

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

The synod can be found online at www.lakesandprairies.org.
Also check out the Presbyterian Neighborhood at <http://lakesprairies.pnews.org>.

News around the synod

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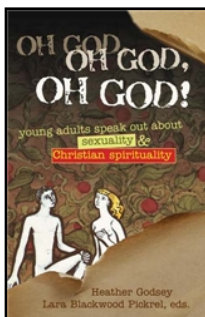
A just 1 more

11. Beloit College releases



1. SYNOD EXEC WRITES OF BLOVIATING, LABELS,

ATTACK: Everyone knows the labels we apply to others. Who can shout the loudest? Do we know how to tone down the rhetoric? Phil Brown, synod executive, addresses the issue in his memorandum that accompanied the final mailing announcing the fall meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies at Mt. Olivet Conference Center in Farmington, Minn. The meeting opens Sunday, Sept. 27. Brown wrote, "At the national arenas of government we can almost recoil from the heat of discussions around health care reform; the labels applied when a president wants to address young people; the vindictiveness asserted towards those with whom we disagree is rampant." His complete memo can be found at the [synod's Web site](#). ([Return to top](#))



2. COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES CONFERENCE SLATED IN NOVEMBER:

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies' collegiate ministries conference is coming up Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 9-11, in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and here's just a little hint of what's in store at "Making Connections in Times of Change," the conference theme. There'll be Benson Hines, who took a "road trip to see college ministry

in action across the nation." The result of the trip is his book, ["Reaching the Campus Tribes,"](#) an e-book that's available for free online. There will be Heather Godsey, program director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, co-editor of ["Oh, God. Oh, God. OH GOD!: Young Adults Speak Out about Sexuality and Christian Spirituality."](#) In addition to these presentations, there will be time for campus ministers and chaplains to make their own connections and discuss their own programs. Details will soon be online. Registration is low cost: only \$45 from now through Oct. 9. After Oct. 9 it's still only \$50. If you're interested, drop a note to Duane Sweep at dsweep@lakesandprairies.org. ([Return to top](#))

3. WEB WRITING REQUIRES BREVITY, LIVELINESS, LINKS,

PERSONAL VOICE: Keeping word count down, while maintaining clear message, is practice for Web. It could be five-seven-five syllable count. It could be haiku. That's what Joan Benson (right), a writing coach and consultant from Iowa City, Iowa, sometimes uses when she works with writers because, as she said, it's a "great exercise for getting to the heart of the matter." Benson led a "Writing for the Web" session in Eagan, Minn., earlier this month during the Synod of Lakes and Prairies' communicators conference. The complete story can be found at [PNNews](#). ([Return to top](#))



'Mindset List'

4. STREET-STEWART SPEAKS AT OKOBOJI'S LODGE DEDICATION: Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment, spoke at dedication services Saturday, Sept. 19, for the new [Lakeview Lodge](#) at Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji, Milford, Iowa. Street-Stewart said, " We hope as building use expands it will represent the dreams and excitement of many, many future users. So strive for the highest level of hospitality in everything you do. ... The building now gives you and the presbyteries increased space to fulfill the responsibilities of stewardship, the principles of inclusion and affirm that doors open to welcome in a diversity of ideas and occupants rather than to keep them out." Street-Stewart's complete statement can be found at www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/SYNODLAKEVIEWDED.pdf. ([Return to top](#))

5. MCDUFFIE SUBMITS RESIGNATION FROM OKOBOJI: Addressing his letter to friends of the camp, Jason McDuffie submitted his resignation as executive director of [Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji](#), Milford, Iowa, effective Sept. 30, noting that he and his wife, Melissa, will be moving closer to family. McDuffie wrote, "When Melissa and I first arrived we wondered if this camp could ever be 'our' camp, since we had such an attachment to Camp Hopewell. We can say with full confidence that we feel the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji is our camp. We have grown to love this place ... Eighteen months ago, we knew we were headed home sooner than we expected. Family is very important to us and having our son grow up around his family is extremely important to Melissa and me. God has opened an opportunity for me to take a job in our hometown. This opportunity is too much for us to pass up." ([Return to top](#))



6. WESTERN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT SET OCT. 7-9: The long running Western National Leadership Training Event, a national training event for laity and clergy, is scheduled Oct. 7-9 and takes place this year at Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole, Wyo. With the theme, "Humor, Hope, Healing," plenary speakers are the

Rev. Cynthia Campbell, president and Cyrus McCormick Professor of Church and Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary, and Gary Eller, president of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. The Rev. Richard Shaffer Jr., assistant dean of the seminary and instructor in ministry at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, will lead the track for commissioned lay pastors. Additional details can be found at www.synodrm.org/wnltr. ([Return to top](#))

7. CONFERENCE SET ON FUTURE OF SMALL CHURCH: There's an upcoming workshop for small churches that will help small congregations identify cultural changes and demographic realities, discover missional practices and connect those practices to the new realities, and begin building an action plan to address the new realities. The workshop, "Beyond Survival: What is God's Future for the Small Church," runs Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Rice Lake, Wis. Workshop presenters are the Revs. David King and Linda Kuhn, and Scott Anderson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, which is coordinating the workshop. [Additional information and online registration](#) are available. ([Return to top](#))



8. HEALTHY PASTOR, CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS IS WORKSHOP TOPIC: How do we keep pastors and churches in a healthy relationship? What are the signs of an anxious system? What do we do if or when trouble comes? The Rev. Peter Steinke will lead a two-day workshop covering those questions at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Oct. 18-19. Sponsored by the Presbytery of Des Moines' Professional Care and Development Committee with support from Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, each day's workshop will provide a primer on understanding the congregation as an

emotional system. A more complete description can be found at <http://lakesprairies.pnnews.org/view/article/13351>. ([Return to top](#))



9. BORDER, IMMIGRATION ISSUES CONFERENCE SET IN APRIL: A group of partnering governing bodies has slated an April conference in Phoenix, Ariz., that will address border and immigration issues. Titled "Crossing Borders, Encountering God," the conference will run April 15-17 at the Phoenix Airport Hilton Hotel. Sponsoring partners are the Synod of the Southwest, Synod of the Sun, GAMC Office of Multicultural Ministries, Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico, and Frontera de Cristo. Included among several speakers are the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, and Julia Thorne, attorney and manager for immigration services of the

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Additional information and registration information can be found at www.synodsw.org. ([Return to top](#))

10. PRELIMINARY PLANS SET FOR WEE KIRK GATHERING IN SIOUX FALLS: Great Plains Wee Kirk will meet again in Sioux Falls, S.D., May 4-6. The theme for the meeting is "Little flock, the Lord delights in you." Speakers will include David Feltman, Toby Gillespe-Mobley and Herb Coddington. (*This information comes from the October-November issue of Plain Song, the newsletter of the Presbytery of South Dakota.*) ([Return to top](#))

11. BELOIT COLLEGE RELEASES 'MINDSET

LIST:' Beloit (Wis.) College produces a list, the "Mindset List," that identifies some of the experiences and knowledge of the entering freshman class. The full list can be found at www.beloit.edu/mindset/2013.php. Most students entering college for the first time this fall were born in 1991. Here are a few examples:



- They have never used a card catalog to find a book.
- Salsa has always outsold ketchup.
- Rap music has always been main stream.
- The KGB has never officially existed.
- Babies have always had a Social Security Number.
- The European Union has always existed.
- Cable television systems have always offered telephone service and vice versa.
- Bobby Cox has always managed the Atlanta Braves.
- There has always been a Cartoon Network.
- Official racial classifications in South Africa have always been outlawed. ([Return to top](#))



(Squirrel courtesy of www.lutralutra.co.uk/squirrelizer. Photo by Melissa and Jackson Brandts.)