

# Our Common Ministry



Presbytery of Chicago

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## Presbyterian Polity Works!

BY THE REV. CLIFF LYDA, MODERATOR,  
CHICAGO PRESBYTERY & PASTOR  
ELMHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church (USA) held its biennial General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN on July 3-10, 2010. The Presbytery of Chicago was well represented, with ten commissioners, a youth advisory delegate, a theological student delegate, six overture advocates, and four staff members in attendance. The Chicago contingent joined over seven hundred commissioners and an array of advisory delegates, advocates, and observers to make this gathering a momentous occasion for Presbyterians from all over the world. As a commissioner to the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA) it was my pleasure to serve. I moderated the Middle Governing Body Issues Committee.

The General Assembly is the largest governing body of the church, and is comprised of commissioners from 173 presbyteries in the United States and Puerto Rico, with elders and ministers in equal numbers. Many commissioners were serving in this role for the first time. Facing the daunting task of discerning the will of God for the church, commissioners were randomly assigned to one of the eighteen committees charged with deliberating and making recommendations on overtures, reports, study papers, and other items of business.

The assembly began with orientation of commissioners and the election of the moderator. Following a spirited examination process, Elder Cynthia Bolbach was elected moderator of the 219th General Assembly. She is from National Capitol



*Elder Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the 219th General Assembly*

Presbytery, and her vice moderator, Rev Landon Whitsett, is from Heartland Presbytery. Commissioners gave both high marks for their leadership of the assembly during the next week.

Following a magnificent worship service on Sunday, July 4, commissioners began their intense and arduous committee work. Each committee had a considerable agenda to be completed in two and a half days. They had studied reports and overtures prior to arrival in Minneapolis. The committees held hearings, and deliberated over issues before making recommendations to the assembly. This experience was important for commissioners, as it

gave to each one a sense of ownership of the work of the church.

The Assembly reconvened in plenary session on July 7, and worked intensively through adjournment on July 10. The Assembly considered the committees' recommendations, which included the Middle East study process, ordination standards, Christian marriage and civil unions, governance, doctrinal statements, social justice, peacemaking, and a variety of other issues. Sessions often went well into the night, an indication of the extent of deliberation and debate among commissioners.

I was enriched by the experience, and renewed in my commitment to our connectional form of government. The assembly was notable in its attention to business, polite interaction, and forward-looking demeanor. Presbyterian polity works!

*See reflections from three other commissioners on page three.*



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## A Ministry of God's Justice and Mercy

BY REV. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

*II Corinthians 4: 18 "... we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."*



Robert C. Reynolds

Elder Carlene Wingfield Hyrans served Chicago Presbytery as an associate executive presbyter and consultant for eight years. She was a member and former session clerk of the Sixth-Grace Presbyterian Church. Carlene committed her multiple talents to advancing God's justice and mercy on behalf of Chicago area Presbyterian churches. She fostered active partnerships locally, nationally, and globally with the aim of mobilizing our church's resources on behalf of a more just and peaceful world. Tragically, Carlene died July 29 after battling cancer courageously for several

years. Those who knew her well will long remember her hopeful, caring, and encouraging presence.

Carlene's ministry calls to mind Paul's words in II Corinthians 4: "...we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what is seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." With human eyes Carlene saw both good and evil. Seeing both, she celebrated God's gifts in individuals and communities, but she mourned their suffering. Through the eyes of faith she trusted God's promise of new life and sought to end human suffering. She was sustained by looking at "what cannot be seen"—a world in which God's justice and mercy will one day reign. Her service throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA), and earlier in higher education, exemplified this vision.

What follows are several examples of her service on behalf of Chicago area churches in which Carlene mourned human suffering, clearly visible to the naked eye. In each she sought to be an instrument of God's justice and mercy—visible to her through the eyes of faith.

Carlene's last full year of service as Associate Executive for Justice Ministry was 2008. She played an empowering role in activating numerous mission covenants for justice in 2008.

Here are several examples including the Presbytery's partners:

- End Hunger and Homelessness: four Presbyterian churches and three non-profit agencies
- Philippines Solidarity Project: one Presbyterian church, UIC campus ministry, and Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- Project Freedom—a ministry with ex-offenders: one Presbyterian church and New Life Baptist Church
- Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America: four Presbyterian churches and the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
- African American Congregational Transformation Covenant: eight Presbyterian churches, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the General Assembly
- Hispanic Bible Study: four Presbyterian churches and Chaplains for Christ at the Cook County Jail
- Multicultural Church Ministry Team: eight Presbyterian churches and the General Assembly. In addition, Carlene played a key role in bringing the 11<sup>th</sup> National Multicultural Church Conference to Chicago in May of 2010.

In all, 63 Chicago area Presbyterian churches engaged in 38 covenants during 2008 dedicated to advance justice, empower ministry, and develop congregations. They were activated, in part, due to Carlene's visionary ministry.

Another key aspect of her work included administering Self-Development of People Grants in 2008. These are Chicago area neighborhood ministries of justice and mercy supported by grants from the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. From a total of fifteen projects, eight are these:

- Chatham Business Association Juniors
- Englewood Block Club Federation
- Hood Ministry
- Korean Single Mothers' Support Group
- Native American Veterans
- Steppin' Stone Women's Resource Center
- Soldiers on a Mission
- Parents with Disabled Children

Through the eyes of unwavering faith, Carlene trusted what cannot be seen with the naked eye. As a result, she was God's instrument of what is unseen and eternal. I am thankful for Carlene's faithful life and ministry. In our churches and throughout the Presbytery, may we continue her legacy by looking to what is unseen and eternal—God's promise of justice and mercy!

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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](mailto:gerryparker5@comcast.net). Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Reflections from our General Assembly Commissioners

### Phyllis Green

I was assigned to the Middle East Peacemaking Committee. It was certainly a hot button for debate, controversy, and atten-



*Chicago Presbytery's General Assembly Commissioners*

tion. AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS AT WORK. Over 150 individuals and groups wanted to speak to the committee during the ninety minutes allotted for testimony. The very able moderator, the Rev. Karen Dimon, the staff support, and Ken Hockenberry (parliamentarian) handled the interface admirably. While we listened, debated, prayed (a lot), spent late nights forging a compromise position, and finally voted unanimously to bring the published report to the floor in truncated version, we bonded as a working group. Make no mistake: the committee included the full range of Presbyterians who arrived in many different places as to Middle East Peacemaking matters. The assembly also voted favorably. IT TRULY WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK AND A TIME OF PRESBYTERIANS AT THEIR BEST.

Serving as a commissioner to the 219th General Assembly was a highpoint in my adult journey of faith. I was honored to serve, humbled by those at the assembly, inspired by the preaching and worship, and very, very happy to say that PC(USA) is alive and well in 2010.

### Chris Chakoian

I was assigned to the Mission Coordination Committee. I was very impressed with the quality of discernment in our committee. We trusted our leaders, welcomed the reports of General Assembly staff, and shared a common sense of direction for our work. The Holy Spirit was truly with us. Chicago Presbytery Stated Clerk, Barbara Bundick, was our parliamentarian. She did a marvelous job. We felt especially called to support our denomination's focus on college students and young adults.

To that end, we took a leap of faith to fund \$100,000 in scholarships for the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. This ministry not only provides staffing for mission – it also provides life-transforming experiences to young men and

women. During our committee's debate on this funding, I was so convinced of the rightness of it that I promised to go back to my congregation and raise \$50,000 of those funds. The following Sunday, I preached about General Assembly, and though I only mentioned the YAV program in passing, one of our members, Susan Peet, felt it was just the kind of benevolence she was looking for. Her cousin, Lynn Friess, and her husband, had determined to celebrate their birthdays by giving money to charity. The next thing I knew, a check for \$70,000 was on its way to Louisville for the YAV program. The Spirit was at work indeed.

### Mike Welf

General Assembly (GA) was quite an experience for me. As a commissioner, I was assigned to the Growing the Church Deep and Wide committee. It was very interesting to see the business of the church being conducted, with Christ always present in the discernment process. Many committees dealt with highly charged subject matter and yet peacefully and prayerfully made it to the plenary sessions with a clear message. Even the debates in plenary were calm and clear – a testimony to the leadership to our Moderator and Vice-Moderator.

I had felt that being active in Presbytery as a commissioner and then at GA was a part of my 'contribution' back to the denomination as a whole. I felt a desire to do more in ministry – I wasn't sure how to quantify that. GA helped me form an opinion that I needed to be involved in ministry at home. I came home from GA with some conflicted feelings. How could I accomplish what I was being led to do, work to support my family...and would my family support that call? I knew I had to figure this out soon as it was clearly on my mind. The first Sunday back I heard the sermon on the topic of "accepting God's call, not hiding from it". Well...I heard a message clearly to me. What I didn't know was my family heard the same thing and afterward told me they felt it was directed to me. Within hours I was on my way – I am now taking Commissioned Lay Pastors classes through Dubuque Seminary (Distance Learning) and will continue to work with Chicago Presbytery on this program as we move forward.

So, ultimately how was GA? Refreshing, Uplifting, Renewal of Spirit, and Affirmation of Call (...and some of those sessions get a bit long).

## General Assembly overture actions

The Presbytery of Chicago sent seven overtures to the General Assembly for its consideration. All but two overtures were approved by the General Assembly, and one of those two overtures beneficially influenced the action that was finally approved. The Presbytery is grateful to the people who acted as overture advocates, and to the committees who listened carefully and faithfully to our requests.

## Water imagery for Multicultural Conference

*“The water flows out of the temple, becoming deeper and wider as it spreads...it is a source of healing and health, life flourishing.” (Ezekiel 47)*



*Multicultural Conference theme focuses diverse group*

Water imagery and metaphors come easily here in Chicago – here, in the city on the edge of one of the Great Lakes, the city whose river’s flow was reversed, the city with a grand Water Tower standing as a testament to surviving the Great Fire. Water imagery and metaphors came easily to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Eleventh National Multicultural Church Conference too, which was held here in Chicago in May. The theme for the conference was “H<sub>2</sub>O: Deepening our Faith, Widening our Culture.” The conference sought to explore “growing Christ’s church deep and wide” in an increasingly diverse world.

Over 500 energetic and enthusiastic participants were present, singing, listening, sharing, learning, teaching and responding to the challenges and joys of multicultural ministries. The Scripture reference from Ezekiel guided the focus and vision of the conference.

Conference members drank from the wells of wisdom and experience by speakers both local and national. Worship speakers Renita Weems, Magdalena Garcia, Adam Malak and Frank Yamada inspired attendees, and each evening Eric Law helped attendees reflect on each day’s activities, insights and questions.

National denominational leaders such as Raafat Girgis, Bruce Reyes Chow, Gradye Parsons, Ray Jones and Rhashell Hunter shared in plenary sessions, providing a reminder that multicultural ministries is a growing nation-wide celebration and challenge. Chicago’s own *Second City Communications* presented skits and opportunities with humor and thought, encouraging reflection on what it means for the church to open itself up to diversity and inclusivity.

This year, instead of signing up for workshops that would cover a wide variety of topics, participants signed up for “Streams,” in keeping with the “water” motif, that focused on a particular aspect of multicultural ministry through the

length of the conference. This new format took into account that there are always new people who are just beginning to dip their toes into multicultural ministries and others who have waded in many conferences in the past and/or have been involved in multicultural ministries for quite some time. So, Streams covered the basics: – “Multicultural 101: A



*Members of Evanston First who attended the Multicultural Conference*

House of Prayer for All People,” and, focused on specific areas of ministry, such as, “Leadership and Community Building in a Multicultural Context,” “Advanced Multicultural Models and Mentoring,” “Multicultural Storytelling and Christian Formation,” “Gathering All Nations and Tongues: Models of Multicultural Worship,” “Evangelism in a Diverse World,” and, “Theological Education for Multicultural Ministry.”

The conference continued its commitment to be family oriented. *SPLASH!* provided programming for children who were present with their families, and *The Wave* was designed for youth participation.

Jan Sullivan, member of Evanston First, reports: “this happy group attended the Multicultural Conference to learn about reaching out to the entire world to build diverse, spirit-filled congregations.” The group wrote a series of articles for their church newsletter and held an informative gathering to share what was learned regarding innovative worship, creative evangelism, Christian education in a diverse world, cross-cultural relationship building, seminary education for multicultural church leadership, and using “yes, and” communication.

Although the 11<sup>th</sup> National Multicultural Church Conference has ended, there are still opportunities for individuals and congregations in Chicago Presbytery to learn more and participate with other churches and members involved or interested in multicultural ministries. Visit the Chicago Presbytery’s website to see more photos and to download worship resources from the conference. The Multicultural Churches Ministry Team of Chicago Presbytery includes churches that are multicultural or striving to become more diverse. A workshop on Cultural Proficiency will be offered later this fall, with more information coming soon. Contact the Rev. Barb Cathey, Pastor of Chicago Edgewater, Cell (773) 577-7363 for further information.



## Philippine Watch

*In May of this year Rev. Matthew Lang served as an election observer in the Philippines. At the request of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, he was sent by the Peacemaking Program and Asia-Pacific Office of the National Office in Louisville. These are some of his notes:*

“To understand the elections in the Philippines, you need to first understand a bit about the economics of the Philippines. There are many statistics that I could roll out, but here is one: 40% of Filipinos often or sometimes lack food. Forty percent out of a population of ninety million equals millions of hungry people.

What happens when there is an election in a place where the few have so much wealth and power, while the many are often or sometimes hungry? What would you do if you were hungry, and your daughter was hungry, and you struggle to make the 96 pesos per day that would allow you to scrape by, and the election was coming, and the mayor offered you 2000 pesos and all you had to do is vote to re-elect him?”

Matt was part of one of the teams sent to observe the elections. Every observer saw cases of vote buying and voter intimidation and a lack of secrecy at the polls and procedural irregularities and machine malfunctions. Every team, in every corner of the country, reported these same problems. Over thirty people were killed on Election Day, in addition to those who died during the campaign.

This election observation is the work of one part of the global body of Christ. The people of the Philippines are our brothers and sisters. This is their situation. They want us to know because they believe that as Christians living in the United States, we care about peace and justice and democracy.

## Anawin Center received SDOP grant

The Anawin Center is a place of welcome and prayer for the Native American community. “Anawim” in the language of the Hebrew Scriptures, refers to “those who have been taken from their land, who have suffered loss, and those close to the Creator.” The center received a grant from the National Self-Development of People (SDOP) committee.

Anawin is a place for Indian people to practice their traditional form of worship and hold their seasonal feasts, a tradition among many Woodland and Great Lakes Nations and Tribes. For 25 years, the center has served the Native American community. The current director is Sister Patricia Mulkey.

## CROP Hunger Walks

The Chicago CROP Hunger Walk takes place October 17<sup>th</sup>. In the midst of historic flooding, Church World Service (CWS), who sponsors the hunger walks, continues to provide food and tents across Pakistan, and CWS health teams and mobile health units are focusing on providing preventive and curative health services.

Each year some 2,000 communities across the United States reach out in partnership to poor and hungry people, here and in many countries around the world. Last year more than four million dollars was distributed to local agencies to help alleviate hunger and poverty in the United States.

Chicago was one of the recipients of last year’s CROP Hunger Walk proceeds. A check for \$3,412.63 was sent to Chicago Presbytery’s Hunger Mission Team. The letter accompanying the check says: “This contribution represents the commitment and compassion of CROP Hunger Walk volunteers, walkers and donors, and is presented in recognition of the outstanding work you’re doing to stop hunger and poverty in your community.”

Other CROP Hunger Walks are held in suburban communities. Check with Church World Service website at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) to get dates.

## EHMT surveys congregations

The End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team has prepared a survey to identify and recognize the efforts of Chicago Presbytery congregations to address hunger and homelessness in their communities and around the world. The Mission Team is aware that many congregations are active in ministries to help hungry and homeless people. Many have innovative, successful programs and partnerships that others can learn from. The survey is a way of identifying and recognizing these efforts. The survey can be accessed on the Presbytery’s website, [www.chicagopresbytery.org](http://www.chicagopresbytery.org). Results of the survey will be shared with the Presbytery soon. The survey has helped identify a contact person, or Advocate for Justice in approximately 30 churches. The Mission Team is excited about the results and looks forward to using the advocates to empower the ministry of the team.

## “Ground Zero and Beyond”

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) has released a statement appealing for the right of religious freedom, and advancing the ideal of unity and diversity. With growing national and global controversy over hostile United States attitudes toward the American Islamic community, Bob Reynolds, Executive Presbyter of Chicago Presbytery, reminds Presbyterians that “Chicago Presbytery is currently engaged in a year of dialogue with local and regional Muslim leaders toward the end of better interreligious understanding and shared commitment to the common good.”

## Benefits of Cycling

The **Chicago Fourth** Cycling Club completed its first charity ride on May 30. Club members participated in Chicago’s Bike the Drive event and raised money for Fourth Church’s Monday Night Suppers.



*Cyclists take a rest*

The Cycling Club, founded last September, welcomes all who are called to demonstrate their stewardship of God’s creation by reducing personal dependence on fossil fuels while, at the same time, increasing physical activity for the health of their bodies. One hundred nineteen members and friends have signed up with the club so far, and the number is expected to grow further. The church celebrated its second “Bike to Church” month in May, encouraging members and friends to ride to worship on Sundays.

In addition to riding together, the Cycling Club offers events for the benefit of all. It co-sponsored a Family Night with the Children and Families Ministry Committee, at which an expert from the Active Transportation Alliance worked with parents and children about bicycling safety, including proper use of helmets. Since members participated in Cycling Club rides all winter long, the Club held a winter-riding clinic for those who demonstrate their care for creation all winter long.

Rides took place throughout the summer and will continue through the rest of the year, including rides to worship at Chicago-area churches in the Presbytery of Chicago. Other Presbyterian Churches with cycling clubs are invited to communicate with the Fourth Church Cycling Club team for fellowship and rides together. For more information, email [cyclists@fourthchurch.org](mailto:cyclists@fourthchurch.org), or call Anne Ellis, (312) 573-3369.

## News from Develop Congregations MPLT

The Develop Congregations Mission Priority Leadership Team (DCMPLT) shares news of their recent meeting:

- Funded two covenants – Hispanic Ministries and Small Church resources and events
- Presented pre-Presbytery event on Mission Insite, a demographic tool, which is available for all of our churches. DCMPLT has funded the enrollment fee. For information, contact team Member, Elder Rick Steele ([rick\\_steele4Management.com](mailto:rick_steele4Management.com)).
- WORD – SHARE – PRAYER is a personal and small group study that comes from the Vital Churches Institute. The team begins each of their meetings with this resource, which is available free of charge to anyone. It is particularly used by the churches that are enrolled in the ACTS 16:5

Initiative. To access this resource, visit [www.vitalchurchesinstitute.com](http://www.vitalchurchesinstitute.com) and look for resources .

- Endorsed two continuing General Assembly Grants. The grants are South Asian Presbyterian Fellowship (A New Church Development) and the African American Congregational Transformation



*The DCMPLT Team*

- Covenant. Each year a progress report is sent to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and to the General Assembly Mission Program Grant office. Rev. David Boumgarden, co-consultant for DCMPLT, will take these reports to the Synod meeting and they will be forwarded to General Assembly.
- Approved a proposal for a new grant “Proactive Transformation in the Presbytery of Chicago” Watch for news of this.
- Heard from Rev. Steve Pierce, coordinator of ACTS 16:5, that plans are moving ahead for year 2 of this initiative. Their next event is Thursday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at the Elmhurst Presbyterian Church.
- Has scheduled an event for leaders in our smaller congregations (100 or less in worship) featuring Diana Stephens, former General Assembly staff person for Rural and Small Church Ministries. The event will be November 18<sup>th</sup> at Wheaton Hope.
- Is planning a Presbytery New Church Development Team
- Is continuing to work with the Committee on Ministry on many projects.

Please direct questions about the work of this group to the Rev. Bill Higginson, moderator of the team at (312) 848-2443 or Elder Loretta Gratijs-Bremer, co-consultant at (312) 243-8300, ext. 1330.

## Celebrating our Multicultural Heritage

From the lush rainforests of Indonesia to the rugged coasts of Brazil; from Ireland’s rolling meadows to Canada’s vast mountains, Christians, though separated by geography and therefore cultures, are united by their faith in Jesus Christ. As a celebration of our rich multicultural heritage, **Chicago Fourth** joined with other Presbyterians in May in observing Multicultural Church Sunday. The service incorporated liturgies from the regions mentioned above as well as others. Since 2004, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has designated this denomination-wide observance on a Sunday that falls close to Pentecost Sunday, the date on which the Christian church became multicultural, multilingual, multiracial, and multinational.

For more information about multicultural initiatives at Chicago Fourth, contact Vicky Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission, or Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at (312) 787-4570.

## Western Springs Studies the Sabbath

Over six summer Sunday evenings, members and friends at **Western Springs** took a closer look at Sabbath. The group used *Sabbath as Resistance* and *Sabbath Practices*, studies from *The Thoughtful Christian*, by Walter Bruggeman and Dorothy Bass, as the basis for their discussion. “Sabbath is a practice that was designed to protect the marginalized and remind all of us that we are not God,” observed discussion leader Dan Lewis; co-leader Jennifer Lewis adds “It involved certain forms of resistance to the consumerist society of ancient Israel that are more relevant today than ever.”

## Ghanaian Presbyterian Fellowship Anniversary

The **Ghanaian Presbyterian fellowship** celebrated its first anniversary in May at **Chicago Second**. The theme for the anniversary was “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (*Matt. 28:19*) In attendance were members from the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Attica, Indiana. Preaching the sermon was the Rev. Sam Atiemoh, Pastor of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church, Bronx, New York. Leading the congregation in Chicago is James Acquah.



James Acquah with the Rev. Sam Atiemoh and Steve Poston

## Gardening With A Purpose

Churches in Chicago Presbytery are gardening with a purpose. They are sharing their bounty with their communities.

The home gardeners of **Chicago Good Shepherd** are sharing their bounty of vegetables – everything from June herbs to August corn – with disadvantaged people in the community. The “Share the Harvest” program, part of the Grace Seeds Ministry, administered by the Rev. Linda Wygant, is collecting the produce in a basket at church for local food pantries to distribute. A dinner on July 25 celebrated the program’s success, with participating gardeners contributing to and enjoying a “Bottomless Salad Bowl.”

**Western Springs** also shares their harvest. This past summer, gardeners and others at Western Springs contributed produce to Grace Seeds Ministry, which then distributes it to disadvantaged neighbors. This ministry began in the Chicago area during the summer of 2006 with the purchase of organic fruits and vegetables. This summer five families began growing their own vegetables. They brought their produce to church once a week for distribution by Grace Seeds Ministry. They have produced tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, zucchini and squash.

## Refugee resettlement

**Evanston Northminster** is featured in the newly published memoir *Spare Them? No Profit. Remove Them? No Loss*, by Chhalith Ou and R. Z. Halleon. In the early 1980s, the church sponsored and helped to resettle more than a hundred refugees who had fled Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge Communist regime. Ou gives a detailed account of his four years as a young teenager living in anonymity for fear that the Communists would discover that his father had worked for the Americans and would kill the entire family. After a year in Thailand’s Khao-I-Dang Holding Center, Chhalith Ou, now reunited with his family, came to Chicago as the first of the many refugees sponsored by Evanston Northminster.

## Back to school assistance

**Chicago Fourth’s** School Supply Drive, now in its seventh year, grew out of the recognition that not having the necessary school supplies can adversely affect a child’s self-esteem and ability to learn. In some cases, children even start school late, waiting until their families are able to afford the tools they will need in the classroom.



Back packs ready to distribute

To address these critical needs, Women@Fourth Connect and the Mission Committee lead an annual campaign to collect more than 50 different items for 11 local agencies and programs. Among those receiving supplies are children served by the Chicago Lights Tutoring Program, the American Indian Center, Casa Central, Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Erie Elementary Charter School, House of the Good Shepherd, Kemmerer Village, Lawrence Hall Youth Services, and A Safe Haven (Chicago Christian Industrial League) as well as homeless students at Lincoln Park High School. Backpacks are also collected and filled for 150 children and youth connected with the Chicago Lights Urban Farm.

Drive organizers provide lists of the items needed and keep an inventory of items received and those still-needed items and update the lists accordingly. Additional items are also collected for classrooms.

Each year the response is overwhelming. Congregants and visitors have given generously, in supplies, in cash donations, in time volunteering, and in their stories of why this drive is so personally meaningful to them.

**Chicago Sixth Grace** also participates in back-to-school assistance by hosting a free book bag and school supply giveaway. They work with Phi Kappa Omega Chapter and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in planning an event that includes vendors, workshops, health screenings and refreshments when the school supplies are distributed.

## Justice Journey

The senior high youth from **Chicago Fourth, Chicago Sixth Grace** and Bethel Green Family Worship Center took a Justice Journey in August to the deep south to experience racial reconciliation firsthand. The trip was also a mission



Chicago youth gather for work in Cary, MS

trip to help low income families in Cary, Mississippi with home improvements.

Thirty youth and nine adults comprised an intentionally diverse group to experience the challenges and blessings in integrating people from a

variety of racial, ethnic, social, economic and religious backgrounds. They visited Memphis, TN, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, AL and Jackson, MS, before heading to Cary for their home improvement work.

In Memphis, the group toured the National Civil Rights Museum, which is built into the Lorraine Hotel, where Martin Luther King was assassinated. The tour ends at the motel room where King and his companions were staying when he was killed. It was here that the Rev. John Vest, Associate Pastor, Chicago Fourth, experienced his seminal moment. There is a concrete square of the original balcony that has been preserved, while the hotel and the rest of the balcony has been renovated. On this concrete square is a crimson stain, which is the blood of Dr. King. Vest felt he was standing on holy ground. Youth leader Mark Nelson was impacted most by a replica of a Woolworth's lunch counter where the guide demonstrated the type of training the Freedom Marchers of the 1960's had to endure, and an exhibit of their mug shots identifying them in case they were beaten or murdered. These mostly white students were willing to give their lives for justice.

In Birmingham, they stayed at First Presbyterian Church, whose pastor was a recipient of King's *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, which led to an eventual integration of the congregation. There was an unfortunate incident during the night when some of the youth on the Justice Journey threw paint out a window which landed on a homeless man's possessions. Those youth were sent home, and the morale of the group suffered. For Bert Rogers, a Chicago Fourth youth, this incident provided his understanding of reconciliation. He writes: "This homeless man...showed up at church the next morning and sat with the group. He wasn't outwardly angry or hostile, instead he was forgiving. He said ..it was time for us to stop being Christian and start being Christ-like. His words will forever be ingrained in my mind."

Several stops on the Justice Journey brought the reality of the civil rights struggle to the consciousness of the youth. The itinerary included the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church where four girls were killed; The Civil Rights Memorial, the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, (Dr. King's church) and the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, site of the infamous march that changed the course of history.

The work in Cary gave evidence of the diversity that is an economic and cultural issue as well as a racial one. Youth Marie Donaldson writes: "By the end of our first day of work, there was a noticeable change in the attitude of the group... as lots of bonding had occurred. The seating arrangements on the bus on the way home were drastically different than the ones coming from Chicago. The three churches were mixed together,...showing how much reconciliation the group had done."

Youth Chelsea Bumpkis summed it up this way: "Nothing demonstrated reconciliation more than standing in a circle mixed with faces (known and previously unknown) singing 'Let it Be.'...Despite what church we came from, what neighborhood we lived in, or what race we were, we came together and sang. I'll remember that moment for a long time."

Nelson writes: "To trace this history and stand on the holy ground on which it unfolded will change you. It brings you face to face with the past, forces you to consider the present, and inspires vision and action for the future."

## Mission to Rushville

**Glen Ellyn Southminster's** youth joined youth groups from around the country at a Group Workcamps Foundation (GWF) event in Rushville, IN.

Six youth and three adults spent a week doing home repair for elderly, poor and disadvantaged people in this community of fewer than 6,000 people that has been



Southminster's Youth Mission Team

hard-hit by the recession. In Rushville, the median household income is about \$36,000 and 11% of the population has an income below the poverty line.

The morning and evening programs at the camp focused on the campers' spiritual development, with the days devoted to helping local families with painting and construction projects.

## Youth Triennium

BY REV. BETH FREESE DAMMERS  
YOUTH CONSULTANT TO THE CHICAGO PRESBYTERY

Every three years youth from around the country meet at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) for a week of worship, Bible study, prayer, wacky games, singing and fellowship. In July Chicago Presbytery sent 22 youth (and 7 adults) from seven churches to Purdue University for PYT. Staying in campus dorms, they joined 5000 other youth and adults to explore the theme *For Such a Time as This*, from the book of Esther.



*Five thousand youth can be overwhelming*

Can you imagine daily worship with 5000 people? And it is not all about auditoriums rocking with the masses. There is also time for small group discussion where groups of eight – ten can express an opinion, ask a question of faith and offer a prayer.

Through the generous support of YOUR Shared Mission Dollars, the Youth Ministry Team of the Presbytery granted ten scholarships, totaling over \$1500, so that youth could attend PYT. Thank you to every church that supports the Shared Mission giving. It is your faithfulness that makes these kinds of youth experiences possible.

Sarah Newton shares "triennium would not be possible for (my home church) without you. You have helped so much and have allowed me and two other members of my church to grow spiritually. We will cherish the memories for many years to come. The worship services helped to point my life in the right direction. Just like Esther, God has a plan for me and is calling me 'for such a time as this.'"

Tracy Tacker shares her reflections: "Standing in a room with over 5,000 people, knowing only two others, was overwhelming. But to be in that room and feel like the speakers and performers are ...talking just to you is a feeling words could never describe. To watch a video of a young man's story of how he overcame the earthquake in Haiti, having your heart break for his injury and the loss of his home and family...then he ran out on stage (and shared) his immense

faith in God's plan for each of us and that everything was going to work out. It was so moving. Throughout that week, I gained a deeper respect for myself, my faith and my God."

Maribeth Van Hecke put her reflections in verse:

- The Triennium was a spiritual time
  - The Lord was in my heart and mind.
  - All different cultures did represent
  - It was cool seeing so many different people present.
  - Everyone was energetic and there was always something to do
  - Discussions, games, worship, and lots of energizers too.
- But still, it was relaxed and went with the flow.  
I would encourage next kids to surely go!

NOTE: Beth Freese Dammers served as registrar for Chicago Presbytery for the 2010 Triennium. The National Registrar of the Triennium and Presbytery's Youth Ministry Team both recognize the contribution that Beth has made to the Triennium through her diligent efforts to gather the delegation, register them and prepare them for the event.

## The Spirit Moves...

By The Rev. Laura Cheifetz, Director of Leading Generations Initiative, The Fund for Theological Education

"I served as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate Advisor (YAAD) at the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Minneapolis. Although wary of the inevitable sleep deprivation that would ensue, I agreed to ten days of exhausting hilarity with some of the most fun and faithful people around. The YAADs were amazing, even if I did stay up until one o'clock in the morning most nights in order to be with them.

One notable miscommunication was when they thought because I gave a "no drugs-no bare midriffs-no dishonoring oneself in the presence of older adults" lecture, I merited the title "The Enforcer" and a toy gun as a gift. This gift was given the very same day I was up front praying a litany celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, but no one seemed to grasp the irony of the situation except my fellow YAAD Advisors.

It was humbling to see YAADs who felt strongly find a way to express their opinions respectfully and work effectively in their committees. I was proud to see them claim space and voice at the microphones on the floor. They also found a way to help each other navigate the business sessions.

I was pleasantly surprised by the movement of the Spirit among the people of God even in complicated situations. I was dreading the content of this assembly, due to the difficult issues being addressed. After spending a whole GA with the YAADs, I think the church will be just fine."

## Presbytery assembly gathers twice

On June 8, 2010, **Deerfield First** welcomed the Presbytery into its newly renovated church home. Two pre-Presbyteries together drew over sixty people. The Develop Congregations Mission Priority Leadership Team showed how the demographic resource, *Mission Insite*, can help churches reach out into their communities. The Presbytery Reformation Task Force explained its proposal for paying off the remainder of the presbytery's line of credit. In addition, the Rev. Doug Kelly from the Board of Pensions (BOP) was available in the registration area to answer questions, especially around the impact of the new health care reform legislation on BOP coverage. The Rev. Deborah Mullins preached about faith and the reality show we call hope.



*Andrew Barnes-Jamieson is commissioned as a YAV by the Rev. Ginny Smith, Associate Executive for Ministry, Chicago Presbytery*

General Assembly commissioners, advisory delegates and overture advocates were commissioned for the upcoming General Assembly. In addition, Andrew Barnes-Jamieson, son of the Rev. Stuart and Brenda Barnes-Jamieson, was commissioned to spend a year in Guatemala as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). The rewritten rationale section of the Presbytery's overture to the General Assembly on the implementation of the revised Form of Government was approved.

The assembly reluctantly voted to close the **Chicago Somang New Church Development**. The remaining members will be reconstituted as a worshipping fellowship. **Chicago Ravenswood, Libertyville First and Oak Park First United** received approval for requested financial considerations.

The Presbytery also voted to pay the remainder of its debt (following a sale of Presbyterian Camps to Lakeshore Christian Camping) through combining funds from Presbytery investments, the sale of the now closed Elmwood Park Church building, and a five year \$500,000 loan. Due to the economy, the Presbytery has been unable to sell its office building. Current offers are too low. Instead, the Presbytery Reformation Task Force (PRTF) recommended keeping the office building for a future sale, perhaps as a way of paying the five year loan. PRTF has also asked Develop Congregations Mission Priority Leadership Team to investigate the use of the Presbytery's office space as a site for a new church development. The assembly also took several significant steps to mitigate the impact on the Presbytery's budget in future years. It changed the recommended allocation of shared mission giving funds so that the Presbytery's share

would increase by 7%; it increased the Presbytery's per capita by \$1.46 per member; and it voted to maintain the presbytery's draw from reserves at the current rate of 6.5%. The budgets in 2011 and 2012 will also of necessity be reduced.

The Presbytery celebrated success of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Multicultural Conference, which was hosted by the Multicultural Church Mission Team in May in Chicago. Over 500 people attended! The Rev. Martha Ross-Mockaitis was also warmly applauded for receiving the status of a Certified Christian Educator, a hard won achievement.

Finally, clergy were reminded of their obligation to attend boundary training at least once every three years. The next Boundary Training event is scheduled for October 21 at **Chicago Pullman**. For more information, contact Loretta Grattias-Bremer at the Presbytery office, (312) 243-8300, ext. 1330.

A special Presbytery assembly meeting was announced for August 7<sup>th</sup> to question candidates for ordination and other necessary business that cannot be delayed until October. The meeting was held at **Elmhurst Yorkfield**. In addition to the actions taken on Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry items, the assembly was introduced to the Belhar Confession which is being considered for inclusion into the PCUSA's Book of Confessions. This confession was created during the days of apartheid in South Africa. The assembly also approved the funds necessary to repair **Chicago Vida Nueva's** building.

There were many actions taken on matters presented by the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry at both the June and August meetings. These are reported in a combined Transitions article which follows.

## A Year Of Dissemination

Since its 2003 origins, the Property Ministries Team (PMT) has assembled on-line resources on property maintenance, technical resources, contractor referrals, and links to other governmental and not-for-profit guides for benefit of Building Committees and Trustees of the churches of the Presbytery. In addition, we have counseled and responded to facility questions, both big and small, from over 45 of our churches.

During this church year, PMT will seek to extend its usefulness in what it is calling a Year of Dissemination. PMT will not only maintain and expand these activities but also:

- 1) Present a 2011 LEAD workshop on energy conservation (in collaboration with the Earthlings of Glen Ellyn First).
- 2) Maintain an on-line PDF dissemination of selected PMT resources. A church can then assemble its own PMT manual and maintain it in electronic form or in a 3-ring binder with



those resources most applicable to its respective facility challenges.

PMT also encourages our churches to highlight in a Sunday worship service this autumn (and every year) the gifts and services provided by each church's committee members who serve by taking care of the shelter of its ministries by the work that they do. This work is essential to the health of our congregations and often vexing. They need to know how much we appreciate them.

All PMT resources are available at [www.chicagopresbytery.org/resources/resources-for/leaders/property-ministries-team](http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/resources/resources-for/leaders/property-ministries-team); particular requests may be addressed to PMT at [bhutchins@chicagopresbytery.org](mailto:bhutchins@chicagopresbytery.org).

## Chicago Presbytery in Top Ten Again

The Presbytery of Chicago is listed among the top ten presbyteries in support of the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Chicago Presbytery is seventh nationally in giving to all three categories in which mission giving is listed. These categories are: **Basic Mission**

### Support, Special Offerings and Other Special Appeals.

Basic mission support is the term used to describe the commitment of congregations to support the mission budget of the presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly Mission Council. The Special Offerings are the four annual church-wide offerings: Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking and the Pentecost offering. Other Special Appeals includes Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Joining Hearts and Hands (a five-year campaign to renew the church for mission), various Extra Commitment Opportunity projects, and the Theological Education Fund.

In addition, Chicago Presbytery is listed as fifth in giving to the Cents-Ability fund for hunger relief. This offering enabled the funding of ten excellent projects.

"It is through the support of individuals and congregations across the nation that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is able to create resources, provide training and shape programs that demonstrate the reign of God and power of Christ in this age... It is thus that the gospel is shared throughout the world in word and in deed. The denomination celebrates the faithfulness of the connectional church and is grateful for their commitment to the gospel of Christ." (*A Giving Report of the Top Ten Presbyteries for 2009*, PDS 13-102-10-005)

## Transitions

### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

#### Enrolled as Inquirers

- **Ms. Kristie Finley**, Lake Forest First
- **Mr. James Acquah**, Chicago Fourth
- **Ms. Judy Fitchett**, Mundelein, Kirk of the Lakes
- **Mr. Ryan Wallace**, Deerfield First

#### Enrolled as a Candidate

- **Ms. Shannon Christopher**, Oak Park Fair Oaks
- **Mr. Anthony Gabriel Harris**, Chicago Faith Community
- **Ms. Kimberly Fisher**, Evanston First

#### Certified Ready to Receive a Call

- **Ms. Joleen Preuninger**, Chicago Fourth
- **Mr. Eric Heinekamp**, Naperville Knox

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

#### Arrivals:

- **Rev. Henry Kim**, from National Capital Presbytery, to designated pastor at Downers Grove First, effective 6/8/10.
- **Rev. Emily McGinley**, from Seattle, to be ordained 6/27, Director of Common Ground Project at McCormick.

- **Rev. Lara MacGregor**, from Presbytery of the Peaks, to be designated pastor at Hickory Hills, effective 8/1/10.
- **Rev. Michael Miller**, HR, from Milwaukee Presbytery.
- **Rev. Diane Slocum**, ordained on 6/20/10, associate pastor at Elmhurst, effective 6/21/10.
- **Rev. Rose Taul**, from Wabash Valley, to be temporary supply associate pastor at Arlington Heights First, effective 6/28/10.
- **Rev. Sarah Hiff**, to be ordained September 26, 2010, and to serve as the associate pastor at Oak Park Fair Oaks, effective September 1, 2010.
- **Rev. William Ingersoll**, from Grace Presbytery as member at large.
- **Rev. Robert Quiring**, to be ordained by the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma, August 15, 2010, to serve as an associate pastor at Naperville Knox effective August 15, 2010.

#### Changes in Presbytery:

- **Rev. Jay Basler**, completed supply pastorate at Downers Grove First.
- **Rev. Gregory Boettner**, from supply at La Grange Highlands, to be ordained 7/11/10 and made designated pastor at La Grange Highlands.

- **Rev. Young Jin Ha**, from pastor of Chicago Somang Presbyterian New Church Development to member at large.
- **Rev. John McFayden**, from pastor at Arlington Heights First to Church Relations Executive at Board of Pensions, effective 6/1/10.
- **Rev. Millason Dailey**, member-at-large, to serve as an associate pastor at Libertyville First, effective September 1, 2010.
- **Rev. Jan Dykstra**, completed service as interim pastor at Tinley Park Faith United, effective June 30, 2010.
- **Rev. Autum Lum**, from associate pastor at Wilmette First, effective June 30; to member-at-large.
- **Rev. Michael Winters**, completed service as the interim pastor at Oak Lawn Community, effective June 30, 2010.

#### Granted Honorable Retirement:

- **Rev. Jim Dunlap**, granted honorable retirement effective August 14, 2010.
- **Rev. Michael Winters**, granted honorable retirement effective July 1, 2010.

#### Death:

**Rev. John Burkhart**, died June 4, 2010, in Dubuque, IA

## Friendship rewarded

The Mosque Foundation, as part of their community iftar (breaking of the fast) celebrations in Ramadan, (the Muslim holy year), has a tradition of giving out awards to individuals



*The Rev. Jay Moses, Presbytery's Muslim Relations Coordinator, receives the Mosque Foundation award from its president, Hussein Ata.*

Hussein Ata, the new President of the Mosque Foundation. In the past there have been professors, mayors and others who have received the award.

The Mosque Foundation serves a large majority of the Muslims that live in Chicago, mainly on the Southside. They are a member of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, and its leadership has been present at some of the Presbytery's dialogue meetings over the last year. Jay and Ossama Jammal, the organization's vice President, have developed a friendship and have met outside of regular meetings to talk about how they can continue to pursue peace in Chicago, and also to talk about the importance of Jesus in that understanding

The Friendship Award that Jay received states: "The Mosque Foundation Proudly presents its 2010 Friendship Award to Rev. Jay Moses and the Presbyterian Church, in recognition of their friendship to the Muslim community and their commitment to peace and justice." They have very much appreciated the on-going dialogue over the last year, facilitated largely by Rev. Moses, and the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s stand for justice, especially in the Middle East. Jay received the award as a representative of the ongoing work of the Presbytery of Chicago in this reconciliation effort which is key to future peace between our two religions.

In receiving the award, Jay said: "I am humbled and thankful that friendship, something that is much harder than just being friendly, is being lifted up. I have been asked why I come to iftar celebrations such as this, and my answer has become, "to be with my friends." Choosing to befriend someone is a much better answer than "I like interfaith dialogue." Jay brought his family to this occasion, because he wanted them to begin to see and experience what it will take to have peace in their lives.

## Broadening the vision

Presbyterian Women (PW) of **Niles Presbyterian Church** are broadening the scope of their mission projects. Reaching past their usual local mission projects, they invited a representative from True Vineyard Ministries to tell the story of women of Rwanda, Musanze and their struggle since the 1994 genocide, when women and children were left to fend for themselves. Thirty-four percent of the households there are headed by women who depend on the work of their hands to support their families. The group heard stories of the courage and strength of these African women, and viewed handmade articles which they had created.

Niles PW also visited the "Yellow Ribbon" organization in Palatine, which donates food and other needed items to recuperating service personnel. Niles women contributed to this organization and expressed the desire to assist in this project.

## Coming Events

### 2010

- **Oct. 9**, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm., "Alternative Pathways Away from Violence," Chicago Crerar Memorial.
- **Oct. 12**, pre-Presbytery meeting, 2 pm, "Sacred Conversations on Race," Multicultural Church Ministry Team/McCormick Seminary.
- **Oct. 12**, pre-Presbytery meeting, 2 pm, "Tools Along the Way for Presbyterian/Muslim Dialogue," Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group.
- **Oct. 12**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 4 pm, River Forest First.
- **Oct. 17**, Chicago CROP Hunger Walk 2010, RSVP to [chicagocrop@gmail.com](mailto:chicagocrop@gmail.com).
- **Oct. 21**, 9 am-3:30 pm, True North Boundary Training, Chicago Pullman.
- **Oct. 28**, Acts:16:5-Seminar 3, 8:30 am – 4 pm, Elmhurst Presbyterian Church.
- **Oct. 31-Nov. 12**, Israel/Palestine Mission Network travel seminar. Contact the Rev. Marthame Sanders (404)233-5469 x222.
- **Nov. 4**, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN) luncheon. Contact (772)293-2964.
- **Nov. 5**, "Sacred Conversations on Race," Multicultural Church Ministry Team/ McCormick Seminary.
- **Nov. 6**, "Sacred Conversations on Race," Multicultural Church Ministry Team.
- **Nov. 9-12**, Multicultural Network's Institute, Montreat Conference Center.
- **Nov. 18**, 9 am – 1 pm, Small Church Gathering, Wheaton Hope.
- **Dec. 14**, Mission Fair, 10 am – 1 pm.
- **Dec. 14**, pre-Presbytery, 10:30 am, General Assembly actions on Middle East, Middle East Task Force.
- **Dec. 14**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 1 pm, Christ Church, Oak Brook.

### 2011

- **Feb. 15**, pre-Presbytery meeting, 2 pm, new Form of Government review, Constitutional Procedures Committee.
- **Feb. 15**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 4 pm, Palatine.

*For more information on these events, call (312) 243-8300 unless otherwise noted.*

# Compartiendo Nuestro Ministerio

## Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

October 2010 • Volume 27 Number 4

### ¡Política Presbiteriana Trabaja!

La Iglesia Presbiteriana de los EUA celebró su Asamblea General bienal en Minneapolis, MN del 3 al 10 de julio del 2010. El Presbiterio de Chicago estuvo bien representado, con diez comisionados, un delegado de asesoramiento de jóvenes, un delegado estudiante teológico, seis defensores de obertura y cuatro miembros del personal en asistencia. El contingente de Chicago se unió a más de setecientos comisionados y una serie de delegados de asesoramiento, defensores y observadores para hacer de ésta una ocasión trascendental para presbiterianos de todas partes del mundo. Fue mi placer servir como Comisionado a la 219<sup>na</sup> Asamblea General de la IP (USA). Yo moderé el Comité de Asuntos de Cuerpos Gobernantes.

La Asamblea General es el mayor cuerpo gobernante de la Iglesia y se compone de los comisionados de 173 presbiterios en los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico, con ancianos/as y Ministras/os en números iguales. Muchos de los/as comisionados/as estaban sirviendo en este papel por primera vez. Frente a la difícil tarea de discernir la voluntad de Dios para la Iglesia, los/as Comisionados/as fueron asignados al azar a uno de los 18 comités de encargados de deliberar y formular recomendaciones sobre oberturas, informes, documentos de estudio y otros asuntos de trabajo.

La Asamblea comenzó con la orientación de los comisionados y la elección de la moderadora. Tras un proceso intenso de examen, la Anc. Cynthia Bolbach fue electa moderadora de la 219<sup>na</sup> Asamblea General. Ella es del Presbiterio Capitolio Nacional, y su vice-moderador, Rdo. Landon Whitsett, es del Presbiterio Heartland. Los/as Comisionados/as dieron a ambos altas marcas por su liderazgo de la Asamblea durante la próxima semana.

Tras un servicio de adoración magnífico el 4 de julio, comisionados/as comenzaron su labor intensa y ardua de trabajo de comité. Cada comité tenía una agenda considerable a ser completada en dos días y medio. Habían estudiado informes y oberturas anteriormente a la llegada a Minneapolis. Los Comités celebraron audiencias y deliberaron sobre cuestiones antes de hacer recomendaciones a la Asamblea. Esta experiencia fue importante para Comisionados/as, como lo dio a cada uno un sentido de propiedad de la labor de la Iglesia.

La Asamblea volvió a reunirse en sesión plenaria, el 7 de julio y trabajó intensamente hasta que se finalizó el 10 de julio. La Asamblea examinó las recomendaciones de los comités, que incluía proceso de estudio del Oriente Medio, normas de ordenación, matrimonio cristiano y uniones civiles, gobernanza, declaraciones doctrinales, justicia social, paz y una variedad de otros asuntos. Las sesiones a menudo estuvieron hasta bien entrada la noche, una indicación de la magnitud de la deliberación y el debate entre Comisionados/as.

Fuí enriquecido por la experiencia y renovado en mi compromiso con nuestra forma conexional de Gobierno. La Asamblea fue notable en su atención al negocio, interacción cortés y actitud con visión de futuro. ¡Política Presbiteriana Trabaja!

*Vea reflexiones de otros tres comisionados en la página tres.*



*Anc. Cynthia Bolbach, Moderadora de la 219na Asamblea General Por Cliff Lyda*

### Reflexiones de tres comisionados a la Asamblea General

#### Phyllis Green

Me asignaron el Comité de Paz de Oriente Medio. Fue, sin duda, un botón caliente para debate, controversia y atención. Y EL ESPÍRITU SANTO ESTUVO TRABAJANDO. Más de 150 individuos/as y grupos querían hablar con el Comité durante los noventa minutos separados para testimonio. La moderador muy capaz, Rda. Karen Dimon, personal de apoyo, y Ken Hockenberry (parlamentario) controlaron la comunicación admirablemente. Mientras escuchamos, debatimos, oramos (mucho), pasamos largas noches forjando una posición de compromiso y finalmente votamos por unanimidad para traer el informe publicado al piso en versión truncada, nos unimos como grupo de trabajo. No se equivoquen: el Comité incluía una completa gama de presbiterianos, que llegaron a muchos lugares diferentes en cuestiones de paz en el Oriente Medio. La Asamblea también votó favorablemente. VERDADERAMENTE FUE EL ESPÍRITU SANTO TRABAJANDO Y UN TIEMPO DE PRESBITERIANOS EN SU MEJOR MOMENTO.

Sirviendo como Comisionada a la 219na Asamblea General fue un punto alto en mi viaje adulto de fe. Fui honrada en

servir, humilde por aquellos en la Asamblea, inspirada por la predicación y el culto y muy, muy feliz de decir que la IP(EUA) está viva y bien en el año 2010.

## **Chris Chakoian**

Me asignaron al Comité de Coordinación de Misión. Yo estaba muy impresionada con la calidad de discernimiento en nuestro Comité. Confiamos en nuestros líderes, recibimos los informes del personal de la Asamblea General y compartimos un sentido de dirección común en nuestro trabajo. El Espíritu Santo estuvo realmente con nosotros. La Secretaria Permanente del Presbiterio de Chicago, Barbara Bundick, fue nuestra parlamentaria, quien hizo un trabajo maravilloso. Nos sentimos especialmente llamados a apoyar el enfoque de nuestra denominación en estudiantes de colegio y adultos jóvenes.

Con ese fin, dimos un salto de fe al financiar \$100,000 en becas para el programa Voluntarios Jóvenes Adultos (YAV por sus siglas en inglés). Este Ministerio no sólo proporciona personal para misión – también proporciona experiencias transformadoras de vida para hombres y mujeres jóvenes. Durante el debate en nuestro Comité sobre este fondo, yo estaba tan convencida de la razón que prometí volver a mi congregación y recaudar \$50,000 para ese fondo. El siguiente domingo, prediqué sobre la Asamblea General, y aunque sólo mencioné el programa YAV de paso, uno de nuestros miembros, Susan Peet, sintió era justo el tipo de benevolencia que ella estaba buscando. Su primo, Lynn Friess y su marido, habían determinado celebrar sus cumpleaños dando dinero a obras de caridad. Lo siguiente que supe, un cheque por \$70,000 iba de camino a Louisville para el programa YAV. El Espíritu estaba trabajando.

## **Mike Welf**

La Asamblea General (AG) fue toda una experiencia para mí. Como Comisionado, me asignaron al Comité Creciendo la Iglesia Profundo y Ancho. Fue muy interesante ver los negocios de la iglesia que se llevan a cabo, con Cristo siempre presente en el proceso de discernimiento. Muchos comités trataron con asuntos altamente cargados y aún pacíficamente y en oración llegaron a las sesiones plenarias con un mensaje claro.

Sentí que ser activo en el Presbiterio como Comisionado y luego en la AG, fue parte de mi 'contribución' de regresar algo a la denominación como un todo. Sentí un deseo de hacer más en ministerios - no estaba seguro de cómo cuantificar eso. AG me ayudó a formar una opinión que yo necesitaba estar involucrado en el ministerio en casa. El primer domingo de vuelta escuché el sermón sobre el tema "aceptando el llamado de dioses, no ocultándose de él." Bien... escuché un mensaje claro para mí. Mi familia había escuchado lo mismo y me dijeron que consideraban fue dirigido a mí. Dentro de horas estaba en mi camino - ahora estoy tomando clases de Pastores Comisionados Laicos a través del Seminario Dubuque (educación a distancia) y seguiré trabajando con el Presbiterio de Chicago.

## **Asamblea de presbiterio se reúne dos veces**

El 8 de junio del 2010, Deerfield Primera recibió al presbiterio en su recién renovada casa. Dos eventos pre-presbiterio atrajeron a más de sesenta personas. El Equipo de Misión Prioritaria de Liderato Desarrollo de Congregaciones mostró cómo el servicio demográfico, Mission Insite, puede ayudar a las iglesias a tender la mano a sus comunidades. El Equipo de Trabajo Reforma del Presbiterio explicó su propuesta de pagar el resto de la línea de crédito del presbiterio. Además, el Rdo. Doug Kelly de la Junta de Pensiones (BOP por sus siglas en inglés) estuvo disponible en el área de matrícula para responder a preguntas, especialmente alrededor de los efectos de la nueva legislación de reforma de salud sobre la cobertura del BOP. La Rda. Deborah Mullins predicó sobre la fe y el programa de realidad que llamamos esperanza.

Comisionados a la Asamblea General, delegados de asesoramiento y defensores de obertura fueron comisionados a la próxima Asamblea General. Andrew Barnes-Jamieson fuera comisionados a la YAD.

La Asamblea votó a regañadientes para cerrar el Desarrollo de Nueva Iglesia Somang de Chicago. Los miembros restantes se reconstituyeron como una comunidad de adoración.

El presbiterio también votó en pagar el resto de su deuda (después de una venta de Campamentos Presbiterianos a Lakeshore Christian Camping) a través de la combinación de fondos procedentes de las inversiones del presbiterio, la venta del edificio de iglesia Elmwood Park ahora cerrado y un préstamo de \$500,000 a cinco años. El Grupo de Trabajo de Reforma del Presbiterio (PRTF) recomienda mantener el edificio para una futura venta, quizás como una forma de pagar el préstamo de cinco años. PRTF ha pedido también a Equipo de Misión Prioritaria de Liderato Desarrollo de Congregaciones investigar el uso del espacio de oficina del Presbiterio como un sitio para un Nuevo Desarrollo de Iglesia. La Asamblea también cambió la asignación recomendada de fondos de misión compartida para que la cuota del presbiterio aumentara en un 7%; aumentó el per cápita de cada miembro al presbiterio por \$1.46; y votó en mantener el uso de reservas del presbiterio al ritmo actual del 6.5%. Los presupuestos en 2011 y 2012 también por necesidad serán reducidos.

El presbiterio celebró el éxito de la 11va Conferencia Multicultural Nacional, que fue auspiciada por el Equipo de Misión de Iglesia Multicultural en mayo en Chicago. ¡Más de 500 personas asistieron! La Rda. Martha Ross-Mockaitis fue aplaudida calurosamente tras recibir el estado de Educadora Cristiana Certificada, un logro duramente ganado.

Por último, el clero fue recordado de su obligación de asistir al entrenamiento de límites al menos una vez cada tres años. El próximo evento de Entrenamiento de Límite está programado para el 21 de octubre en Pullman Chicago. Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con Loretta



Gratias-Bremer en la Oficina del Presbiterio, 312-243-8300, ext. 1330.

Una Asamblea especial de Presbiterio fue anunciada para el 7 de agosto para examinar a candidatos/as a ordenación y otros asuntos necesarios que no podían aplazarse hasta octubre. La reunión se celebró en Elmhurst Yorkfield. Además de las medidas adoptadas del Comité de Ministerio y Comité de Preparación al Ministerio, la Asamblea fue introducida a la Confesión de Belhar que se está estudiando para su inclusión en el Libro de Confesiones de IPEUA. Esta confesión fue creada durante los días del apartheid en Sudáfrica. La Asamblea también aprobó los fondos necesarios para reparar el edificio de Chicago Vida Nueva.

Hubo muchas acciones realizadas sobre los asuntos presentados por el Comité de Ministerio y Comité de Preparación al Ministerio en las reuniones de junio y agosto. Estas se informaron en un artículo de Transiciones combinado en p. 11.

## Bolígrafo del Presbítero

### Un Ministerio de Justicia y Misericordia de Dios

POR ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, PRESBITERO EJECUTIVO

2 Corintios 4:18 "...no mirando nosotros las cosas que se ven, sino las que no se ven, pues las cosas que se ven son temporales, pero las que no se ven son eternas."



Robert C. Reynolds

La Anc. Carlene Wingfield Hyrams sirvió al Presbiterio de Chicago como Ejecutiva Asociada y consultora durante ocho años. Ella fue miembro y pasada secretaria de consistorio de Iglesia Presbiteriana Sixth-Grace. Carlene había comprometido sus múltiples talentos al avance de justicia y la misericordia de Dios en nombre de iglesias presbiteriana del área de Chicago. Ella había fomentado alianzas activas

localmente, a nivel nacional y mundial con el objetivo de movilizar los recursos de nuestra iglesia en nombre de un mundo más justo y pacífico. Trágicamente, Carlene murió el 29 de julio después de haber luchando contra el cáncer valientemente durante varios años. Aquellos que le conocieron bien recuerdan su esperanzadora, cuidadosa y alentadora presencia.

El ministerio de Carlene recuerda las palabras de Pablo 2 de Corintios 4: "...no mirando nosotros las cosas que se ven, sino las que no se ven, pues las cosas que se ven son temporales, pero las que no se ven son eternas." Con los ojos humanos Carlene vio bien y mal. Viendo ambos, ella celebró

los dones de Dios en individuos y comunidades, pero ella lloró su sufrimiento. A través de los ojos de la fe, ella confió en la promesa de Dios de nueva vida y trató de poner fin a los sufrimientos humanos. Ella fue sostenida al mirar "lo que no puede verse": un mundo donde la justicia y misericordia de Dios reinará un día. Su servicio a través de la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EUA) y anteriormente en educación superior, ejemplifica esta visión.

Lo que sigue es varios ejemplos de su servicio en nombre de iglesias del área de Chicago en el cual Carlene lloró sufrimientos humanos, claramente visible al ojo desnudo. En cada uno de ellos intentó ser un instrumento de justicia y misericordia de Dios — visible a ella a través de los ojos de la fe.

2008 fue el último año completo que Carlene sirvió como Ejecutiva Asociada para el Ministerio de Justicia. Jugó un papel vital en la activación de numerosos pactos de misión para la justicia en 2008. A continuación presentamos varios ejemplos, incluyendo a socios del presbiterio:

- Acabar con el Hambre y Falta de Techo: cuatro iglesias presbiterianas y tres agencias sin fines de lucro
- Proyecto Libertad — un Ministerio con ex delincuentes: una Iglesia Presbiteriana y Iglesia Bautista New Life
- Congregaciones en solidaridad con América Latina: cuatro iglesias presbiterianas y la Red de Líderes Religiosos de Chicago sobre América Latina
- Pacto de Transformación Congregacional Afroamericano: ocho iglesias presbiterianas, Sínodo de Lincoln Trails y Asamblea General
- Estudio Bíblico Hispano: cuatro iglesias presbiterianas y Capellanes por Cristo en la cárcel del Condado de Cook
- Equipo de Ministerio Iglesia Multicultural: ocho iglesias presbiterianas y Asamblea General. Además, Carlene jugó un papel fundamental en traer la 11va Conferencia Nacional Iglesia Multicultural a Chicago en mayo del 2010.

Otro aspecto clave de su trabajo incluyó administración de becas del Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos en 2008. En el área de Chicago estos son ministerios de justicia y misericordia apoyado por becas de la ofrenda Una Gran Hora de Compartir. De un total de quince proyectos, seis son las siguientes:

- Federación de Club de Bloque de Englewood
- Ministerio Hood
- Grupo de apoyo de madres solteras coreanas
- Veteranos nativos americanos
- Centro de recursos para la mujer Steppin' Stone

A través de los ojos de la fe inquebrantable, Carlene confió en lo que no puede ser visto con el ojo desnudo. Como resultado, ella fue instrumento de Dios sobre lo que es invisible y eterno. Estoy agradecido por el ministerio y la vida fiel de Carlene. ¡En nuestras iglesias y a lo largo del presbiterio, que podemos seguir su legado mirando lo que es invisible y eterno: la promesa de Dios de justicia y misericordia!



## VISION STATEMENT

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

Presbytery of Chicago 100 South Morgan Street Chicago, IL 60607

## Presbyterian Camps Update

Cindi Karstens, Moderator of the Camp Oversight and Development Work Group, has provided the following update:

Chicago Presbytery received word in August that Lakeshore Christian Camping rescinded the contract to purchase Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI.

“Many Presbyterians will want to know about the Camps’ availability in the months ahead. Reservations continue to be received for the fall, and inquiries are being made about 2011. We celebrate this continuing interest and involvement.

Although the Camps’ long term future remains uncertain, it will be open for a full schedule of retreats and programs through November. It is very likely that all current reservations for 2010 can be honored, and others are encouraged where facilities space allows. Traditionally, the Camps close during the early winter months of December and January.

Reservations for 2011 can be made at any time. However, their confirmation will be delayed until February. Interested parties can make reservations through customary procedures. Any funds received in conjunction with current and future reservations will be fully refunded if the camping ministry is discontinued.

The 2010 summer camping season concluded August 14<sup>th</sup>. Participant numbers were up and both campers and summer staff reported edifying experiences. We thank God and the Camps’ leaders for a safe, secure, and inspiring summer program.”



*A beloved camp landmark*

## PRTF Reports

BY GREG BOSTROM, PRTF MODERATOR  
ROBERT REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

In mid-August, Lakeshore Christian Camping (LCC) notified Chicago Presbytery that it was unable to meet the financial contingency requirements of their contract to purchase Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI. As a result, they rescinded the contract, while expressing a continuing interest in purchasing the Camp despite being unable to close by the agreed upon date. We appreciate the faithful efforts of the LCC and the churches and individuals who have supported it.

The Presbytery has been working on contingency plans for selling the property, and now has a provisional contract for the sale of Presbyterian Camps to a partnership group that is offering to lease nearly all of the property back to the Presbytery for ongoing use as a camp. The potential sale would enable the Presbytery to meet about \$9.5 million of its \$11 million debt obligation and maintain its camping ministry in Saugatuck.

Final approval of this contract would come at the October 12 Presbytery Assembly meeting, and is pending the successful negotiation of a “lease with option to buy” agreement that would enable the Presbytery to purchase back nearly all of the property at a future date. The Presbyterian Reformation Task Force (PRTF) considers this to be a promising development, both in meeting the Presbytery’s financial crisis and in continuing a camping ministry in Saugatuck.