of the congregation had previously been examined on their knowledge of church history, the Westminster Confession of Faith, Bible content, and their understanding of Reformed Theology.

During the process of transfer, which has taken over five years, the elders of Oreland Presbyterian Church rejoiced to learn that the EPC shared their faith in the Bible as the authoritative Word of God without error. Every meeting they visited included frequent heart-felt prayers, joyful hymns and songs of praise, and inspired preaching and teaching that helped the congregation to understand how God wanted them to live. Of course presbytery meetings also included business, budget, planning, and reports, but each step began with prayer. The elders were also encouraged to find a Presbyterian denomination that was not afraid to speak out against the liberal agenda of our modern culture.

The transfer of the 390-member Oreland Presbyterian Church from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church began with a nearly unanimous vote in September of 2007 to seek to be dismissed from the PC(USA). That action precipitated months of negotiations with the Philadelphia Presbytery on the matter of

ownership of the property at Church & Paper Mill Roads. Both sides were pleased that the discussions were gracious, and neither side was forced to take the matter to civil courts. Members of Philadelphia Presbytery expressed their gratitude to the pastors and elders that the discussions never became a public battle in the media or the courts.

There will be a joyous Service of Celebration and Praise on Sunday, March 29 at Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church to thank God for His mercy, love and faithfulness to this congregation over the years. Pastor Jim will be installed as Pastor of the new Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and the elders will be commissioned for their work as spiritual leaders of the church.

Pastor Kay George, the current Associate Pastor, will be getting married in April and moving to Pittsburgh, where she will seek a call in a PC(USA) church there.



Rev. Jeff Jeremiah, stated clerk of the EPC, congratulates Pastor Jim Farrell



Jeff Jeremiah (third from right), stated Clerk of the EPC, welcomes Elders Larry Godley, BJ Harrison, Al Griffith, Pastor Kay George, and Pastor Jim Farrell of the Oreland Presbyterian Church into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.