



### July Stated Meeting Highlights

by **Dennis Sanders**  
**Communications Specialist, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**

**Coon Rapids, MN —**  
“The Presbytery too is church,” said PTCA Moderator Jin S. Kim said at the July Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area on July 14.

The presbytery meeting, held at the recently expanded Presbyterian Church of the Master in Coon Rapids, took place in a new, experimental format for the PTCA: worship would be infused within the normal business of the Presbytery. The meeting started off with a call to worship and later the hymn, I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art,

attributed to John Calvin was sung.

Executive Presbyter Chaz Ruark started his presentation by wearing a mask of Calvin in honor of the theologian’s 500<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ruark then started sharing his recent visits to various congregations in the Presbytery and hearing wonderful sermons.

During the Moderator’s Report, Jin S. Kim said he was “excited” about being the Moderator thus year in light of having a new Executive Presbyter. He shared that one of the main purposes for a Presbytery was the sharing of practices, to find see how a congregation is trying to be a faith community. “We can



Executive Presbyter Chaz Ruark dons a mask of John Calvin as he gives his report during the July 2009 Presbytery Meeting. Photo by Dennis Sanders.

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**Persian Protests:** **Matt Johnson** of **Aldrich Presbyterian Church** shares his thoughts on events in Iran.



## July Presbytery, Continued



Phil Gebbengreen, co-pastor at Edgumbe Presbyterian Church in St. Paul shares his insights on best practices during small groups at the July Presbytery Meeting. Photo by Dennis Sanders.

change," Kim said. "We can reform and always be reforming."

Sandy Hawley, the co-chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, gave an update to the Presbytery on preparations being made for the event which will be held in Minneapolis July 3-10, 2010.

Hawley stressed the need for volunteers to serve on various committees to help the General Assembly run smoothly. She also revealed that an Executive Coordinator has been chosen to help in the planning of the event, Paula Sanders, a minister member of the Presbytery. Sanders is a parish associate at Kwanzaa Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and head of the Lydia Women's Empowerment Ministries, a ministry that partners with Kwanzaa to empower women of color in North Minneapolis. Sanders expressed excitement at her new job, being able to use her past experience at an event planner for the University of Minnesota.

David Colby, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul and also the chair of the Presbytery Budget Task Force, announced that Per Capita for 2010 would remain unchanged from 2009 levels. Earlier in the year, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies maintained its per capita for 2010 at \$4.80, the General Assembly also kept its per capita at \$6.15 and the Presbytery set its 2010 per capita at \$19.06, unchanged from 2009. The total remains the same: \$30.01.

During her report to the Presbytery, JoAnn Simser, Presbytery Council Chair and an elder at Macalester-Plymouth Church in St. Paul introduced the theme for the Presbytery for 2009-10. The theme is the Six Great Ends of the Church with each presbytery meeting taking one theme. For the July meeting, the theme was "The Proclamation of the Gospel for Humankind."

After dinner and communion, pastors Darlene Stensby and Byron Thompson were honored for their years of service. Stensby, an Associate Pastor at House of Hope in St. Paul, and Thompson, an Associate Pastor at Westminster in Minneapolis moved from active ministry to Honorably Retired.

As the meeting came to a close, word came that David Droog, until recently Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian in Rochester, lost his battle with cancer earlier in the day. Details on the life of Droog can be found in the preceding pages of EMerge.

Steve Tyykila, a member of Knox Presbyterian in St. Paul and Jennifer Miles, a member of House of Hope Presbyterian in St. Paul were approved to candidates for ordination, while Cody Oaks, a member of Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights was approved to be enrolled as an inquirer.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be on Saturday, September 12 from 9am to 3pm at First Presbyterian Church in Shakopee.



The Praise Band at Presbyterian Church of the Master, calls the Presbytery back to worship after dinner. Photo by Dennis Sanders.



David Bierschawle, pastor of Church of the Master, gives testimony of the ministries taking place at the Coon Rapids congregation. Photo by Dennis Sanders.

## Transitions: David Droog, 1950-2009

By Chaz Ruark, Executive Presbyter

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

With gratitude for service and faith in his salvation, we report to you the passing of the Rev. David Droog from this world to God's eternal kingdom on Tuesday, July 14. David lost his battle with cancer after a valiant effort over a number of years. David just recently resigned his position as Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Rochester due to health issues. He was ordained to the Office of Word and Sacrament in 1981 by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and served in this Presbytery throughout his career.

Please keep his wife Diane and other family members in your prayers in their time of loss. A memorial service will be held for David at the Associated Church of Owatonna, MN at 10:30am, Saturday, July 18. Visitation will take place before the service at the church from 9AM to 10:30AM..

Though it is a Saturday and outside of the metro area, clergy are strongly encouraged to attend the service to honor our colleague in ministry. The family has requested that the ministers not robe or process at the service, but we will sit together as honorary pall bearers. Directions to the church can be obtained through the church's website, [www.associatedchurch.org](http://www.associatedchurch.org).

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that memorials be sent to the Associated Church and the Lymphoma and Leukemia Societies.

*Dennis Sanders contributed to this report.*

## Presbyfest 2009

Presbyfest is back! This year's festival of all things Presbyterian will take place on Saturday, November 14 at Oak Grove Presbyterian in Bloomington. The theme is "Celebrating John Calvin and Five Centuries of Reformed Lay Leadership." The Key-note speaker for this year is Cynthia Rigby, Professor of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Information on classes will be available in July. If you are a congregational lay leader looking for ideas or resources to further the ministry at your congregation, then Presbyfest is for you. Please go to [www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyfest2009](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyfest2009) to download a promotion flyer .



**"David was passionate in his belief that Jesus is the Son of God, and was raised from the dead so that we may have eternal life with him. He was privileged to have spent his life's work sharing this story with others. He was dedicated to providing each congregation compassionate guidance and pastoral leadership in establishing their identity and moving toward their mission. David's kind nature and joyful spirit seemed to always bring out the best in others. He was a tireless and faithful servant in all his endeavors."**

**-From the obituary of David Droog in the Mankato Free Press.**

## Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

**Presbyterian Hunger Program Celebrates 40 years:** What began with a General Assembly action four decades ago has become a program that has raised more than \$125 million for hunger relief.

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) celebrated its 40th anniversary with speakers, music and a raffle at the [Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women](#) July 14.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was the first denomination to state that hunger is a grave threat and moral imperative for the church, said PHP Coordinator Ruth Farrell, adding that the program was originally charged with five focus areas surrounding hunger: direct food relief, development assistance, influencing public policy, lifestyle integrity and education and interpretation.

“Those five approaches are every bit as relevant today as they were 40 years ago,” Farrell said.

PHP is valuable because it not only provides immediate assistance, but also encourages advocacy for justice, said Sara Lisherness, director of [Compassion, Peace and Justice](#).

Lisherness read from a well-known prayer by Archbishop Oscar Romero, saying:

*This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.*

Lisherness described PHP as sowing many seeds, such as coordinating a network of [hunger action enablers](#) in synods and presbyteries and providing funding and support for organizations like Bread for the World and Heifer International.

Hunger action enablers serve as educators, motivators and organizers for congregations and other groups within the church. They work to provide knowledge and skills to sustain long-term hunger relief.

Although current organizers might not live to see the end of hunger, they can — and are — doing something, Lisherness said.

She again read from Romero’s prayer: “We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well ... We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.”

Skye Murray, who participates in the monthly 40-hour fasts coordinated by PHP, spoke about her experiences in Haiti, where she saw PHP’s work firsthand. With help from PHP, Haitian farmers learned more effective gardening techniques and installed a cistern.

“Let’s give thanks to God that the Presbyterian Hunger Program is helping to usher in the kingdom where ... there is enough for everyone,” she said.

Another speaker was Christi Boyd, a mission co-worker stationed in Cameroon. Boyd works with PHP’s [Joining Hands](#) program, which focuses on three areas: addressing the root causes of injustice and inequity, promoting self-sufficiency of marginalized groups, and confronting the structures of exploitation and injustice.

In Cameroon, and Africa as a whole, there are great natural resources, but many people remain poor. Joining Hands works to ensure that the country’s own resources go back into the economy to aid in hunger reduction.

Joining Hands works to use people’s compassion and turn it into compassionate advocacy, Boyd said.

Also at the celebration, the 10 presbyteries that contributed the most money through the 2008 Centennial offering were honored. They are [West Virginia](#), [Redstone](#), [Peace River](#), [Sheppards and Lapsley](#), [Lake Michigan](#), [Transylvania](#), [Huntingdon](#), [The James](#), [Shenandoah](#), and [The Peaks](#).

**Marta Rodríguez elected Moderator of Presbyterian Women:** Marta Rodríguez, Synod of Puerto Rico, was elected moderator of Presbyterian Women’s Churchwide Coordinating Team, in a waving sea of blue consent slips. The roomful of 400-plus voting representatives to PW’s Business Meeting, CCT and others erupted in tears, cheers and a standing ovation, as Catreli Hunter passed the gavel to Marta, the first Hispanic Latin American to be elected to the post. In fact, the entire slate presented by the Search Committee of the CCT passed. Carolyn Jordan, moderator of the Search Committee, choked up as she introduced her committee, calling it a privilege to work with such a fine group of women. She capped that by declaring, “I am thrilled to present the most diverse slate ever,” then introduced the nominees.

The new CCT includes Marta Rodríguez (Puerto Rico), moderator; Alice Wyatt (South Carolina), vice moderator for mission relationships; Chris Wolf (Michigan), vice moderator for justice and peace; Joanne Schnaudt (New Jersey), secretary; Joan Berglund (Nebraska), historian; Joyce Smith (Ohio), financial secretary; Ruth Mason Lowe (Georgia), African American member at large; Janice Takeda (California), Asian American member at large; Nydia Murphy (New York), Hispanic Latin American member at



## Presbybriefs: News At A Glance

large; Jenny Lee (New Jersey), Korean American member at large; Leila Abdul Karim (Arizona), Middle Eastern American member at large; Janis Quinn (New York), Native American member at large; and Esperanza Guajardo (Texas), Search Committee moderator.

Marta, a member of Hato Rey Presbyterian Church in San Juan, appeared emotional but poised, as her pastor, José M. Capella-Pratts, accompanied by his wife, Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri, offered words of congratulation and praise from the podium. "We are proud of you," he said, as Presbyterian women from the Synod of Puerto Rico flooded the stage and surrounded her. Cameras flashed to record the historic moment. He later told *Daily Horizons*, "It is a wonderful joy to see Marta elected moderator of Presbyterian Women. I remember the first time Marta received training to be a deacon. I was privileged to be the one to train her. Sometimes there are leaders in a congregation who are not easy to work with. She has been wonderful. It is my privilege to work with her and I look forward to supporting her work as moderator of Presbyterian Women."

This Business Meeting may have been the most exciting in recent memory, considering the election of the first Hispanic moderator to the CCT, the approval of the certificate of incorporation and the adoption of new corporate bylaws. From the beginning, on Sunday afternoon, the atmosphere in the Business Meeting was faithful, businesslike and quietly charged. There was an air of expectancy, as if the voting representatives knew they were making history.

### Other highlights of the Business Meeting:

Charity Wainaina, moderator of a group of Kenyan American women organized just a year ago with the help of the New Immigrant Congregational Support Office of the PC (USA), introduced nearly 30 women from Kenya, who performed "The Love of God Is a Wonder" for the voting reps on Monday afternoon before the introduction of new business. Charity addressed the voting members, telling them, "Without you, we'd never be here. We had been hiding because we had nowhere else to go, but we found you. You are our mothers and our sisters, our aunties and nieces and daughters. The love of God has made us one."

Jemimah Ngatia, newly approved leader representing new immigrant women on the CCT, also spoke. She said Charity called her from Atlanta to say, "I want you to organize

us." She praised PW program coordinator Ann Ferguson for her role in helping the group organize, as well.

A new 31-month budget was approved on Monday afternoon. It is a 31-month budget as a result of incorporation. Under articles of incorporation, Presbyterian Women, Inc. is adopting a fiscal year budget rather than a calendar year budget. However, the current calendar budget will be in effect through the end of 2009. The new budget begins January 1, 2010, and ends July 31, 2012. At the 2012 Business Meeting, a 36-month budget will be approved, to begin on August 1, 2012.

After closing the Business Meeting, Marta adjourned with this "Four-fold Franciscan Blessing."

*May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.*

*May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.*

*May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.*

*And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide, be with you and remain with you, this day and forever more. Amen.*

## Positions Available

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

- Director of Music, Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shoreview
- Church Business Administrator, North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville
- Church Administrative Assistant, Peace Presbyterian Church, St. Louis Park
- Youth Ministry Director, Associated Church (Presbyterian-UCC), Owatonna
- Youth Ministries Director, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Christian Education Director, First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake
- Youth Ministry Coordinator, North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville
- Children & Family Ministry Coordinator, North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville
- Christian Education /Youth Leader, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles, Burnsville
- Director of Christian Education, Trinity Presbyterian, Woodbury

*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.)*

The following PTCA Congregations are accepting Personal Information Forms (PIF):

- Associate Pastor– St. Luke Presbyterian, Wayzata
- Pastor– Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo
- 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)).*

## Events Calendar

**Do you have an event you'd like to publicize? Please send it to Dennis Sanders at [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org).**

### **Celebrating Community Together at North Como:**

Celebrating Community Together, or CCT, is a Children and Family program for the summer. Through three evening sessions and one afternoon session, the intention of CCT is to bring children and families of North Como together to learn more about what North Como does outside of its walls and celebrate those activities and affiliations. Each evening activity is from 6-7:30 pm, intended to fit just after dinner and just before bed. Activities are geared toward children up through 5th grade, to be done alongside and with parents. There is no fee for the first three sessions, while only a nominal fee for the Twins game!

### **Wednesday, July 29th: CCT – Creativity**

Come and explore ways that we can celebrate community through music! Stations during this event will include bells, puppets, drama, art, and drums! There will be a lot of joyful noise to be made together! Jennifer Anderson and other members of the music ministry program will be helping with the evening.

### **Saturday, August 15th: CCT – Play!**

In celebration of the end of the summer and as a capstone to the CCT series, we will attend a Twins Game on Saturday, August 15th. The game starts at 3 pm, so we will gather at the church to carpool and then enjoy the game together versus the Cleveland Indians. (The cost is \$10 per person, including a ticket, hot dog, and soda!)

We would love to see you there...if you are interested in attending, please contact the North Como church office by calling 651-488-5581.

. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Bigwood, NCPC Elder serving Education and Nurture, at [gbbigwood@hotmail.com](mailto:gbbigwood@hotmail.com) or by leaving a message at the church office.

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

- CHRIST IN CAREER SUPPORT GROUP\*  
Meets first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:30-10:30AM in Room 316  
Contact: Jack Baloga at 952.944.5194  
\*A ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church
- INDIVIDUAL MENTORING/COACHING\*  
Contact the CPC Lay Care office at 952.920.8515

\*A ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church

- MINNEAPOLIS JOB SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30PM

Contact: John Wetzel at [john.wetzel@right.com](mailto:john.wetzel@right.com)

Visit [www.mjsw.org](http://www.mjsw.org)

- WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

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

Contact: John Wetzel at [john.wetzel@right.com](mailto:john.wetzel@right.com)

Visit [www.mjsw.org](http://www.mjsw.org)

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

**Caring for Persons with Mental Illness:** Statistics suggest that 48 million Americans suffer from some type of diagnosed mental illness. More than likely, the odds favor that one or more of those 48 million will walk through the doors of your church or are already members of your congregation. How will you help them?

The National Associate for Mental Illness-Minnesota is sponsoring two educational events that are open to the public. The July 21 sessions at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Bloomington are being hosted by the BeFriender Ministry National Office. For more information on "Ministry and the Mis-Wired Mind" go to <http://www.befrienderministry.org/mmwm.htm> or call 952-767-0244.

**Synod School 2009:** 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 fel- ➔

## Events Calendar

### Summer Office Hours @ the Presbytery Office

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

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

### Per Capita for 2010:

**General Assembly:**  
\$6.15

**Synod:** \$4.80

**Presbytery:** \$19.06

**Total=**  
**\$30.01**

lowship. 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>.

**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](mailto:aundrea.billings@mnchurches.org) or 612-230-3236 or visit [www.mnchurches.org](http://www.mnchurches.org).

**Worship and the Arts Conference:** July 22-25, Louisville, KY. Sponsored by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary 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 borders in a variety of media: music, dance, drama, writing and visual arts. For more information and to register, please go to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Theology and Worship website, <http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/events/worshiparts2009.htm>.

**Important News about the Bible Content Exam** - The PC(USA)'s Bible Content Examination will now be administered **ONLINE ONLY**. The online Bible Content Examination is a proctored examination administered at semi-annual testing sites. Test takers will need a computer with internet access in order to take this examination. The examination will be available in English, Korean and

Spanish. The exam will be offered twice each year beginning **October 2, 2009**. [Applicants must first read the instructions and explanatory material before visiting the new site](#) ([www.pcusa.org/exams/bible.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/exams/bible.htm))

which allows for online registration and payment for the exam.

**Synod Communicator Event Set for September:** Communicators and anyone else who might want to attend are being invited to the second Synod-wide Communicators Conference Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 2-4, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Eagan, Minn. While several details remain to be ironed out, the conference will include sessions on social networking, writing for the Web, the Presbyterian News Service, Presbyterian Neighbor News and "Doing More (or At Least as Much) With Less." "We're going to do everything we can to keep the cost down," said Duane Sweep, associate for communications for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. "We'd just like people to put a hold on those dates. More details should be available in a couple weeks."

**A Conversation on the Future of Faith Communities:** Saturday, September 19th, 2009, 9am - 3pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis MN 55407. Does the church have anything to say anymore to the big questions in people's lives? If so, what? How can the church be engaged with the questions: What is a lifetime? Why do we live it? We will learn about the loss of identity and loss of belonging that characterize so much of life today, and explore how the church might imagine hope and community with and alongside people. We'll talk about how the church can wrestle with questions, enter into suffering, and speak of hope in reality. We will hear from Andy Root (from his forthcoming book, "The Promise of Despair: The Way of the Cross as the Way of the Church"), and also get into some good theological conversation with one another - from many different churches and perspectives.

This is for church leaders, and for regular folks: **it is a day of theological conversation for everyone.**

Registration Including Lunch: \$20 (Lunch by Pepito's) **Registration is limited.** To register, call

## Events Calendar

### Next Presby- tery Meeting:

Jan at 612-721-4463. Download a flyer at [www.ptcaweb.org/News/Root%20Event%20Flyer-4.pdf](http://www.ptcaweb.org/News/Root%20Event%20Flyer-4.pdf).

Dr. Andy Root is a theologian and professor of Youth & Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, St. Paul and the author of *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry, Relationships Unfiltered*, and the forthcoming *The Promise of Despair: The Way of the Cross as the Way of the Church*.

*Co-hosted by Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church, Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, and Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church.*

**Workshop on Mental Illness:** The Disability Concerns Task Force is sponsoring a workshop called, **Mental Illness: A Challenge to our Churches**, September 19, from 9AM to Noon at Presbyterian Church of the Way in Shoreview. This workshop is open to Parish visitors, pastors, family members of persons who live with mental illness, deacons, elders, anyone who wants to understand mental illness and cares about ministry with the one in five who live with mental illness. To register, find more information and for childcare, please contact Rev. Bebe Baldwin at [randbonmarquette@hotmail.com](mailto:randbonmarquette@hotmail.com).

**Church Growth webinars on Congregational Transformation:** *Making Shifts without Making Waves* is the title of the next webinar on congregational transformation being offered by the Columbia Partnership with the sponsorship of the Office of Church Growth. For the first time during this pilot project the webinar will be offered on multiple days — Tuesday and Wednesday, July 21 and 22 at 2 p.m. EDT each day.

Each session will be identical and will have a limited registration of 75 seats. Presenters will be Eddie Hammett and tentatively Randy Pierce, who are co-authors of the forthcoming book *Making Shifts without Making Waves: A Coach Approach to Soulful Leadership* and also co-authors of the best selling *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60*.

The *Making Shifts without Making Waves* webinar will offer a coach approach to introducing and managing change in your church that will minimize the destructive waves that often come when change is mentioned.

Moving to multiple days will allow the webinar approach to make several changes. First, registration will be limited so that more dialogue can take place with the presenters through questions submitted by those in attendance. Second, the telephone and VOIP system will be used to

allow participants to call in by telephone or to use a VOIP system through their computer.

To accomplish this, registrants will no longer be automatically approved for attendance, but will be manually approved to guarantee that registration will not exceed the reasonable limits of the Internet system being used. Currently only 15 seats remain for Tuesday, July 21. Seventy-five seats have been opened for Wednesday, July 22. If Wednesday fills up then a third session will be opened for Thursday, July 23.


To sign up for the seminars, please go to: [www.pcusa.org/churchgrowth/webinar.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/churchgrowth/webinar.htm).

**Elder Commissioners Needed:** One current Elder Commissioner and our Youth Advisory Delegate (age 17-23) to Synod from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area have terms ending in January 2010. While each is eligible for re-election, additional applications will be accepted from elders, or prospective YADs who are active in local churches or in presbytery and are interested in service in the wider church. [Application forms are available on the presbytery web site, ptcaweb.org](http://www.ptcaweb.org), or they can be requested from the presbytery office (email: [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org)).

- **Elder Commissioner to Synod** - 3 year term, beginning January 2010
- **Youth Advisory Delegate to Synod** -1 year term, beginning January 2010

Applications, with a recommendation letter from a session, committee of presbytery, or minister member of presbytery, should be returned to the Nominating Committee by **August 1**. Election will be at the September presbytery meeting.

Synod meets 3 times a year, usually Sunday evening through Tuesday noon. Dates for 2010 are: January 17-19, May 2-4, and October 3-5. Meetings will be at the Mt.Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Expenses for travel, room, and board are born by the Synod.

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 

**Saturday  
September 12,  
First  
Presbyterian,  
Shakopee  
9AM-3PM**

**Presbytery Packets  
will be available in  
early September.  
Go to  
[www.presbyterytwincities.org/  
presbyterypacket](http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/presbyterypacket) to  
download materi-  
als.**

# Events Calendar

## Presbytery @ Prayer

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

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

serve. For each person nominated from the floor, the Nominating Committee requires that similar information be published in quantities sufficient for distribution at the presbytery meeting when elections will occur.

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.

## David Droog: A Tribute



By Rev. Paul Moore

*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. Before that, he was the pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Plainview, MN for 16 years. He wrote this on July 15.*

At yesterday's Presbytery meeting we received word that David Droog passed away. I can't help but share a tribute to his gifts, skills, and faith.

He served as an Interim pastor for as long as I've known him. I probably don't have a complete list of all the places he's served, but I know that he's served Presbyterian Churches as an Interim in Rochester, Hudson, Kasson, Burnsville, and Peace UCC in Rochester. He also served the Presbyterian Churches in Claremont and Austin.

David had the rare combination of a tough skin and a soft heart. As an Interim I think he understood that people would be upset at some of the processes that he initiated during that time period. That never seemed to deter or bother him. But David was not at all a callous man. He was very compassionate with the people whom he served.

I remember talking to him once when he was serving as an Interim at Peace UCC. He had just completed some advanced course work in Christian Education. He shared with me that he did this because he recognized that the youth learned in a very different way, and he wanted to understand how he could effectively communicate to them. I was so impressed that a man at his age—I'm guessing at that time he was in his middle or late 50's—would get more education in order to communicate more effectively. David did not coast in his later years.

David was one of the best Interims that I knew. I was secretly hoping that he would serve as the Interim at Community Presbyterian in Plainview. David knew the tasks of an Interim Pastor, and he stuck with them with admirable tenacity. I have some questions about the value of Interim ministry, but I never questioned that David would leave a church in a better place compared to when he started.

David was a trusted colleague. Once when I was experiencing a difficult relationship in my work I called David and asked him to go out for lunch. I was told that he could provide some insight into this relationship. Though he was very busy, he took the time to listen to my story. His counsel was spot-on. He understood what was happening and helped give me clarity to the situation.

I was so impressed by one of the final letters David sent announcing the because of his health he had to leave First Presbyterian in Rochester. He asked that all of us pray that he could give thanks in all circumstances. For the past week I've offered this petition in my prayer life. I was touched that David could face the end of his life knowing that while he didn't want to be in that place he was still willing to give thanks. That is the sign of a mature faith.

We'll miss you David. We'll miss your honesty, your laugh, your wisdom, your willingness to be with congregations during an important transition, and your faith. The world is a poorer place today compared to yesterday.

Praise God for the life of David Droog!!

*You can read more of Paul's musings by going to his blog Chain Link at <http://chainlink-chainoflakesncd.blogspot.com/>.*

**"We'll miss you David. We'll miss your honesty, your laugh, your wisdom, your willingness to be with congregations during an important transition, and your faith. The world is a poorer place today compared to yesterday."**

**-Rev. Paul Moore, sharing his thoughts on the death of Rev. David Droog.**

## A Christian Response to The Iranian Protests



**By Matt Johnson**

*Editor's Note: The following is by Matt Johnson, pastor of Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian in Minneapolis. The text originally appeared in About Aldrich, the congregational newsletter.*

I write this the week of June 22nd.

Recently, Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Iran.

Signs are carried and hung everywhere asking, "Where is my vote?" Though these people may disagree about other issues, those are set at a lower priority. Day after day this has been the repeated scene after the announcement of election results in Iran.

These are clearly people who are passionate about their common message and common purpose. They are taking action in ways that have cost many of them dearly, and some have lost their lives. The images shown by the media are at times horrific. But they gather together because there is power when people are united.

My first draft of this article went on to mention some ways in which the unity of the church functions in rough parallels to the unity of the protesters in Iran. But I've since realized that such a comparison is cheap—it minimizes and romanticizes the ongoing sufferings of real people.

So instead, I'd like to share my thoughts on the protests in Iran. Here are four things that have been impressed on me:

1. I need to realize that the protests are not about a good politician versus a bad politician. In the words of one Iranian journalist, "It is about more than Mousavi – it's an excuse to protest the whole system." It does harm to the church's message when we ignore the complexity of a situation like this. Read well, read widely.

2. I should pray that the people will engage in a peaceful struggle against injustice. Jesus took non-violent yet deliberate action in the face of violent threats. His way is one of peaceful resistance (Mt. 5). History has shown that non-violent resistance can overcome oppressive regimes.

3. I should remember that the people of Iran are

deeply loved by God, and ask God to give me love for all people.

4. I've been reminded that the purposes of God's Kingdom are distinct from the purposes of every earthly kingdom. I pray that in the wake of this political tension (and potential upheaval), the seeds of the gospel will take root and eventually bear fruit.

What is your response to these protests? What has tugged at you? What images have shaken you? I encourage you to bring these things to God and ask for eyes to see where God is at work in the world.

**"Jesus took nonviolent yet deliberate action in the face of violent threats. His way is one of peaceful resistance (Mt. 5). History has shown that non-violent resistance can overcome oppressive regimes."**

**-Rev. Matt Johnson,  
Pastor, Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian Church.**



## Love/Hate: Calvin had pluses and minuses, Stacy Johnson tells Calvin Jubilee



by Bethany Furkin  
Presbyterian News Service

**MONTREAT, NC** — W. Stacy Johnson, associate professor of systematic theology at [Princeton Theological Seminary](#), admires the John Calvin who was a church leader, wrote the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and once refused to be paid his stipend.

But he is bothered by the Calvin who taught the doctrine of double predestination and was intolerant, superstitious and self-righteous.

"I confess that I have a love-hate relationship with John Calvin," said Johnson July 9 at the [Calvin Jubilee](#), a July 8-11 conference here honoring Calvin's 500th birthday. "Coming to grips with Calvin means coming to grips with ourselves as Reformed Christians. For if Calvin is a mixed bag, then so are we."

In his lecture, "John Calvin — What's Not to Like?" Johnson discussed how to talk about what Calvin and the Reformed tradition means today, adding that Reformed beliefs cannot be limited to the past. Because there is not just one Reformed tradition, being faithful to Calvin's spirit might sometimes necessitate disagreeing with him, Johnson said.

"You don't have to agree with Calvin to be Reformed," he said, outlining four areas for continued reflection by Reformed Christians: scripture, salvation, sacraments and society.

The battle between textual and contextual interpretations of scripture is a familiar one, Johnson said, adding that pastors in the United States used examples of slavery in the Bible to defend slavery in their own country. Calvin's work has examples of both literal and contextual readings of the Bible, Johnson said.

"It's time to put aside the idea that the Bible is a book meant to keep the world from changing," he said.

In the area of salvation, Johnson outlined several atonement theories. In the ontological view, God has done something to change the essence of humanity. In the forensic view, the primary human predicament isn't death but disobedience. In the moral influence view, the problem isn't about how to appease God but how to change sinful human beings.

In short, the ontological view emphasizes the life of Jesus, the forensic view emphasizes the death of Jesus and the moral influence view emphasizes the resurrection of Jesus, Johnson said.

Johnson then moved to the "ironic and tragic" area of sacraments, which are meant to display unity but often inspire discord among believers.

The Reformed tradition has different ways of viewing the sacraments, he said.

On the topic of society, Johnson said that Calvin was a master politician who cared about the practical parts of the world. Calvin believed that religious reform would lead to social, economic and political reform.

Calvin was an opponent of slavery and an advocate for collegial ministry, Johnson said.

Calvin measured a society by whether and how it took care of its poor and wounded. He believed that the institutes of the world — governments, schools, families — are ordained by God, who wants these systems to

**"Coming to grips with Calvin means coming to grips with ourselves as Reformed Christians. For if Calvin is a mixed bag, then so are we."**

**-Stacy Johnson, Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Seminary.**

**(Photo by Presbyterian News Service.)**



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**"EMerge," is a biweekly publication from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA). The mission is to share brief highlights with links to resources and news. Recipients include congregations, minister members, other members, committees, and friends. Please send submissions and e-mail corrections to Dennis Sanders, editor, at [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org). Usual distribution: Mondays. Deadline: Thursday (two business days before distribution).**

## Love/Hate, Continued

work for the people. He believed that people must not only pray for God's will to be done, but that they must also actively work for it to be so.

"For Calvin, we belong to God, and we belong to one another," Johnson said.

**"It's time to put aside the idea that the Bible is a book meant to keep the world from changing."  
-Stacy Johnson.**

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