



# EMerge

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Inside this issue:

- More on New Moderator and Stated Clerk
- Commissioners Move to Delete "Amendment B"
- Special Letter from Moderator, GA Exec and Stated Clerk
- Presbytery Events
- Call to Presbytery
- On Christian Love and Generosity

## Reyes-Chow elected moderator of 218th GA

by Jerry L. Van Marter



The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow was elected moderator of the 218th General Assembly. Photo by Joseph Williams

**SAN JOSE, June 21, 2008** —The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, 39, an energetic new church development pastor in San Francisco and leader in the "emergent church" movement, was elected moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Saturday night (June 21), capturing a second ballot victory.

Reyes-Chow — who received 48 percent of the first ballot votes — won an easy majority on the second ballot with 390 votes or 55 percent.

The Rev. William "Bill" Teng of National Capital Presbytery finished second with 255 votes or 36 percent. The Rev. D. Carl Mazza of New Castle Presbytery finished third with 52 votes or 7 percent. Elder Roger Shoemaker of Homestead Presbytery trailed with seven votes or 1 percent.

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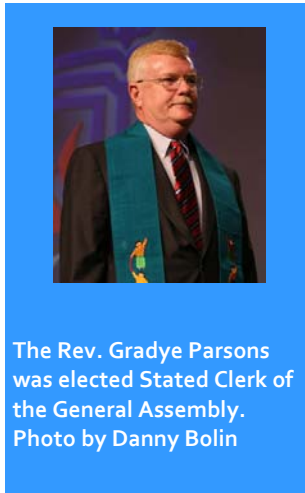
## Gradye Parsons elected General Assembly stated clerk

by Jerry L. Van Marter

**SAN JOSE, June 27, 2008** — The Rev. Gradye Parsons, associate stated clerk and director of operations for the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), won a first ballot victory Friday (June 27) to succeed the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick as General Assembly stated clerk for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Kirkpatrick is stepping down after three four-year terms. Parsons has served in OGA for eight years after serving as executive presbyter and stated clerk of Holston Presbytery in his native Tennessee. Parsons received 405 votes, or 57 percent. He was the choice of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee and defeated three other applicants who also stood for election.

The Rev. Winfield "Casey" Jones, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Pearland, Texas, finished second with 176 votes, or 25 percent. Jones was an unsuccessful challenger to Kirkpatrick in 2000.



The Rev. Gradye Parsons was elected Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. Photo by Danny Bolin

*Continued on page 3*

## Moderator, continued

Reyes-Chow is pastor of [Mission Bay Community Church](#), an innovative new church of San Francisco Presbytery that was recently named winner of a 2007 Sam and Helen Walton Award for outstanding new church development. In his address to the Assembly, he noted that he makes as many pastoral calls by email as by in-person visitation.

Such is the future of ministry, Reyes-Chow said. Mission Bay has a state-of-the-art Web site and extensive electronic communications among members and participants, which he said is absolutely essential for a congregation that is predominantly under-40.

In her nominating speech for him, Elder Vivian Guthrie of Greater Atlanta Presbytery urged Reyes-Chow's election "to keep our church relevant ... or we aren't going to be on the same page as younger people. Bruce has a profound understanding of the way the world is changing, so he can help us feel less anxious and less resistant to change."

In both his speech and his responses to questions, Reyes-Chow reiterated over and over his belief that "nothing is too hard or too wondrous for God. If the church steps out in faith rather than clinging to survival, to be more intent on being faithful than on being right, to be together based on our common covenant in Jesus Christ rather than by property or pensions, then we will be able to live into a future in which we are a vital and vibrant presence in the world."

Teng, the only one of the four candidates to explicitly support the current constitutional prohibition of the ordination of sexually active gay and lesbian Presbyterians as church officers, emphasized his campaign theme of "gratitude and hope."

"We gather up a wealth of meaning as Presbyterians in response to the grace of God in Jesus Christ," Teng said. "We have no greater need than to look beyond ourselves and follow Jesus into the world he loves and calls us to love."

Mazza, who brought to his candidacy a compelling personal story of conversion and resultant commitment to the homeless and other marginalized people as founder and director of Meeting Ground in Elkton, MD, spoke of the two "great strengths" of the PC(USA) that drive his ministry: "We have an abiding commitment to gospel and Jesus Christ and a commitment to mission in the world," he said.

Shoemaker, the only elder among the four, called for Presbyterians to develop a greater understanding of themselves as the body of Christ and as Presbyterians and in doing so "we will find ways to pursue solutions that will grow our congregations spiritually and numerically."

Reyes-Chow, the grandson of Chinese and Filipino immigrants to California, was raised in Sacramento and Stockton, CA. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University and San Francisco Theological Seminary. A prolific [writer and blogger](#), Reyes-Chow describes himself as a "pastor/geek/dad/follower of Christ."

*Photo credit: Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow shared a light-hearted moment with commissioner Vivian Guthrie, an elder from Greater Atlanta Presbytery, at the Moderator's Reception. Photo by Joseph Williams*

### [Follow the Moderator Online](#)



You can learn more and follow Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow online by going to the following website:

- Moderator Page at the PCUSA website: <http://www.pcusa.org/gamoderator/>
- Bruce's Blog: <http://www.reyes-chow.com/>
- Bruce's Moderator Blog: <http://www.mod.reyes-chow.com/>

## Stated Clerk, continued

The Rev. Ed Koster, stated clerk of Detroit Presbytery, finished third with 110 votes, or 15 percent. The Rev. William Tarbell, pastor of Saluda (S.C.) Presbyterian Church trailed with 21 votes, or 3 percent.

In his speech before the vote, Parsons invoked the names of several folk who have been influential in his ministry, saying he was “standing with them for this office.” He spoke for example of a hard-working church member in Tennessee, Betty, “who taught me that faith is not a static noun, but an active verb.”

Parsons said, “The church matters to me, deeply and passionately. That’s why I’m offering myself to the church.”

Jones said his administration would be “permeated by prayer” and that he would focus the denomination’s attention as much on *The Book of Confessions* as on the *Book of Order*. “The church has to be connected to its roots [Jesus Christ] like a tree to its roots,” Jones said. “If we are rooted in Jesus Christ, in prayer and in what God has said in the past, then we will bear much fruit.” Koster emphasized his 13 years experience as Detroit Presbytery’s stated clerk and his training as both a lawyer and minister. “I am a clerk experienced in polity and issues of the church,” he said, “and I will invite all to the table of all theological persuasions.”

Tarbell emphasized a pastoral approach to the office and said he employs a systems analysis approach to determine “whether relationships create or block progress” in the church. “My approach will be as informative, accurate and objective as possible.” Asked about the decades-long pattern of membership decline in the PC(USA), Parsons said all Presbyterians “need to develop the welcoming spirit of Acts 2 rather than [lack of openness to strangers] we find in many of our churches. You and I need to be more open to those who are different from ourselves.”

On the authority of Scripture, Parsons said, “Scripture is God’s gift to us and should always be our starting place. That’s where I start,” adding that the Bible “is not a book that’s easy to read and is not supposed to be, because while we are reading the Bible the Bible is trying to read us, which is not always easy.”

All four candidates agreed that fear is one of the greatest problems facing the PC(USA). “Fear paralyzes,” Jones said, “but perfect love, that of Jesus Christ, drives out fear.” Koster said that fear “sometimes makes us feel we’re coming unglued, but we have our great traditions of Presbyterianism ...” and Tarbell called fear “our most destructive enemy, robbing us of purpose and life itself.”

Parsons called fear “the overriding issue in the church — everybody’s afraid that for some reason or another the church is going to close in two weeks.” He said his favorite Bible story is the story in Luke 8 — Jesus in the boat, asleep, with his disciples when the storm comes up. “Jesus wakes up and asks, ‘Where is your faith?’” Parsons said. “The middle of the lake is pretty scary and you can’t see the other shore, but a mantra I recite to myself regularly is ‘Get in the boat; go across the lake; there will be storm; you will not die.’”

So it is for the PC(USA), he told the Assembly after his installation. “We are in this together because God has put us together,” Parsons said.

“Now let’s go make Jesus proud of our church.”

At the press conference following the election, Parsons responded to a question about denominational funds to assist with legal expenses in lawsuits relative to property issues.

He responded, “The last thing we need to do in dealing with these situations is to go to court. We need to find ways to address them with each other and try to stay out of court, which will bring down costs considerably.”

“We need to find ways to help people not to live into fears as we continue to discern together how to be the church. The important thing is we need to stay connected to each other, rather than distance ourselves from each other.”

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## Assembly proposes amendment to delete G-6.0106b and replace it with a new version

Paragraph covers “fidelity and chastity” ordination standards

by Jerry L. Van Marter



**SAN JOSE, June 27, 2008** — The 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted today (June 27) 380-325 to send a proposed amendment to the denomination’s 173 presbyteries that would delete the current paragraph G-6.0106b in the *Book of Order*— which requires church officers to live in “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness”—and replace it with a new G-6.0106b.

The proposed new G-6.0106b ties ordination decisions more closely to assent to the ordination vows currently in the church’s *Book of Order* without singling out a sexual conduct standard.

In the same action, the Assembly issued a new authoritative interpretation of the *Book of Order* declaring that interpretive statements related to sexual standards for ordination that predate the adoption of G-6.0106b in 1996 “have no further

force or effect.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution has repeatedly said that clearing the way for ordination of sexually active gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Presbyterians requires the deletion of G-6.0106b and the removal of the authoritative interpretations that undergirded Assembly policy statements of 1978 and 1979 prohibiting the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

The proposed new G-6.0106b reads:

*“Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate’s sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.”*

When the 218th General Assembly voted to send out a proposed amendment to presbyteries to delete the “fidelity and chastity” ordination standard and replace it with a new version, a handful of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s executive presbyters felt a need to gather for prayer.

The debate now moves to the denomination’s presbyteries, which in 1997 and 2000 rejected proposals to delete G-6.0106b. At a press conference following the vote, the Rev. Dan Holloway of Providence Presbytery, who moderated the Assembly Committee on Church Orders and Ministries that brought the recommendation to the Assembly, said, “It is important to say that at this point our Constitution has not been changed. As we move forward it is essential that we have conversations that are gracious and loving and welcoming, since we are not all of one mind.”

The Assembly’s debate on the issue was briefer than in previous years.

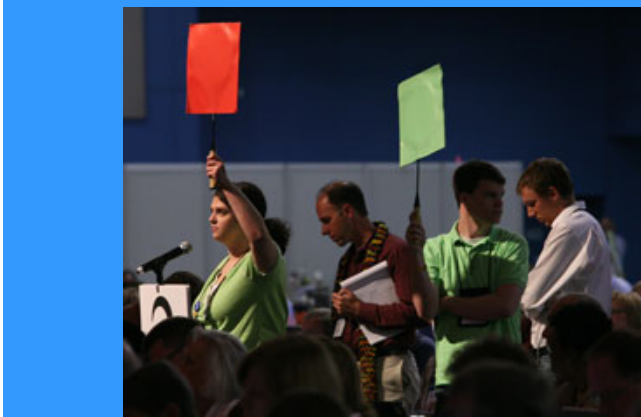
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## Amendment, continued

Minister commissioner the Rev. William Stepp of Tropical Florida Presbytery opposed the deletion, saying the PC(USA) “needs a continuing strong witness to biblical standards for sexuality” and warned that the proposal will “destabilize the denomination, obliterate trust and reduce funding for the church. Don’t send a shock wave through the church.”

Others, noting that a study guide on ordination standards and issues mandated by the 2006 General Assembly as part of its approval of the report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church was delayed until earlier this year, urged more time for sessions and presbyteries to study the issue before moving to a vote.

“Though we may be hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit here, many of our churches have not heard that same Spirit and are not ready,” said the Rev. Walter Hamer of John Calvin Presbytery, who presented a minority report that was defeated 319-



Commissioners and advisory delegates lined up behind Katherine Boswell, a youth advisory delegate from Western New York Presbytery, to speak during discussion of the Committee on Church Orders and Ministry report on Thursday morning. Photo by Danny Bolin

375. “Let us continue the conversation with the whole church at the table to build trust, learn about various positions and give us a chance to understand each other. We need more time for study and conversation.”

But the Rev. Susan Fisher of Pacific Presbytery said the PC(USA) had discussed the ordination standards issue for 30 years and a proposal for “dialogue but not action doesn’t move us forward.” Fisher said she felt “compelled” to send the deletion proposal to the presbyteries “to give the church voice and vote to change language, to let the wider church decide if now is the time” to change ordination

standards.

At a press conference after the vote, outgoing General Assembly Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick pleaded for unity during what promises to be heated debate in the church. “There are people who are gay and lesbian who long passionately to be included,” he said. “There are others who believe strongly, not that they don’t love them, but that standards must be upheld. What is essential is the spirit of unity as we go forward to a new stage in the process.”

In [another ordination standards-related action](#), the Assembly adopted a supplementary authoritative interpretation of the PC(USA) constitution that applies the historical practice of “scrupling” — the declaration of conscientious objection by candidates for ordination, coupled with discernment by the ordaining body whether the declared objection is disqualifying — equally to all ordination standards of the denomination.

The authoritative interpretation reaffirms the scrupling practice affirmed by the 217th General Assembly (2006) when it approved the report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church and effectively overturns a recent General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) ruling — *Bush vs. Presbytery of Pittsburgh* — that G-6.0106b, the commonly called “fidelity and chastity” ordination standard, cannot be scrupled.

The GAPJC ruling also stated that scrupling on any provision of the church’s Constitution does not give the conscientious objector license to disobey it.

*Erin Cox-Holmes contributed to this report.*

## Interpreting the actions of the 218th General Assembly

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The [218th General Assembly](#) adjourned just a few short hours ago. Even now, 973 commissioners and advisory delegates are making their way back home from San Jose, California, where they worshiped daily, discussed and debated overtures and celebrated the countless ways Presbyterians are engaged in ministry near and very far away — all with a focus on discerning the mind of Christ for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and seeking ways to live out this assembly's theme: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).



together in the PC(USA).

Beginning today and continuing over the next two years, elected commissioners will be about the task of interpreting the actions they took at this assembly. Already, their decisions have been broadcast across the church and, in this Internet world — with information received in real time, live blogs, and more — many people have already weighed in on the assembly's actions, sharing their thoughts and feelings about the implications of those decisions on our life-to-

The assembly dealt with well over 400 business items. Some items had undivided agreement, including a covenant to join together to carry out mission together and a churchwide commitment to "[Grow God's Church Deep and Wide.](#)" There was an action to continue to study a revised Form of Government, and one committee devoted its time entirely to youth issues. In addition, we continued our longstanding work toward peace in the Middle East. More information on these and other actions will be coming soon.

A few of the many assembly actions will make, or already have made, headlines across the country. Most likely, you will read about the actions from a number of sources over the next many days and weeks, but we want you to hear about this important gathering directly from the General Assembly. That is why we are writing this letter to you.

Perhaps the subject that will make the most headlines has to do with the ordination standards of our church. It is a subject with which Presbyterians are familiar and one that tends to evoke great debates and deep emotions. With that in mind, we want you to know what the assembly did — in the actual wording — in regard to ordination standards, and what will happen next.

- By a 54 percent to 46 percent margin, the assembly voted to propose an amendment to our *Book of Order* to change one of our current ordination standards. The change is to replace the current language that says officers of the church must live by "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" (G-6.0106b) to this new language: *Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate's sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.*
- By a 53 percent to 47 percent vote, the assembly adopted a new Authoritative Interpretation (AI) on G-6.0106b: *Interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 119th General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations thereof, have no further force or effect.*
- By a 54 percent to 46 percent vote, the assembly adopted a new AI on G-

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## Interpreting, continued

6.0108 which restores the intent of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church report (2006) to allow someone who is being considered for ordination or installation as a deacon, elder or minister to register a conscientious objection to the standards or beliefs of the church and ask the ordaining body to enter into a conversation with them to determine the seriousness of the departure.

- The assembly left unchanged the definition of marriage found in the Directory for Worship (W-4.9000) — “a civil contract between a woman and a man.”

By its actions, the assembly has initiated a new opportunity to focus ordination on primary allegiance and obedience to Jesus Christ, as well as to Scripture and the church’s confessions. The assembly places the responsibility onto sessions and presbyteries for discerning a candidate’s fitness for ordination.

***“Get into the boat. Go across the lake. There will be a storm. You will not die.”***

In all of this, it is important to note that the assembly has not removed the church’s standard of “fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness.” For the proposed change — making obedience to Christ the ordination standard — to become part of the *Book of Order*, a majority of presbyteries will need to ratify it over the next year.

We know the assembly actions may do little to ease the anxiety that seems to permeate our life together as a denomination. The debate isn’t new and the future holds difficult challenges. As the Rev. Dan Holloway, moderator of the committee that took up the items on ordination standards, said, “As we move forward, it is essential that we have conversations that are gracious and loving and welcoming, since we are not all of one mind.” Our hope is that none of us will act or react immediately to the decisions, choosing instead to pray and talk with one another about these issues.

During the question-and-answer time for the Stated Clerk election on Friday morning, now Stated Clerk-elect Gradye Parsons spoke of the story of Jesus being in the boat with his disciples in the middle of the lake when a storm arose (Luke 8). If fear could have capsized their boat, the disciples would have found themselves working hard to tread water in the midst of the wind and waves. Yet, Jesus calmed the storm and proceeded to question them about their faith.

Like the disciples, we, the PC(USA), are in the boat together, sometimes not altogether sure where we are headed. We see the storm approaching and our fears rise with the waves. Yet, as he was with the disciples, so, too, is Christ in our midst — calming the wind, settling the waves — being present and guiding us as we proceed ahead.

Gradye offered the following mantra as a summary of the Luke story: *Get into the boat. Go across the lake. There will be a storm. You will not die.*

As we move forward from this assembly, we know that storms may come, but we put our confidence and trust in the one who both calms the storms and leads us into God’s future with hope.

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

Moderator of the 218th General Assembly

Elder Linda Bryant Valentine

Executive Director, General Assembly Council

The Rev. Gradye Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

## Reactions to Change in Ordination Standards

*Editor's Note: Below are two responses from two Presbyterian organizations on the change in ordination standards. The statements do not reflect the views of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.*



### From the Presbyterian Renewal Network:

Today the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) lies gravely wounded, by the hand of its own General Assembly. This Assembly has struck multiple blows, threatening to sever the sinews that hold us together as a Christian body and as a part of the larger body of Christ. This is a day for grieving.

The General Assembly today, by majority vote, has conveyed to our congregations and to the world that it rejects the Bible's teaching and our Reformed confessions' affirmation that homosexual behavior does not comport with Christian faith.

The Assembly also is asking our presbyteries to remove by their vote the constitutional requirement of "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" as a standard for officers in this denomination.

Moreover, this Assembly has adopted a constitutional interpretation that is intended to strip the church of its ability to set any binding standards for the behavior of its officers.

These decisions place the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in spiritual jeopardy. They threaten to cut us off from God's ancient law, given for our good, by which God prohibited adultery and all other sexual relations outside the marriage of man and woman. They threaten to cut us off from the apostolic Church, which laid only a few behavioral requirements on the new Gentile believers—among them that they "abstain from sexual immorality." These actions threaten to cut us off from the PCUSA's birthright in the Reformation, with its insistence that all matters of faith and practice be decided on the basis of "Scripture alone." They threaten to cut us off from the vast majority of the global Church today, which holds firmly to the orthodox faith that this Assembly so lightly casts aside. These actions threaten to cut us off from our own denomination's members and congregations, which also by large majorities affirm the biblical teachings on these matters.

We grieve for the Assembly's terrible loss of faith. We grieve for the thousands of churches in our denomination who receive this news with shock and dismay. And we grieve for all those who are encouraged by this action to engage in sinful behaviors that God does not bless. The Church's calling is to hold out to them the Gospel message of forgiveness and redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As pastors and members of this denomination's 11,000 churches, it is our turn to recall the response of Nehemiah, and weep over the news of this destruction of God's house. It is our turn to say that we have sinned. It is our turn to come together to repent and to rebuild.

This is not a day without hope. We join the hundreds of thousands of faithful Presbyterians in looking to the Church's Savior in this hour. We reaffirm our love for the Savior and his Church. We invite Presbyterians to join us in seeking God's help to turn back this effort to lead the Church to a place where it is in danger of becoming no Church. None of the damage done by this Assembly is final or irreversible.

Marie Bowen Gabrielle Avedian  
Moderator, Presbyterian Renewal Network Executive Director  
Executive Director Presbyterian Forum  
Presbyterians Pro-Life

*This letter was signed by 10 other individuals of various advocacy groups at the time of publication.*

Continued on Next Page

## Reactions, continued

### From the Covenant Network for Presbyterians:

We give thanks for the decision of the 218th General Assembly to send to the presbyteries a thoughtful revision of the standards for ordination. The Authoritative Interpretation that was also approved immediately removes the specific references that have proved most hurtful to GLBT persons who are otherwise called and prepared to serve the church. This is a day that has been thirty years in coming and we give thanks for the hope that it offers to so many in the church who have been and still are excluded from ordained office. We are committed to working with the whole church to pray, study, and discuss the meaning and effect of this amendment for every presbytery in the year of review and approval that lies ahead.

We are also grateful for the passage of the John Knox overture which restores the right and responsibility of presbyteries to discern the gifts for ministry in each individual who believes that he or she is called to the ordained ministries of the church. This overture and its Authoritative Interpretation restores the action of the 217th General Assembly when it approved the recommendations of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church.

We rejoice with those who have waited, labored, witnessed and longed for this day for thirty years and longer, and we recognize that others in the church will find these decisions of the Assembly troubling. We pray that we may be unified in our resolve to be a church of mission, evangelism, worship, and learning as we seek to serve the one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is our Unity and our Peace. We invite others to join with us in affirming that unity in him, and commit to follow where God leads us into the future together.

Rev. Deborah A. Block, Pastor, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee, WI  
Rev. Jon M. Walton, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

## Sweet hour of prayer

by Jerry L. Van Marter

**SAN JOSE, June 27, 2008** — When the 218th General Assembly voted to send out a [proposed amendment to presbyteries](#) to delete the “fidelity and chastity” ordination standard and replace it with a new version, a handful of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s executive presbyters felt a need to gather for prayer.

They ran a simple invitation through a photocopier and distributed it among the executives present here. With two hours notice, more than 70 presbytery executives showed up. “We obviously tapped a deep need to gather for our churches, members, pastors, ourselves and the General Assembly,” said the Rev. Barbara “Bobbie” White, executive for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. “Our prayer was simple: that the Lord will give us wisdom.”

The Rev. Graham Hart of Peace River Presbytery said the ad hoc group “gathered out of a deep love for the church and for our congregations. We know that some will rejoice and others will feel like the church is fractured. There is a real hunger among us to come together for support and encouragement because [executive presbyter service] is lonely work.”

The Rev. Joey Lee, newly elected executive presbyter for San Jose Presbytery, said the ability to lead in the church is “heavily dependent on our need and desire to pray.” The group of gathered leaders “are well aware of our responsibility — we’re leaders, not middle-management and what we need is not more books on effective management but to be grounded in our spiritual core.”

“Our people will trust us if we’re willing to show them that,” he said.

The prayer gathering, said the Rev. Steve Shussett, “was not for simple prayer but for honest reaction to what we’re facing back home — it was confessional prayer, a human response to stormy times.”

In gathering for prayer together, added the Rev. Paul Reiter of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, “we were trying to keep our eyes focused on Christ, like our preacher [the Rev. Diane Givens-Moffett] said today in her sermon about Jesus in the boat. Some certainly feel like they’re sinking.”

“I felt less anxious after praying together,” Lee said.

“The situation calls for surrender to the Lord,” Hart added.

“We’re okay,” said Lee.

## GA 218: The Local View

Here are some viewpoints from members of the PTCA who went to San Jose:

From Stated Clerk Nancy Grittman, who was a visitor:

*"The decision of the GA last evening to adopt the amended overture from Newton Presbytery (re:relations with Muslims and Jews) was, for me, very impressive. After several presentations and commissioners' comments dealing with the language nuances of "one God", "same God", "common God", the commissioners voted to reaffirm seeking understanding among the three religions who are monogamous in their worship, and to strongly affirm that Christians worship a triune God of which Jesus Christ is the way in which God reveals himself to us through the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit."*

And from Committee on Local Arrangements Co-Chair, Sandra Hawley:

*"Things at GA going extremely well. We've had a LOT of interest at our booth even though we are off in a less--than-high-traffic area. Lots of people say they'll be in Minneapolis/St. Paul in 2010, lots with family in Minnesota, lots very excited to come to MSP, lots say they LOVE MSP. Fun!! We're attending the San Jose COLA meeting every evening, which has been excellent and they have been extremely gracious to us. And, as always, LOTS of old friends, hugs, catching up, talking, meeting new folk, information gathering, discovering new resources, extreme walking, too much food, etc, etc. I literally drop into bed at the end of the day."*

Cindy Ray, a minister member of the Presbytery and a commissioner to the 218th GA, took this picture of her fellow PTCA commissioners hard at work:



PTCA Commissioners from left to right: YAD Dale Utt, Rochester; Brenda Tiefenbruck, Hastings; Walter Chuquimia, Familia de Fe organizing pastor; Thomas Soulen, Westminster-Minneapolis; Sue Goodspeed, Lake Nokomis; Andrew Lindahl, Westminster-Austin; Terry Schermer, Buffalo; April Davis Campbell, Stillwater. Not pictured: Cindy Ray, who has taken this photo.

## Introducing "iWitness"



The first episode of iWitness is now available for download. This premiere episode features the Rev. Kara Root, Associate Pastor at Grace Trinity Community Church in Minneapolis, preaching at the annual meeting of the Presbytery. You can download this and future episode by going to: <http://ptcaweb.podbean.com/>.

## Presbytery and Churchwide Events

### Creating Significant Worship in Times of Change and Challenge –

A Call to Congregations United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (UTS) is now accepting applications from churches in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to participate in a project designed to help congregations evaluate and enrich their worship. The project, "Creating Significant Worship in Times of Change and Challenge," is underwritten by a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. Those congregations interested in applying can download an application and learn more about this opportunity at [www.unitedseminary.edu/ce/vitalworship.asp](http://www.unitedseminary.edu/ce/vitalworship.asp). Application deadline is July 22, 2008. The project will select five area congregations to participate in this exciting interactive worship-enriching experience. Each congregation will send a team of worship planners to form a cluster group. The cluster group will meet with UTS faculty and resource persons to explore a wide variety of ways each congregation can enliven its worship life through theological reflection, dialogue, and engagement with the arts. In addition UTS resource persons will visit the congregations to help assess congregational interests, resources, and possibilities. All of this will be funded by the project.

According to Project Director, Cindi Beth Johnson, "The goal is to find churches eager to reflect on ways to make their worship relevant and meaningful, who sense they are on the cusp of congregational growth or change and can send a dedicated team that is willing to invest time and energy as they meet and explore with UTS worship resource people and faculty. We are also looking for a rich diversity of Christian heritages and worship styles for churches." The project will begin in September 2008 and end by June 2009. Churches submitting applications must be within a fifty-mile radius of the Twin Cities. For further information about this press release: Contact Amanda M. Hunter at [religionandthearts@unitedseminary.edu](mailto:religionandthearts@unitedseminary.edu), 651-255-6159 or visit our website at [www.unitedseminary.edu/ce/vitalworship.asp](http://www.unitedseminary.edu/ce/vitalworship.asp).

**2008 Conversational English Summer Camp in Hungary**-We still have several spaces left to fill on our trip to Hungary on July 30 - August 14. The trip maximizes contact between group members and Hungarian youth from the Hungarian Reformed Church district high schools during camp, at home stays and final days sightseeing. This is a wonderful educational and cultural experience. The cost is \$650 for each traveler (with a \$600 contribution from their home church or other interested party). Contact Jack Mayfield for more information ([jackmayfield@msn.com](mailto:jackmayfield@msn.com) or 651-738-2469).



### 2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference- July 15-19, 2008 Chapman University, Orange, California

This conference is intended to deconstruct the multiple issues that connect and entwine to sustain poverty in our communities and the world. It is designed for participants who want an introduction and participants who seek

in-depth understanding and skill building. People of all ages who work toward peace and justice will join in fellowship, learn, play and worship together during this time for re-energizing and re-connecting under the warm California sun!

To register, please go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm>.

**The Body: Worship and the Arts-** Come to the 2008 Worship and the Arts Conference to engage your theological imagination and renew your creative spirit as we consider the theme of "the body" in worship. Sponsored by [Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Society for the Arts, Religion, and Contemporary Culture](http://www.louisvillepresbyterian.org), and the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this four-day event will offer pastors, worship leaders, liturgical artists, church members and seminarians ideas and inspiration for creative approaches to worship planning and leadership.



Through lectures, workshops with professional artists and creative worship experiences, participants will explore the biblical, liturgical and theological symbolism of the body in a variety of media: music, dance, drama, writing and visual arts. To register go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/events.htm>

**Synod School-** "Coloring Outside the Lines," the theme for this year's Synod School, is a look at how the church might move beyond timidity and try new things. The Rev. Scott Nesbitt, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, Iowa, will challenge those at Synod School to become like little children who can paint a picture with bold colors and call it beautiful even though almost every boundary has been completely disregarded. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children - some separately, some are intergenerational - to stretch the mind and nurture the soul. As one individual noted after last summer's Synod School, "I didn't know Presbyterians could gather together and have fun." Another described Synod School as "an unexpected spiritual awakening - wow!" The Synod School catalog and registration forms are posted online at [www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html).



**Music and Worship Conferences-** The Presbyterian Association of Musicians is hosting several events over the summer for musicians and worship planners:

#### Montreat Worship and Music Conferences

**Theme: Christ Be Our Light Advent Through Epiphany**  
June 15-20 and 22-27, 2008: Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC

#### Westminster Worship and Music Conferences

**Theme: "God's Love Shattering the Darkness: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany"**

Continued on Page 18

## Call to July Stated Meeting

June 23, 2008

Dear Presbyters,

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 Stated Session on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, beginning at 4:00 p.m., at [Buffalo Presbyterian Church](#), 507 County Road 134, Buffalo, Minnesota, 55313. There will be an orientation time for first-time elders and new minister members at 3:00 p.m. and a time of fellowship at 3:30 p.m. Directions to the church are below.

There will be ample parking. The building is accessible. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Lunch tickets for 150 will be sold at \$7.00 per meal, (including 12 meatless meals). There will be no child-care provided.

The [Presbytery packet](#) materials, will be online starting June 23. Due to the holiday and vacation schedule for the office staff, the usual time limits will be much shorter and more strictly enforced, but the staff will try very hard to keep you informed. The docket will be online as soon as possible. There is no password required to access the Presbytery packet materials. A color coded packet will be ready for you at the meeting.

There will be a pre-presbytery meeting in the sanctuary explaining the new budget. One item of interest and importance to be included on the docket is a report of the 2008 General Assembly from our commissioners.

Respectfully,

Nancy E. Grittman, Stated Clerk



### Directions to Buffalo Presbyterian Church

FROM THE EAST:

Take MN-55W to Buffalo.  
Turn RIGHT onto CALDER AVE NE/CR-134. (Just on the other side of Menards)  
End at 507 County Road 134 Buffalo, MN 55313-9249

### Presbytery Packets Available for Download

The Presbytery Packet for the July 2008 Stated Meeting is now available. The packet is no longer located at our old site, but has moved to what will soon be the [brand new website](#) ([www.presbyterytwincities.org](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org)) for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. This prototype website will give people a peek at what will be the future for our web presence.

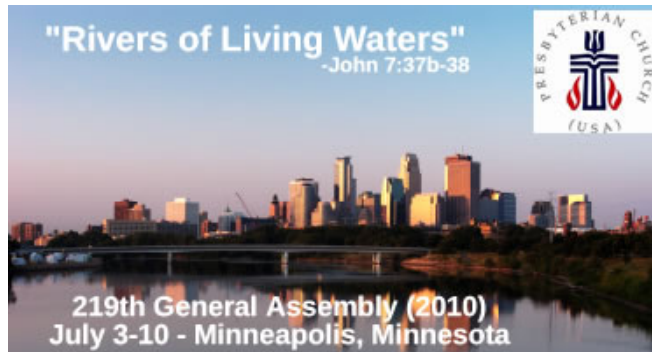
To get to the Presbytery Packet, please go to [www.presbyterytwincities.org](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org) and click on "Presbytery Packets." As has been the case in the past, not all the materials are online all at once. However, there is a way to be notified when the page is updated using Real Simple Syndication or  RSS. Simply look for the  RSS Symbol and click on it. This will take you to the RSS version of the prototype website. Click on where it says "subscribe to this feed." You will then have a "Feeds" link placed on your bookmarks, which will be updated every-time the page is updated.

## Committee on Local Arrangements Update

*The following is an update from Manley Olson, the co-chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA) for the 219th General Assembly to be held in Minneapolis, July 3-10, 2010. This report will be given at the July 8 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.*

### By Manley Olson

COLA was very busy at the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in San Jose. Although our booth was not as centrally located as we would have liked, we still talked with lots of folks. There seemed to be great interest in coming to Minneapolis in July, 2010. Our booth workers were COLA members and volunteers from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys. Our member from Northern Waters was unable to attend. Our thanks to all.



On Saturday morning we extended an invitation to attend the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We showed a video that was well received. To view it, go to the PTCA website. It was put together by Peter Myers of the Myers Communication group. Peter is an elder at Westminster PC in Minneapolis. Our thanks to him for his entertaining introduction to Minnesota for visitors.

COLA's work in the near future will be in planning for things that we have primary responsibility for at GA. This includes site for the Moderator's reception, special events for Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YADS), tours and any other special events we may decide to have. We particularly need to find ways to deal with the challenges of hosting GA over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend.

The San Jose Assembly was a great event. There were issues before the assembly that created interest; the facilities were great; hotels and eating places were convenient; the weather was ideal except for two very hot days at the start and the hospitality of their volunteers was outstanding.

We don't know what the issues will be in 2010 but we can predict that there will be some that will have folks focusing on GA. We also can't predict the weather. However our convention center, hotels, eating places and other downtown amenities compare favorable with San Jose. And we have no doubts that our volunteers will show the kind of hospitality that will make folks glad they came.

We will not be recruiting volunteers for some time. Our first activity will be finding people to chair the various committees. We expect that to begin in the summer of 2009 with volunteer recruitment starting in the fall of 2009. There will be many opportunities. We will need about 1500 to do such things as ushering, serving communion, singing in mass choirs, greeting folks at the airport, staffing registration and information desks and generally helping things go smoothly. We will be inviting folks from our partner presbyteries as well as from throughout the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to come join with us.

We concluded our invitation inviting folks to come to a place where the women are strong, the men are good looking and the Presbyterians are above average. After the presentation we were bombarded with questions as to whether Garrison Keillor was going to be on the program. We responded that this was very unlikely. In 1986, the last time GA met here, COLA tried unsuccessfully to get him. We are pursuing it but are dubious. However, if anyone has any connections with him that might lead to his coming, please let us know.

Thank you for your support and please keep us in your prayers as our work continues.

Sandy Hawley COLA co-chair 952-944-8066 ssshawley@aol.com

Manley Olson COLA co-chair 651-644-2848 manleyolson@gmail.com

## Positions Available

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

- Minister of Administration (Full-Time)- Dayton Avenue Presbyterian, St. Paul
- Youth Program Director (Part-Time)- Dayton Avenue Presbyterian, St. Paul
- Music Director (Part-Time)- Stadium Village Presbyterian, Minneapolis
- Nursery Attendant- Plymouth Presbyterian, Plymouth
- Youth Coordinator- Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shoreview
- Part-Time Youth Director- Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo
- Director of High School and College Age Ministries- Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis
- Christian Education Assistant- First Presbyterian, Rochester
- Director of Children and Youth Ministry, Cherokee Park United Church, St. Paul (persons of color strongly encouraged to apply)

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

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### PTCA Churches Accepting PIFs

- Pastor (Solo)- Lake Nokomis Presbyterian, Minneapolis
- Designated Pastor- Knox Presbyterian, St. Paul
- Solo Pastor- First Presbyterian, Claremont

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

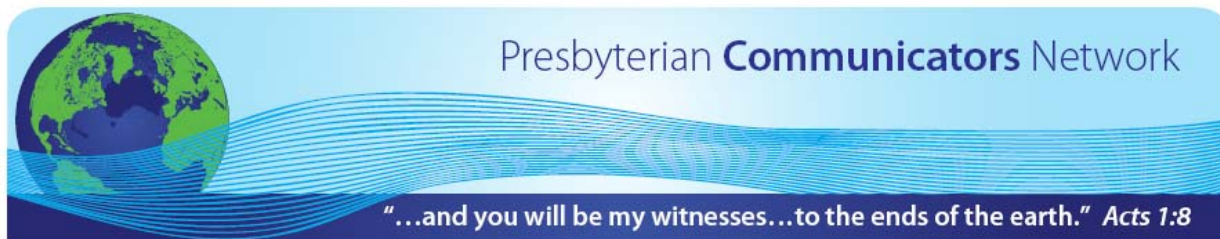
### Summer Hours for PTCA

***Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the PTCA office is open half-day on Fridays from 8:30am to 12:30pm.***

### Future 2008 Stated Meetings and Locations

- July 8, 2008, 4:00pm-8:30pm, Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo
- September 9, 2008, 4:00pm-8:30pm, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- November 11, 2008, 4:00pm-8:30pm, Knox Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Please go to the PTCA website for more updates.



## Stronghold Conference Center, Oregon, IL August 25 – 27, 2008

Experience interactive workshops, stimulating plenary, reflective worship and and lively conversation with others who have similar communication responsibilities for the PC(USA).

Learn to upload multi-media to your website, create an online social network, develop a communicators network in your presbytery, or freshen up your writing skills. Listen to and talk with church experts on communicating in a Web 2.0 world and how to reach out to others that are beyond the four walls of your church.

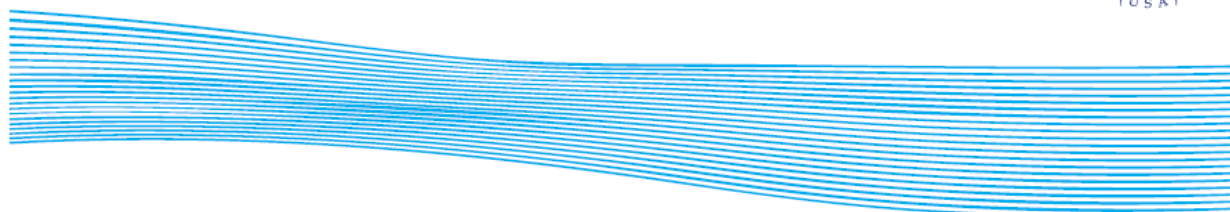
The event starts at 1pm, Monday, August 25 and concludes at 11:30am, Wednesday, August 27. Registration is \$250 and includes all conference programs, group meals and two night lodging.

Go to [www.pcusa.org/comnet](http://www.pcusa.org/comnet) for complete details.

Who should attend: People who have the responsibility to communicate via hard copy, online or other electronic media, the ministry and mission of churches, presbyteries and synods.

Can't make Stonghold? Then save this date for a similar opportunity:

- Menucha Camp and Conference Center, October 29 – 31



## Kim calls Presbyterian Church to set aside privilege

by Duane Sweep

**SAN JOSE, June 25, 2008** — Using his own church as an example, the Rev. Jin Kim, pastor of the Church of All Nations in Minneapolis, Minn., called for Christians to “lay down their sword of power and privilege and to walk humbly with God.”



The Rev. Jin S. Kim preached on “Walking Humbly” at the Tuesday morning worship service. Photo by Joseph Williams

Preaching Tuesday morning at the meeting of the General Assembly here, Kim noted that “racism remains the mega-idolatry in the metanarrative of American history,” and called for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to adopt the [Belhar Confession](#), a confession with roots in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church.

Kim noted that he was speaking on the 40th anniversary year of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, and said, “Clearly, nations have tried to dominate other nations from the beginning of time; that’s nothing new.”

But he added, “So how then do Christian nations behave in the same brutal way that non-Christian nations have behaved since the beginning of time? How do we justify oppression, slavery, the theft of land, theft of labor, genocide, rape and exploitation of every kind done unto non-European peoples?”

Kim, who noted his Korean heritage, said, “It’s clear that racism is a philosophical construct, one invented by Christian nations to absolve themselves of the atrocities of empire ... and that self-deception continues to undergird American life.”

Kim said that many Europeans who settled in America, from Germans, to Irish, to Italians, were able to assimilate into society because at least they were “not black.” Koreans, he said, have been complicit “by stepping on the backs of black people to enter into white privilege.”

“As Asian people who have been offered the crumbs of white privilege in exchange for silence and invisibility, we’ve traded in our birthright of dignity for a bowl of pottage,” he said.

At the Church of All Nations, Kim said, “The culture of public confession, corporate repentance, joyful celebration and vulnerable relationality that we have cultivated ... is key to understanding the dynamism and hope evident in our life together.”

Kim closed by offering both confession and repentance. “I want to conclude by walking humbly with God and with you,” Kim said, and apologized to African Americans for complicity, to Native Americans for benefitting from stolen land and to white Americans for contributing to racial divisions. “I humbly ask all of you, please forgive me and my people by the grace of God.”



Do justice Love kindness

Walk humbly with your God

MICAH 6:8

218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JUNE 21-28, 2008 - SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

[Find Out What Happened at GA 218](#)

Many newsworthy events took place in San Jose. If you would like to read more about such issues as Israel/Palestine or the Form of Government, please go the news page of the 218th General Assembly at <http://www.pcusa.org/ga218/news.htm>.

## The Rev. Byron Wade is 218th General Assembly vice moderator

by Dee H. Wade

**SAN JOSE, June 25, 2008** — The Rev. Byron Wade, pastor of the Davie Street Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, N.C., was confirmed as vice moderator of the 218th General Assembly on Wednesday. In his address before the Assembly, Wade demonstrated the hope and enthusiasm he has for the church of Jesus Christ. He answered the installation questions while the one who chose him for his new role, GA Moderator the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, looked on.

Over the next two years, Wade will travel the country on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), sharing and listening to stories of mission and faith. He will also assume other duties as needed from Reyes-Chow. The two men have known each other for 20 years, working together at Montreat, the Young Urban Presbyterian Pastors' Group and Youth Triennium.



The Rev. Byron Wade, pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C., was confirmed and installed as vice moderator of the 218th General Assembly on Wednesday. Photo by Joseph Williams

The moderator and the vice-moderator are both members of racial-ethnic groups. Both are young pastors, 39 and 45, respectively. Both were born and reared on the West Coast, though Wade now lives and works in North Carolina, and both are married fathers of young children.

There are differences, too, of course. Reyes-Chow has served an innovative new church development in trendy San Francisco; Wade serves a 140-year old congregation that is a traditional presence in the state capital of Raleigh.

Together, the two represent a "huge change," as Wade says, in the national life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "Seeing younger people in leadership is a positive experience for both young and old in the church," he said. An African American and an Asian "represent what the church can become."

Wade is hopeful about the future. "As the Spirit of God leads us, we can help propagate the faith, helping people in and outside the church develop a living relationship with Jesus Christ. We will find new ways to do that, and that's exciting."

Wade is married to Regina Fleming Wade, a North Carolina native, and the two of them have a 6-year-old son, Andrew. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of the Redlands in California. He also holds an M.A. from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, an M.Div. from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary.

His first pastorate is the one he is still serving after 12 years. He is an active member of New Hope Presbytery, filling many positions within its structure and currently serving as vice moderator. On the national level, he has been part of the Black Presbyterian Caucus and on several committees relating to ministries with youth. He was an elected member of the General Assembly Council from 1993 to 1999 and currently serves on the planning team for the 2009 National Pastor's Sabbath.

The Rev. Tolokun Omokunde, a colleague of Wade's in New Hope Presbytery, upon hearing of his confirmation as vice-moderator, said "I can imagine that Dr. Jim Costen, Clinton Marsh and other African-American Presbyterian leaders are having a big celebration in heaven, cheering Byron on as he begins this part of his race. He is a prime example of African-American excellence. He is just what we need as an example to other African Americans, especially men. He sets a high standard."

"In a way," Omokunde said, "Rev. Wade is 'old school.' He believes in the whole family going to Sunday school and church together, and he models that. He comes from a great family, and he is a great husband and father. He's an earnest believer who's not ashamed of the gospel. So yes, he's old school, but in a new way."

"I fully expect that the Rev. Byron Wade will become one of the all-time heroes of the African-American church."

## Presbytery and Churchwide Events, continued

*July 6-11, 2008, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA*

*PAM West Music and Worship Conference*

*Theme: "Song, Sacrament, & Silence - Giving Voice to All Our Sighs"*

*July 17-19, 2008, First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, AR*

*Music and Worship Conference*

*Theme: "Encountering Christ in Worship"*

*June 15-20, 2008, Mo-Ranch Conference Center, Hunt, TX*

For brochures and to register, please go to the Presbyterian Association for Musicians website at [www.presbymusic.org](http://www.presbymusic.org).

**2008 New Wilmington Mission Conference-** "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me," is the theme for this year's conference which will be held July 19-26, 2008 on the campus of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. Among the speakers for the 2008 conference is Rodger Niishioka, who spent 12 years working on youth and young adult ministry issues in the PC(USA). Youth between the ages of 12-25 are encouraged to attend. For more information, please go to the New Wilmington website at: <http://nwmcmmission.org/>.

**Racial Ethnic Young Women Together Retreat-** "Loving Ourselves: Discovering our Identities and Exploring our Places" will be held July 31-August 3 in Daytona Beach, FL. The retreat is open to young women of color — Hispanic and Latina; Asian; Middle Eastern; Native American; Black and African American; bi-racial and multi-racial between the ages of 18 and 35. For more info, please go to [www.pcusa.org/rejwtt/events/retreat.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/rejwtt/events/retreat.htm).

**Communicator's Conference-**Part of the mission of the Presbyterian Communicators Network is to connect with one another, provide training, share best practices and grow as communicators and Presbyterians. From the Midwest to the west, from now through October, the Communicators Network has slated two more regional conferences, including one that will serve communicators in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies at the Stronghold Conference Center in Oregon, Ill., Aug. 25-27. Some scholarships are available. To learn more about the conferences, check out the network's spot on the Web site of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at <http://www.pcusa.org/comnet/>.

*If you have an event you'd like to share, please send it to Dennis Sanders at [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org).*

### Racial-Ethnic Scholarships Available from Synod of Lakes and Prairies



The synod's Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry has mailed its scholarship application to all presbyteries within the synod and it has posted the application online. The scholarship fund is an educational assistance program designed to encourage racial-ethnic students in their preparation for service in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The scholarship application, with a deadline of Sept. 30, 2008, is available at [www.lakesandprairies.org/resources\\_r\\_e\\_scholarship.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/resources_r_e_scholarship.html).

## On Christian Love and Generosity

*Stephanie Anthony, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hudson, WI shares this story by First Hudson member Bill Ward and his part in the recovery efforts to find Keith Kennedy, a 25-year-old man with autism who walked off a campground. Kennedy was later found alive.*

### By Bill Ward

Many of you have heard about the young man who walked away from a camp up in Trade River, WI. He is 25, autistic, and needs anti-rejection medication to survive. As I write this he has been missing for four days. I do not know the outcome of the search activities. I was, however, privileged to spend yesterday supporting those activities.

I am a member of the Burnett County Law Enforcement Citizens' Auxiliary. BCLECA or just the Auxiliary, for short. I received a call Tuesday evening letting me know there was a search in progress for someone who walked away from Trade Lakes Camp. I was asked if I could participate in an Auxiliary deployment to support the search. Of course, I was eager to go help—it's why I joined the BCLECA in the first place.

But I had a problem. My wife, Jean, was out of town on business and I was single parenting our two young girls, Katie and Libby. I could not leave town for a long day without making arrangements for them. It was 9:00 in the evening and I needed help first thing in the morning. As Pastor David was fond of saying, the Lord moves in mischievous ways. And move He did!

And help I received! Tom and Sue Aitchison were able to come to the house at 6:00 in the morning, get the girls ready for their summer day program, pick them up in the afternoon, and take them to dinner. Linda Benton and Sabrina Wehunt were able to meet Tom, Sue, and girls at my house at 6:00 in the evening so Tom and Sue could go to choir. This, my friends, is what Church Family is all about: without the support of my Church Family I would not have been able to leave to support the search for this lost young man.

I was amazed by the turnout at the search location. Approximately 300 people volunteered to walk, stumble, even crawl, through the woods, brambles, bushes, bogs, and swamps looking for a complete stranger. They were, in turn, supported by about 40 or 50 uniformed deputies, police, firemen, ERTs, DNR wardens, and others. As a uniformed "officer" I spent the day directing traffic into and out of the Incident Command Center (IC) set up at the camp. I personally witnessed at least 14 vehicles bringing in donations of food, water, soda, and bug spray; I know there were many more that I didn't personally see. I was told at 10:00 AM that there was enough food. The 14 vehicles came in after that!

When I signed out for the day at the IC there were enough cases of bottled water and soda stacked up to fill my pickup. And, as many of you know, I have a BIG pickup. All donated. There were several boxes of assorted bug spray and cream laying around for anyone who needed them; help yourself. All donated. An ice company sent a big truck full of ice to chill the beverages and keep the food cool. All donated.

As far as I know the Trade Lakes Camp is not affiliated with any particular church organization. The search was not organized by a church group. The donations were not offered as an activity of a church organization. To the best of my knowledge, this was an entirely secular operation.

It was also the greatest outpouring of Christian Love and Generosity I have ever witnessed, let alone been privileged to be part of. Well over 300 people, almost all volunteers, well provisioned by the generous donations of more volunteers, trying to find a lost Child of God.

I was there because still more volunteers, members of our Church, enabled me to go. I appreciate their donation of their time, energy, and talent that allowed me to participate in, and be part of, this experience. My heartfelt thanks to Tom, Sue, Linda, and Sabrina for responding on extremely short notice and enabling me to go support the search.

I don't know the results of the search effort, but my thoughts, hopes, and prayers go out to this young man's family, the searchers who are still on the job today, and, most importantly, to the lost young man, crying in the wilderness.

Praise be to God.

## Synod Commissioners Needed

Two Commissioners to Synod of Lakes and Prairies from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, one minister and one elder, conclude their terms in January and are not eligible for re-election; terms are 3 years. We elect a Youth Advisory Delegate (age 17-23) every year.

We welcome applications from all ministers, elders, or prospective YADs who are active in local churches or in presbytery and are interested in service in the wider church.

Synod meets 3 times a year, usually Sunday evening through Tuesday noon. Dates for 2009 are: January 18-20, April 26-28, and September 27-29. Meetings will be at the Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. A current Commissioner reports: This is a beautiful setting; historically there has been time in the schedule for Sabbath time, and it's wonderful to get to know other folks from throughout the Synod; great food! Expenses for travel, room, and board are born by the Synod.

Application forms are available by going to [www.presbytertwincities.org](http://www.presbytertwincities.org), or they can be requested from the presbytery office.

- Minister Commissioner to Synod - 3 year term, beginning January 2009
- Elder Commissioner to Synod - 3 year term, beginning January 2009
- Youth Advisory Delegate to Synod - 1 year term, beginning January 2009

Applications, with a recommendation letter from a session, committee of presbytery, or minister member of presbytery, should be returned to the Nominating Committee by September 15 (applications should be mailed to the Presbytery office or by email to [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org)). The Nominating Committee will conduct phone interviews, probably on October 2. Election will be at the November presbytery meeting.

At that presbytery meeting, the Nominating Committee will nominate one person for each position and include a brief biographical sketch outlining the nominee's qualifications, service, and commitment to serve. For each person nominated from the floor, similar information must be published in quantities sufficient for distribution at that meeting.

All commissioners and YADs are expected to serve on one standing committee, which meet during the Synod meetings. These include Ecclesiastical Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Program Coordination Committee. There are a few Special Committees which meet separately, and a few commissioners are invited to serve on one of these if they so desire: Committee on Congregational Development, Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry, Communication and Interpretation Committee, Synod School Committee.

Betty Raitt, Nominating Committee Chair

### July 2008 Five Year- Ordination Anniversaries

#### Fifteen Years

- Rev. Paul Tshihamba

#### Twenty Five Years

- Rev. Cynthia Ray

#### Forty Years

- Rev. Mark Bayert
- Rev. Herbert Wardlaw Jr.

#### Fifty Five Years

- Rev. Frederick Beebe



## Parish Paper Now Online

The *Parish Paper*, a monthly publication that used to be included in the old weekly mailings, is now available for download at the PTCA website ([www.ptcaweb.org](http://www.ptcaweb.org)). The *Parish Paper* offers ideas and insights for active congregations. Edited by Herb Miller, Lyle Schaller and Cynthia Woolever, this journal is available to all Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area church members and clergy to use within their ministry. You are invited to include items from The Parish Paper in your newsletters and on your website or webpage. You may also reprint items and send to others through email or the U.S. mail.

To download, go to the homepage and click "Forms and Policies" from the hotmenu. On the left hand side of the [Forms and Policies](#) page, you will see a link that says, "[Parish Paper](#)." That will take you to the page with the latest issues.

We hope you will enjoy this "new/old" resource. The Presbytery knows the Parish Paper has been a useful resource for many pastors and churches and we are honored to share this with you again.

### Bucket Kits Needed

As the flood waters recede, the clean-up will begin. Citizens who come back to flooded homes and businesses, they will need to materials to help clean the mess made by the raging waters. As we see those images of sadness on television, we wonder what we can do. One thing that we can do to reach out to our friends in Iowa is to create "bucket kits" filled with cleaning materials that will help Iowans. This would be a great activity for youth groups to take part in. Bucket kits include the following:

- 1- 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- 5 - scouring pads
- 7 - sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 - scrub brush
- 1 - pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 1 - box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
- 1 - liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.
- 1 - bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 25 oz.
- 50 - clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- 5 - dust masks
- 2 pair - latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- 1 pair - work gloves
- 1 - 24-count roll heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- 1 - bottle insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol), 6-14 oz.

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. **Send only new, unopened materials.** Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. If shipping, place each Bucket in a separate box.

The kits can be shipped to the following congregations in Iowa:

#### Des Moines Presbytery Bucket Drop Off Sites:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Park Avenue Presbyterian Church | <a href="#">Highland Park Presbyterian Church</a> |
| 3120 S.W. 9th St.               | 321 Euclid Ave.                                   |
| Des Moines, IA 50315-2205       | Des Moines, IA 50313-4349                         |
| 515-282-8309                    | 515-288-5703                                      |

#### East Iowa Presbytery Bucket Drop Off Sites:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a> | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church</a> |
| 2701 Rochester Avenue                     | 802 12th Street                           |
| Iowa City, IA 52245                       | Marion, IA 52302                          |
| 319-351-2660                              | 319-377-7309                              |

(please call the church first for delivery specifications)



The Presbytery office will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen on Monday, July 7.



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CHURCH (USA)

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