



EMerge

A Publication of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Inside this issue:

- More on Chain of Lakes, "Hot" Vision
- Letter from PC(USA) Moderator
- News Briefs
- Lake Nokomis focuses on Worship, Hospitality and Sabbath
- Presbytery and Churchwide Events
- "Narrative Budget" for Synod of Lakes and Prairies

PTCA Summer Hours

Please be mindful of the following changes to our office hours beginning the week of May 25 until Labor Day:

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

**Friday:
8:30am-12:30pm**

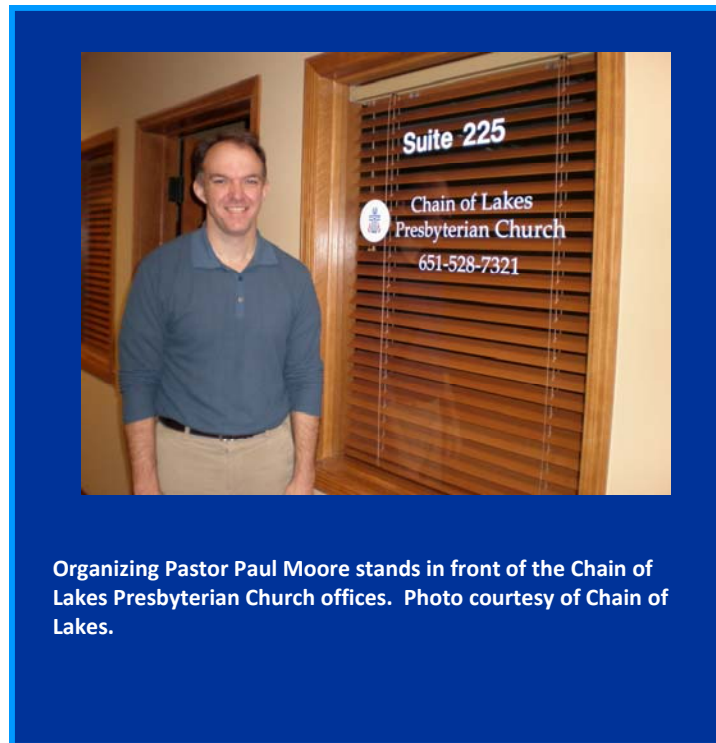
Volume Three, Issue Eleven

May 28, 2009

New Church Start Seeking to be "White Hot"

by Paul Moore, Organizing Pastor
Chain of Lakes New Church Development, PC(USA)

Editor's Note: The following is a blog entry by Paul Moore, the organizing pastor of Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church in Lino Lakes, MN. You can read more of his posts on being a new church pastor by going to his blog called "Chain Links" at <http://chainlink-chainoflakesncd.blogspot.com/>.



Organizing Pastor Paul Moore stands in front of the Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church offices. Photo courtesy of Chain of Lakes.

Lino Lakes, MN — This Saturday (May 31) the Steering Committee of Chain of Lakes plus some other invited folks will gather to discern what the Purpose Statement of our new congregation will be. This is a very important day in the life of our newly forming church. I'm excited to see how the Spirit leads us to develop a Purpose Statement.

I have been very clear that the most important task of our new congregation in 2009 is to develop our culture. Please understand what I am saying. This task of developing our culture is more important than gathering people who will participate in our church and is more important than number of people who worship with us when we start weekly

worship. We have a unique opportunity at this moment in time to be intentional about what type of faith community we will be. It's a moment that we won't have once we start weekly worship.

Our Purpose Statement is the first step in creating this culture. I wrote a short document on my understanding of a Purpose Statement. If you would like to read it, go here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/15887348/Purpose-Statement-Document>.

It's not a major revelation to any religious leader that working in the church is a grind. The grind of working through relationships and just keeping track of all the details of ministry can be all-consuming. We can get so focused on the operation of ministry that the larger purpose of what we're doing gets lost. I don't believe this shift of focus is intentional—it's inevitable given the task of leading churches. Paraphrasing a familiar metaphor—"we are so lost in the trees that we

Continued on Next Page

New Church, continued

lose sight of the forest.”

Last week at Eagle Brook I heard Bill Hybels say that without a white hot vision churches run out of steam. I believe this and have experienced this in my ministry.

Without having a white-hot purpose and without being intentional about structuring our ministries around this purpose, we'll get lost in the forest.

I'm praying that on Saturday our group discerns a white hot purpose.

When you are done reading this blog would you take a moment and pray for our Retreat this Saturday? Would you pray that we discern a white hot purpose—something that our community believes comes from God and gives us unbelievable motivation and energy for our ministry. Many people throughout the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area are praying for our Retreat. Please join them. I believe that your prayers can make a difference.

I'm guessing that all of us have had a moment or two in our life when we developed something with a group of people that was very, very special. Think how powerful that moment was. I have the audacity to believe that this moment can come at this Retreat on Saturday. Please pray that this will happen.

Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Through the Pentecost Offering, the church expresses a common commitment to provide hope for children at risk, opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith, and short-term mission service options for young adults.

Please give generously. *The Pentecost offering is received on May 31 in local churches or give online at www.pcusa.org/pentecost.*



Who God hopes we will become

A monthly message for the church by the GA moderator

by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow
Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, PC(USA)

SAN FRANCISCO — May is a special month for the Reyes-Chow/Pugh household. Two of us celebrate birthdays one day apart. This year, our middle daughter Abby turned eight and I hit the big 40.

Birthdays are a funny thing. On one level, it is another day to be thankful to be alive. At the same time, it is an opportunity to reflect on how one is doing on one's walk with God, and how we as parents are doing in caring for these gifts God has left under our care.

On Abby's birthday, I left this status update on Facebook: "Bruce Reyes-Chow is giving thanks to God for the life of "Middle" today on this her eighth birthday and hoping that we are helping to create a world where she may grow into who God intends her to be. Happy birthday, sweetie!"

I think about our hopes for humanity — for those close to us, those who oppose us, those we love, those we call stranger, and those we may never meet face-to-face. Do we *really* want them to grow into who God intends, or do we want them to grow into who we think they should be?

Too often, we want to strictly define and control God for the other, rather than trust that we can each listen to God well enough to be guided and molded into God's vision and reality here on Earth.

Sometimes, to allow others to grow into whom God in-

tends, we have to allow room for them to discover God on their own — even at the risk of them making choices we would not make. As a parent and pastor, I find this difficult because I want to guide my children and the community I serve in a particular direction.

Yet again, I am reminded that rather than holding on tighter to the control I think I have, God best uses my gifts when I let go and trust that God is working amidst and among everything. Easier said than done, but as I look back

on my own life, I appreciate those who have given me the room and guidance to discover and follow God in a way that I trust allows me to grow into the person God intends.

If we could do that for one another, imagine the church we could be.



Bruce Reyes-Chow.

[Presbytery Packets Available for Download](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presyterypacket)

[www.presbyterytwincities.org/
presyterypacket](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presyterypacket)

Worship, Hospitality and Sabbath: A New Direction for Lake Nokomis

**By Kara Root, Pastor
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church**

Editor's Note: The letter sent to us by Kara Root, the pastor of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. In this words below, she describes the upcoming journey the congregation will start to take in the fall of 2009.

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church: A Christian Community of Worship, Hospitality and Sabbath

In the Fall of 2009 we will begin a "way of being church" together that seeks to more fully and joyfully practice Worship, Hospitality and Sabbath. These three are central to our relationship to God and our identity as well; living into them is a calling that, more and more, defines us as congregation.

Through months of prayer, conversation and exploration, these three emphases of the Christian life keep bubbling up - in everything we do and want to do, in what we love, how we experience God's presence, how we care for others, how we live out our own gifting and delights. We've already begun to deepen our understanding and practice of Worship and of Hospitality (and soon, Sabbath as well!).

Worship

Worship is central to our life and faith. In worship we come together to be encountered by God, and to this we all bring our very selves - our joys and doubts and questions and struggles. We are empowered to respond by lifting up the needs of the world in prayer, and allowing our lives to be shaped by God's Spirit as we are sent to share in God's love for the world.

We desire to explore the word of God and open ourselves to God's leading in creative and varied ways that challenge and feed us. Over the past several months we've visited different kinds of worshiping communities and begun an exciting conversation about *why* and *how* we worship, and on shaping our worship to be holistic and interactive. We've tried new things in worship and will continue to incorporate the incredible creativity of our church community as these ideas and explorations continue.

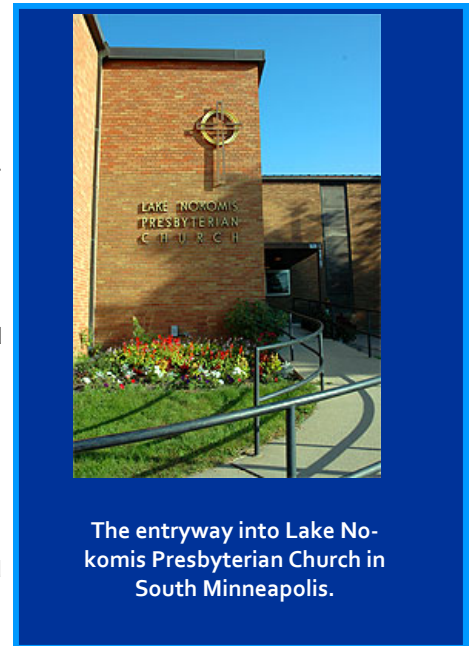
"We do not gather ourselves in worship; God invites us in. We are brought by the Holy Spirit into a worship already taking place in the life of God. This is where we learn to be guests and hosts in God's Kingdom. (Elizabeth Newman, "Untamed Hospitality")

Hospitality

"Hospitality establishes a truly interdependent and reciprocal relationship that requires disciples, whether they are hosts or guests, to view the stranger as a valuable child of God." (Christine Pohl, "Building a place for hospitality").

A conversation about hospitality began last year about the children, and our church's capacity and desire to integrate children fully into worship and our life together, with some concrete steps in that direction already taken and more to come.

But that is just one component of the conversation about hospitality; it also grows out of the congregation's desire to "be a beacon of hope and a place of sanctuary," and "to reach out to the needs of neighbors, sharing ourselves and our resources," (from the "Revision" process, 2007). As we explore this further, dreaming will no doubt include ArtSpace, and the hosting of local artist exhibits and an artist-in-residence, as well as the use of



The entryway into Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in South Minneapolis.

Presbyterian News Briefs

Synod Votes to Maintain Per Capita Level in 2010

Synod of Lakes and Prairies commissioners decided at their spring meeting last month to forego an increase in the synod's per capita rate in 2010. Synod per capita currently stands at \$4.80. The synod's spring meeting took place April 26-28 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. It marks the first time since 1999 that there has been no year-over-year increase in per capita. The per capita apportionment is calculated based on the funds necessary for the synod to do its essential ecclesiastical work. Per capita is apportioned based on the total church membership within the synod. Presbyteries and General Assembly also have per capita apportionments and the synod's apportionment is the smallest of the three. A detailed description of per capita can be found on the denomination's Web site at www.pcusa.org/percapita/. The importance of per capita can be found at www.pcusa.org/percapita/importance.htm. Additional information about the synod's spring meeting can be found on the [synod's Web site](http://www.lakesandprairies.org), www.lakesandprairies.org.

Synod Now on Facebook

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is now on Facebook and readers of Keeping in Touch who are on Facebook are invited to become members of the synod's group. If you aren't a member of Facebook, you will have to join before becoming a member of the group. If you are a Facebook member, or once you join Facebook (joining is easy with the simple instructions at www.facebook.com) search for "Synod of Lakes and Prairies" using the search bar in the upper right corner of the screen. Being on Facebook, or joining Facebook, and finding the synod is the easy part. The tough part is content. Facebook is a social-networking tool. The synod will provide periodic updates (note the Synod School event) but the site will only be effective if it becomes a place where communication takes place among its members.

Next Free Webinar on Church Transformation Scheduled for June 16

Evangelism & Church Growth is offering a series of free monthly webinars that are being produced by [The Columbia Partnership](#). These webinars will discuss issues surrounding [congregational transformation](#). On Tuesday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, presenter Bill McConnell will address the "spiritual development" of church transformation. Often the beginning of the transformative process is the most difficult. Discover what foundational systemic issues must be addressed in these first steps before the process of church transformation can begin. Other webinars in this summer series will be offered on July 21 and August 18. [Get more information](#) or [register today](#) by going to <http://www.presbygrow.net/2009/04/13/webinar-schedule-registration/>.

PC(USA) COM Resource Team Issues Letter on Pastoral Calls

In a letter to presbytery executives, stated clerks and Committee on Ministry moderators, the Committee on Ministry Resource Team of the Church Leadership Connection of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pointed out an "increase in the number of inquiries from ministers of other denominations" and noted there are "over 2,200 PCUSA ministers and candidates seeking calls and only 651 open positions."

The letter went on to note, "There are currently over 412 first call seekers and only about 187 positions open to a first call candidate. Many of our candidates have families to support and educational debt to repay."

The letter addressed the assistance that can be offered by the Church Leadership Connection staff. Additional resources are located online at www.pcusa.org/clc/whatis.htm.

Members of the team issuing the letter were Marcia Clark Myers, director of the Office of Vocation; Joyce Lieberman, associate for Call System Support; and Doska Ross, manager for Polity Guidance and Training.

Continued on Next Page

News Briefs, continued

Website Established for "Autumn Saints"

With the hope of providing written and Web-based resources on mid- to later-life spirituality, Autumn Saints wants to help churches maintain connections to older adults. Sandra Escontrias, former director of family ministries for First Presbyterian Church in DeLand, Fla., and now director of Autumn Saints, wrote, "These materials have been produced because it is hard to find Bible-based materials that challenge and help the transition from midlife to senior adulthood." According to the organization's Web site, materials are designed for use in small groups located in local churches, retirement centers or nursing homes. Autumn Saints is online at www.autumnsaints.com.

Dangerous elders wanted

by Janet Tuck

Special to Presbyterian News Service

NASHVILLE, TN — The second biennial [National Elders Conference](#) will be held in Atlanta, June 11-13 — one of 10 companion conferences that's part of the [Big Tent event](#).

If you are wondering how to be a dangerous elder, this is the place to be.

Plenary sessions will be led by such well-known Presbyterians as 2004 General Assembly Moderator Joan Gray and Columbia Theological Seminary professor Rodger Nishioka. Bible study will be lead by Freda Gardner. Workshops topics include "How to be a Dangerous Elder," led by General Assembly Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons; "The Elder as Connectional Leader," "The Elder as Spiritual Leader," "The Elder as Bible Teacher," and, most improbably, "Polity with Pizzazz."

Other PC(USA) leaders in attendance will be [General Assembly Council](#) Executive Director Linda Valentine and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) Coordinator Randy Ackley.

Parsons, for one, is excited about the conference. "Elders are some of the most important leaders in the Church," he said. "Any elder may attend, those on the session or those serving behind the scenes, those newly ordained or those with many years of service."

Current service on the session is not a requirement to attend. "Any PC(USA) congregation or presbytery may send elders to the conference. There is no limit to the number of elders that may attend the conference," he said.

The conference is sponsored by the [Office of the General Assembly](#), the General Assembly Council and the [Presbyterian Publishing Corporation](#).

Registration continues [online](#) at <https://www.pcusa.org/bigtent/>. Hotel reservations must be made separately.

Presbytery and Churchwide Events

Carbs for a Cause at Randolph Heights- [Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church](#) in St. Paul is hosting a Pasta Dinner on May 31 to benefit a Youth Group trip to Iowa to help with ongoing flood recovery efforts. The meal begins at 5:30 and the suggested donation is \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under.

Randolph Heights located at the corner of Hamline and Palace in St. Paul. For more information, please contact the church at 612-414-5957 or go to the congregation's website at www.randolphheights.org.

Four Sunday Introduction to Christianity at Chain of Lakes: If Jesus walked into the room and said you could ask him one question that started with the word, -why? you could do it in a heart beat.

We're a new and forming church.

On four Sunday nights we'll respond to questions you might have. Come and check us out.

- Sunday, May 31: Why is the Bible relevant if it was written over 2000 years ago?
- Sunday, June 7: Why does one God have so many different denominations?
- Sunday, June 14 : Why make time for church?

All are Welcome! 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

We're meeting at: Abundant Life Church
1105 117th Ave NE
Blaine, MN

Enter the front of the church.
Child Care is Provided.

For more information contact Chain of Lakes Church at (651) 528-7321 or colpres@comcast.net

Pastors Boundary Waters Canoe Trip-August 23-29, 2009

PCF is offering a unique opportunity to Pastors this summer. We recognize that pastors need time away to reflect and connect with God and other clergy. The amenities are not material things but rather things that you experience including scenery, refreshing waters and time immersed in God's creation.

The wilderness journey will feature demanding aspects of back country travel including portaging canoes, hefting packs, and surviving the elements.

You can register for these events by going to the Clearwater Forest website at www.clearwaterforest.org.

Theology on Tap @ Church of the Apostles- Attention Young Adults - (Ages, 20s - ?) you're invited to a round (square) table discussion to talk about theology and how faith connects or disconnects with the current issues in our world. We'll meet at Jo Jo's Rise and Wine (952-736-3001) located at 12501 Nicollet Ave., Suite 100, Burnsville (just north of Burnsville Pkwy on Nicollet Avenue). There is a table reserved for us in the back. The plan is for this young adult group to meet the second Monday of each month at a coffee house, PCA's Fellowship Hall, a restaurant, or even a bar. Each event will feature an engaging speaker who will present a relevant theological topic; time for discussion and faith sharing, and creating community. Come and join us and bring a

Continued on Next Page

Presbytery and Churchwide Events, continued

friend! For more information, please contact the church office at 952-890-7877 or office@presbyterianapostles.org.

Synod School 2009 - Building a Culture of Peace—Synod School 2009, slated Sunday through Friday, July 26-31, at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, will convene around the theme, "Building a Culture of Peace." Synod School is an educational ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Synod School offers a welcoming and safe community for people of all ages and interest to learn, to grow spiritually, and to share in fellowship. Special programs for children and youth - infant through grade 12 - allow parents - grandparents, aunts and uncles and more - to attend classes with other adults, knowing that their children are in good care and having a great time.

Sara Lisherness, director of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the 2009 convocation speaker.

For more information as well as tools to promote the School, please go to the Synod website at: <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html>.

Register Early for Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering: Don't let the early registration deadline for the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering pass you by. Register by May 15 to save \$50 on your registration fee.

The Churchwide Gathering is the perfect place to nurture your faith, learn about mission and advocacy opportunities and connect with other women of faith. You'll learn from Horizons Bible study authors like Mary Mikhael and be inspired by mission work like New Orleans disaster recovery. You will also meet women from as close as your neighboring presbytery or as far away as Eastern Europe. To learn more, please go to: www.pcusa.org/pwgathering.

Movie Salon @ St. Luke: The next Movie Salon will take place on Friday, May 29 at 7:00 pm in the West Room at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Wayzata. All are welcome to view and discuss "Who Killed the Electric Car," a 90-minute documentary about the electric vehicle crossed with a scathing expose of the oil and automotive industries.

The film traces the history of the electric car, from its inception at the turn of the 20th century to its demise at the turn of the 21st. The main focus is the cars' surge in popularity in recent years with the 1990 Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate, and its abrupt disappearance when the California Air Resources Board modified the mandate, prompting car companies to recall and destroy all existing electric vehicles. Although there were waitlists for EV1s at the time of the recall, GM claimed that there was little demand, and EV1 drivers were prohibited from purchasing the vehicles, despite their best efforts."

St. Luke is located at 3121 Groveland School Road in Wayzata. For more information, contact the church at stluke@pmlink.com or (952) 473-7378.

Preaching, Teaching and Leading from Hope: A Series For Clergy and Lay Leaders :

- gain resources for preaching and teaching on hope in daunting times
- explore the subject of hope for its inspiration, practical application and biblical foundations
- receive suggestions for the use of poetry in sermons and classes

Sponsored by: The Graduate School of Liberal Studies and The Office of Church Relations at Hamline University
All classes meet from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and can be taken singly, or all together

Continued on Page 10

Positions Available

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

- **Christian Education /Youth Leader, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles, Burnsville**
- **Director of Christian Education, Trinity Presbyterian, Woodbury**
- **Bookkeeper, First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee**
- **Accompanist, First Presbyterian Church, Belle Plaine**

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.)

PTCA Churches Accepting PIFs

- **Solo Pastor– First Presbyterian, Claremont**
- **Associate Pastor– St. Luke Presbyterian, Wayzata**

To find out more information about these openings, please go the Church Leadership Connection Opportunities webpage (www.pcusa.org/clc).

Skill Bank Forms Available



Are you interested in serving on a presbytery, synod or GA committee? Do you have talents and gifts that could be put work in the service of the church and the wider world? If so, consider filling out a skill bank form. Skill bank forms allow the Nominating Committee to find people with needed skills to serve effectively. To fill out a form, simply go to our Forms and Policies Page, www.ptcaweb.org/RESOURCES/presbyteryresources.html.

Future 2009 Stated Meetings and Locations

- **July 14, 2009, 4pm-8pm, Church of the Master Presbyterian Church, Coon Rapids**
- **September 12, 2009, 9AM-3PM, First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee (tentative)**
- **November 10, 2009, 4pm-8pm, Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina (tentative)**

Please go to the PTCA website for more updates. Locations are tentative.

Presbytery Events, continued

- June 5, Preaching, teaching and leading from hope, with Prof. Julie Neraas, author of: *Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times*
- June 12, Poetic Resources for Preaching, with poet and Prof. Angela Shannon, author of *Singing the Bones Together*
- June 19, Biblical foundations for Hope, with Prof. Timothy Polk, biblical scholar, author of *The Biblical Kierkegaard, The Prophetic Persona: Jeremiah and the Language of the Self*.

cost: \$50 for individual sessions, \$140 for the series. for more info. call: 651 523-2047.

Neighborhood Celebration at Knox St. Paul: Join us as we celebrate the fun and diversity of our neighborhood.

- **Blessing of the Animals:** 4 PM Saturday June 6th Gather at 3:30 for Indonesian Style Music. Bring your pets for this unique outdoor event or just come to meet your neighbors and see their pets. Refreshments (free root beer floats!) will be served.
- **Sunday Multicultural Worship:** 10:00 AM Sunday June 7th
- **Pancake Brunch:** 11:00 AM Sunday June 7th Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee will be served. It's a great time to share some good food and fellowship! Free Will Offering.

Knox is located at 1536 Minnehaha Avenue in St. Paul. For more information, please call 651-645-6488.

Summer institute in Spirituality and the Arts @ United Seminary: June 9-12, 2009. Are you needing time to nourish your soul this summer? Are you looking for a Continuing Education opportunity close to home? Are you a religious leader wanting an opportunity to renew your ministry skills? Are you seeking an educational opportunity as part of a sabbatical or study time?

The Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts provides a place to expand your awareness and knowledge about the intersections of art and religion. Participants are offered an opportunity to explore those intersections in their personal lives and faith communities.

The Summer Institute format is a four-day event (Tuesday-Friday). For full-day attendance, participants select one of two morning workshops and one of two afternoon workshops. For half-day attendance, participants select either one morning workshop or one afternoon workshop. The theme of the workshop(s) selected indicates the theme for all four days of study. Please visit our website for more information, or to register: <http://www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/summerinstitute.asp> or you may call: Cindi Beth Johnson Director of Community Programming in the Arts, Religion and Spirituality @ 651.255.6137.

Alt7 Conference at Montreat: The alt7 Conference, designed for clergy under the age of 40, is slated at Montreat (N.C.) Conference Center June 8-11. Conference literature notes that clergy under the age of 40 are younger than the average Presbyterian, adding, "We may be online, energized, underpaid, frustrated, creative, isolated, prophetic, weary, traditional, misunderstood, innovative, disillusioned, post-modern, hopeful, or all of the above."

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, is one of the conference leaders. Information and registration materials are available at www.montreat.org/current/2009-alt7-conference.

Prayer Service Honoring and Remembering Fallen & POW/MIA Heroes @ Central Presbyterian: Saturday June 13, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.

As part of the Minnesota Honors Vietnam Era Veterans celebration, special time has been dedicated for the families of our fallen heroes and POW/MIA heroes to join together for an inter-faith prayer service. This service will enable families to meet and get to know others who have experienced the same loss. This time will also allow us to give thanks for, to praise and honor these heroes.

All Families of Minnesota Vietnam era fallen and POW/MIAs are invited.

Continued on Next Page

Presbytery Events, continued

Families can register by sending an email to: MNVietnamHeroes@gmail.com.

A registration form and more information about the prayer service will follow. A complete schedule of events is available at: www.MNHonorsVietnamVets.org

For more information on the prayer service contact:

Merrilee Carlson, Mother of Sgt. Michael Carlson, KIA 1/24/2005 Iraq @ Merrilee@FamiliesUnitedMission.com Ph: 651-319-1194

Immigration Event in Twin Cities, June 14: A Community event and vigil urging a stop to the separation of families. Sunday, June 14th, 2:30pm Incarnation Church, 3800 Pleasant Ave S, Mpls, MN For more information please contact: Familias Unidas/United Families MN Committee at briana.familiasunidas@yahoo.com.

Celebrate the Calvin Jubilee at Montreat: July 8–11, 2009, Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, N.C. Celebrate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth by participating in a conference on Calvin's legacy July 8-11 at Montreat Conference Center. We will explore Calvin's continuing influence on Reformed faith and life through lectures, panels, discussion and worship. An expanded bookstore will feature both new and classic publications. To register or to get more information, please go to: www.pcusa.org/calvinjubilee.

Boundaries Training Available: This training is offered on three different dates in three different regions of Minnesota. All sessions are from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Lunch and materials are included.

- Thursday, October 8th 2009 - Fergus Falls, MN
- Thursday, October 22nd 2009 - Hinckley, MN
- Thursday, November 5th 2009 - Lakeville, MN

For more information or to register contact Aundrea Billings at aundrea.billings@mnchurches.org or 612-230-3236 or visit www.mnchurches.org.

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

Lake Nokomis, continued

our building for performance space and gatherings, and space where a neighborhood job networking group and many other local community groups gather. Landscaping and labyrinth, meditation series and the growing congregational practice of holding people in prayer, all of these and more are part of the adventure, as we seek to open up space for others within our very selves and our community, (and in our physical building and grounds as well).

Sabbath

In a culture that has “lost the rhythm between work and rest”, what would it look like for a church community to reclaim, cultivate, intentionally practice God’s commandment to keep the Sabbath?

Sabbath time can be a revolutionary challenge to the violence of overwork, mindless accumulation, and the endless multiplication of desires, responsibilities, and accomplishments. Sabbath is a way of being in time where we remember who we are, remember what we know, and taste the gifts of spirit and eternity. Like a path through the forest, Sabbath creates a marker for ourselves so, if we are lost, we can find our way back to our center. ‘Remember the Sabbath’ means ‘Remember that everything you have received is a blessing. Remember to delight in your life, in the fruits of your labor. Remember to stop and offer thanks for the wonder of it. (Muller, Sabbath).

We’ve begun to read together Wayne Muller’s book, *Sabbath* and will soon be engaging in a Sabbath Practice workshop with the Sisters of St. Francis at Sabbath House, to begin to plot out how we will shape Sabbath into our worship and into rhythms and life as a community. Not only is this vital to each of us as individuals, it opens rich gifts to us as a congregation and offers a desperately needed ministry to the world around us.

“Sabbath rest is God’s distinctive mark, a deep symbol of Israel’s intimate relationship with one who frees rather than enslaves, who offers lavish blessing rather than endless toil.” (Lowry, “Sabbath, A Little Jubilee”).

How will we implement a “way of being church” that nurtures, deepens, strengthens, and grows us in our Worship, Hospitality and Sabbath?

Beginning in September 2009, we will alternate weeks between a "Formal Worship" week, with a Sunday morning Worship service on the 1st & 3rd Sundays, and an "Informal Worship" week, with a Saturday evening Sabbath service on the 2nd & 4th weekends. The Saturday service will reflect on God’s activity in the previous week and inaugurate a time of intentional Sabbath rest - with no Sunday service that week, but instead setting aside that time for Sabbath. The 5th Sundays we will meet and share a meal and then worship together leading the service at St. Joseph’s Home for Children nearby.

Church is about much more than Sunday morning worship services. This pattern of communal life together opens up our whole week in other ways to other possibilities, the real shape of which will begin to be fleshed out over the summer. We are excited to be on this journey of discerning the variety of ways we can “be” and “do” church—not for the sake of programming, recruiting or innovation, but so that Worship, Hospitality and Sabbath are an ever-deepening identity, a way of encountering God in intentional rhythms of praise, place-sharing and peace. As we seek to know and faithfully follow Jesus Christ, we desire that Worship, Sabbath and Hospitality would be woven profoundly into the very fabric of our lives—both individually and as a community.

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
presents:

Presbyfest 2009

Saturday, November 14,
2009

Oak Grove Presbyterian
Church



Celebrating John Calvin
and Five Centuries of Reformed Lay
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Narrative Budget for Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Editor's Note: The following is the budget for 2009-10 for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as told in a narrative, or story-telling form.

Dear Friends,

We are writing this letter to provide interpretive information about the receipt and expenditure of dollars within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies – to help sessions and presbyteries understand the ministry and mission of the synod. We are pleased to take the opportunity to tell the synod's story.

Most of the money received by the Synod from churches is undesignated and is available for all the work of the Synod. We are using this letter as an opportunity to give you an overview about the work of the Synod as we move along in 2009 and to invite you to ask questions about any specific area in which you or others may have an interest.



During 2009 the Synod of Lakes and Prairies anticipates a total income of about \$2.23 million. The revenue falls into the following major categories, rounded to the nearest thousand:

- Per capita apportionment \$ 742,000
- Basic mission support 648,000
- Mission partnership funds 276,000
- Investment income 186,000
- Previous years' surplus 179,000
- Other income 195,000

Per capita apportionment is paid to the Synod by the presbyteries to pay the expenses of activities and staffing that are mandated by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This includes the expenses of the Synod Assembly, Synod standing committees, the constitutional committees (Nominating, Committee on Representation, Permanent Judicial Commission) and that portion of personnel and administrative costs that support the Assembly and committees. Historically, per capita is understood to be everyone's "fair-share" to support our connectional church. For 2009, this amounts to \$4.80 per member, and the Synod recently voted to maintain the same level in 2010.

Basic mission support is that portion of contributions from churches to support Presbyterian ministry and mission activities, which is shared with the Synod. Ministry is the activity that partners with presbyteries and the synod to strengthen our Christian discipleship, and mission is those activities and relationships that serve Christ beyond ourselves. Each congregation (session) determines whether to divide their undesignated mission dollars as recommended by their presbytery, or to divide them by some other percentage.

Mission partnership funds are those moneys that General Assembly shares back with us to support the work of the Synod historically known as National Mission. The other income items somewhat speak for themselves. If you have an interest in more detail in this area, please let us know.

The Synod's 2009 budget includes expenditures of about \$2.23 million, allocated into several primary categories as listed below:

- Ministries in partnership \$1,034,000
- Ecumenical and institutional ministries 197,000
- Communication 24,500
- Governance 96,000
- Program personnel costs 175,000
- Ecclesiastical Personnel and Administration 700,000

Ministries in partnership – This category represents the variety of ways we partner with our sixteen presbyteries to support and strengthen their ministries with congregations and church leadership. That is, these dollars underwrite our ministry to equip the saints – our presbyteries – for mission. During 2009, the Synod will make payments of Comprehensive Presbytery Mission Support (CPMS) to presbyteries for particular ministry efforts in the amount of \$155,000. We also provide Comprehensive Presbytery Staff Support (CPSS) in the amount of \$40,000 each to fifteen of our presbyteries for executive leadership (\$600,000). Our sixteenth presbytery, Dakota, which has no staff, receives a substantial amount from CPMS – \$85,000.

Continued on Next Page

Narrative, continued

A relatively new item, Presbytery Staffing Partnerships, is made possible in part by the reduction in synod staff in recent years. The fund, budgeted at \$79,000, has enabled the Synod to work in new ways with its presbyteries in terms of staff. It has allowed the Synod to assist presbyteries with staff support when presbytery personnel resources have been drawn in different directions. Some of these dollars have been

used to help fund multiple-presbytery conversations. These conversations are addressing new ways for presbyteries to partner with one another in ministry and mission, and consider alternative structures and staffing configurations to more faithfully serve the church in a new day.

Other major expenses of the "Ministries in partnership" category include:

- Synod school, an annual educational event open to all, is subsidized in the amount of \$35,000 plus personnel costs.
- COM/CPM Training Event is an annual event to provide training for presbytery committee members of their Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry. The cost of this event in 2009 is expected to be \$17,000, plus personnel costs.
- Racial/Ethnic scholarships are an expense in which the Synod invests in the education of minorities training for the ministry. The Synod has budgeted \$22,500 in these scholarships to prepare the next generation of pastors and lay leaders. In addition, the Synod benefits from a part time staff member working with racial/ethnic ministries.
- Church Development and Redevelopment program grants are budgeted for \$90,000 to help churches while they are building the size of a congregation necessary to support their costs. These grants are typically in amounts that decrease over a 5- to 7-year period.
- The Presbytery of Dakota, the oldest presbytery west of the Mississippi and consisting of 21 Native American congregations, will receive \$85,000 this year as compensation for their pastoral leadership. This line item is declining by 15 percent per year.

Ecumenical and Institutional Ministries – This category focuses on the mission activities of the Synod. Although we do not provide financial support, the Synod implements significant mission through its six Presbyterian Homes (ministry to seniors), seven church-related colleges across our six state area, and one social services agency. Included in the budget are:

- Support for campus ministries in the amount of \$140,000 (additional funds, approaching \$100,000, are provided from the Synod's Westminster Fund)
- Support of the Synod's camp (co-owned with four presbyteries) - \$7,000.
- Support of career development centers - \$25,000.
- Ecumenical media centers - \$23,880

Communication – This category, budgeted at \$24,500, includes support for www.lakesandprairies.org, the Synod's Web site, and a biweekly electronic newsletter, "Keeping in Touch." We have a full-time professional member of our staff who works in the communication area, providing consulting services to and developing communication tools for use by presbyteries and churches. The fund is also used to support networks to support the flow of information between and among the presbyteries of the Synod, and to work with other communicators in the Synod and throughout the church to improve communication.

Governance – These are the costs of the Synod meetings and functioning as a governing body, including its committees. In addition it supports the meetings of committees required by the Book of Order, and Synod units that plan and implement additional programming and support for presbyteries, such as, Synod School.

We also administer a Synod loan fund of approximately \$5.2 million. Below market-rate loans are made to churches and presbyteries for the purchase of church sites and the construction of new buildings, additions, remodeling projects and major repairs. This is a "revolving" loan fund with new loans made available as older loans are repaid.

If you would like more information, or more detail in a particular area, please contact us. Best wishes to you in your ministry.

The Synod can be contacted by calling them at 651.357.1140 or by email at office@lakesandprairies.org.

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