



Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Keeping in Touch

An e-newsletter for ministry partners in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

APRIL 24, 2009

The synod can be found online at
www.lakesandprairies.org.

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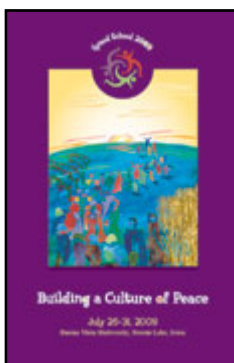


1. SYNOD PRESBYTERIES PARTICIPATE IN MISSION CHALLENGE:

Twelve of the 16 presbyteries in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies have already committed to participate in World Mission Challenge this fall when 40 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission personnel will travel into the presbyteries to tell of God's work around the world. Speakers will be on the road from Sept. 25

through Oct. 18. Additional information about World Mission Challenge is available at

<http://www.pcusa.org/missionchallenge/>. ([Return to top](#))



2. SYNOD SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS ON WEB SITE:

Synod School 2009 registration materials can be found online at www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html. Synod School 2009 runs Sunday through Friday, July 26-31, at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. This year's theme is "Building a Culture of Peace." ([Return to top](#))

3. SYNOD MEETING OPENS SUNDAY, APRIL 26:

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will open its spring meeting Sunday, April 26, at the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn. The meeting will run through Tuesday, April 28. ([Return to top](#))

4. IOWA CONGREGATION REACHES OUT WITH MEALTIME GATHERINGS:

New London Presbyterian Church, New London, Iowa, is discovering how challenging but rewarding becoming relevant to its community can be, with the guidance and assistance of the Presbytery of East Iowa. "We ask our churches to ask themselves, 'If this church disappeared tomorrow, who besides the members would miss it?'" said Harry Olthoff, general presbyter of the Presbytery of East Iowa. "We want them to gauge their involvement in their communities." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09321. The New London Presbyterian Church can be found online at www.newlondonpresbyterianchurch.ws/. ([Return to top](#))

5. FREE 'DISCOVERING TOGETHER' CONFERENCE SET IN HURON:

The Rev. Lloyd John Ogilvie, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate and now president of Leadership Unlimited, will be the keynote speaker at "Discovering Together" Friday, May 1, at the Huron Event Center in Huron, S.D. The conference is an ecumenical event for pastors and lay leaders dealing this year with "passion in worship and

- of Carroll
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And just one more

- 21. Climate stewardship conference set in Bismarck**

passionate spirituality." While the one-day conference is free, running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., registration is requested. Registration can be made by writing krislarson1@msn.com. The conference is sponsored by a grant from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through the Presbytery of south Dakota and by financial support from the United Methodist Church, Dakotas Conference. ([Return to top](#))

6. WCC SLATES 'EMBRACING AGING'

CONFERENCE IN APPLETON: The Rev. John McFadden and Dr. Susan McFadden will lead an "Embracing Aging in the Church" conference, sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wis., May 29-30. The seminar is designed to help clergy and lay leaders understand the demographics of aging, social attitudes toward aging, importance of religion and spirituality to older adults, late life spiritual pain, and the challenges of dementia, bereavement and loneliness. Additional information and registration materials can be found at www.wichurches.org/events/embracing_aging.pdf. (Information drawn from the April 16 edition of *News & Notes*, the newsletter of Winnebago Presbytery.) ([Return to top](#))

7. BOARD OF PENSIONS POSTS SPRING 2009 EDUCATION TALK:

The Rev. Douglas Kelly, the synod's regional representative of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), recently wrote, " In stress-filled times, it's important to our community's well-being that we remember to commit ourselves to stewardship of self by taking time for personal renewal." He pointed out that the spring edition of the Education Talk newsletter features articles that deal with self care. The newsletter can be found by clicking [here](#). In addition, the spring issue of The Board Bulletin can be found by clicking [here](#). ([Return to top](#))

8. JAMESTOWN PRESIDENT ELECTED TO BOARD OF APCU: Jamestown (N.D.) College President Bob Badal is the newest member of the board of directors of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities. He was elected at the annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C., early this month along with Pamela Davies, Queens University of Charlotte; Ernest McNealey, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and Bill Robinson, Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash., who were re-elected to three-year terms. Jerry Greiner, president of Arcadia University, Glenside, Pa., will serve as chair for the coming year. More information about APCU is available at www.presbyteriancolleges.org. ([Return to top](#))



9. PARSONS TO SPEAK AT DUBUQUE SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT:

The Rev. Gradye Parsons, at left, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will speak at commencement services for the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Saturday, May 9, at 9:30 a.m. Commencement services are slated at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2155 University Ave., Dubuque, Iowa. The seminary can be found online at <http://udts.dbq.edu>. ([Return to top](#))

10. VARIETY OF SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED THROUGH PC(USA): The Office of Financial Aid for Studies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has posted online applications for a number of financial assistance programs. Many of the scholarships and grants have a June 15 deadline for applications. Scholarships include the Student Opportunity Scholarship, Native American Education Grant, Beall Memorial Scholarship and Children of Missionaries. Information can be found at

www.pcusa.org/financialaid/undergraduate.htm. ([Return to top](#))

11. U.S. APPEALS COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CARROLL: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled last month that faculty at Carroll University, Waukesha, Wis., do not have a right under federal law to form a union. The three-judge panel ruled unanimously that because Carroll is a religious institution, it is, by federal law, outside the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board. For that reason, the judges said, the Carroll faculty's 2004 attempt to organize a union under the auspices of the United Auto Workers was improper. Carroll has maintained an affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) since shortly after the school was chartered by the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature in 1846. The university has a covenant arrangement with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. The university can be found online at www.carrollu.edu. ([Return to top](#))

12. UNITED CONVOCATION FOCUSES ON 'SIGNIFICANT' WORSHIP: Spring Convocation at United Theological Seminary, New Brighton, Minn., April 29-30 will focus on creating significant worship. Marty Haugen, nationally known musician and composer, will keynote the opening and closing presentations. Details can be found at <http://www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/convocation.asp>. ([Return to top](#))

13. ANNUAL SPIRITUALITY, ARTS INSTITUTE SET AT UNITED: The Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts, an annual program of United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minn., provides a place to expand awareness and knowledge of the intersections of art and religion. Participants are offered an opportunity to explore those intersections in their personal lives and faith communities. Additional information and registration materials can be found at www.unitedseminary.edu/communityprograms/summerinstitute.asp. ([Return to top](#))

14. AMENDMENT B NEARS DEFEAT: As of April 21, Amendment B, which would replace the current Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) constitutional requirement that church officers live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" with a new section G-6.0106b of The Book of Order, is within a single vote of being defeated. The unofficial tally is 68 presbyteries in favor, 86 opposed. Eighty-seven votes are needed to decide the matter. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09329. ([Return to top](#))

15. INQUIRY INTO EPC DEALINGS IS UNDERWAY: A task force has begun looking into the conduct of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in its dealings with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations that have left the PC(USA) for the EPC. The task force was named by the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations in response to an overture to the 218th PC(USA) General Assembly. The overture requested that the assembly "investigate the actions and conduct of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ..." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09317. ([Return to top](#))

16. CBS PLANS SPECIAL ON INTERFAITH POVERTY EFFORT: The response of a variety of faith groups to poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America is the subject of a television special to be aired by CBS Sunday, April 26. "Poverty: A Time for Sharing" documents the work of Protestant, Catholic and Mennonite Christians, Jews and Muslims in responding to immediate need and empowering indigenous people to control their own lives on three continents. The special is produced with the cooperation of the National Council of Churches. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09328. ([Return to top](#))

17. REYES-CHOW IS PART OF NEWSPAPER'S 'CITY BRIGHTS' GROUP BLOG: When it comes to being in tune with social media, Bruce Reyes-Chow is on top of things. The moderator of the 218th General Assembly is active on Facebook and Twitter. Mission Bay community Church, where he is pastor, has an engaging Web site, complete with a group blog. Reyes-Chow also has several blogs of his own - one of general posts, one for moderator-related posts and a new one through the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper. This complete story, along with multiple links to the blogs, can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09301. ([Return to top](#))



18. MULTICULTURAL CHURCH SUNDAY SLATED FOR MAY 17: On Sunday, May 17, Presbyterians of all ethnicities and cultures will gather to

celebrate Multicultural Church Sunday. On this this day, congregations are encouraged to celebrate a diverse membership by worshiping with music, languages, arts and theological expressions from varying cultures. More information about multicultural churches can be found online at <http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/index.htm>. A story about a Twin Cities Area Presbytery multicultural church, Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights, Minn., can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/allnations.htm>. ([Return to top](#))



19. PENTECOST OFFERING PLANNED MAY 31: The youngest of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s special offerings, the Pentecost Offering, provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Offering materials are available and can be ordered until the offering is received May 31. The Pentecost Offering offers congregations the opportunity to designate 40 percent of what they receive to help children at risk in their own communities. Through General Assembly ministries, the Pentecost Offering supports the faith journey of Presbyterian young people, develops a new generation of church leadership, and advocates on a national level for children at risk. Additional information about the offering is available at www.pcusa.org/pentecost/. ([Return to top](#))



20. PC(USA) AGENCIES BACK OBAMA'S NUKE-FREE PROPOSALS: Echoing a call issued by President Barack Obama in Prague on Palm Sunday, the Presbyterian Washington Office and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program are urging Presbyterians to contact their U.S. Senators with a simple message: "Work for a world free of nuclear weapons." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09325. ([Return to top](#))



21. CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE SET IN BISMARCK: The International Climate Stewardship Solutions Conference, slated June 29-30 in Schafer Hall on the Bismarck (N.D.) State College campus, will present real world overseas examples of economic development combined with climate stewardship. International leaders will highlight policies and actions that have reduced carbon dioxide emissions and benefited industries and communities. Speakers include Preston Chiaro, chief executive of Rio Tinto's energy product group and past chairman of the World Coal Institute; John Halmans, chief executive and owner of Gulpener Brewery, The Netherlands; and Franzjosef Schafhausen, deputy director general of the German Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Conference details can be found at www.climatestewardshipsolutions.org. ([Return to top](#))