

Our Common Ministry



Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

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Hope Is Alive!

Presbyterians are “connected, compassionate and committed,” says Pix Mahler, the Partnership Facilitator for Haiti relief. This has made possible a huge, and immediate response to the terrible destruction following the massive earthquake in Haiti in January. Through our prayers and contributions, the church is keeping hope alive in Haiti.



Haitian boy getting water

Relief efforts are being coordinated by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) arm of the denomination, working in partnership with ACT (Action by Churches Together), Church World Service and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. By working with partners who have people on site, it has made possible direct delivery of relief funds and supplies, without having to go through government agencies.

Within 24 hours of the earthquake, PDA delivered \$100,000 from funds collected through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). One-third of OGHS offering is designated for PDA. Since the earthquake, an additional \$560,000 and 35,000 hygiene and baby kits have been sent. Contributions are still coming in and \$5.3 million had been received as of mid-March. This will allow for long-term solutions to the crisis in Haiti.

In Chicago Presbytery, our churches have responded generously. As of March 9th, \$50,000 had been received by PDA from Chicago Presbytery churches, as well as a number of gifts from individuals. From a sample of local efforts, we

acknowledge Berwyn, Elmhurst Yorkfield, Homewood First, and Wheaton Hope for their work in putting together hygiene kits. Chicago Rogers Park, who house a Haitian



Haitian girl inloading supplies

congregation, Glenview, and Palatine have reported special contributions collected and sent to PDA, as has Berwyn. Churches are encouraged to add your stories to the Presbytery’s website, www.chicagopresbytery.org and refer to the link under “In the Churches.” Many churches have also

reported offering special prayers for the people of Haiti.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program and World Mission of the PCUSA are also involved in relief efforts. While most relief efforts depart three to six months after a disaster strikes, the Presbyterian Church will stay for the long term. Sustainable agriculture is one of the long-term solutions. In 1994, Haitians produced 82% of the country’s rice, the major food supply. In 1995, the International Monetary Fund started importing subsidized rice, which couldn’t compete with the price. Now 80% of the country’s rice is imported. The Presbyterian Hunger Fund has set up an account for donations to purchase seeds to support Haitian agriculture. Seeds for beans and corn are available in Haiti, but the people cannot afford to buy them. Contributions can be directed to **PHP Project # H000014**.

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Called to a different vision?

BY REV. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Since 2006 Chicago Presbytery's vision has been "A Beacon of Hope Guiding Leaders, Congregations, and Communities." This vision statement, drafted by a diverse group of presbyters, was unanimously approved by ministers and elder commissioners in the fall of 2005. In addition, the presbytery assembly voted support for three mission priorities for engaging the "beacon of hope" vision. These are to Empower Ministry, Develop Congregations, and Advance Justice.



Robert C. Reynolds

Beginning in 2006 ministers and elders, elected to serve on the presbytery's Mission Priority Leadership Teams, have partnered with congregations, other governing bodies, and related organizations to activate mission teams in support of our vision. Together they have joined in programs, mutually agreed upon, that live out the three mission priorities.

Some mission team project names that illustrate ministries born of these partnerships include the following: Hispanic Bible Justice Project, Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America, Multi-cultural Church Ministry, Acts 16:5 (congregational development), Southside Christian Education, Senior Retreat Ministry, Dakota Partnership, Presbytery Youth Ministry, and African-American Congregational Transformation.

In a collaborative effort to partner with churches and others,

the presbytery has effectively redefined the way we imagine, fund, and enact our mission. Simply put, we moved from a top-down, centrally controlled method of envisioning mission and allocating mission funds to a lateral, shared responsibility method of defining and carrying out mission. Churches and the presbytery have variously initiated these mission partnerships. Thus, the presbytery's stewardship of congregational Shared Mission Giving is a collaborative process among congregations who elect to covenant with one another and Chicago Presbytery.

Against this backdrop I have heard it said recently, in a number of different settings, that the presbytery is in need of a change. This perspective was well-stated by a person recently interviewed during the Presbytery Reformation Task Force's campaign feasibility study. "The Presbytery needs a really different vision, not just a new set of programs . . . What is the Presbyterian approach to being a church in the 21st Century?"

Whether or not one agrees with the need for change, this question is critical to all governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA), including Chicago Presbytery. How (where and with whom) are Presbyterians called to participate in God's 21st Century mission?

The presbytery's Pitched Tent Commission members, headed by Revs. Patrick Daymond and Deb Roberts, are preparing to engage us in discerning our presbytery's future mission and governance. I hope church leaders and members will participate to the end that we can clarify- together- a compelling vision of our future as Presbyterian partners in God's mission.

Celebrating the support

The Stewardship and Financial Development Work Group (SFDWG) celebrated the receipt of pledges to the Shared Mission of the Presbytery at its February Assembly meeting. As of the press time, thirty-seven pledges had been received, totaling almost \$553,000. In addition to the thirty-seven churches pledging, sixteen additional churches have made financial contributions. This represents a good beginning towards supporting the mission of Chicago Presbytery.

Churches are taking care of their Per Capita costs also. Thirty-eight churches have paid in full, and an additional twenty have paid part.

SFDWG is grateful for the faithful stewardship of our churches which makes possible the mission of the Presbytery.

The pledging churches are listed on page 11.

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OCM invites comments, questions and stories from our readers. Please direct your letters to the Editor, Ms. Gerry Parker at gerryparker5@comcast.net. Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Youth consider: “Who do you say that I am?”

On January 29, 130 youth and 35 adults from Chicago and Blackhawk Presbyteries arrived at East Bay Camp in Hudson, IL (near Bloomington) for the annual Middle School Retreat, organized by the Youth Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Chicago. The retreat, with the theme “Who do you say that I am?” was led by Rev. Sean Miller of Arlington Heights First. Deftly stepping in at the last minute when the musician fell ill was Rev. Erik Dailey of Lake Forest First.



Youth enjoy pick-up football at Middle School Retreat

During the weekend, youth explored what it means when Jesus says he is the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, and the vine, and what it means to be in relationship with Jesus in these ways.

Outside of the main sessions, workshops, and small groups, youth found fun at the pool, in the gym, and even outside with a pick-up football game on snow-covered ground.. The weekend closed with a youth-guided worship service which reminded all that Jesus is the bread of life, available to all.

The Youth Ministry Team is grateful for another successful retreat, for the keynote and musical leadership that made it possible, for the youth leaders, and, of course, for the youth who came and for whom this retreat is planned.

*Article submitted by Nicole Farley, Member of the Youth Ministry Team
Photo courtesy of Paul Monzella, La Grange First*

Meet the Youth Ministry Team

The Youth Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Chicago continues its work of growing youth ministry and reaching out to all the churches of the presbytery. The team is made up of both ordained and lay leaders from throughout the presbytery, all with the common goal of joining and guiding youth on their spiritual journeys.

Each school year the Youth Ministry Team plans a senior high retreat, a middle school retreat, a confirmation retreat, and a service project for Chicago and Blackhawk Presbyteries. Three of our four planned events are behind us, having been well-attended and much enjoyed. Our last planned event this school year is a presbytery-wide service event, A.W.O.L. (A Work of Love). Youth and leaders will gather Friday, May 7 at Chicago Fourth and work with Good News Partners and Chicago Rogers Park on Saturday, May 8.

Plans are already in process for next school year and churches are invited to put the Senior High Retreat at Covenant Harbor (in Lake Geneva, WI) on the calendar for November 5 – 7, 2010. The team also plans occasional youth leader round tables and is coordinating a delegation to the national Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

Youth Ministry Team members include Lindsey Anderson (Oak Park Fair Oaks), Tom Brown (Presbyterian Church of Western Springs), Erik Dailey (Lake Forest First), Nicole Farley (Winnetka), Kristie Finley (Lake Forest First), Beth Freese Dammers (Elmhurst Yorkfield), Autum Lum (Wilmette First), Sean Miller (Arlington Heights First), Julio Peña (Chicago Pullman), Anthony Szot (Wildwood), Katie Treccani (Hickory Hills), and John Vest (Chicago Fourth).

For more information on any event, please contact Nicole Farley, moderator, at nicole@winnpres.org, or Beth Freese Dammers, youth consultant, at bethfd@comcast.net.

Youth describe values

In order to highlight the values of its younger members, **Hickory Hills** features a “Getting to know YOUth” column in its church newsletter. Senior highs complete several statements about themselves, such as “I am Presbyterian because...,” and “I am passionate about...” One recent column included these comments, among others: “I love helping people” and “I believe in Jesus and God who love us even if we do anything bad.”

Youth coffee house

In February, **Orland Park** hosted a Youth Coffee House and Open Mike Night. All junior and senior highs were invited to perform. Everyone in the church and their friends were invited. Admission was canned goods for the church food pantry.

Garden ministry in Cuba

BY REV. LINDA WYGANT

How does faith inspire Christians in Cuba to commit to ministries that care for the earth and seek to end hunger? Through the development of church gardens that are ecologically sensitive and help meet the nutritional needs of rural and urban Cubans.



Havana Luyano Presbyterian Church practices sustainable gardening in mulching, composting and pest control.

A multi-church delegation from the Presbytery of Chicago traveled to Cuba January 10-18 to learn how our partners in the churches of the Presbytery of Havana incorporate gardening into their ministries. The trip was the fruit of the partnership between the Presbytery of Chicago's Cuba Mission Team, led by the Rev. Muriel Miller, and the Presbytery of Havana.

The group visited several churches who use organically managed gardens with minimal

resources to grow wonderful ministries that serve congregants and their neighborhoods. Food is grown and shared with those who are hungry. Education is provided to teach neighbors how to grow their own medicinal herbs and how to use herbs for healing.

The delegation witnessed how the gardens also provide places of spiritual renewal for those who hunger for reconnection to the earth, and how they nurture a respect for God's world and allow for theological reflection on what role humans are invited to play in God's creation. The group visited all nine congregations in the presbytery, many with gardens, and the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas with its extraordinary terraced garden.

The group received many answers to questions about gardening and sustainability, and also experienced the gift of music. One hymn in particular still resonates: "Cancion de la caminata" ("Song of the Long Walk"). The words speak to the hope, faith and solidarity we experienced:

"Si caminar es preciso, caminaremos unidos, y nuestros pies, nuestros brazos, sustentarán nuestros pasos. No más seremos las masa, sin luz, sin voz, sin, historia, Sino una Iglesia que va en esperanza solidaria."

("If walking is our vocation, surely, we'll walk with each other, and in this journey our footsteps will be sustained by our bodies. No longer will we be like nothing without a chance, a voice, history, but a renewed holy church in hope and joyful solidarity.)

The delegation is looking forward to spring and the opportunity to see how the seeds of shared understanding may grow in church gardens here.

The Presbytery of Chicago delegation represented **Chicago Lakeview** and **Good Shepherd, Arlington Heights First, Hanover Park Christ** and **Evergreen Park**. The Rev. Linda Wygant represented Grace Seeds Ministry, which encourages churches to have gardens and give the produce to food pantries.

A World without hunger

The Presbytery's End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team (EHHMT) is committed to working towards a world without hunger. Part of their mission is to educate people about the root causes of hunger and homelessness. They also seek to encourage congregations to participate in ministries that seek to address these concerns, and celebrate those that have programs already in place.

Through a recent survey the Team conducted, they learned that 65% of the Chicago Presbytery churches responding are involved in some form of ministry related to food pantries and PADS. A lesser percentage participates in the Cents-Ability Offering, which provides funds that are distributed by EHHMT in support of applications from serving agencies. In 2006, \$30,000 was collected from this offering, which involves individuals setting aside two cents per meal per day. In subsequent years, the amount has decreased considerably. EHHMT intends to highlight this offering and show what would happen if all members of Chicago Presbytery congregations committed to this ministry.

At their February meeting, EHHMT welcomed Juanita Holley, newly hired Consultant for Justice Ministries and the Hunger Action Enabler. EHHMT presented a workshop at the recent LEAD event, asking the question, "How are we to greet the people who come to our food pantries if we believe that they are Jesus in our midst?" A Food and Faith event is planned for late April at **Chicago First** which will invite members of the Presbytery who have a hunger and/or homelessness program in place to share their successes and challenges, their ideas, personal stories, and resources.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has reported that Chicago Presbytery is among the top ten givers to the Hunger Program nationally. Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering support 80% of PHP's work. Additional gifts to PHP from Presbyteries and congregations in 2009 totaled \$403,000. Much of this money is raised through the Cents-Ability offerings and by Presbyterian Women. This giving was higher this year, in response to the crises in Haiti and Chile. Part of the funds contributed to PHP are returned to the Presbyteries in support of local programs.

The End Hunger/Homelessness Mission Team invites all congregations to support this great mission by participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Cents-ability ministries which in turn helps relieve those suffering from hunger and homelessness in our local communities.

Middle East delegation tells of visit with regional Christians

Members of the November 2009 Middle East Traveling Seminar reported at a pre-presbytery event in February. They visited Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and Palestine.



Members of the Middle East delegation

They told of meetings with Iraqi refugees in Aleppo and Damascus. Local churches in Syria and Lebanon are providing support for Iraqi Christians who are prevented from working in the host country. They also told about the difficult conditions Palestinians must endure. The group visited a children's library in Jifna, West Bank. The books and furniture were provided by Friends of Seraj, an ecumenical group in Chicago with lots of Presbyterians involved.

In addition to describing their visits with Christians in the region, they also gave one free copy of *Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace* to each church in the Presbytery (courtesy of Advance Justice Mission Priority Leadership Team). It comes with a DVD that provides seven ten-minute videos on issues that affect the peace in Israel and the occupied territories. The video provides a useful introduction to the topic for local church use. Additional copies may be ordered from the Presbyterian Marketplace, (www.pcusa.org/marketplace or 800-524-2612). Members of the Middle East Task Force are available to help churches in the discussion of the video clips. E-mail or call Pauline Coffman at 708-524-5444 or p.coffman@sbcglobal.net.

Seven of the nineteen travelers were from Chicago Presbytery. They were: Judy Vojta, Ed Dykstra, Peg Griffiths, Bob Crall, Nancy Bueche, Tomi Henek, and Pauline Coffman
Article submitted by Pauline Coffman

Muslim Outreach

The Muslim Outreach Fellowship of the **Village Presbyterian Church** (TVPC) has a mission: To build authentic relationships with members of the Islamic community in order to spread peace and understanding and to share the love of Jesus Christ.

In December, over 80 people from both TVPC and the Islamic Cultural Center (ICC) came together in the church sanctuary for an Advent Prayer Service. The service lifted up Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and also highlighted a number of Advent themes found in the both the Bible and the

Qur'an, including the ministry of John the Baptist, the virgin birth, and the second coming of Jesus Christ as Judge of the world. The service was followed by a dinner in the fellowship hall hosted by church members.

“In a small yet not insignificant way”, observed TVPC member Jason Boston, “our coming together shows how simple it is to break down walls between us when it is done in a spirit of peace and love.”

That event was followed in January by a *Jesus in the Qur'an* seminar, hosted by TVPC, which drew over 100 participants from more than 10 states and several denominations. During the weekend, attendees were shown a way of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in a culturally sensitive, honest and straightforward way.

“It was both a joy and an honor for our church to be able to serve the world-wide church community in this way”, noted Associate pastor Greg Buell.

For more information, contact jrboston@hotmail.com.

Hands and Hearts Team Impacts Rural Nigeria

By TERI DREHER, CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR TO LIBERTYVILLE'S FIRSTWORD NEWSLETTER

Five members from **Libertyville First** participated in a medical mission trip to Nigeria recently. The team of 17 medical and business professionals was organized by Hands and Hearts International (HHI), and traveled to Ohaji Medical Center in rural Nigeria. They provided an eight-day free medical clinic and four-day entrepreneurial training workshop that equipped over 1000 local college students for business development.

Thanks to careful preparation and the Lord's abundant provision, they were able to provide quality medical services to 3,398 medical/surgical patients, 645 ophthalmology patients, and to perform 389 dental procedures over the eight-day period, for a grand total of 4,432 patients served. A local Presbyterian pastor joined the group several times, preaching and singing with the crowds, whose enthusiasm was overwhelming at times.

Local and national government organizations were extremely supportive and provided food and lodging for their Nigerian physicians and life-saving anti-malarial drugs to over 3,000 poor men, women and children. “In addition to bringing glory to God through the great impact we had on this poor farming community, we also had a LOT of fun,” says Teri Dreher, member of the mission team.

Nigerians are (according to a Barna poll) the happiest people in the world, despite desperate poverty (joy of the Lord!). The team found their hospitality, gratitude and enthusiasm to be just overwhelming, very humbling and inspiring. “Our safety and comfort was their primary concern and we were treated like royalty wherever we went.” The group feels privileged to have served in rural Umuagwo, Nigeria and is grateful for all the support and encouragement they received.

Support for small congregations

In January, seventeen pastors of smaller congregations in our presbytery gathered for lunch and conversation at the Presbytery office. The Develop Congregations Mission Priority Leadership Team (DCMPLT) invited pastors together to learn what can be done to support and enrich the ministries of the smaller congregations within our presbytery (those that average fewer than 100 in worship each week).

Rev. Deborah Kapp, member of the DCMPLT, led the conversation to ask

- What are your congregation’s strengths?
- What pinches do you feel in your ministry?
- What areas are the most challenging and difficult to navigate?
- What could the Presbytery do to help your congregation minister more faithfully?

Participants shared some of their joys, including:

- Iraqi Presbyterian Family that joined our congregation
- Attendance is increasing
- Our Christmas Eve service was a success
- An elder is going under care of Presbytery
- A couple is doing puppet children’s sermons
- There are 2 congregations who meet in our building and we have fellowship, prayer and worship services together
- Participation on Leadership Teams
- We are working with small groups
- One building sold – one to go

DCMPLT will be continuing to work on how the ministry of smaller congregations can be enriched and ministries strengthened in our presbytery. Please continue to pray for all of the churches in our presbytery.

ACTS 16:5 clusters



Acts 16:5 coaches

There are twenty-one churches in our presbytery who have committed to join the ACTS 16:5 initiative. They are working hard at putting together vision teams in their congregations and learning how they might REACH, GROW and SERVE. The 21 churches are divided into four clusters and the pastors of those clusters are meeting regularly with coaches to share resources and encourage one another.

The coaches met together at the recent presbytery meeting. They are the Revs. Dan Meyer, Deborah Paton, Tassie Green, and Jennifer Burns Lewis. Rev. Steve Pierce is the coordinator of the ACTS 16:5 planning team and Loretta Gratias-Bremer as consultant. (Rev. Meyer not pictured.)

If You Build It, They Will Come

In February, **Mount Prospect Community** celebrated the installation of a lift that – finally – made the lower level Fellowship Hall, kitchen, CE classrooms, etc., fully accessible. Fellowship Hall is the largest space the church has for fellowship activities.

The church received a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation to help with the costs of installing the lift. As part of the grant requirements, they are working to increase the usage of the newly accessible space. The church surveyed members and friends about the activities in which they are personally interested, as well as the activities to which they’d invite friends, family and neighbors.



Lift at Mt. Prospect Community expands ministry

Tom Fullerton, a member of the church, reports that the lift has both internal and external uses. It enables the 10-15% of the members with limited mobility to access the Fellowship Hall. It also allows the church to expand the activities that serve the church as well as the community, such as the annual spaghetti dinner, which serves hundreds of people, the rummage sale and craft fair. It also opens the possibility of creating other community activities which could attract younger families. The lift thus becomes an important outreach opportunity.

Art and architecture tours

Chicago Second “friends” are offering training for docents. Tours of the art and architecture of Chicago Second are vital to the mission of Friends of Historic Second Church to “educate a worldwide audience about its historical and cultural significance.” The backbone of the tour program is an informed corps of docents. A series of 1 1/2-hour docent training sessions is set for April 28, May 5, May 12 and May 19. Even those who are interested in the training information but may not be able to lead tours are invited to participate. For details, visit www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org or call request an application by calling (800) 657-0687.

Church, village connect in Palos Park

Four years ago, **Palos Park Presbyterian Community** embarked on a “40 Days of Community” campaign. Its purpose was to connect church members with the community in special need. While the initial campaign may have ended, the connections continue. The church works with the village manager of Palos Park to identify those requiring assistance.

Dedicated members recently were matched with a local woman whose house was deteriorating around her. Tasks have ranged from replacement of a shower to upgrading her TV to comply with digital technology.

Morgan Park hosts Black History service

In honor of Black History Month, **Chicago Morgan Park** hosted a special service of worship in February. The program celebrated in music and words the accomplishments of Africans in the Diaspora. Other churches participating in the service were **Chicago First, Second, Sixth-Grace and Edgewater**.

History of Churches

The first copy of the new book *The Churches of the Presbytery of Chicago* was presented to the Rev. Robert Reynolds recently.

The authors, the Revs. Lou Haase and Bill Lankton, have attempted to name all the hundreds of churches that have been part of Chicago Presbytery and its predecessors and include a brief sketch of many of them. There was even a church named



The Revs. Lou Haase and Bill Lankton present history book to Executive Presbyter Robert Reynolds

Willow Creek at one time, they say. Electronic copies of the book are free from the Presbytery’s website, www.chicago-presbytery.org and a copy is also in the Chicago Presbytery Resource Center. The authors plan to update the book whenever corrections are discovered or current churches have significant changes. For more information, contact LouHaase@yahoo.com.

Food Pantry Serves Pets

Junior high and high school girls from **Elk Grove**, members of the Elk Grove Leo Club, (an outgrowth of the local Lions Club), learned that because of the economy, many people are having to give up their pets. They wanted to help. The girls put collection boxes in several area stores and a veterinary clinic, and collected over 1100 items, including cat and dog food, toys and cat litter. Clients of the Elk Grove Food Pantry with companion animals were able to select several items each, and these were distributed before Christmas, allowing clients to share the Christmas bounty with their animal friends.

For more information, contact Nancy Clarbourn, Food Pantry Coordinator

Hope is Alive!, Continued from Page 1

Presbyterians have also supported the Jubilee Movement, whereby millions of dollars of debt has been canceled for impoverished countries like Haiti.

It is estimated that of the nine million inhabitants of Haiti, three million are directly affected by the earthquake, and 250,000 are dead. Infrastructure is destroyed and businesses and industries are shut down as buildings are leveled. This has led to critical unemployment. One million people are homeless. There are an estimated 700 orphans, and families are separated. Migration to less damaged parts of Haiti is creating hardship in those receiving areas, which were already impoverished.

As connected, compassionate and committed Presbyterians, what is the best way to help? Haitians are resilient people. We need to listen to them; let them tell us what they need. There will come a time when mission work trips will be called for, but that time is not now. Adding volunteers will further strain the resources available and take jobs away from Haitians. Financial help is the most effective means of assistance. Funds are needed to hire Haitians to do the rebuilding, to set up shelters and sanitation facilities. **Give to PDA Project #DR00064**. Also needed are more hygiene and baby kits. Contents for these kits are listed in the PDA website www.pcusa.org/pda. Look under How to Help, Hands on Projects. The supplies in these kits get used up and they meet essential needs. Relief workers are looking for French or Creole-speaking trauma counselors as well.

Give, Act and Pray are the best ways to help at this time. We can keep Hope Alive in Haiti.

P.S. Since this article was written, another massive earthquake has struck Chile. Be assured that PDA is there, working with Church World Service to provide humanitarian assistance and to help local partners assess the needs. One Great Hour of Sharing funds have been sent in an initial response. Contributions to the disaster relief fund for Chile can be directed to **PDA Project #DR00185**.

Educating the Diverse Church

Offering a day of programming worthy of its theme, *L.E.A.D. 2010: Educating the Diverse Church* brought together Presbyterians from the Chicago area to explore topics ranging from social media to culturally-conscious worship, from dreams and the spiritual life to financial management. More than 30 workshops were available to approximately 300 attendees.



A practical workshop, led by the Rev. John Vest and Mark Schimmelpfenig

Co-sponsored by the Presbytery of Chicago and McCormick Theological Seminary, the March 6 event at **Arlington Heights First** kicked off with a spirited worship service featuring the Rev. Dr. Rhshell Hunter, a graduate of McCormick and Director of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women for the PCUSA. Several other McCormick alumni/ae, staff and faculty were on hand as workshop instructors.

Dr. Hunter offered a provocative interpretation of Mark 7:24-30, in which Jesus' encounters a Syrian Phoenician woman, a Gentile, who risks asking Jesus to tend to her deathly ill daughter. What ensues, Hunter reminded attendees, is practically unprecedented. Jesus loses an argument. "The mission of Jesus' ministry was to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles," Hunter said. "But this woman rejects that idea, arguing that the Christian ministry belongs to all – and Jesus apparently agrees. For saying that, Jesus said, 'You may go. The demon has left your daughter.' The nature of Jesus' entire ministry is changed."

The L.E.A.D. is an annual event, sponsored by the Empower Ministry Mission Priority Leadership Team, in partnership with McCormick Theological Seminary, to provide training and inspiration for clergy and lay leaders of the churches of Chicago Presbytery.

Article submitted by Geoff Ashmun, Director of Communications, McCormick Theological Seminary

True North Boundary Training

The **Presbyterian Church in Western Springs** hosted a boundary training event in February. The event was one of three trainings scheduled in 2010. Thirty-one people participated.

Leadership for this event included members of the True North Response Team; The Revs. Ann Johnson, Jim Roghair, Jane Lionberger, Doug Cater, Martha Ross-Mockaitis, Bob Reynolds and Elder Loretta Gratiias-Bremer.

The responses indicated that small group discussions with colleagues were very important, as well as case studies.

Comments included:

- training was a good refresher
- it should be offered to sessions
- eye opening on the level of responsibility clergy have
- understanding dual relationships is tricky stuff

Some questions surfaced:

- Whose responsibility is it to report suspected inappropriate boundary crossing relationships within a staff?
- How can a safe place for all in the congregation be created?

The next Boundary Training Events will be on Saturday, May 8 at the Winnetka Presbyterian Church and on Thursday, October 21 – location to be named.

Awake My Soul...

Over 1200 participants gathered in Nashville, TN in January to attend the annual event sponsored by the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE). The title of the conference was, "Awake My Soul." There were fifteen Presbytery of Chicago Educators present to listen to the engaging storytelling of the Rev. Michael Lindvall. The Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes was the conference preacher and worship leader.



Members of the Chicago Presbytery delegation to the APCE event

McCormick Theological Seminary and the Presbytery of Chicago partnered to host a wonderful gathering at the event to hear seminary and presbytery updates and enjoy good food and conversation. A highlight of the conference was the musical performance of Amy Grant, senior high Sunday Church Teacher and small group leader for youth at the First Presbyterian Church of Nashville.

Passing the Gavel



Installation of 2010 Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Cliff Lyda

The February Presbytery Assembly meeting, which was rescheduled due to a blizzard, was the occasion for the installation of a new moderator and the thanking of the outgoing moderator. The **Elmhurst Presbyterian Church** staff and members hosted the assembly, heroically managing the change of schedule. The Rev. Cliff Lyda was installed as the 2010 Moderator and Elder Rita Fossell was thanked for her service as moderator in 2009. Also Bob Reynolds was recognized on his tenth anniversary as Executive

Presbyter of the Presbytery.



Offering thanks to outgoing 2009 Moderator, Elder Rita Fossell

Two pre-presbytery events drew a large following. The Middle East Task Force introduced commissioners to *Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace* a power

point resource that can be used to lead adult education classes about events in Israel and Palestine. The Presbytery Reformation Task Force provided an update about its efforts to address the presbytery's indebtedness. Of particular interest and concern were the possible options around the future of the Presbyterian Camps. Both PRTF and Lakeshore Christian Camping (LCC) answered questions about their hopes and visions. LCC is an Illinois 501(c)3 corporation, whose board is comprised of Chicago Presbyterians. PRTF is negotiating with LCC about a possible purchase of Presbyterian Camps.

Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Robert Reynolds introduced Elder Juanita Holley, the new Consultant for Justice Ministries. The search for a consultant to support Empower Ministry is ongoing. Reynolds also congratulated the Rev. Eddie Knox on his selection as Moderator of the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

Stated Clerk, the Rev. Barbara Bundick reported on three pending disciplinary matters related to sexual misconduct. The assembly approved a major revision to the Presbytery's Manual of Operations. Of note, the newly revised manual includes a conflict of interest policy. It also shifted the directorship of the Presbytery's corporations to the Presbytery Council, as recommended by the *Book of Order*.

The assembly approved the sale of the Chicago St. Andrew Church facility (it merged into the Chicago Friendship Church) and voted to close the Chicago Lawndale as it is no longer able to function according to the requirements of the Book of Order. Finally, due to the presbytery's indebtedness, it had to rescind its February 2009 approval of a short term bridge loan to the Chicago Chatham-Bethlehem. The purpose of the loan was to enable Chatham-Bethlehem to purchase the former home of the Zion Lutheran Church. The Business Affairs Work Group is assisting Chatham-Bethlehem with finding alternative financing, which action the assembly approved.

The Presbytery Reformation Task Force (PRTF) reported that a contract has been signed for the sale of the 100 South Morgan property (This contract did not go through and the property is being marketed again). Possible options concerning the future of Presbyterian Camps generated spirited, but respectful debate.

The Stewardship and Financial Develop Work Group led a litany collecting and celebrating pledges to Shared Mission Giving.

The proposal by the Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force has been dropped due to two recent decisions by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission. Finally, the assembly approved three overtures for consideration by the 219th General Assembly, meeting this summer in Minneapolis, MN. The overtures: call for the "fidelity and chastity" language in section G-6.0106b to be replaced with new language affirming ordination vows; request an authoritative interpretation so that churches and clergy in states that recognize gay marriage can provide pastoral care; encourage the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first pronouncement of the Presbyterian Church on social justice issues. The progress of these overtures can be followed at <http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/>.

The debates at this meeting, while often heated and lengthy, were respectful, thus underscoring the strength of our connections, and our commitment to Christ and to ministry together as the Presbytery of Chicago.

Quality leadership

The Presbytery of Chicago has sent quality leadership to the Synod of Lincoln Trails. The Rev. Eddie Knox, Jr., pastor of Chicago Pullman is the Synod Moderator. Our commissioners are the Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis, and Elders Nick Shargo and Jack Wilson. Executive Presbyter Robert Reynolds honored Rev. Knox at the February Presbytery Assembly.

Meet Juanita Holley

The Presbytery of Chicago has a new advocate for justice. Elder Juanita D. Holley began her work as Justice Ministries Consultant in February. She brings a rich background of leadership through volunteer activities in various justice-related positions. At the root of her background is her faith journey. Raised in a family of twelve in a clergy household, she learned from her parents what it meant to be faithful to God and to the church.

Juanita feels called by Christ to her position in the Presbytery of Chicago. She brings gifts of discernment and presence, and hopes to provide fresh listening as she motivates and encourages the groups she will be working with. She will serve the Presbytery as Hunger Action Enabler, working with the End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team. She will also help the Advance Justice Mission Priority Leadership Team prioritize the issues they will be addressing annually.



*Elder Juanita Holley,
Consultant for Justice Ministries*

Some other groups she will work with are Self Development of People, Peacemaking, Multicultural Ministries, Middle East Task Force, Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America, and African American Congregational Transformation Covenant.

Juanita is a strong advocate for celebrating the diversity of our Presbytery. She would like to see that diversity represented in Presbytery Assembly meetings and in all areas of leadership in the Presbytery. She sees the need to recruit new leadership to relieve some leaders who feel overworked and will work with nominating groups to encourage "evangelistic recruiting" of new leadership. She has experience in conflict resolution and sees opportunities to use that experience in bridging gaps of misunderstanding.

Among her goals is the desire to identify a justice contact person in each church and to prepare a power point or video program to take to churches to educate on justice issues. She would like to help churches identify justice issues in their congregations and communities and communicate ways of getting involved in making a difference. Juanita supports bringing congregations together to share experiences and identify collaborative opportunities in addressing justice issues. She also sees value in working with other faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in the city and its communities.

Juanita is married to the Rev. Kevin Holley, pastor of Wheaton Hope, and has one married daughter and three

grandchildren. The Presbytery of Chicago has gained a dedicated advocate for justice in Juanita. We are grateful for her faithful leadership.

Difficult decisions

The Presbytery Reformation Task Force (PRTF) reported to the Presbytery Assembly in a pre-Presbytery event in February. They are faced with some difficult decisions as they consider various options for retiring the Presbytery's debt.

The sale of the property at 100 S. Morgan Street has been approved, with the proceeds to be applied to the debt. The sale has not occurred due to timing delays. A search has begun for an alternate facility to house the Presbytery offices. The building formerly occupied by Elmwood Park Presbyterian Church, which has closed, is being marketed, with proceeds to be applied to the indebtedness. A feasibility study regarding a Capital Campaign has produced a recommendation advising against such a campaign.

The future of Presbyterian Camps has presented the most difficult decision. The feasibility study found that while the majority of those interviewed recognized the importance of the camping ministry, they also felt that selling the Saugatuck property was an appropriate way to address its debt. The Presbytery places a high value on continuing a camping ministry, making such a decision very difficult. Two options being considered at this time are an outright purchase of Presbyterian Camps. An offer has been received, with a leaseback for summer 2010. Another option would be sale of the camps to a non-profit organization. PRTF has been negotiating with Lakeshore Christian Camping (LCC), whose board is comprised of Chicago Presbyterians. PRTF and LCC share a desire to preserve a camping ministry at Saugatuck. PRTF has the further responsibility to be wise and faithful stewards of the Presbytery's assets, both spiritual and financial. PRTF is working hard to honor both.

A 21st Century Vision

The Presbytery has called into being a Pitched Tent Commission which is charged with discerning the Presbytery's future mission and governance. The current vision statement, "A Beacon of Hope, Guiding Leaders, Congregations and Communities," has been in place since 2006. It has been said that the Presbytery is in need of a change – a different vision for the 21st Century.

The Pitched Tent Commission held its first meeting in January and is just beginning their task of engaging the Presbytery in discernment. Members of the Commission are: The Revs. Patrick Daymond and Deb Roberts – co-moderators, Revs. Greg Buell and Emily Rosencrans, and Elders Ami Bouman, Raymond Green, Sam Nwansi, Jo Ann Reynolds and Jesus Valmores and the Rev. Robert Reynolds, staff.

The healing process

The Rev. Ann O. Johnson, on behalf of the True North Response Team, presented a Moment for Education at the February Presbytery Assembly. It was in response to the Stated Clerk's report about sexual misconduct on the part of some of our clergy.

The effect on the Presbytery Assembly is not unlike what happens in a congregation when sexual misconduct is revealed. This knowledge is the painful beginning of a process of healing, the goal of which is acceptance and integration. There are stages in this process, and not everyone will move through the process in the same way or at the same time.

Very briefly, the stages are shock, denial, bargaining, anger, depression and sadness, hopefully leading to acceptance and integration when the process is understood and those affected are allowed to heal. The congregation needs to know as much as possible about what happened, within the limits of respect for privacy. A faith community can be strengthened through the process of healing when the community works to be sure that people have allowed each other to be where they are in the process and have accepted the different emotions of one another. A congregation heals most completely with the help of people trained to respond to sexual misconduct crises, which the True North Response Team offers.

In addition to the True North Response Team, resources may include the Committee on Ministry, the True North Response Team, Presbytery staff, and sometimes mental health or addiction professionals and possibly other clergy or legal counsel. When a congregation has received education, pastoral care and an opportunity to process the experience in a safe environment, the congregation can move into a renewed commitment to mission and ministry. The response team has provided educational programs and healing resources to congregations in our Presbytery and is available to work with congregations when called upon.

Welcoming Strangers

At the annual Presbytery Clergy Retreat, held at the end of January, participants were urged to "welcome strangers" to their respective congregations. Opportunities were given to highlight ways congregations are now doing this.

Elder James Acquah from the Ghanaian Presbyterian Fellowship and the Rev. Samuel Akhtar, pastor of the South Asian New Church Development focused on the ways they were welcomed as newcomers to America and how they now use those outreach styles in inviting other internationals to their congregations.

James attended Chicago Fourth as a new graduate student at the University of Chicago. He recalled that the Rev. Greg Rykse, then an intern at Fourth, now pastor at Mount Prospect Community, gave him a warm coat during that cold 1987 winter. That act of kindness drew him to join other

Presbyterians in the leadership of the Ghanaian Fellowship in Chicago.

Samuel noted several in our Presbytery who encouraged him. He was attending a Presbyterian pastors' conference when he was unable to return home to his family in Pakistan following the events of Sept. 11th. With the help of Presbytery staff, his family was able to join him and they now live in the manse of the Glenview Presbyterian Church and he serves as pastor of the South Asian New Church Development.



Retreat participants take a break.

The Rev. Jay Basler, who serves the Downers Grove First church, and a member of the Retreat Planning Group says, "It is wonderful to see the way the retreat lets us center on strengthening our ministries and building friendships among clergy from across the Presbytery. Many find the retreat to be a unique way to relax and refresh with friends. The forty-hour retreat is a brief fun-filled getaway during the stress of winter.

Keynote speakers for the retreat were the Revs. Jay Moses from Wheaton First and Greg Buell from Northbrook Village Church. They are members of the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations Work Group and they spoke of their excitement in the interfaith activities in which they have participated. The Rev. Carol Allen served as spiritual director for the retreat. The Revs. Jan Niemeyer and Bob Crall officiated at the closing worship and communion. The Revs. Luke Hyder and Greg Buell led music.

The Clergy Retreat is sponsored by the Empower Ministry Mission Priority Leadership Team. The 2011 retreat is scheduled for January 30-February 2. Retreat planning is open to all Presbytery clergy and is done during meal breaks at Presbytery Assembly meetings. For more information contact Jay Basler, basler10@juno.com.

Article submitted by Jay Basler

Thanks to these pledging churches

Pledging churches are:

Addison
Arlington Heights First
Arlington Heights Southminster
Barrington
Broadview Community
Chicago Cornerstone
Chicago Edgewater
Chicago First
Chicago Fourth
Chicago Good Shepherd
Chicago Lake View
Chicago Lincoln Park
Chicago Pullman
Chicago St. Andrew
Chicago Sixth Grace
Deerfield First
Elk Grove

Elmhurst
Elmhurst Yorkfield
Evanston Northminster
Glen Ellyn Southminster
Highland Park
Hoffman Estates
Homewood First
LaGrange First
Lansing
Naperville Knox
North Riverside Friendship
Northbrook Village
Northlake Trinity
Riverside
Round Lake Calvary
Western Springs
Wheaton Hope
Wildwood

Online Resources

The Chicago Presbytery Resource Center has learned that curricula published by the Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) is going online soon. By April, resources such as the "We Believe" Sunday school curriculum can be purchased through CMP's online store. This website has been designed to make searching for and ordering curriculum simpler and better than the old marketplace site ever was. CMP has updated the "So You're Becoming..." series for deacons, elders and new member training. They will be available in their online store as well.

CMP is offering a partnership with the denomination's Resource Centers. When our Resource Center posts a link to their online store, they will return a percentage of the sales made through that link to our Resource Center. CPRC can use that credit to buy new materials from them.

The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation has been selling materials mainly through Cokesbury, which will continue, but they will also be selling books directly through the Thoughtful Christian and Presbyterian Leader websites. These purchases will be discounted.

CPRC will announce the location of the link for online CMP resources as soon as the store is activated. For answers about resources or the Resource Center, contact Adele Hensley at the Presbytery office: ahensley@chicagopresbytery.org or (312) 243-8300 X1314.

Coming Events

2010

- **Apr. 13**, pre-Presbytery, Ecumenical Millennium Committee
 - **Apr. 13**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 1 pm, Chicago Pullman
 - **Apr. 24**, Spring Gathering, Presbyterian Women, Deerfield First
 - **Apr. 29**, 6-9pm, EHHMT Event, Chicago First
 - **May 3-7**, Synod-sponsored Interim Pastor Training, St. Louis. Contact Kristi Miller, Synod office, (800) 566-5996
 - **May 7**, True North Boundary Training with revised curriculum
 - **May 7-8**, AWOL, A Work of Love for youth grades 6-12. May 7 at Chicago Fourth; May 8 at Good News Partners and Chicago Rogers Park.
 - **May 27-30**, Eleventh National Multicultural Conference, held in Chicago
 - **June 8**, pre-Presbytery, Mission Insite, demographic resources
 - **June 8**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 4 pm, Deerfield First
 - **July 3-10**, 219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN
 - **July 20-24**, Youth Triennium, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
 - **July 23-Aug. 2**, CSLA delegation to Colombia
- For more information on these events, call (312) 243-8300 unless otherwise noted.*

Transitions

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Certified Ready to Receive a Call

- Mr. Todd Weiland

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

New arrivals:

- **Rev. Millason Dailey**, received from Trinity Presbytery (SC) as a member-at-large;
- **Jennifer McNutt**, a candidate under care of Pittsburg Presbytery, approved for ordination to the position of Assistant Professor of Theology and History of Christianity, Wheaton College Graduate School.

Changes in the Presbytery:

- **Rev. David Bianchin**, interim pastor of Glen Ellyn First

- **Rev. Ann Fisher**, returned from laboring out of bounds in Milwaukee Presbytery
- **Rev. Ed Lanier**, H.R., stated supply pastor for Northlake Trinity

Departures:

- **Rev. Gordon Butcher**, HR, transferred retroactively to Sacramento Presbytery
- **Rev. Byong Ki Choi** transferred to Greater Atlanta Presbytery, where he is teaching New Testament Studies at Georgia Christian University
- **Rev. Donald Kinloch**, HR, transferred retroactively to Ohio Valley Presbytery (IN)
- **Rev. Joan McKenzie**, from associate pastor at Glen Ellyn First to Twin Cities Presbytery (MN) as pastor of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church

- **Rev. Julius Montero**, temporarily excluded from the exercise of ordained ministry
- **Rev. Jim Poling**, HR, transferred retroactively to Western North Carolina Presbytery
- **Rev. Gary Sattler**, transferred retroactively to Pacific Presbytery
- **Rev. Jennifer Soule-Hill**, transferred to the Presbytery of the Plains and Peaks (CO) as co-pastor with her husband of Family of Christ Presbyterian Church in Greeley, CO.

Honorable retirement:

- **Rev. David Eshelman**, from associate pastor at Deerfield First

Death:

- **Rev. Cal Marcum**, HR, who died on January 30, 2010.

Compartiendo Nuestro Ministerio

Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

April 2010 • Volume 26 Number 2

¡Esperanza Viva!

Los Presbiterianos son "conectados, compasivos y comprometidos," dice Pix Mahler, Facilitador de la Asociación para el Alivio de Haití. Esto ha hecho posible una respuesta enorme e inmediata a la terrible destrucción tras el terremoto masivo en Haití en enero. A través de nuestras oraciones y contribuciones, la Iglesia mantiene la esperanza viva en Haití.

Actividades de socorro están siendo coordinadas por Asistencia de Desastre Presbiteriana (PDA pro sus siglas en inglés) brazo de la denominación, trabajando en asociación con ACT (siglas en inglés de Acción de Iglesias Juntas), Servicio Mundial de Iglesias y la Diócesis Episcopal de Haití. Trabajando con socios que tienen personal en el sitio, ha hecho posible la entrega directa de fondos de alivio y suministros, sin tener que ir a través de agencias de Gobierno.

A 24 horas del terremoto, PDA entregó \$100,000 en fondos recaudados a través de Una Gran Hora de Compartir (OGHS siglas en inglés). Una tercera parte de la ofrenda de OGHS es designada para PDA. Desde el terremoto, se han enviado adicionalmente \$560,000 y 35,000 kits de higiene y de bebé. Contribuciones aún están viniendo y \$5.3 millones se habían recibido a mediados de marzo. Esto permitirá para soluciones a largo plazo a la crisis en Haití.

En el Presbiterio de Chicago, nuestras iglesias han respondido generosamente. Al 9 de marzo, \$50,000 había sido recibidos por PDA de iglesias del Presbiterio de Chicago, así como un sinúmero de regalos de individuos. De una muestra de esfuerzos locales, reconocemos Berwyn, Elmhurst Yorkfield, Homewood Primera y Wheaton Hope por su trabajo en preparar kits de higiene. Chicago Rogers Park, que hospeda una congregación de Haití, Glenview y Palatine han informado de contribuciones especiales, recogidas y enviadas a PDA, como Berwyn. Se alienta a las iglesias a añadir tus historias la sitio Web del Presbiterio, [www.chicagopresbytery.org/ POC Churches Respond to Haiti](http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/POCChurchesRespondtoHaiti). Muchas iglesias han informado también el ofrecimiento de oraciones especiales por el pueblo de Haití.

El Programa Presbiteriano contra el Hambre y Misión Mundial de PCUSA también participan en actividades de socorro. Mientras la mayoría de los esfuerzos de socorro salen de tres a seis meses después de un desastre, la Iglesia Presbiteriana permanecerá a largo plazo. Agricultura sostenible es una de las soluciones a largo plazo. El Fondo Presbiteriano contra Hambre ha establecido una cuenta para donaciones para comprar semillas para apoyar la agricultura haitiana. Semillas de frijoles/habichuelas y maíz están disponibles en Haití, pero la gente no puede permitirse comprarlos. Las contribuciones se pueden dirigir a PHP proyecto #H000014.

Presbiterianos también han apoyado el Movimiento de Jubileo, mediante el cual se ha cancelado millones de dólares de deuda para los países pobres como Haití.

Como presbiterianos conectados, compasivos y comprometidos, ¿cuál es la mejor manera para ayudar? Los haitianos se recobran. Tenemos que escucharles; dejar que ellos nos digan lo que necesitan. Llegará un momento cuando se terminarán a los viajes de trabajo de misión, pero eso no es ahora.

Añadir voluntarios utilizará los pocos recursos disponibles y quitará puestos de trabajo a los haitianos. Ayuda financiera es el medio más eficaz de asistencia. Se necesitan fondos para contratar haitianos para que hagan la reconstrucción, establecer refugios e instalaciones de saneamiento. **Done al proyecto PDA #DR000064.** También se necesitan más kits de higiene y de bebé. Contenidos para estos kits aparecen en el sitio Web de PDA www.pcusa.org/pda. Busque en cómo la ayuda, manos en proyectos.

Dar, Actuar y Orar son las mejores formas de ayudar en este momento. Podemos mantener la Esperanza Viva en Haití.

P.D. Desde que este artículo se escribió, otro terremoto afectó Chile. Se asegurado que PDA está allí, trabajando con Servicio Mundial de Iglesias para proveer asistencia humanitaria y ayudar a socios locales evaluar sus necesidades. Fondos de Una Gran Hora de Compartir han sido enviados como respuesta inicial. Contribuciones al fondo de ayuda de desastre para Chile puede ser dirigido a **Proyecto PDA #DR000185.**



Niña haitiana recibiendo suministros

Ministerio de Jardín en Cuba

POR RDA. LINDA WYGANT

¿Cómo inspira la fe a los cristianos en Cuba a comprometerse con los ministerios que cuidan de la tierra y tratan de acabar con el hambre? Mediante el desarrollo de jardines de iglesias ecológicamente sensibles y que ayuden a satisfacer las necesidades nutricionales de cubanos en las zonas rurales y urbanas.



Un voluntario explica cómo la Iglesia Presbiteriana de la Habana Luyano practica jardinería sostenible en acolchado, compostaje y control de plagas.

Una delegación de multi-iglesias del Presbiterio de Chicago viajó a Cuba del 10-18 de enero para aprender cómo nuestros socios en las iglesias del Presbiterio de la Habana incorporan jardinería en sus ministerios. El viaje fue el fruto de la colaboración entre el Equipo de Misión en Cuba del Presbiterio de Chicago, dirigido por la Rda. Muriel Miller y el Presbiterio de la Habana.

El grupo visitó varias iglesias que utilizan jardines orgánicamente administrados con recursos

mínimos para crecer ministerios maravillosos que sirven a sus congregantes y sus barrios. Alimentos son sembrados y compartidos con quienes tienen hambre. Se proporciona educación para enseñar a los vecinos cómo cultivar sus propias hierbas medicinales y cómo usar hierbas para la curación.

La delegación fue testigo de cómo los jardines proporcionan lugares de renovación espiritual para quienes están hambrientos de reconexión con la tierra, y cómo ellos nutren un respeto por el mundo de Dios y permiten la reflexión teológica sobre el papel que los seres humanos son invitados a tomar en la creación de Dios. El grupo visitó todas las nueve congregaciones en el presbiterio, muchas de ellas con jardines, y el Seminario Evangélico Teológico de Matanzas con sus extraordinarios jardines terrazas.

Mientras el grupo recibió muchas respuestas a las preguntas sobre jardinería y sostenibilidad, experimentamos el don de la música, también. En particular todavía resuena un himno: "Canción de la caminata." Las palabras hablan a la esperanza, la fe y la solidaridad que hemos experimentado:

"Si caminar es preciso, caminaremos unidos, y nuestros pies, nuestros brazos, sustentarán nuestros pasos. No más seremos la masa, sin luz, sin voz, sin historia. Sino una Iglesia que va en esperanza solidaria."

La delegación está esperando la primavera y la oportunidad de ver cómo las semillas de entendimiento compartido pueden crecer en los jardines de iglesias aquí.

La delegación del Presbiterio de Chicago representó a Chicago Lakeview y Good Sheperd, Arlington Heights Primera, Hanover Park Christ, y Evergreen Park. La Rda. Linda Wygant representó Ministerio de Semillas de Gracia, que alienta a iglesias a tener jardines y dar los frutos a despensas de alimentos.

Bolígrafo del Presbítero

¿Llamados a una visión diferente?

POR ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, PRESBITERO EJECUTIVO

Desde 2006 la visión del Presbiterio de Chicago ha sido "Un Faro de Esperanza Dirigiendo Líderes, Congregaciones y Comunidades." Esta declaración de visión, elaborada por un grupo diverso de presbíteros, fue aprobada por unanimidad por los/as Ministros/as y Ancianos/as Comisionados/as en el otoño del 2005. Además, la asamblea del presbiterio votó por tres prioridades de misión para dedicarse a la visión de "faro de esperanza." Estas son a Ministerio de Facultad, Desarrollo de Congregaciones y Avance de Justicia.



Robert C. Reynolds

A partir de 2006 los/as Ministros/as y Ancianos/as, electo/as para servir en los Equipos de Liderazgo de Prioridad de Misión del presbiterio, se asociaron con congregaciones, otros cuerpos gobernantes y organizaciones relacionadas para activar equipos de misión en apoyo de nuestra visión. Juntos se han unido en programas, acordados mutuamente, que viven de las tres prioridades de misión.

Algunos nombres de proyecto de equipo de misión que ilustran los ministerios nacidos de estas asociaciones incluyen los siguientes. Proyecto de Justicia Bíblica Hispana, Congregaciones en Solidaridad con América Latina, Ministerio de Iglesia Multi-cultural, Hechos 16:5 (desarrollo congregacional), Educación Cristiana del Sur, Ministerio de Retiro de Superior, Asociación de Dakota, Pastoral Juvenil del Presbiterio y Transformación Congregacional Africo-americana.

En un esfuerzo de colaboración para asociarse con las iglesias y otros, el presbiterio efectivamente ha redefinido la forma de imaginar, financiar y promulgar nuestra misión. En pocas palabras, nos mudamos de un método arriba-abajo, centralmente controlada forma de hacer misión y asignación de fondos de misión a un método lateral de responsabilidad compartida de definir y realizar la misión. Iglesias y el presbiterio diversamente han iniciado estas asociaciones de misión. Así, la mayordomía del Presbiterio de la Dáviva de Misión Compartida es un proceso de colaboración entre congregaciones que eligen asociarse unas con otras y el Presbiterio de Chicago.



Contra este telón de fondo he oído recientemente, en una serie de configuraciones diferentes, que el presbiterio está en necesidad de un cambio. Esta perspectiva fue bien presentada por una persona que recientemente fue entrevistada durante la campaña del estudio de viabilidad que hizo el Grupo de Trabajo de la Reforma del Presbiterio. "El presbiterio necesita una visión realmente diferente, no sólo un nuevo grupo de programas... ¿Cuál es el enfoque presbiteriano para ser una iglesia en el siglo 21?"

Si uno está o no de acuerdo con la necesidad de cambio, esta pregunta es crítica de todos los cuerpos gobernantes de la Iglesia Presbiteriana (USA), incluyendo el Presbiterio de Chicago. ¿Cómo (donde y con quien) son los presbiterianos llamados a participar en la misión de Dios del siglo 21?

Miembros de la Comisión Establecimiento de Tienda del presbiterio encabezados por Rdo. Don Patrick Daymond y Rda. Deb Roberts, se preparan para envolvernos a discernir la futura misión de nuestro presbiterio y la gobernanza. Espero que líderes de la iglesia y miembros participen hasta el final que podemos aclarar – juntos – una visión convincente de nuestro futuro como socios Presbiterianos en la misión de Dios.

Pasando el Martillo

La reunión de Asamblea del Presbiterio en febrero, que fue reprogramada debido a una tormenta de nieve, fue la ocasión para la instalación de un nuevo moderador y agradecimiento a la moderadora saliente.



Instalación del Moderador del Presbiterio 2010, Rdo. Cliff Lyda

El personal y los miembros de la Iglesia Presbiteriana Elmhurst auspiciaron la Asamblea, heroicamente administraron el cambio de horario. El Rdo. Cliff Lyda fue instalado como Moderador 2010 y Anc. Rita Fossell fue agradecida por su servicio como moderadora en el 2009.

Dos eventos pre-presbiterio atrajeron un gran seguimiento. El Equipo de Trabajo de Oriente Medio presentó a lo/as comisionados/as "Esperanza Fiel: Búsqueda Palestina de Paz Justa," "un recurso de 'power point' que puede utilizarse para dirigir clases educación de adultos sobre los eventos en Israel y Palestina." El Grupo de Trabajo de la Reforma de Presbiterio

(PRTF por sus siglas en inglés) proporcionó una actualización sobre sus esfuerzos para abordar endeudamiento del presbiterio.

El Ejecutivo del Presbítero, Rdo. Robert Reynolds introdujo a Anc. Juanita Holley, nueva Asesora de Ministerios de Justicia. La búsqueda de un Asesor/a para apoyar Ministerio de Facultad está en curso. Reynolds también felicitó al Rdo. Eddie Knox, en su selección como Moderador del Sínodo de Lincoln Trails.

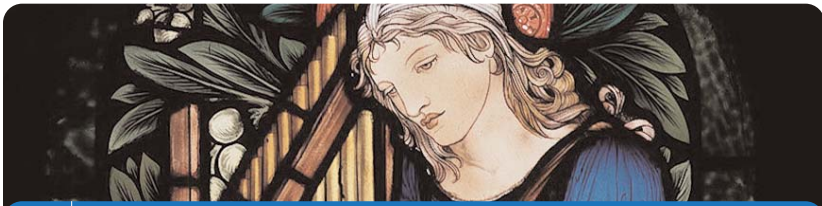
La Secretaria Permanente, Rda. Barbara Bundick informó sobre tres medidas disciplinarias pendientes relacionadas con mala conducta sexual. La Asamblea aprobó una revisión mayor para el Manual de Operaciones del Presbiterio. La Asamblea aprobó la venta de las instalaciones de la Iglesia St Andrew (se fusionaron en la Iglesia New Friendship) y votó para cerrar la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lawndale de Chicago pues no es capaz de funcionar de acuerdo a los requisitos del Libro de Orden. Finalmente, debido al endeudamiento del presbiterio, tuvo que rescindir su aprobación de un préstamo a corto plazo aprobado en 2009 a la Iglesia Presbiteriana Chatham-Bethlehem. El propósito del préstamo era permitir a Chatham-Belén la compra de la antigua Iglesia Luterana Sión. El Grupo de Trabajo de Asuntos de Negocios está ayudando a Chatham-Bethlehem en la búsqueda de financiamiento alternativo, acción que la Asamblea aprobó.

El Grupo de Trabajo de Reforma de Presbiterio (PRTF) informó que se ha firmado un contrato para la venta de la propiedad de 100 S. Morgan; fecha de cierre a determinarse. (La venta no se realizó y la propiedad está nuevamente en el mercado) Posibles opciones relativas al futuro de Campamentos Presbiterianos generaron debates combativos, pero respetuosos.

El Grupo de Trabajo de Mayordomía y Desarrollo Financiero dirigió una letanía recogiendo y celebrando las promesas a Dativas de Misión Compartida.

La propuesta de Grupo de Trabajo de Paz, Unidad y Pureza se ha suprimido debido a dos decisiones recientes de la Comisión Judicial Permanente de la Asamblea General. Por último, la Asamblea aprobó tres oberturas para su examen por la 219 Asamblea General, reuniéndose este verano en Minneapolis, MN. Los oberturas llaman a: reemplazo del lenguaje "fidelidad y castidad" en la sección G-6.0106b con nuevo lenguaje afirmando votos de ordenación; solicitud de una interpretación autorizada por lo que iglesias y clero en estados que reconocen el matrimonio homosexual puedan proporcionar cuidado pastoral; fomentar la celebración del 100º aniversario del primer pronunciamiento de la Iglesia Presbiteriana en cuestiones de justicia social. Puede seguir el progreso de estas oberturas en <http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/>.

Los debates de esta reunión, aunque a menudo agitados y largos, fueron respetuosos, subrayando así la fuerza de nuestras conexiones y nuestro compromiso a Cristo y al ministerio conjunto como Presbiterio de Chicago.



VISION STATEMENT

“Chicago Presbytery – A Beacon of Hope, guiding Leaders, Congregations and Communities.”

Presbytery of Chicago 100 South Morgan Street Chicago, IL 60607

Thank God for our Camp

BY CINDI KARSTENS, MODERATOR, CAMP OVERSIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

Preparations for the summer season are underway at the Presbyterian Camps! Brad is beginning to hire summer staff, Chris is preparing the cabins for another summer and Susan continues to process the registrations, for spring and summer camp activities. We have a great summer program in the works and you don't want to miss these incredible opportunities for reflection, worship, mission, fellowship, and fun. We are thankful for the opportunity to support the ministry of The Presbytery of Chicago with summer programming at Presbyterian Camps. We embrace many different ways in which we are called to celebrate creation, renew the spirit, nurture faith and build communities through the activities offered. There is something for everyone and we invite you to share these opportunities with us.

Winter's short days and long cold evenings are transforming into the relative warmth of early spring. Each day of longer sunlight and fewer days of picking up the snow shovel help set the mood for another exciting summer. Though we are preparing for the summer, there is still space available between now and Memorial Day for a spring retreat. Contact Susan at (800) 728-1164 or (269) 857-3751 for availability.

Memorial Day work weekend is a great opportunity to help kick off the summer by helping with some camp preparations. We have many projects with varying degrees of skilled labor and all



Sunset at Presbyterian Camps at Saugatuck

are welcome to come and help out as we paint, hammer & nail, chop wood and much more! Plan on arriving on Friday evening, May 28th and stay through lunch on Monday for a long, rewarding weekend of camp preparation. You can register today by calling the camp.

There are endless summer camp opportunities available for the young of age and the young at heart; children, youth, adults, and families. Go to our website at www.prescamps.org for the 2010 camp offerings or call the camp office for a brochure. Register today as spots are filling up fast and the summer will be here before you know it!

And so we give thanks to God for our camp, God's creation and the opportunities we have to do God's work in this place. We hope that you will join us at Presbyterian Camps in the coming months to share God's blessings and joy together.