



EMerge: Monthly



A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

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November 2009

PC(USA) Moderator Comes to the Twin Cities



Matthew Robbins-Ghormley, pastor of Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, the current moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) during a joint World Communion Sunday Service on October 4. Reyes-Chow was in the Twin Cities to take part in the Annual Polity Conference held this year in Minneapolis. Reyes-Chows preached the sermon at this special Sunday service while the combined choirs of Randolph Heights, Edgcombe Presbyterian in St. Paul and Lake Nokomis Presbyterian in Minneapolis, provided the music.

Photo courtesy of Matthew Robbins-Ghormley.

In this issue:

Call to November Stated Meeting



General Assembly is Coming to Town



Note from the Editor



“Part of what it means to be church is to share how God is moving in our lives and our faith communities.”

You have probably noticed some changes taking place with the communications of the Presbytery. I wanted to take a few moments to explain what has been going on and where we are headed.

First, last month we officially switched over to our new website. You can see it by going to www.ptcaweb.org. I hope you will like the new site. I plan to create an opportunity to have some training for using the site in the coming months so please stay tuned. If you have any questions using the new site, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Presbytery office.

You also might be wondering what has happened with “The End(s)” the bi-weekly resource email. Last August, the Presbytery office conducted a survey on the state of communications in the PTCA. An overwhelming majority (71 %) of people thought that “The End(s)” and EMerge should be folded into one resource. In response, we have Emerge: Weekly and EMerge:Monthly. EMerge: Weekly will fill in what Friday Bytes/The End(s) once did: provide the Presbytery with a weekly listing of events taking place in the PTCA, Minnesota and the wider church. EMerge: Monthly is basically the old EMerge newsletter that was sent out biweekly. In addition to the events info found in the Weekly email, it will also contain longer stories on mission and ministry taking place in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. The monthly newsletter will still be sent out in a PDF format. I ask that pastors and churches, please print off a copy of the monthly newsletter to share with those who don’t have easy access to a computer. We want to make sure that everyone is able to keep up to date with happenings from the Presbytery.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that this is your presbytery newsletter. So, if you have a story idea or an event to share, please send it my way. Part of what it means to be church is to share how God is moving in our lives and our faith communities, and hey, I love a good story.

Thanks for being so patient during all these changes. Take care and remember to be the church.

Dennis Sanders
 IT/Communications Specialist
 Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
communications@ptcaweb.org

-Dennis Sanders.

In This Issue



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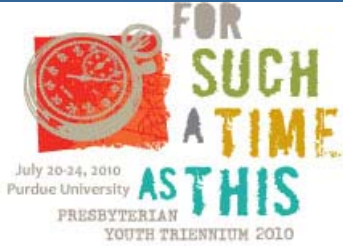
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“For Such a Time As This”

INFORMATION SHEET ON YOUTH TRIENNIUM



WHO : The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering of youth and adults from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Participants must travel as a part of a registered delegation and can register through either a Presbytery delegation or a Church delegation. Youth Participants must be entering high school and no older than 19 years old on July 20, 2010. Delegations must include one adult for every ten young people of the same gender. Adult Advisors must be at least 21 years old on July 20th, 2010.

WHERE The Triennium will be held on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, which is approximately 65 miles northwest of Indianapolis and 135 miles southeast of Chicago.

WHEN The Triennium runs from Tuesday, July 20 through Saturday, July 24. Delegation check-in is from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesday the 20th. The Triennium event officially begins with dinner on the 20th and ends with worship on the 24th.

THEME The theme for the 2010 Triennium is “For Such a Time as This” from Esther 4:14. The theme will be developed throughout the week through daily presentations, worship, prayer, recreation, and small groups. A theme grid, or guide, to the primary scriptures, liturgical elements and theological questions can be found on the website.

INSURANCE The Triennium registration fee includes secondary insurance coverage for travel to and from the event and participation in the conference itself.

TRAVEL Travel is coordinated by each delegation. Those making air travel plans should fly into the Indianapolis International Airport. Arranged shuttles are not available from other airports. Bus transportation between the airport and the University will be arranged through Purdue’s transportation service and will cost approximately \$40.00 per person round trip. Bus or shuttle arrangements are made separately from registration.

COST Cost per person of 409.00 includes housing, meals, conference T-shirt and all programming.

QUESTIONS (PC USA) Direct registration questions to:
Vennie Constant (National Registrar)
vennie.constant@pcusa.org
1-888-728-7228 (extension 5460)

Visit www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org for promotional items, registration information, registrar forms, volunteer applications.

On the Road to General Assembly 2010

By Sandy Hawley and Manley Olson

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, along with the Presbytery of Northern Waters and Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, is actively preparing to host General Assembly 2010. Look at all that is happening:

- Our proposed theme “Rivers of Living Water” based on John 7:37-38 has been approved.
- A potter has been engaged to “throw” the communion ware.
- Both the Opening Worship and Moderators Reception will occur on Sunday July 4. All area congregations are urged to “relocate” their worship services that morning to the convention center so that we may worship 8000 Presbyterians strong. The Moderator’s Reception will be held on Nicollet Island in the Mississippi River to be followed by a July 4th picnic and the city sponsored fireworks for which we have a great viewing spot.
- Two of many mission and cultural tours under consideration are to St. John’s University to see the St. John’s Bible and to the St. Paul Science Museum for the display of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Each commissioner will receive a “Second Chance Cross.” These are handcrafted crosses made by a Presbyterian pastor from wood salvaged from lakes where it has been since sinking in lumber drives over a century ago.
- The mission gift project is being coordinated by Presbyterian Women.
- The COLA website where volunteer information will be found will be functional by the end of the year.
- Dubuque is the PC(USA) Seminary in our Synod while United Theological Seminary is attended by many Presbyterians. We are discussing various ways for the seminaries and their students to be involved.

Macalester College in St. Paul is the only PC(USA) school in the three presbyteries. They will be hosting the Summit III Collegiate Ministry Conference prior to GA. We are also discussing other ways in which they can be involved.

We are working to make this a “green” assembly and one that is family friendly. We also see this joint hosting as a way of fostering cooperation between the three presbyteries.

We on COLA see our primary role as providing a ministry of hospitality. We will be saying to our Presbyterian family – welcome, we are glad you are here.

Sandy Hawley and Manley Olson are the Co-chairs of the Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA) committee of the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis. Hawley is an elder at Plymouth Presbyterian Church in Plymouth and Olson is an elder at North Como Presbyterian in Roseville.



219th General Assembly

When: July 3-10, 2010

Where: Minneapolis, MN

Theme: “Rivers of Living
Water” (John 7:38)

GA Website:
www.pcusa.org/ga219/

Volunteer Website: will be
available in late 2009.

Registration: Begins in
March, 2010.

What Are Your Plans for the 4th of July, 2010?

By Paula Sanders

We hope that you will be joining us for the biennial Family Reunion of Presbyterians, the 219th General Assembly. We are privileged this coming summer to host this national gathering here in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities, in partnership with two other presbyteries with congregations in Minnesota, Northern Waters and Minnesota Valleys.

In this article, we would like to highlight specifically the activities planned for Sunday, July 4, 2010. At 10:00 a.m. in the Minneapolis Convention Center, the Opening Worship Service of the General Assembly will take place and **YOU ARE INVITED!** We are asking local congregations to consider having their sessions vote to "relocate" worship on this day to the Convention Center so that we can praise God together, 8000 Presbyterians strong! During the afternoon of the 4th, the General Assembly Exhibit Hall will be open to visitors and other family-friendly activities are being planned.

You say the 4th of July is not complete without fireworks? Join us from 5 p.m. – midnight on Nicollet Island for the General Assembly Moderators Reception serving picnic fare, followed by a dazzling display of fireworks set off over the Mississippi River by the City of Minneapolis. You and your family will have the best seats in town and parking on Nicollet Island.

Please watch this space for more information as planning continues. We hope that you and your entire family will plan to join us on July 4th, 2010 for this joyous Presbyterian Family Reunion.

Committee on Local Arrangements
General Assembly 2010
612-839-7465
paula.sanders@pcusa.org

Paula Sanders is the Executive Volunteer Coordinator for the 219th General Assembly which will be held in Minneapolis in July, 2010. She is a minister-member of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

COLA Looking for Volunteers

On July 3-10, 2010 (next summer) the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, the Presbytery of Northern Waters and the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys will host this bi-annual event in Minneapolis. Planning is underway and **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**. Here's how:

- Volunteer to **SERVE ON A COMMITTEE**. If you're interested, sign up now! Contact: Paula Sanders, paula.sanders@pcusa.org or 612-839-7465; or Rallah Madison, rallah@hickorytech.net or 507-380-1488.
- Mark the dates and **PLAN TO VOLUNTEER DURING THE ASSEMBLY**. Ushers, singers for a mass choir, communion servers, information disseminators, greeters at the airport, hotels and convention center, tour leaders, and all sorts of other help is needed. You can find out more about the 219th General Assembly by going to the new GA 219 website at www.pcusa.org/ga219/.
- Encourage attendance at the **JULY 4, 2010 WORSHIP AT THE MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER** to join 6,000- 8,000 other Presbyterian in celebration of worship and the Lord's Supper.
- Plan to **ATTEND AS MANY EVENTS AS POSSIBLE**. See your denomination in worship and prayer both on Sunday and throughout the week; hear discussions of issues before the Assembly in committees and in plenary (all meetings are open); take advantage of special concerts and other events; learn about denominational organizations and agencies in Exhibit Hall; join us at the 4th of July picnic and fireworks on Nicollet Island, Minneapolis.
- **PRAY** for the work of the PCUSA, the Assembly and the Committee on Local Arrangements.

This is a VERY special opportunity to learn about your church and take advantage of an unbelievable number of resources gathered in one place and at one time. This is a HUGE undertaking and we need YOU. If you have ties to Minnesota, help us show a warm welcome as the family gathers at our house for its biennial reunion! Volunteer to serve on one of these committees for General Assembly 2010!

Call to November 2009 Presbytery Meeting



November 2009 Presbytery Meeting Fast Facts

When: November 10, 2009

Where: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Rd., Edina

Time: 4-8PM

Theme: "The Maintenance of Divine Worship"

Presbytery Packets with Directions are available at www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket.

By Nancy Gritman

In accordance with Book of Order Form of Government Chapter XI, Section 2, (G-11.0200) and the Bylaws of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (Article I), the Presbytery will meet in Regular Stated Session on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 4:00 p.m., at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Road, Edina, Minnesota, 55435.

An orientation for new pastors, and elder commissioners attending for the first time, will begin at 3:00 p.m. A time of hospitality and fellowship, hosted by the Church, will begin at 3:30 a.m., as will registration.

As of the publication of this Call, there are three Pre-Presbytery events scheduled: a Level II AIM training event entitled, "Pitfalls of an Electronic Age"; Committee on Representation; committee on Local Arrangements.

The worship service for this Presbytery meeting will be presented by the Christ Presbyterian Church, The Rev. Dr. John Crosby, Pastor, sharing their innovative worship service "The Table."

Please be reminded that the Minutes of the September Presbytery meeting will be posted online, but not printed for the packets. Please download to print any portions that may be of interest to you.

Presbytery Council will continue the selected theme for the year, "Affirm Local Congregations: Build Spiritual Energy Through Nurture". The Six Great Ends of The Church has provided the guide, as one of the "Great Ends" will be the emphasis of each Presbytery meeting. At this November, 2009, meeting, the third Great End, "The maintenance of divine worship" is the theme for the day. The meeting agenda will include a time for small-group discussion, with proposed questions and resources

Lunch for 150, at \$7.00, will be available. Tickets will be sold in the registration area.

The Presbytery office staff is trying very hard to be certain that anyone who may be interested in knowing of the meeting receives this Call. An expanded address list is being followed, and some may receive two notices, especially if your name appears twice in the Gray Directory. If we are notified, we will continue to update our list as we proceed. All church members within the Presbytery are welcome to attend the meeting. Each session should be very sure to be represented by the assigned number of elder commissioners who have voice and vote. This is the way to have the voice of your congregation heard on the floor of Presbytery.

Nancy Gritman is the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Oak Grove Goes to South Africa



“What was particularly moving to Dries, was when an *ouma* (elderly person) got up and thanked Oak Grove, and said how wonderful it is for her people now to have a place, when they get tired in life, to have a place to come and rest... a place to come and die with dignity. This is what this project is about – giving people dignity.”

-(Above)Rev. Dries Coetzee takes part in the dedication Oak Grove Sorg Sentrum in Blompark, Coetzee’s hometown in South Africa.

By Dries Coetzee

The following are the reflections of Dries Coetzee, Associate Pastor at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. He recently concluded a sabbatical visiting his native South Africa, and is now leading a group from Oak Grove on a tour of his home country. Below is a blog post from Coetzee’s blog dated October 26.

This morning we were privileged to be a part of the dedication of a facility for the care of the elderly in the Blompark community near Franskraal, where Dries’s parents live. The Sorg Sentrum, or care center, was the result of the collective efforts of MANY people and organizations: land donated by one woman, municipal officials who worked to rezone the area, county officials who helped design the building, local people who were able to earn an income doing construction, members of the business community who contributed funds, and members of the community at large who donated furnishings for the rooms and pledged their time to help maintain the rooms. Oak Grove, for our part, contributed in excess of \$40,000, the major portion of the construction funds for this project.

The money for this project was raised in 2007, when Oak Grove’s own building was paid off early and, in thankfulness, the extra funds that would have gone for paying for our building went instead to Blompark. It is difficult for us to convey to you how big an impact we have had — our gift of money has had — on this community. Magrieta, who is the heart and soul of this project to care for the elderly, said that it was a dream come true, and that the dream continues.

It was humbling for us to sit with the elderly people, the *oumas* and *oupas*, and to know that we have had such a hugely positive impact on their lives.

For those few moments, we got to share in the excitement of being part of this community.

What was particularly moving to Dries, was when an *ouma* got up and thanked Oak Grove, and said how wonderful it is for her people now to have a place, when they get tired in life, to have a place to come and rest... a place to come and die with dignity. This is what this project is about – giving people dignity.

Disability Concerns Taskforce Sponsors Workshop on Suicide and the Church

“When my father committed suicide, my church didn’t respond. My pastor didn’t know how to help. Church members avoided me. I felt isolated and alone.”

The Disability Concerns Taskforce of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is sponsoring a half-day event on suicide and the church’s response. Under the theme “Suicide and the Church’s Ministry” the workshop is designed to help church people answer their questions about suicide, recognize warning signs, and minister to those who are coping with loss. All concerned persons are invited. It will be especially helpful for clergy and parish visitors.

The workshop takes place Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 8:30am to Noon at Valley Presbyterian Church, 3100 Lilac Drive in Golden Valley, MN. For more information or to register, please contact Bebe Baldwin at randbonmarquette@hotmail.com.

Why Christian Education?



By Martha Rockenstein

In a recent blog entry Pastor Stephanie asked “Why are you Presbyterian?” This sparked the questions *Why Christian Education?* Or more accurately *Why is Christian Education important to ones faith journey?* However before we can answer this question I think we have to ask a more basic question; What is Christian Education?

In recent years the idea of Christian Education has taken on several other names which I think are helpful in our understanding of Christian Education. One name is faith formation. The name faith formation hits home that we are not just educating people about God and Christianity but rather helping individuals recognize, accept, and respond to God’s gift of grace (this concept comes from theologian Craig Dyrkstra). A second name is spiritual growth. I like this name because it emphasizes God presences in and around us as well as the fact that we are always learning and growing. For me Christian Education is a combination of both of these ideas.

“Why is Christian Education important to ones faith journey? I think the most important reason is that God wants us to continually recognize, accept and respond to the gift of grace he gives to us freely. We are continually changing and our world is continually changing so we need to rediscover how to recognize, accept and respond to God. ”

With this in mind we can ask the question: Why is Christian Education important to ones faith journey? I think the most important reason is that God wants us to continually recognize, accept and respond to the gift of grace he gives to us freely. We are continually changing and our world is continually changing so we need to rediscover how to recognize, accept and respond to God. Thus, it is our job as children of God to do so. In order to discover or rediscover and begin to understand God’s grace we have to be in relationship with God and with the community of faith. This is not to say that God only gives grace to those who know him but rather that when one knows God and is in a relationship with her it is easier to recognize, accept and respond to the grace given. One cannot be in relationship with someone that they do not know. Because God is not here in flesh and blood we have to learn about God through the Scriptures, through others encounters with God and through the world around us. In other words we have to know something about God to know God. Once we know about God we can continue the important work of exploring our relationship with God. We can together in community see where God’s grace is give and discover how we are called to respond to that grace.

Christian Education provides an opportunity for begin and grow in our relationship with God. Christian Education also helps us build relationships with those in our congregation. Christian Education provides an opportunity to learn about the ways we can respond to God grace in our lives, in our homes, in our congregation and in our community. Christian Education is important for everyone because God’s calls us to be faithful people recognizing, accepting and responding to the gift of grace in our lives! And God keeps on giving grace anew each day!

-Martha Rockenstein.

Rockenstein is the Director for Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Hudson, WI.

Transitions: Notes About PTCA Pastors



Ordination Anniversaries

November 2009

- Deb Kielsmeier (11/1/98)
- Steven Rice (11/4/90)
- Brenda K. Alexander (11/10/85)
- Zachary Owen Wilson (11/10/01)
- Umo Udo (11/12/06)
- Wayne Herstad (11/13/70)
- Katherine S. Michael (11/13/94)
- Richard H. Headen (11/15/69)
- Roger Ring (11/20/77)
- Marion E. Hedberg (11/21/82)
- Margaret Newswanger (11/21/92)
- Byung-Chun Yoo (11/21/58)
- Paul E. Martin (11/23/76)
- Walter Chuquimia (11/24/96)
- Deborah S. DeMeester (11/24/85)
- Michael Ngeru Kamau (11/25/90)
- Ethel Kay Livingston (11/25/79)
- Jay Rowland (11/29/98)
- Lindsey Louise Biddle (11/30/91)
- David H. Stewart (11/30/75)

Comings and Goings

- **Gale Robb** is the new Interim Associate Pastor at **House of Hope Presbyterian Church** in St. Paul. She began her ministry on October 4.
- **David Bierschawle**, pastor of **Presbyterian Church of the Master** in Coon Rapids, ends his ministry at the Anoka County Church on November 1. He is accepting a call to First Presbyterian Church in Burley, ID. Bierschawle has been pastor of Church of the Master since 2001.
- **Will Eisenhower** requests as transfer of membership from the PTCA to the Presbytery of Riverside in California where he has accepted a call. Eisenhower was the Interim Pastor at **First Presby-**
- **terian in White Bear Lake** from 2007 to May of 2009.
- **Paul Moore**, pastor of **Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church**, a new church development in Lino Lakes, MN preached at the Annual Polity Conference in Minneapolis in early October. His sermon entitled, "How Thirsty Are You?" can be found at the presbytery website.
- **Gordon Stewart**, the Stated Supply at **Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church in Chaska, MN** has been busy writing for several media outlets, including the Minn Post, Presbyterian Outlook and Minnesota Public Radio. You can read all the writings by going to www.shepherdofthehillchurch.com.
- **Josh Heikilla** is now in Ghana and trying to learn how to adapt to Ghanaian traffic. Heikilla, a former Associate Pastor at **House of Hope Presbyterian in St. Paul**, is now the Regional Liason for West Africa for the Presbyterian Church (USA). He still maintains his membership in the PTCA.

Confession



By Kara Root

Kara Root, the pastor of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, wrote the following in her blog: "In the Here and Now," in October 2009 reflecting on the Christianity 21 conference.

I've spent the weekend at Christianity 21, listening to a variety of speakers addressing Christianity in the 21st century. One speaker who really stood out for me was Seth Donovan, who spoke about Confession. Her talk has been lingering with me, clinging to my thoughts and experiences - I keep catching a whiff of it in my conversations and inner dialogues.

Last night was our Saturday Sabbath service, and we gathered around the idea of hospitality- hospitality to God, to ourselves and to others. Hospitality as radical welcoming, opening space within to truly encounter the other. And when we had spoken and listened, sung, prayed and shared and eaten, we set off into the darkening evening to begin our sacred time. And I dreamt about church as a place confession.

Today is our Sunday Day of Rest. In my house this means it is the Day Mommy Sleeps In. This is the day that when all who have piled into the bed at 6:45, chatting, cuddling, wrestling and whining - (people and dogs both) drop back onto the floor and tumble pell mell down the stairs to have breakfast, I get to stay behind, warm under the covers, by myself for a whole, uninterrupted hour.

I was awakened the second time by the sound of the door opening, and my tussled-hair 5 year old son creeping into the bed once again. "Mommy... Daddy said I can come in and kiss you softly and talk to you quietly."

"Ok", I answered, and made room for him under the covers.

He crawled in and laid his head next to mine on the pillow.

After a minute, he said, "Mommy, I am really nervous about something."

And my Day of Rest began with the hearing of confession.

Seth Donovan is not a preacher. She's not a pastor or an author. She is a community activist, and advocate, working with and for victims of human trafficking. She is used to fighting for those who don't have a voice, standing up to people with power and telling them they are wrong, making a stand and speaking out. She is also gay, and her sexual identity and orientation have shaped the way she can be in the world. She felt out of place presenting at this conference. She brought to us the question, "How can the church be a place of confession?" And not being a pastor or preacher, she was able to answer the question from the human and real place of, what do I need for church to be a place of confession for me?

After eliciting words from the gathered group as to what "confession" meant to people, Seth invited two people to come up so that she could pose their bodies in a stance that represented confession for her. The first she gently pushed down to her knees, head bowed in contrition. "I need a place in this world that I can be wrong," she said. "A place where I can be uncertain, where I can talk about the ways I am complicit in the things that I want to be changed." Church as a place of confession means it is a place where we get to be wrong, a place we can find release. She explained that in every other part of life, she was, in many ways and con-

Continued on Page 19



"Church as a place of confession means it is a place where we get to be wrong, a place we can find release. "

Kara Root.

Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

“Grace Notes” : Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., will be the convocation speaker for Synod School 2010, which will have "Grace Notes" as its theme. Synod School 2010 dates are Sunday afternoon, July 25, through Friday noon, July 30. Synod School runs at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. The evening worship leaders are Mark Davis and Barb Nish, pastor and worship leader at Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, Iowa, and the morning worship leader is Steve Plank, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Neb. Synod School announcements will be posted from time to time to the Synod School Facebook group: Synod School - "Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa!"

To find the group, go to www.facebook.com . If you have a Facebook presence, use the search function in the upper right-hand corner. If you are not a Facebook member, you will need to join first. The Synod School group has more than 100 members, and at least 70 pictures and three videos on the group page. Questions concerning Synod School can be directed to the synod office at 651.357.1140 or 800.328.1880. Questions can also be directed to Diana Barber, associate synod executive for leadership development, at dbarber@lakesandprairies.org.

-Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Synod Extends Deadline for SDOP Grants: The Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Self-Development of People Committee extended its 2009 deadline to receive grant proposals to Nov. 20. The intention of SDOP grants is to help correct conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. Grant requests must be presented, owned and controlled by the group of people who will benefit from the grant. Proposals must describe the goal of the project, specific steps required to accomplish the goal, a description of how the benefited group will be in charge of the project, and the other sources of support that are involved. Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment, wrote, "Here is a wonderful opportunity for community groups to make an impact on people's lives and change the negative effects of poverty, unemployment, and homelessness. SDOP is especially interested in areas with greater potential to partner with immigrant communities, racial ethnic organizations and high incidences of poverty." Additional information can be obtained by contacting Street-Stewart at estreetstewart@lakesandprairies.org.

-Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Street-Stewart Nominated for National Award:

Elona Street-Stewart, vice chair of the [St. Paul \(Minn.\) Public School District](#), is a finalist for the 2009 Richard R. Green Award presented by the [Council of the Great City Schools](#). Street-Stewart is associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Kazoua Kong-Thao, chair of the school board, said, "Elona's leadership has been an invaluable asset for our district over the past six years. Additionally, she has been a great role model and a resource with her experience as an active parent, community leader and past board chair." CGCS, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., is a coalition of 66 of the nation's largest urban public school systems. The award honors current or past council board members who represent support of and service to urban schoolchildren, development of a special service or program in support of urban school needs, ongoing contributions to urban education through advocacy or programs and inspiration and motivation of others to contribute to success of urban school students.

-Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies

The Son of Big Tent: Noting the success of the first-ever "Big Tent," a collection of 10 individual conferences of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Atlanta in June, denominational leaders noted this month that a second "Big Tent" is planned in 2011. Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons and Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council, wrote earlier this month, "Perhaps no other gathering of Presbyterians has captured such a spirit of enthusiasm and inspiration like the Big Tent. To have the opportunity to share stories and ideas without a legislative agenda was refreshing and rejuvenating to the soul and a great reminder of the richness of this denomination." Their letter noted, "We are very happy to announce that the Big Tent will return in 2011. The dates and location will be announced in the coming months."

Compiled by Duane Sweep, Synod of Lakes and Prairies



Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

New Faces at First Presbyterian Stillwater:

The Stillwater, MN congregation has welcomed two new people on staff. Cheryl Klink will be serving as the part-time director of Senior High Youth. She served the congregation previously as the Director of Christian Education from 1998-2001 and was recently the Children's Choir Director.

Also Shelia Gustafson was appointed as a Parish Associate. Gustafson is an Honorably Retired Member of the Presbytery who recently served as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe, NM. Gustafson will focus on pastoral care as well as some worship leadership and preaching.

Livin' in a Box: Three youth and two adults from Peace Presbyterian in St. Louis Park decided to spend one night sleeping in a cardboard box to raise awareness of homelessness in Minnesota. The five members were part of hundreds of youth and adults who slept outside on the State Fairgrounds to combat homelessness. The group thanked those who helped them raise funds for Families Moving Forward and Project Home, two local agencies working to end homelessness in the area.

Piece work equals peace work: As violence continues to rage in the African country of Sudan and tens of thousands of children are displaced, the PC(USA)'s [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#), in partnership with the Office on Child Advocacy and the Africa Office, has released a new curriculum for grades one through six: *Piece Work/Peace Work: Working Together for Peace in Sudan*.

Representatives of the Sudan Mission Network and the Sudan Advocacy Action Forum assisted with the content. Presbyterians have been in ministry with the Sudanese people for more than 100 years.

Using the image of a quilt, the study explores the intersection between piece work and peace work. To make a quilt, artisans traditionally take remnants of fabric which they put together in some coherent way to make something that is both useful and beautiful. Often the fabrics and colors are quite distinctively different. Out of disparate pieces, each with their own history, something new is created. That is the vision this curriculum has for Sudan — peace work will involve bringing together great diversity to create something beautiful for the people of Sudan.

In this four-session study, children will examine the “piece work” of diversity that is Sudan — its cultures, tribes, peoples, and religious expressions. The students will explore the interlocking issues that, like pieces of a quilt, make up the complex situation that exists in Sudan. The children will also discover ways that they, as Christians, can make a difference for the children of Sudan.

The four sessions include games, simulations and art projects. Suggestions on how to enhance the material, through worship, songs, scripture, books and Internet access, are included. An intergenerational session is also included and may be used as the final session of the study. It may also be used as a stand-alone event.

The leader's guide can be purchased for \$8.00 through [Presbyterian Distribution Services](#) (www.pcusa.org/marketplace) using PDS #[24358-09-008](#).

-written by Mindy Marchal, General Assembly Mission Council

Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association seeks nominations to recognize social justice ministries: The [Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association](#) (PHEWA) is seeking nominations for five awards that will be celebrated during the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minn. on July 5, 2010. The five awards are presented by PHEWA member organizations.

“There are a lot of good people out there doing remarkable work with others who find themselves marginalized or forgotten. These awards recognize those ministries and, by doing so, help to remind us of God's call to love kindness and do justice,” stated Nancy Troy, PHEWA executive director from 2000 to 2009.

PHEWA seeks nominations for:

- The first biennial Faith in Action Award given by the Presbyterian Aids Network (PAN). Nominees for this award should include congregations that, through prayerful action and through their ministry, walk alongside sisters and brothers



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who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS; initiating or supporting activities within the United States in meaningful and lasting ways. The ministry should be able to show increased sensitivity to the issue and demonstrate a positive impact on those affected. The recipient congregation will be one that shows God's unconditional love for all people by striving to break down the walls of stigma and discrimination around HIV/AIDS.

- The Community Transformation Award is given by the Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation (PACT). Nominees for this award should be PC(USA) congregations that, either through ecumenical or interfaith community ministry, or through a special project of the congregation, have been faithful, creative and effective in their ministry to and with the community.
- The Nancy Jennings Award is given by Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC). Nominees for this award should be a person, congregation or other PC(USA) entity that is exemplary in affirmation, support and advocacy for the gifts, right and responsibilities of person with disabilities in the total life of the church.
- The David Hancock Award is given by Presbyterians for Addiction Action (PAA). Nominees for this award should be congregations or church professionals that have contributed significantly in the field of addiction prevention, intervention or recovery.
- The Florence Iversen Kraft Award is presented by the Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network (PSMIN). Nominees for this award should be congregations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their ministry with those who have a serious mental illness and with their families.

To nominate a ministry, congregation or individual for the 2010 awards, please submit the following information to [Susan Stack \(susan.stack@pcusa.org\)](mailto:susan.stack@pcusa.org) by Feb. 15, 2010: Name of person/congregation being nominated; contact person for the nomination; address, phone numbers, and email addresses for both the congregation and contact person; and a two-page description of why they are deserving of this recognition. While electronic submissions are preferred, nominations can also be mailed to Susan Stack, PC (USA), PHEWA, 100 Witherspoon St., Room 3228, Louisville, KY, 40202-1396.

PHEWA is a voluntary membership organization dedicated to social welfare and justice ministries. Ten networks are part of PHEWA, organized for grassroots implementation of General Assembly poli-

cies in the areas of community ministries and faith-based community organizing, addictions, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, reproductive options, specialized pastoral ministries, child advocacy, disabilities, health and wholeness, and serious mental illness. PHEWA is a ministry of Compassion, Peace and Justice of the General Assembly Mission Council.

GAMC Reaffirms Support of Presbyterian News Service

The General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) reaffirmed its support for the Presbyterian News Service, calling the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s news agency "a high priority and an essential function" of the church.

In approving the report of a six-member task force authorized by the council a year ago and appointed by GAMC chair Carol Adcock, the council approved new editorial guidelines that clarify and strengthen the news service's editorial freedom and responsibility.

The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09823.htm.

Development of New Presbyterian Hymnal Continues

Work on the monumental new Presbyterian hymnal continues at the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. The project began in 2006 when the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) authorized Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to research, develop, and produce a new hymnal, the first new Presbyterian hymnal since 1990. Featuring more than 600 selections from celebrated classics to the latest contemporary selections, the project represents a huge undertaking. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/ppc09005.htm.

GA Committee Unanimously Recommends Adoption of Belhar Confession

A special committee authorized by the 218th General Assembly (2008) has announced that it will recommend to next summer's 219th Assembly that the Belhar Confession be added to the PC(USA)'s

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Book of Confessions.

Amending the Book of Confessions requires a two-thirds vote by two successive General Assemblies plus a two-thirds ratification vote by the denomination's 173 presbyteries between Assembly ballots. The confession was written in 1982 and adopted in 1986 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in response to the apartheid system of racial separation in South Africa. It declared apartheid a sin and the church's theological justification of it as heresy. But Belhar's greater value to the PC(USA), special committee member the Rev. J.C. Austin told the GAMC's executive committee, Sept. 23, lies in its "fundamental themes that go beyond the apartheid struggle." Austin, a Presbyterian minister who works at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, said those themes are the unity of the church, reconciliation and a commitment to justice. [To read more, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09820.htm]

'We cannot agree,' says marriage/unions GA Panel

The Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Unions and Christian Marriage has acknowledged what has been clearly demonstrated in debates, governing body votes and judicial decisions throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Presbyterians are not of one mind on the role of same-gender relationships in the church. The special committee, authorized by the 2008 General Assembly (GA), unanimously approved its preliminary report to the 2010 GA, Sept. 17, answering the central question before it – What is the place of covenanted same-gender partnerships in the Christian community? – with a three word response: "We cannot agree." Though it reached unanimous agreement on the preliminary version of its report – the group will receive feedback from the church until Nov. 15 and prepare a final report at its Jan 22-25, 2010 meeting – it tabled action on any recommendations it might make. [To read more, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09807.htm]

YAV Program Offers National & International Options

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offers opportunities to serve in communities of need nationally and internationally. The program, open to people ages 19 to 30, requires a commitment of one academic year. The application deadline is Jan. 20 for the 2010-2011 year. In addition to service, the program emphasizes living in intentional Christian community and spiritual formation. The PC(USA) Web site contains more information about the YAV Program, www.pcusa.org/yav/.

PTCA Committee on Nominations looking for GA Commissioners:

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is entitled to send 4 elder commissioners, 4 minister commissioners and a young adult advisory delegate (age 17-23) to the General Assembly, which will

be held in Minneapolis, July 3-10, 2010. The Nominating Committee is now accepting applications from elders, ministers or young adult members of our congregations who are interested in serving in these positions. Election will be at the January 2010 meeting of presbytery.

To be considered for nomination by the Nominating Committee, persons must complete an application form with a letter of recommendation from a session, presbytery entity, or minister member of the presbytery, and return it to the presbytery office by November 15th. Forms are available at ptcaweb.org or in hard copy from the presbytery office.

Ordinarily, elders and ministers are eligible to be nominated by the Nominating Committee three years after ordination and with two years of membership in the presbytery or one of its churches. Elders and ministers who have served as commissioners to the General Assembly shall ordinarily be again eligible for nomination by the Nominating Committee after fourteen years.

Interested elders from all congregations are encouraged to apply.



Positions Available

For more information on the positions listed below, please go to the PTCA website at <http://www.ptcaweb.org>.

- Christian Education/Youth Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church, Red Wing
- Choir Director, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Director of Children's Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Interim Pastor, Church of the Master Presbyterian Church, Coon Rapids
- Pastor, Zion United Church of Christ, LeSeur

Do you have a church staff position that needs to be filled? Send in your job announcements to Dennis Sanders at communications@ptcaweb.org. (Oh, and let us know when you fill the position, so we can remove it from the job listings.)

The following PTCA Congregations are have vacant pulpits according to the Committee on Ministry:

- Korean Presbyterian Church of Minnesota, Brooklyn Center– Associate Pastor
- Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Buffalo– Pastor
- Presbyterian Church of LeSeur, LeSeur– Pastor
- First Presbyterian Church, Rochester– Pastor

To find out about the status of these congregations, please contact the Committee on Ministry at com@ptcaweb.org.

Events Calendar

Do you have an event you'd like to publicize? Please send it to Dennis Sanders at communications@ptcaweb.org.

Job Support Groups at Christ Presbyterian: Christ Presbyterian in Edina offers the following groups to help those in transition:

- CHRIST IN CAREER SUPPORT GROUP:** Meets first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:30-10:30AM in Room 316

Contact: Jack Baloga at 952.944.5194

*A ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church
- INDIVIDUAL MENTORING/COACHING***

Contact the CPC Lay Care office at 952.920.8515

*A ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church
- MINNEAPOLIS JOB SUPPORT WORKSHOP**

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30PM

Contact: John Wetzel at john.wetzel@right.com

Visit www.mjsw.org
- WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP**

Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM in the Parlor

Contact: John Wetzel at john.wetzel@right.com

Visit www.mjsw.org

Job Support Group at Lake Nokomis: The South Minneapolis Job Networking Group meets at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian on Fridays at 9am for support, resources and networking. For more information, please contact the congregation at (612) 721-4463.

Overcoming Racism: Why IS it so Hard?

Please join Cherokee Park United Church in St. Paul for the Overcoming Racism: Why is it so hard? Conference on November 6 and 7 at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. The conference will feature national and local ex-

perts and will be an opportunity to join others committed to addressing racial inequities as we deepen our understanding and improve our skills for advancing antiracist transformation in our own particular contexts. For more information, please visit www.FacilitatingRacialEquityCollaborative.com. Cherokee Park United Church in St. Paul is one of the principal partners in organizing this conference.

Minnesota Council of Churches Invites Public to Chamberlin's Installation as National Council of Churches President

The Minnesota council of Churches is inviting the public to the closing event of the National Council of Churches/Church World Service General Assembly at which the Rev. Peg Chamberlin, MCC executive director, will be installed as the NCC's 25th president. The event takes place Thursday, Nov. 12, with a banquet at 5 p.m. in St. Louis Park, Minn., and worship at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis. Additional information is available at the MCC Web site, www.mnchurches.org.

Pre-Presbytery Boundaries Training Event

When: Tuesday, November 10
Where: Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina
Time: 3pm
Cost: Free

Advocates for Integrity in Ministry (AIM) Level 2 Pre-Presbytery Event

THE PITFALLS OF AN ELECTRONIC AGE

An open discussion of the impact of new and proliferating forms of electronic communication on the maintenance of appropriate boundaries in lay and professional ministries. AIM intend to include guidelines in Level 1 training, so all forms of ministries, teachers, musicians, youth leaders, elders, deacons, pastors, →

Events Calendar

Summer Office Hours @ the Presbytery Office

Monday-Thursday:
8:30am-4:30pm

Friday:
8:30am-12:30pm

Per Capita for 2010:

General Assembly:
\$6.15

Synod: \$4.80

Presbytery: \$19.06

Total =
\$30.01

specialized ministries . . . all of you . . . please come and contribute to this important discussion.

Please register by close of business, November 6 online by going to <http://presbyterytwincities.org/aimsignup/>.

Pre-Presbytery Event on Diversity

November 10, 2009
Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina
3:00pm

You are invited to come to a pre-Presbytery event to learn more about Leadership Development through special interest groups such as Presbyterians of Color, Disabilities Concerns and Community Development.

This event is hosted by the Committee on Representation (COR). There will be resource material and representatives from the Presbytery's Church Development Team and Disabilities Concerns Task Force of the PTCA on hand to take part in this timely discussion.

If you are a person of color, disable or interested in reaching out to the community around your church...This Event is For YOU.

For more information contact: Bob Cross, Chair of Committee on Representation at cor@ptcaweb.org

Or 612-990-7376.

Workshop on Suicide and Suicide Prevention

The Disability Concerns Taskforce of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is sponsoring a half-day event on suicide and the church's response. Under the theme "Suicide and the Church's Ministry" the workshop is designed to help church people answer their questions about suicide, recognize warning signs, and minister to those who are coping with loss. All concerned persons are invited. It will be especially helpful for clergy and parish visitors.

The workshop takes place Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 8:30am to Noon at Valley Presbyterian Church, 3100 Lilac Drive in Golden Valley,

MN. For more information or to register, please contact Bebe Baldwin at randbonmarquette@hotmail.com.

In the Footsteps of Paul: Greece and Turkey May 10-21, 2010

Rev. Deb Kielsmeier of Christ Presbyterian Church invites you to join her on a pilgrimage to the biblical lands of Greece and Turkey. Hosted by New Testament scholar, Dr. Steven Notley, this program centers upon the outreach of the Gospel as it penetrated into the Greco-Roman world. The group will retrace the ministry of the Apostles Paul and John looking at the historical, cultural and archaeological settings that assist us to better appreciate their writings and the Early Church's cross-cultural ministry into these lands. With the Bible as our guide and the land as our classroom, our aim is to search the Scriptures, break bread together and fellowship in travel. Join us for a remarkable pilgrimage of fellowship and learning. For more information, please contact **Rev. Deb Kielsmeier** (952) 920-8515 or debk@cpconline.org.

November 10 (Tuesday) 7 PM - Religion and the U.S. Constitution with Professor Michael Steenson and Justice Paul Anderson - Shepherd of the Hill.

We're pleased that the Chaska Valley Family Theater and the Chaska Human Rights Commission and the Beacon Council of School District 112 are co-sponsors for the Trial of Anne Hutchinson. The Beacon Council is co-sponsor for the entire series.

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian is located at 145 Engler Blvd in Chaska.

Twenty the New ???



Carol Howard Merritt begins her presentation on how to create an intergenerational church at United Seminary in New Brighton, MN on October 30. (Photo by Dennis Sanders)

Carol Howard Merritt is the author of the book, *Tribal Church: Ministering the Missing Generation* and also has a blog called Tribal Church at tribalchurch.org.

By Donald Hanna

Carol Howard Merritt, a noted Presbyterian pastor, author and pod-caster, spoke Friday, October 30 about how congregations can reach out to people in the 20s and 30s and create an intergenerational church. Donald Hanna attended the event and shares his thoughts.

This past Friday I attended a conference put on by Carol Howard Merritt about ministering to the “missing generation.” In large part, its focus was on connecting with each other across generations; concentrating on the things that have been important in the church since its beginnings: connection with God, connection with each other, and connection with the world. However, it is hard to connect to people who are largely absent from a given congregation. She pointed out several factors that have contributed to a dearth of twenty-somethings in the church.

Some of these factors are symptomatic of the world that we live in right now. Ms. Merritt pointed out that Gen-Xers and Gen-Yers have entered into independence at a time when housing prices have soared, college prices have soared (the average student leaves college with nearly \$40,000 dollars in debt), work loads have increased, and wages have stagnated.

Job security is not what it was years ago either. Length of employment for the typical person in their twenties is 2.6 years. A third of this group goes without health insurance. And it is probably worth noting that the statistics that she gave us came from before the economy fell into shambles. The result of all of this is that people of this generation are less and less able to make long term commitments.

For instance, no one wants to get married when they are living in their parent’s basement, and it is hard to consider putting serious roots down in any organization when you don’t know where you’ll be working or living in a couple year’s time.

There are also some factors that contribute to this missing generation that come from within church walls. Ms. Merritt noted that committees often operate with an “invisible rule book,” that can confound or shutoff newcomers. Time constraints can also play an important role in keeping twenty somethings from being able to become fully engaged in church life. Three hour committee meetings can be an obstacle to someone working sixty hours each week (especially if some of the business seems like it could just as easily be conducted by e-mail or Facebook). Finally, often church programming has grown out of a model where people were getting married and having babies in their young twenties.

What Ms. Merritt told us was that essentially people used to move from confirmation, very quickly to putting their own children in the church



Twenty the New, Continued

Presbytery @ Prayer

nursery, and then plugging into other facets of church life. Now that people are waiting longer and longer to have children, there is a longer and longer gap where people aren't finding a natural way to connect with the church; then after a decade outside the church they are less likely to come back.

So St. Luke, this is the challenge for all of us. How can we show care and minister to a group that is facing such a web of hardship? How can we open ourselves to be able to accept the gifts of a group of people who cannot promise any sort of commitment to our institution?

How might we structure our focus groups that will allow greater participation across generational lines? What kind of programming might we put in place to bridge the gap between confirmation and the rest of what we do now?

How might St. Luke be a place that ministers to and from all generations, even the "missing generation?"



Donald Hanna is the Director of Children, Youth and Family Programs at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka. He is currently a candidate for ordination with the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Monday-Friday
9:30am-
10:00am

Please note that the staff of the PTCA gathers for morning prayer and devotions each day.



Presbyfest 2009!

Presbyfest is coming! This year's festival of all things Presbyterian will take place on Saturday, November 14 at Oak Grove Presbyterian in Bloomington. The theme is "Celebrating John Calvin and Five Centuries of Reformed Lay Leadership." The Keynote speaker

for this year is Cynthia Rigby, Professor of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. **Online registration for Presbyfest 2009 is now available.** Please go to www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyfest2009 for an event schedule and to register .

Confession, Continued



“My son, face pinched in worry, curled on a pillow next to me, needed to know he was loved in order to confess. He needed to know this was a place he could bring his whole self without the need to be right. ”

texts, defending, explaining, posturing. "I need a space that I can confess, where I am not defending for a minute."

The second person she posed with one hand on her heart and the other lifted out to the sky and to the world, face upturned in boldness. "Confession for me is also to confess a faith where I don't have to couch and frame it for other folks. Church needs to be a place where I can stand and be bold about my faith. It needs to have structure around it to allow for that."

And then she asked, "What does the church need to do for it to be a place for that- a place where we all can confess in both of these aspects?"

For the first, Seth said, "The most important thing isn't whether I am right but whether I'm loved. If it isn't this, then I can't say that I am wrong, and church is just another place I am defending myself. I need to be reminded that I am child of God. And that the relationship of God to me, and of the church to me is non-negotiable. I need to know that I am loved in order to be able to confess."

Then she asked, "What makes me able to en flesh theology and confess my faith? I need the structure." she explained, "There needs to be a space held for us so that we can confess our faith – so that it can be about God, and we bring ourselves and our faith and all of our many identities. We already compartmentalize ourselves EVERYWHERE else in the world." She talked about all the identities we have - mine are mother, pastor, wife, friend, teacher, homeowner, etc. We can pick out and maneuver these identities however we need to, we know very well how to use all these identities to be loved in this world. The Church should be place of 'de-compartmentalized-ness' (my word) – "where all those identities have something to do with my faith and my faith has something to do with my identities..." The church needs to be a place of wholeness.

In order to confess, "I need to know that I am loved, and I need to show up as a whole person – that this has everything to do with the rest of my life..." In order to confess, we need first to know that we are loved and not asked to be right. Second, we need to be able, and expected to come as a whole person. "The sin would be not showing up completely."

Seth ended by having us shape one another into our image of confession. Then she asked the question, "What would the church of the 21st century look like that embodied a spirit of confession?"

My son, face pinched in worry, curled on a pillow next to me, needed to know he was loved in order to confess. He needed to know this was a place he could bring his whole self without the need to be right. "I am afraid to tell Ms. Noori." He finally whispered, looking into my eyes. "I ripped a book at school, and I am afraid to tell my teacher." I listened. And I hugged him and told him we'd work through it, and I would help him talk to her.

And the fear left his eyes, his shoulders relaxed, and I watched the release.

Kara Root is the pastor of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian in Minneapolis. She writes a regular blog which can be found at www.kara-root.blogspot.com.

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

112 W. Franklin Ave.
Suite 508
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Fax: 612-871-0698
E-mail: communications@ptcaweb.org
Web: www.ptcaweb.org
Blog: www.presbyterytwincities.org/emergeblog

Presbytery of the
Twin Cities Area



"EMerge:Monthly," is a publication from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA). The mission is to share brief highlights with links to resources and news. Recipients include congregations, minister members, other members, committees, and friends. Please send submissions and e-mail corrections to Dennis Sanders, editor, at communications@ptcaweb.org . Usual distribution: Thursdays. Next Deadline: Close of Business (4:30pm) Thursday, November 19.

Presbytery Calendar, November 2009

Tuesday November 3, 2009

Peace & Justice Task Force : 7-9 PM

Thursday November 5, 2009

Nominating Committee : 6:30-8:30PM (Minnesota Church Center, Minneapolis)

Tuesday November 10, 2009

Pre Presbytery Event-Committee on Representation: 3-4PM, Christ Presbyterian, Edina
Pre-Presbytery Event- Level Two Boundaries Training : 3-4PM Christ Presbyterian, Edina
Presbytery Meeting: 4-8PM, Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina

Wednesday November 11, 2009

Personnel Committee: 4-5:30PM, Minnesota Church Center, Minneapolis

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Presbyfest : 8:30am-3:30 PM, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

Monday November 16, 2009

Committee on Ministry: 5:00 PM-7:30 PM ,Hope Presbyterian, Richfield

Wednesday November 18, 2009

Kwanzaa Comm. Task Force: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Kwanzaa

Presbyterian, Minneapolis

Thursday November 19, 2009

Commissioned Lay Pastors Committee: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM Minnesota Church Center, Minneapolis
Church Development Team: 12:30 PM-2:00 PM (Contact Office for location)

Monday November 23, 2009

Committee on Preparation for Ministry , 4:30-9:30PM, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

Tuesday November 24, 2009

Advocates for Integrity in Ministry:6:30 PM-8:00 PM, Mac-Plymouth, St. Paul

Thursday-Friday November 26-27, 2009

PTCA Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Presbytery Staff

Chaz Ruark, Executive Presbyter: ep@ptcaweb.org

Nancy Griffman, Stated Clerk: statedclerk@ptcaweb.org

Risa Anderson, Office Manager: office@ptcaweb.org

Dennis Sanders, IT/Communications Specialist: communications@ptcaweb.org