

## **Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery Mediation Team**

From time to time all churches have problems. Our Lord and Savior is perfect, but we are not. Power struggles, conflicts about how we serve our Lord, what we are called to do, personality conflicts and all those other 'human quirks' flavor the church from time to time. In the midst of these very human times, it often becomes hard to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Sometimes we need someone else to talk with us, to help us sort out the issues, to pray with us, and to help us discover God's direction for us.

Mediation Teams are:

- 1) two people (pastors or elders) who have been trained to help you define your own problem and
- 2) help you discover some possible solutions.

Often groups can find their own solution to a problem once there is a neutral team to help all the sides involved discuss the situation. If such a solution can be found in the course of one or two meetings, then a written statement is drawn up, signed by all the parties, and the presbytery's involvement ends.

If your church finds itself in need of a little help, help is available. All you have to do is have your pastor or session call the presbytery (304-232-3490) and ask for a mediation team to visit your church. These teams can help your church work through the situations that are troubling you. Our training was done by Dr. Thomas Patrick, who teaches mediation at the West Virginia College of Law in Morgantown.

There is no charge to the church for this service.