

# Our Common Ministry



Presbytery of Chicago

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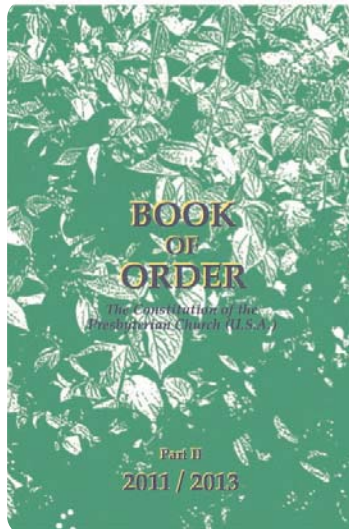


## Living into the PC (USA)'s New Form of Government

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, a new Form of Government became effective for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The new Form of Government, commonly referred to as nFOG, was approved by the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) and ratified by a majority of presbyteries. It replaced the previous 18-chapter Form of Government with a new version that is six chapters in length.

Of our two-part Constitution (*The Book of Confessions* and *The Book of Order*), only the *Book of Order* has been changed. Within *The Book of Order*, the Form of Government has been replaced by the new Form of Government and a new opening section, "The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity," has been added. This new section draws heavily on the old Form of Government, pulling together scattered material to more succinctly declare the church's mission, confession and the historic principles of order and to make it clear that the foundational principles apply to the entire Book of Order, not only to the new Form of Government. The Directory of Worship and the Rules of Discipline have been updated in several places to reflect changes in terminology found in the new Form of Government. Finally, the *Advisory Handbook for Councils for the Development of Policies and Procedures as required by the Form of Government* has been developed.

The nFOG is the first complete revision of the Form of Government since 1983 when the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America reunited to form the PC (USA). Although it had not been revised since reunion, the original Form of Government had been amended more than 300 times.



### Was a New Form of Government Necessary?

During her presentation at **Chicago Heights First** for the pre-Presbytery event on June 21<sup>st</sup>, Cynthia Bolbach, moderator of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and co-chair of the Form of Government Task Force was asked if the PC (USA) "really needed" a new Form of Government.

She grinned widely, and then replied, "There will always be a small group that says 'If it's not broken it doesn't need to be fixed.' But our polity needed revision. Polity can make a difference in the effectiveness of our church."

In a 2008 nFOG debate held at National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, Bolbach remarked, "There has been an ongoing call for changes to our Form of Government over at least the last 10 years . . . because people have realized that over time our Form of Government has expanded, perhaps inevitably, from what it is supposed to be, which is a constitution, into something that is more like a regulatory manual of operations. There has been, over the years, a

recognition that the Form of Government has become too unwieldy, has tried to propose a one-size-fits-all answer to all problems."

When asked the same question in an interview for this article, Barbara Bundick, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Chicago said, "Good question! I think the old Form of Government worked great for large, urban presbyteries like ours, but it didn't work for everyone. For example, in the past, presbyteries that would only have a candidate for ministry once every 10 years or more were required to have a standing Committee on Preparation for Ministry. That kind of governance just doesn't make sense. The nFOG points us to be a missional church — a

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## GA's Mid Council Commission

BY REV. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

In an October 11 "News and Announcements" publication from the General Assembly, a report appeared concerning the work of the GA's Mid Council Commission (GAMCC). There are clues in the article to the future of Presbyterian mid councils (formerly known as middle governing bodies). Chicago Presbytery (a mid council) is currently engaged in an "organic visioning process" concerning our future mission, led by three presbytery assembly moderators. There is food for thought for our visioning in the Commission's report. Portions of the article are quoted below, to some of which I have added personal comments in italics.



Robert C. Reynolds

"The GAMCC was created by the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) to consult widely with the church on the mission and function of middle governing bodies—now called mid councils with the adoption earlier this year of the new Form of Government—and to 'develop models that reflect the roles of middle governing bodies in our polity and the changing context of our witness in the United States and their relationship with other governing bodies.'

"At earlier commission meetings, the 21-member body identified operating assumptions for its work:

- There is no "one-size-fits-all" model for middle governing bodies
- Congregations are basic but insufficient centers for mission and ministry, i.e. we remain a connectional church
- Structure must serve and support healthy, shared, spiritual and collaborative leadership. (*Caution: Structure that serves leaders, regardless of style, encourages "command and control" more than collaboration. Structure, like leaders, should serve mission and purpose!*)
- Structure must serve to create "a big dance floor" for middle governing bodies of all sizes, shapes and styles. (*Although the commission's focus is mid councils and perhaps the metaphor is intentionally limiting, where on the "big dance floor" are sessions, synods, and the GA? This question comes from a concern for being functionally connectional, across all councils.*)

"During an extensive report by its data-gathering group, the commission discerned several 'directions' for its work:

- Get back to mission, ministry and connectional emphasis
- Reduce hierarchy and emphasis on structure and governance. (*Reduce emphasis on governance? Yes, if this emphasizes God's grace over law. But, a major element of the new Form*

- of Government, activated in July of this year, is on sessions and presbyteries taking responsibility for increased self-governance).*
- Keep those elements of Presbyterianism that have always defined us, but flatten the organization
- Get out of survival mode and embrace the future and a theology of abundance
- Focus the denomination's energy and resources on local congregations. (*Most of the denominations' resources are in congregations! Are these resources not the life-blood of the PC (USA) denomination? What do we mean by "denomination? Are sessions excluded? The question is about mind-set, not mere semantics.*)
- Pay particular attention to racial ethnic and immigrant ministries. (*This sounds like a post-script, whereas it should top the list. "Paying particular attention" is insufficient. Rather, let's just do it! Why not say this: "Become a cross-cultural and racially diverse church, through and through?"*)

"Commission member John Vest of Chicago Presbytery, chair of the commission's emerging models group, outlined questions that must be answered in evaluating various structural models. Will our models:

- Support new church development?
- Help us reach emerging generations?
- Help us manage the polarity of our church?
- Help us become a truly multicultural church?
- Ensure participation of racial ethnic persons?
- Be flexible enough to adapt in anticipation of continuing rapid change?
- Nurture a connectional church and relationships?
- Enhance parity between ruling and teaching elders?
- Reflect a missional ecclesiology? (*OK, but how about greater specificity? Will our mid-council models:*
  - *Promote church partnerships for local, regional, and global community development, top to bottom throughout the PC (USA)?" and/or*
  - *Free all PC (USA) councils to act boldly as partners for peace, domestically and globally? and/or*
  - *Mobilize local, regional, and global partnerships for justice and mercy?)"*
- Enable participation, creativity and innovation?"

The GAMCC's work to date is commendable. It is clear the members are attuned to long-standing challenges before the PC (USA) that require a reawakening to God's mission in the world and a renewed vision of mid council roles in it. The commission will make its final report to the General Assembly in Pittsburgh next year. Let's remember them, and all involved in Chicago Presbytery's visioning process, in our prayers.

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OCM invites comments, questions and stories from our readers. Please direct your letters to the Editor, Ms. Grayson Van Camp at [vancamps@earthlink.net](mailto:vancamps@earthlink.net). Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

# New Form of Government – Continued from page 1

church that reaches outward – and it helps us do that by focusing on freeing up presbyteries in particular. We have more flexibility in how we organize our work. That’s exciting and practical, too.

“For some, the old Form of Government was as comfortable as an old pair of shoes. It’s easy to ask why we need a new pair. But I think we’ll get used to these new shoes and they’ll fit us very well. In our own presbytery, the Commission (formerly “Committee”) on Ministry and the Develop Congregations Mission Priority Leadership Team are working on a new policy for worshipping fellowships. It’s not that it couldn’t have done it before, but the nFOG really encourages such creativity.”

## But aren’t the changes going to be difficult?

In an open letter to the PC (USA) dated June 7, 2011, Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator; Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk; Landon Whitsitt, Vice Moderator of the 219th General Assembly and Linda Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council wrote:

“Many Presbyterians will see nothing suddenly or dramatically different with a new Form of Government. Worship services will go on as usual, and congregations will continue to teach the faith, serve their communities, reach out to those in need, and work to further God’s realm on earth. However, what will be different is that congregations, presbyteries, and synods will have the opportunity to tailor mission and ministry to fit their own particular contexts and challenges.

“It is a season of much change in the church, and change is often accompanied by anxiety. Making the transition from the current Form of Government to the new one will take time, patience, and grace. We will all be living gradually into these new dimensions of the church’s governance.”

Barbara Bundick agrees. “The impact on the churches isn’t as great as it is on the Presbyteries. However, there are things congregations will need to do and we can help answer questions about those things. Congregational Meetings used to require a 10% attendance as a quorum. But that is not in the new Form of Government which instead states, ‘Congregations shall provide by rules the quorum necessary to conduct business.’ So congregations need to address that in their bylaws.

“Another thing is that the new Form of Government requires sessions to follow Robert’s rules, but doesn’t require the congregation to. But my personal recommendation is that congregations put Robert’s Rules in their bylaws. It’s thorough. For example, Robert’s Rules addresses a very important new development for all of us – that is, if sessions want to do voting by email or by conference calling, they need to put something in their bylaws to authorize that. None of this (nFOG) is a big deal. Soon we’ll all be adjusted to it. It will just take some time.”

Cynthia Bolbach closed her remarks to the Presbytery in June with approximately the same sentiment, “With just a little time and patience, we’ll all live into the new Form of Government. What really matters is how we most effectively proclaim the gospel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

To learn more about the Form of Government and to find charts comparing the previous version to the new, go to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). There you can download or order copies of the Book of Confession and the Book of Order in English, Spanish and Korean.

## New Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery of Chicago

The Rev. Tom Brown, associate pastor, **Western Springs**, will assume the role of youth ministry coordinator on October 17.

This 20 hour a month position is funded by the Empower Ministry Mission Priority Leadership Team. Rev. Brown will continue serving full time as associate pastor of **Western Springs** with support from the session and senior pastor.

- The coordinator’s work involves four areas of emphasis:
- Work with the Youth Ministry Team in enhancing the presbytery’s work with youth.
- Plan and carry out four presbytery-wide youth events annually.
- Resource congregations with emerging youth ministries.
- Foster a network among congregational youth workers throughout the presbytery.



*We welcome Tom Brown as our new youth ministry coordinator.*

Tom brings 20 plus years of a variety of experiences in youth ministry settings, a vision for youth ministry, and passion for inspiring youth leadership as well as skills in consensus building and working as a team with the presbytery’s youth leadership.

“Youth ministry is my passion,” says Tom, “and something to which I have dedicated more than half my life. I myself am a product of youth ministry and know firsthand the power it can have to shape a young person’s sense of self and life goals. It will be a privilege to work alongside other congregations as well as the one I serve in developing a mission and passion for ministry.”

As we welcome Tom to this role we also offer our warm thanks to the Rev. Beth Freese Dammers who served four years as the youth ministry coordinator. Beth serves as interim associate pastor at **Arlington Heights First**.

## Self-Development of People on Vision Trip

BY SARAH JANE MOORE, SDOP COMMITTEE PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO

On a beautiful Saturday in August, 18 people set out on a “Vision Trip” to six Chicago projects funded by grants from PC (USA)’s Self-Development of People Ministry. A Vision Trip is an experiential tour to show people in the local congregations the good work being done in under-resourced communities, so they can “catch the vision” of what can happen when community groups form partnerships with SPOP. Lives are transformed and hope is renewed.

Participants came from the city and suburbs to see what Presbyterians’ gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering are accomplishing here in Chicago. Travelers promised to return to their own congregations and “Share the Vision” through a minute for mission, a newsletter story, an adult education program or a small group.



*The gazebo built by Team Builders on Point Crew displays their craftsmanship and makes a welcoming gathering place.*

The first stop was Eden Place Nature Center on Chicago’s South Side where two of the funded projects, Team Builders on Point Crew and The Winning Circle, meet regularly. The Team Builders On Point Crew are a group of men getting their contractors’ certifications for self-employment in trades such as plumbing, electric, tile installation, mechanical, or HVAC. SDOP funding paid for tools, training, and a used van. Vision Trippers sat in the gazebo while a chef prepared vegetable gumbo from the produce grown by the Winning Circle, a group that received SDOP funding for their organic gardening and financial literacy projects. Before sampling the delicious gumbo, Vision Trippers heard from members of the Team Builders and the Winning Circle about ways the projects have helped them overcome economic poverty by learning new skills in order to earn a living after prison release, manage their finances, grow and eat healthier food, and manage weight.

Nancy Glickman, project coordinator for a non-destructive testing program at Moraine Valley Community College and member of **Western Springs** was especially interested in the creative ways Team Builders and Green Spirit Lawn Care prepared themselves for employment. “I really enjoyed the trip. I was so impressed with the pride all the people felt in their new careers. The men who went into construction were . . . just so excited.”

The second stop was at Global Coffee and Cargo at 2915-1917 W. Armitage and by then everyone needed a caffeine boost. SDOP grant funds paid to rehab this storefront where men recovering from addictions work selling coffee and sandwiches or as retail clerks in a resale shop. The projects help men establish a work history. Next door is a garden completed by Green Spirit Lawn Care, a lawn care co-op funded by SDOP that also creates roof top gardens and has branched out into green pest control and raising tilapia. Barb Trumbull of **Barrington Presbyterian** said, “This was the highlight of the trip.”

The last stop was to St. Pius V Parish in Chicago’s Pilsen community where SDOP has funded several group projects. Vision Trippers heard from SPRED—a group of parents of disabled children who formed a group to learn how to be more effective teachers for their children. The parents explained how the grant from SDOP purchased training materials that they were able to use to create individualized programs for each child and proudly showed their recently remodeled classroom. We also heard from Union, Fuerza, Accion a group of young Hispanics working on immigration issues after training funded by an SDOP grant.

## Chicago Heights First provides two shallow wells

Over the summer, **Chicago Heights First** sent enough money to build three wells to the Marion Medical Mission Shallow Well Program. The wells cost \$400 each; when a donation is made to Chicago Heights’ Well Program, a small well is placed in the chancel on Sunday mornings. The Mission uses such funds to build wells in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia in southern Africa. The shallow well program was started by Tom Logan, a member of First Presbyterian in Marion, IL. Many of the health problems in the underdeveloped world are water-related. Since 1990 the Mission has been involved in making safe water available in these three countries by installing shallow wells that are sealed against surface pollution. The wells are built by volunteers from the US, in cooperation with the local villagers. The Mission provides only what the villagers cannot: the pipe, pump, concrete and some trained labor. The villagers themselves make the brick and provide much of the labor. Each village signs a contract agreeing to pay an annual maintenance fee so that spare parts are available.

The wells are built during the dry season — a two-month window between September and November, to insure that the wells will provide water throughout the year. After each well is completed, the Mission will send the church a photo, the name of the village and the number of people the well serves.

As a result of a special endowment for foreign mission First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville, IL will make a double donation each time \$400 is donated to the program. So the well that Chicago Heights funded in September will actually result in three new wells being built. What a wonderful Presbyterian collaboration to bring safe drinking water to people in need!

(Excerpted from *The Chimes* newsletters, July and August 2011)

## Walking together to end hunger and homelessness

By JOSEPH FONG, MEMBER CHICAGO FOURTH AND MEMBER CROP HUNGER WALK PLANNING TEAM

Many congregations in the Presbytery of Chicago were involved with the Chicago CROP Hunger Walk to help raise funds for distribution to organizations that fight hunger and homelessness. An ecumenical committee of Chicago churches gathers to plan for the CROP Hunger Walk and, after the walk, all of the money raised by these churches is divided equally and returned to be used by them to end hunger. The Presbytery of Chicago’s portion for this year is approximately \$3000. It will be distributed by the End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team.



Lincoln Park Community Shelter graduates prepare meal for current guests

Two agencies that are recipients of the funding are the Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS) and Lakeview Pantry.

LPCS is a social service agency that serves homeless adults. Their interim housing community serves up to 35 guests each night – 24 men and 11 women. They provide storage, showers and meals.

Last year they served 250 guests. All guests of LPCS are involved in educational programs. Bi-monthly, program graduates (those who have successfully moved into independent, permanent housing) come together to mentor current shelter guests and prepare and serve dinner.

The Lakeview Pantry program also helps move clients toward lives of independence and security. Their mission is to eliminate hunger in our community by providing food to fill the basic need of hungry people, increasing the independence of clients through self-help initiatives and innovative programs, and raising awareness of hunger and poverty and work toward solutions to eliminate them. The ultimate goal of the pantry is to eradicate hunger and poverty in the community by helping clients address food needs, and the issues which lead to food insecurity. Lakeview’s program includes food distribution at two sites, home delivery, and case management. Lakeview Pantry is a 2011 Winner of the Alford-Axelsson Award for Non-profit Managerial Excellence.

The Chicago CROP Hunger Walk is a wonderful way to help hungry people all over the world. I hope you will consider joining us next year.

## Lake View Academy graduates five

Lake View Academy, an alternative high school diploma program of **Chicago Lake View**, graduated five at-risk young adults at a ceremony in June. Each spoke about their experience.

**Grace Escalera** recalled how she stopped attending Steinmetz High School so she could spend time with her friends. After one of her friends was shot and killed, she reappraised her life’s direction. An alumna of Lake View Academy encouraged her to apply. She was accepted. “Thanks to LVA, I gained self-confidence and learned about the Lord,” she said.

**Pedro Navarrete** also talked about his poor choices, including ditching classes at Senn High School, until one poor choice led to his arrest. He and his mother looked for alternative schools because no public high school would accept an 18-year-old. “People have told me I would be a drug dealer, get shot or put in jail, and that I wasn’t going to make it through high school,” he said at the graduation ceremony. “I proved them all wrong.”

**Drew Gasser** told the audience that after he moved to Chicago from Connecticut, he had trouble adjusting to his new environment. He withdrew from life – “I didn’t have the motivation to do anything.” His mother enrolled him at Lake View Academy, where he flourished. “There is no room [here] to fall through the cracks and become a lost cause,” he said.

**Ethan Waters** opened his speech with a quote from Gandhi: “You must be the change you want to see in the world.” He noted how his life has seen many changes as his family moved from city to city. In Chicago, he decided that he would develop best in a small learning environment. “My Lake View Academy education has allowed me to achieve the first of my life goals: gaining acceptance to the University of Alabama.”

**Yonatan Aguilar** did not participate in the graduation ceremony. However, in his exit essay, he wrote, “I used to be a bad person. After I had my son, my life changed. ... School got hard, but I didn’t give up. Now God has opened so many positive roads for me. ... I am going to own my own business and give jobs to those who are in need.”

To learn more about the academy, call (773) 281-3065 or [lva@lakeviewpresbyterian.org](mailto:lva@lakeviewpresbyterian.org).

## Helping HIM serve children

In September, **South Holland United** collected children’s clothing to benefit the Hearts in Motion (HIM) Agency in Guatemala. Hearts in Motion (HIM) was founded in 1990 by its Executive Director, Karen Scheeringa-Parra, who is a member of **Lansing**. HIM operates a school for 250 children and clinic in Guatemala. To learn more about HIM, visit [www.heartsinmotion.org](http://www.heartsinmotion.org).

## Healthy Boundaries workshop – protecting ourselves and others

BY LORETTA GRATIAS-BREMER, ELDER, WESTERN SPRINGS AND PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO CONSULTANT FOR MISCONDUCT PREVENTION

“Healthy Boundaries: Recovering Our God-Given Limits for the Good of the Church” was the name of a workshop presented by Dr. Beverly Blaisdell Weinhold on Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at **Arlington Heights Southminster**. The workshop was the third in 2011 coordinated by the True North Response Team. The next one will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012 at **River Forest**.

Dr. Weinhold is an ordained Intentional Interim Minister in the United Church of Christ and a Licensed Professional Counselor. She currently lives in Louisville, KY and has a consulting and counseling practice.

In an article that she wrote entitled “Boundaries: A Primer,” she states: “Simply put, a boundary is a personal property line. It defines where one person begins and another ends, thereby clarifying who is responsible for what. Exercising boundaries is a relational skill that helps us to say ‘no,’ set limits, place priorities, and protect ourselves from harm.”

Many of those who attended the workshop appreciated the case studies Dr. Weinhold presented and the opportunities for discussion and participation. Some of the comments from the evaluations sheets included:

1. “A highlight was better awareness of the increasingly challenging and complex roles of clergy due to changes in society, cultural expectations and voices and this role of technology!”
2. “I appreciated the focus on self care.”

For more information about the February 11<sup>th</sup> workshop, please contact me at (312) 243-8300 ext. 1330 or [Loretta@chicagopresbytery.org](mailto:Loretta@chicagopresbytery.org).

## Interfaith Book Club builds bridge to peace and understanding

BY CAROL STOUB, ELDER, WESTERN SPRINGS

A group of women from **Western Springs** wanted to find ways to become friends with Muslim women. We finally connected with members of the Bridgeview Mosque in 2008. Our goal is to build bridges of understanding through conversation not ideology.

We decided to read together as a path to friendship. We choose our books as a group and discuss them with openness, humor and thoughtfulness. There is no religious or political agenda. The discussion group is held monthly, alternately, at **Western Springs** or at the Bridgeview Mosque. Women from **La Grange First** and **La Grange Highlands** and other churches have become part of the Interfaith Book Group with the **Western Springs** women. We have 16 active readers and participants. Others are welcome. The Interfaith Book Group is characterized by laughter, fab-

ulous food, and growing friendships. The books we read serve as our vehicle to deep and abiding friendship, cross cultural and religious understanding. Simply said, it is fun!

We presented the Presbyterian Women program on November 3, 2011 at **Western Springs**. A lunch was served and we welcomed all who wanted to attend. The program was a panel of Muslim and women discussing Sharia Law and what it really means, Journey into Islam from other faith backgrounds, Women in Islam, and Daily faith practice. The meeting was



moderated by Susan Rusk of **La Grange First** and me.

We believe we have a story to tell about our interfaith group and are willing to visit other churches as a way of building bridges to peace and understanding. If you are interested in learning more about the Interfaith Book Group, contact me, Carol Stoub at [labyrinthecas@yahoo.com](mailto:labyrinthecas@yahoo.com).

## Drama Camp teaches Bible story to kids

**Mount Prospect Community** sponsored a four-session Drama Camp, which culminated with a performance on September 10. Designed for grades kindergarten through sixth grade, the classes covered singing, acting, choreography and sets/costumes. According to coordinator Susan Duff, the classes began with a meal, where the children learned the biblical story of Joseph. They applied their knowledge as they rehearsed and presented scenes from the show “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” To learn more, call the church at (847) 392-3111.

## Prayer Partners at Chicago Heights First

For the past year, the deacons and several other members of the Chicago Heights congregation have been serving as prayer partners for each other. Now they are broadening the practice and inviting the congregation to get involved.

“Making prayer covenants is an aspect of the Christian lifestyle in which you offer to other individuals the opportunity to pray an agreed upon prayer with you for a period of time such as a week or a month”, explained pastor Del Meester. One suggested prayer is taken from Philippians 1:3-11 – “O God, I pray that your love will keep growing in \_\_\_\_\_ and me and bless us with your knowledge and insight so that we may determine what is best. And may \_\_\_\_\_ and I

be pure and blameless before Christ. I pray that the Holy Spirit will fill our lives with the fruit of righteousness. May our lives bring glory and praise to you, O God. Amen.” Prayer partners are encouraged to also include any specific prayer concerns shared with each other.

People can surprise themselves by saying yes to a request to be a prayer partner, or they can get the ball rolling themselves by reaching out and asking someone to join them in prayer!

(Excerpted from *The Chimes* newsletter, September 2011)

### Sharing space brings benefits at Chicago First

The Woodlawn Collaborative is a collection of student groups from the University of Chicago and non-profit organizations around the community who are sharing space at **Chicago First**. One of the groups affiliated with the Collaborative is the Henry Hendricks Weddington (HHW) School of the Performing Arts Choir (Collegium Musicum). Under the direction of Ms. Jean Pinkston Hendricks, the choir offers youth the opportunity to develop life skills that will make them better citizens and more creative beings by participating in music, dance and theater.



*The energetic Henry Hendricks Weddington School of the Performing Arts Choir in concert at Chicago First.*

In July, the church hosted the choir’s summer concert in the sanctuary. A few days later, the full choir of 50 students returned to perform a concert for the Seniors Helping Seniors exercise class, another group that meets at the church twice a week as part of the Collaborative. In August, Ms. Hendricks returned for another concert featuring the Pinkston Family and Friends. “These performances have brought a very colorful and energetic spirit of celebration to our life at First”, observes pastor Reggie Weaver.

(Excerpted from the *First Church Chimes* newsletters, July and August 2011)

### Coffeehouse draws new talent

**Skokie Carter-Westminster United** has been hosting a free monthly coffee house/open mic night on Saturdays for the community. Organizer Elliott Knott reports seeing some new faces and “great talent” playing songs together. To learn more, contact the church at (847) 673-4441 or info@cwupc.net.

### Glen Ellyn Southminster celebrates “Jubilee Sunday”

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, a celebration worship service and banquet culminated a weekend of events in recognition of **Southminster’s** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The theme was “Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith, Spreading God’s Love.” The guest preacher on Jubilee Sunday was the Rev. Dr. Dennis Okholm, professor of theology at Azusa Pacific University.



*Children at Southminster Glen Ellyn plant a crabapple tree to commemorate the church’s 50th anniversary.*

Many of us remember Dennis who formerly served as parish associate at **Glen Ellyn First** while teaching at Wheaton College.

Southminster’s pastor, Rev. Wendy Boden, warmly greeted guests and welcomed back former pastors, staff members and members to the celebration: Rev. Karen Bloom, Rev. Dr. James W. Graham, Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Learned, Rev. Muriel Miller, Rev. Dr. Lynne M. Myers, Rev. Traci M. Smith and Rev. Jeannette Sutfin were present. Each pastor was given an anniversary stole, including those who could not be present – Rev. Herbert Eggleston, Rev. Richard Thompson and Rev. Lucia Oerter.

Also participating in the service were Pastor Abel Mirabal Padilla from **Southminster’s** sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba. The congregation rejoiced to welcome Abel and his wife Sara to Southminster.

Other events included an all-ages music and fun-filled concert event called Songs on the Lawn and, when rainy weather brought the festivities indoors, the mood was not dampened. Instead, the sanctuary rocked with the joyful music!

In keeping with the theme of “Rooted in Christ and Growing in Faith,” the children of the Sunday School planted a crabapple tree outside of their classrooms.

Co-chairs of the Jubilee event, Sue Clary and Pat Wiedner, were roundly applauded at the closing banquet.

## McCormick Seminary celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

A series of programs, entitled "Community, Campus, and Crisis: Unexpected Stories and Contributions of the Young Lords Occupation in 1969" was offered by McCormick Seminary's *Center for the Study of Latin@ Theology and Ministry* in partnership with DePaul University and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC).

The three programs, presented in September and October, explored the crises surrounding the displacement of the largely Latino residents during a time of rapid gentrification of the Lincoln Park area and the protests that culminated



*The first cohort in McCormick's Certificate in Latin@ Theology and Ministry recently completed their first course, "Introduction to the Tasks of Latin@ Practical Theology."*

with the Young Lords street gang's occupation of McCormick's Stone administration building on its former campus, now the School of Music on De Paul University's campus in Lincoln Park. The programs, "Prophetic Voices of the Community," "Institutional Responses," and "Renewing Covenant with Latin@ Ministries" included panels with Omar Lopez; Robert Worley, Sr.; Cheryl Pero, Director of the Multi-Cultural Center at LSTC; Roberto Navarro; Obed Lopez; Carlos Castro; Carol Lee Lopez and Hector Ortiz. McCormick President Dr. Frank Yamada; Dr. Luis Rivera-Rodriguez, McCormick's Dean of Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Daniel Rodriguez-Diaz, Director of the Center for the Study of Latin@ Theology and Ministry, and Dr. Ken Sawyer participated as speakers and moderators.

The Center for the Study of Latin@ Theology and Ministry, established in 2003, grew from the Hispanic Ministries Program that began in 1973. The Center is committed to providing programs, services, and resources aimed at strengthening the formation and renewal of Latino and Latina (Latin@) theological education, church leaders, and congregations. More than 250 Latin@s have received masters and doctor of ministry degrees from McCormick.

The Center supports the work of McCormick Latin@ students and the Latin American Student Association (AELM) and contributes to the training of non-Hispanic seminarians and church leaders called to work in Latin@ communities and congregations. To learn more about the Center and McCormick's commitment to Latin@ ministry, go to [www.mccormick.edu](http://www.mccormick.edu).

## Ecumenical visit from Ghana and Togo

Eric Heinekamp, Director of Business Affairs for the Presbytery of Chicago was recently paid a visit by the



*Left to right, Rev. Godwin Kwaku Osiakwa, Rev. Pastor Awanyoh, Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Rt. Rev. Francis Amenu; and Rev. Dr. Benjamin Quamson.*

Moderator of the General Assembly, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana (The Rt. Rev. Francis Amenu) and the moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo (Rev.

Pastor Awanyoh A. M. Imanuel). As the heads of their respective churches, they were Chicago to inaugurate the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of America (Chicago) branch into the Ghana E.P. Church fraternity on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. They stopped into the Presbytery to bring greetings and in hopes of fostering ecumenical relations. Also present were Rev. Godwin Kwaku Osiakwa, Clerk of the General Assembly, EP Church. The visit was coordinated by Rev. Dr. Benjamin Quamson, a McCormick alumnus, who was ordained in the Church of the Ghanaian Community of Chicago.

## The ABC's of Proactive Transformation

By REV. SHAWNA BOWMAN, PROACTIVE TRANSFORMATION COORDINATOR

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? —Isaiah 43:19

Transformation is hard and messy work. It is complex and requires us to dig deep in ourselves and in our communities of faith. But it's also life giving, renewing and necessary work in the life of the Church. Transformation requires that we talk about and wrestle with who we are. It requires asking ourselves some key questions:

- What are the core pieces of our identities that make us the particular and peculiar people of faith that we are?
- Are we willing to be changed and shaped, even transformed

by our relationships to the neighborhoods and communities that are shifting and changing around us?

- How do we live through the fires of transformation without losing ourselves and the communities that we've known for so long?
- How do we embrace transformation with confidence that God is with us? With curiosity about how God is leading us? With imagination that will give us courage to take risks?

The Proactive Transformation project is designed to help guide congregations through these beginning questions and to support them with training, resources and opportunities for support along the journey to transformation.

Each congregation is unique. Proactive Transformation is designed to work closely with individual congregations to design support and resources that will be most effective in facilitating transformation in their particular context.

Some of these resources will include materials, workshops and presentations about church redevelopment, transformation, conflict mediation, ministering in a multi-cultural context and anti-racism training. The Proactive Transformation Team provides individual support to participating clergy, visioning teams and church leaders and participating congregations will also have opportunity to support and encourage one another.

Our first workshop was held on Nov. 12th at **Chicago Lakeview**, led by Rev. Joy Douglas Strome. "Church Transformation: Navigating your church through size transition, life cycle analysis, and building challenges" was geared to congregational transformation for clergy and church leaders.

The workshop presented the principles of Church Life Cycle Theory and helped to identify the work that individual congregations must be aware of before transformation can happen. Included was an analysis of the demographics of each congregation and the potential impact on church growth as a result. We looked at building issues – strategic ways to use current buildings and how to make long range plans for changes in physical plants.

There are already four congregations participating in Proactive Transformation and we welcome more. If you are curious about the project, please contact me, Shawna Bowman at [sbowman@chicagopresbytery.org](mailto:sbowman@chicagopresbytery.org).

This project is grant funded through the PCUSA and does not require a financial commitment from interested congregations. It does require a time commitment and a willingness to share resources with other congregations in the future. If your congregation is active in Acts 16:5 or AACTC initiative you are not eligible at this time but you are welcome to attend any or all events open to the whole Presbytery.

Partners and supporters of this project include Chicago Presbytery, Develop Congregations, Empower Ministry, COM, McCormick Theological Seminary, Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the office of the General Assembly.

## International Association of Women Ministers elects new president

The Rev. Eunice Blanchard Poethig, H.R., was elected President of The International Association of Women Ministers at the organization's 2011 IAWM Assembly at the Dunrovin Retreat Center in Minnesota on July 26 this year.

Organized in 1919, IAWM is an international and interdenominational support group for women ministers and for women preparing for ministry. IAWM's members come from twenty-two countries and a wide diversity of denominations. Recently seven Roman Catholic Women Ministers (RCWM) have joined IAWM because IAWM recognizes their ordination as legitimate. *The Women's Pulpit*, edited by Rev. Dr. LaVonne Althouse, is IAWM's official publication of news about women ministers around the world. A daily prayer list of members is sent to all members and members are encouraged to gather in their own regions and to attend the annual assemblies which are held in various parts of the world.



*Eunice Poethig,  
President of IAWM*

To find out more about IAWM, including how you can become a member or supporter, go to [www.womenministers.org](http://www.womenministers.org) or contact Eunice at [Poethig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Poethig@sbcglobal.net) for an initial gift membership.

## Cuban Moderator seeks church partners

The Rev. Abel Mirabal Padilla, Moderator of the Presbytery of Havana, and his wife, Sarah, were guests in September of the Presbytery's Cuba Partnership Mission Priority Team. During a dinner meeting hosted by **Glen Ellyn Southminster**, they shared two requests:

"First, we ask for your prayers. Second, we ask for partners for two of our churches who do not have relationships with churches from the Presbytery of Chicago."

They noted how important both prayers and partnerships are to their church in Guanabacoa as well as the other churches of the Presbytery of Havana. Congregations there are growing amid heightened political and economic uncertainty.

The two Cuban churches seeking partnerships are La Fernanda and Luyano. Luyano is located in a residential area of southeast Havana, a landmark in its neighborhood since 1922. Its active ministry includes activities for young people as well as daily breakfasts for older adults and tai chi classes every evening. A pergola inside its gates is a welcome place to sit and relax in the shade on a hot day. A small garden pro-

vides herbal medicines. What served as the church's school until the Revolution is now dormitory space for visitors. Pastor Dora Arce will be leaving at the end of the year to serve as executive secretary for justice and partnership for the World Communion of Reformed Churches in Geneva.

La Fernanda is a new church in Havana although the congregation has been meeting for nearly 30 years as a house mission of Luyano. In 2009, the 35-member congregation received a dedicated pastor, Jose Alberto Padin. They have established an active ministry to local children and the elderly, providing meals to about 15 senior citizens after Sunday worship and at



*The Rev. Abel Mirabal Padilla and his wife, Sarah, share a laugh with Bob Parsons (right). Parsons' church, Clarendon Hills Community, enjoys a partnership with San Antonio de los Banos Presbyterian Church in Havana Presbytery.*

other times during the week. People in the community grow vegetables and herbs at their homes and bring them to the church to help with the meal and share with others.

Presbytery of Chicago members who are interested in exploring the spiritually rewarding possibilities of partnerships between their churches and either of these Havana churches are invited to contact the Rev. Muriel Miller, Cuba Partnership Mission Priority Team chair, at [murielm366@aol.com](mailto:murielm366@aol.com).

## Western Springs sponsors Youth "Mission Challenge"

More than 75 youth, children and adults from **Western Springs** have recently completed a seven-week mission blitz, working toward a goal of 1,000 hours of mission service to the church, local community and social service agencies throughout the area.

Participants worked together in intergenerational teams led by a high school youth and adult co-captains. A spirit of friendly competition quickly emerged between the teams, each trying to out-do the others in contributing the most mission hours, but the overall goal remained the top priority. Five teams consisted of 8-10 core members who committed to participating throughout the challenge, with the option of being a substitute available to others.

The blitz began with a "Draft Day" event, where teams chose from a number of pre-arranged mission opportunities, including a local church work day, food packing at Feed My Starving Children and another work day at Maria Shelter (part of the Institute for Women Today), a long-term mission partner on Chicago's south side. Many teams chose additional projects to add to their number of hours



*Mission-minded team from Western Springs beams as they set off to reach their goal of 1000 hours of service.*

served. A culmination event included shared stories, celebration and an awards ceremony to recognize the accomplishments of each team.

## Local youths attend cross-cultural event in Cuba

For Cuban kids who wondered what life's like for American kids, and for American kids who wondered what life's like for Cuban kids, the International Youth Gathering this summer in Havana was an extraordinary experience.

Youth from the Presbytery of Havana hosted youth from the Presbytery of Chicago plus six youth from the Presbytery of Long Island July 10-18. Activities for the cross-cultural event centered on leadership, mission, fellowship, music and diversity.

Representing the Presbytery of Chicago were Addison Stafford, Elizabeth Shaw and Emily Veenbaas, all from **Clarendon Hills Community**. The Rev. Muriel Miller, chair of the Cuba Partnership Mission Priority Team, and Drew Henkels from **Glen Ellyn Southminster** served as chaperones.

The participants met in mixed groups and discovered in their reflections that they shared many of the same thoughts and dreams – the need to care for others, to look forward not backward, to be happy, to follow fashion, to have friends, to love family, to embrace diversity and to love Christ.

They talked about their home churches and engaged in lively Bible study sessions. Each group planned and led morning devotions. There were opportunities for fun, as well. One night they all danced together at a concert led by pastor/electric guitarist Abel Mirabal Padilla of Guanabacoa Presbyterian Church.

At the end of the conference, the **Clarendon Hills Community** youth stayed with their partner church at San Antonio de los Banos.

## Highlights of the November 2011 Presbytery Assembly Meeting

**Evanston First** graciously hosted the September Presbytery meeting. Commissioners were treated to pre-presbytery events focusing on ending hunger and on the benefits plan of the Board of Pensions. The Rev. Dan McNerney preached on the growth of the Christian Church around the world and communion was served.

After worship, the omnibus motion, and preliminary reports, the assembly moved to the fellowship hall, where the rest of the meeting continued around round tables. An advantage to round tables is that commissioners can interact as well as have space to spread out their papers. This was the first time we've met around round tables. For the first time, the Presbytery also invited commissioners to share their comments on Twitter. All comments and suggestions about round tables, Twitter, or other ways of improving the meeting are welcome.

The assembly approved two candidates for ordination; Ms. Kerri Allen, from the Presbytery of Twin Cities, who will serve as a pastoral intern at **Chicago Fourth**, and Ms. Misup Park, who will serve as a chaplain at the Swedish Covenant Hospital. The Presbytery also voted to enroll Ms. Nancy Dolan, **Barrington**, as a candidate.

The assembly received a report from the Administrative Commission to **Des Plaines Hahna**. Its work completed, the Presbytery dismissed the AC with gratitude. It also formed an administrative commission to close the Berwyn Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery approved a new policy on the dissolution of pastorates and received two policies for first reading: one on worshipping fellowships and a major revision of the Presbytery's Sexual Misconduct and Child Protection Policies. The assembly approved a slight delay in the sale and closing of the Presbytery's office building. The estimated closing date is now November 1, 2011. The Presbytery also approved keeping the per capita at last year's rate. The Presbytery's share is \$20.00. With the GA and Synod shares unchanged from last year, the total per capita for 2012 is \$30.31. The Assembly also received the financial review for 2010. At the assembly's request, the Presbytery Coordinating Commission will consider the recommendation that a full audit also be done for 2010.

The Advance Justice and Empower Ministry Mission Priority Leadership Teams reported on their current efforts. Advance Justice is beginning an effort to address sex trafficking. Empower Ministry reported on the many events it sponsored over the past year.

Christ is at work in the Presbytery of Chicago, as we worship and move into the world in mission. May God bless our efforts.

## Coming Events

- **Nov. 19, 2011** Presbytery Assembly, 11am, **Wheaton First**
- **Jan. 2-5, 2012**, College Urban Plunge, Chicago, IL. Retreat and hands-on mission\*\*
- **Jan. 16-20, 2012** Disciple-Making Church Conference, St. Pete Beach, FL, sponsored by GAMC Office of Evangelism. Go to [www.pcusa.org/disciple-making-church](http://www.pcusa.org/disciple-making-church) or call (888) 728-7228 ext 5247 or 5088.
- **Jan. 27-29**, Middle School Winter Retreat. East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL\*\*
- **Jan. 28**, Worship Alive! Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, "Proclaiming the Verbs," 2-5pm, **Western Springs**
- **Jan. 29**, Worship Alive! Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, "Proclaiming the Verbs," 2-5pm, United Church of Rogers Park
- **Feb. 1-4**, APCE Annual Event, Grand Rapids, MI. [www.apcenet.org](http://www.apcenet.org).
- **Feb. 18**, Presbytery Assembly, 11am, **Chicago Rogers Park**
- **Feb. 21**, Allen Lectures at McCormick Seminary: Professor Emilie M. Townes, Professor of African-American Religion and Theology, Yale Divinity School.
- **Mar. 2-4**, Confirmation Retreat, Saugatuck, MI\*\*
- **Mar. 3**, LEAD 2012, with McCormick President Dr. Frank Yamada, **La Grange First**. For information call 630.471.4643.
- **Mar. 10**, Worship Alive! Dr. Mark A. Torgerson, "Celebrating in a Material World: Renewing our Places and Spaces for Worship," 2-5pm, **Western Springs**.
- **Mar. 11**, Worship Alive! Dr. Mark A. Torgerson, "Celebrating in a Material World: Renewing our Places and Spaces for Worship," 2-5pm, United Church of Rogers Park.
- **Mar. 12-14**, Presbyterian Stewardship Conference, "Gratitude and Generosity: Living the Faith," Charlotte, NC. Contact [www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)
- **Apr. 20-21**, AWOL Mission Project, Chicago, IL\*\*
- **Apr. 24**, Presbytery Assembly, 4pm, **Winnetka**
- **April 28**, Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering, TBA
- **Apr. 28**, Worship Alive! "Congregational Song in the 21st Century," Richard and Trish Bruxvoort Colligan. *Workshop 3pm. Concert 5pm at Western Springs. One day only.*
- **May 12**, POC Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting, TBA, 9:15am.
- **June 19**, Presbytery Assembly, 4pm, **Chicago Pullman**
- **Jul. 18-22**, PW Churchwide Gathering, "River of Hope," Orlando, FL
- **Jul. 29 - Aug. 3**, Montreat Youth Conference -Sr. High Youth, Montreat, NC. Chicago & Blackhawk groups will share transportation. Register at [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org) \*\*

\*For McCormick events, go to [www.mccormick.edu](http://www.mccormick.edu).

\*\*For Worship Alive! contact Mark Bowman (773) 316-8892 or [worshipalive@comcast.net](mailto:worshipalive@comcast.net)

\*\*\*For youth events contact Millason Dailey (847) 362-2174 or Tom Brown (708) 246-5220.

For more information on other events, call (312) 243-8300 (press 0 for operator).

## Scholarships honor the memory of Charles Dickerman

BY KATHLEEN STEAR, ELDER, CHICAGO FRIENDSHIP AND MEMBER OF THE WORSHIP, MUSIC AND THE ARTS WORK GROUP

The Worship, Music and the Arts Work Group of the Presbytery of Chicago is offering scholarships to Worship Alive! workshops. This offering is to honor the memory of Charles E. Dickerman whose love of worship, music, and the arts came to life through his service to the WMA Work Group as member, moderator, and newsletter editor and as co-chairperson of the Midwest Branch of the Royal School of Church Music.

The Worship Alive! workshops are for those individuals involved in or interested in becoming involved in planning and leading worship. The 2011/2012 series will examine new worship music resources on November 5 and 6, explore the scriptures through a focus on the verbs on January 28 and 29, and demonstrate ways to accentuate the impact of the worship space on March 10 and 11. The workshops are from 2 PM to 5 PM on Saturdays at **Western Springs** or on Sunday at the United Church of Rogers Park. The final event, titled *Congregational Song in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, will combine a workshop at 3 PM and a concert at 5:30 PM. It will be held at **Western Springs**. A fuller description can be seen at [www.ucrogerspark.org](http://www.ucrogerspark.org).

Scholarship applicants must be a non-clergy member of a church within the Presbytery of Chicago. Scholarships are limited to two people from each congregation, and



*Worship leaders present and demonstrate their creative worship endeavors at a Worship Alive! Worship Wellspring workshop held at First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge.*

are distributed first-come, first-served. The scholarship application form can be downloaded from the Worship, Music and the Arts Work Group pages found under 'Work Groups' on the right side of the Presbytery of Chicago website's homepage at [www.chicagopresbytery.org](http://www.chicagopresbytery.org).

We invite those of you who are interested to apply. You'll not only learn a lot at a Worship Alive! workshop – you'll have fun, too!

## Transitions

### COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

#### Approved as a Candidate

- Ms. Nancy Dolan, **Barrington**.

#### New Inquirers

- Ms. Cynthia Barto, **Hoffman Estates**;
- Ms. Honna Eichler, **Chicago Edgewater**;
- Ms. Stephanie Levan, **Arlington Heights First**

#### Removed from the Rolls (at own request)

- Mr. George Atkins
- Ms. Renee Peterson
- Mr. Channon Ross.

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

#### New to Presbytery

- Ms. Kerri Allen, to be ordained in Twin Cities Presbytery, will serve as a pastoral intern at **Chicago Fourth**;
- Rev. David Handley from Grace Presbytery, will be a member-at-large;
- Ms. Misup Park, to be ordained to serve as chaplain at Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago;
- Rev. Erica Schemper from Blackhawk Presbytery, will be a member-at-large; and
- Rev. Scott Samuelson from North Central Iowa Presbytery, will serve as a chaplain at Trinity International University, Deerfield.

#### Changes in Presbytery

- Rev. Jan Edmiston is now serving

as the Interim Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry;

- Rev. Andrew Rosencrans will serve as stated supply at **Lansing**; and
- Rev. Jane Tuma will serve as temporary supply to **Chicago Morgan Park**.

#### Leaving Presbytery

- Rev. Jennifer Ayres to Greater Atlanta Presbytery, to serve at Emory University;
- Rev. David Esterline to Blackhawk Presbytery; and
- Rev. Elizabeth Hilkerson to East Iowa Presbytery.

#### Honorable Retirement

- Rev. Muriel Miller is retiring from **Evergreen Park**.

#### Inactive Status

- Rev. Pam Gilbert at her request

# Compartiendo Nuestro Ministerio

## Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

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### Viviendo hacia la Nueva Forma de Gobierno de la IP (EUA)

El 10 de julio, una nueva Forma de Gobierno se hizo efectiva para la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EUA). La nueva Forma de Gobierno, conocida como nFOG, fue aprobado por la 219ª Asamblea General (2010) y ratificada por una mayoría de presbiterios. Ésta reemplaza la Forma de Gobierno de 18 capítulos con una nueva versión que es seis capítulos en longitud.

De nuestra Constitución de dos partes (*El Libro de Confesiones y El Libro de Orden*), sólo el *Libro de Orden* ha cambiado. En *El Libro de Orden*, la Forma de Gobierno ha sido sustituido por la nueva Forma de Gobierno y se ha agregado una nueva sección de apertura, "Los Fundamentos de Política Presbiteriana." Esta nueva sección se basa fuertemente en la antigua Forma de Gobierno, reuniendo material disperso para declarar más sucintamente los principios históricos del orden, la confesión y la misión de la Iglesia y que quede claro que los principios fundamentales se aplican a todo el Libro de Orden, no sólo a la nueva Forma de Gobierno. Se ha actualizado el Directorio de Adoración y las Reglas de Disciplina en varios lugares para reflejar los cambios en la terminología en la nueva Forma de Gobierno. Finalmente, se ha desarrollado el *Manual de Asesoramiento para Concilios para el Desarrollo de Políticas y Procedimientos como requerido por la Forma de Gobierno*.

La nFOG es la primera revisión completa de la Forma de Gobierno desde 1983, cuando la Iglesia Presbiteriana en Estados Unidos y la Iglesia Presbiteriana Unida en los Estados Unidos de América se reunieron para formar la IP (EUA). Aunque no había sido revisada desde la reunión, la original Forma de Gobierno había sido enmendada más de 300 veces.

#### ¿Era una nueva Forma de Gobierno necesaria?

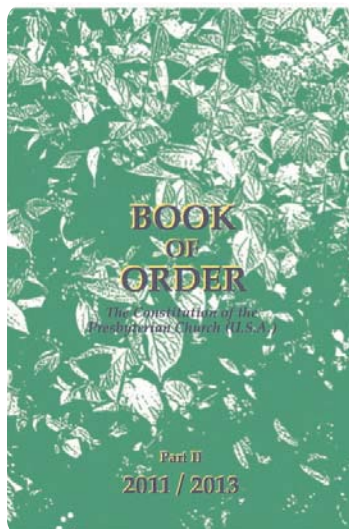
Durante su presentación en **Chicago Heights Primera** para el evento pre-Presbiterio el 21 de junio, a Cynthia Bolbach, moderadora de la 219ª Asamblea General y copresidente del Equipo de Trabajo Forma de Gobierno se le preguntó si la IP (EUA) "verdaderamente necesitaba" una nueva Forma de Gobierno. Ella sonrió

ampliamente y luego respondió, "siempre habrá un pequeño grupo que dice 'Si no está roto no es necesario arreglarlo.' Pero nuestra política necesita revisión. La política puede hacer una diferencia en la eficacia de nuestra iglesia."

En un debate en sobre nFOG en 2008 celebrado en la Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana, Washington, DC, Bolbach comentó, "Ha habido un llamado constante para cambios a nuestra Forma de Gobierno durante al menos los últimos 10 años... porque las personas se han dado cuenta de que con el tiempo nuestra Forma de Gobierno se ha ampliado, quizá inevitablemente, de lo que se supone sea, una Constitución, a algo que se parece más a un manual de operaciones regulador. Se ha producido, con los años, un reconocimiento que la Forma de Gobierno se ha vuelto demasiado difícil de manejar, ha intentado proponer una respuesta "un tamaño le sirve a todos" a todos los problemas."

Cuando se le preguntó la misma pregunta en una entrevista para este artículo, dijo Barbara Bundick, Secretaria Permanente del Presbiterio de Chicago, "¡Buena pregunta! Creo que antigua Forma de Gobierno trabajó bien en presbiterios urbanos, grandes como el nuestro, pero no funcionó para todos. Por ejemplo, en el pasado, presbiterios que sólo tenían un candidato para el Ministerio cada 10 años o más debían tener una Comité permanente para la Preparación al Ministerio. Ese tipo de Gobierno simplemente no tiene sentido. La nFOG señala que seamos una iglesia misionera— una iglesia que llega hacia el exterior — y nos ayuda a hacerlo al enfocarse en la liberación de presbiterios en particular. Tenemos más flexibilidad en cómo organizamos nuestro trabajo. Es excitante y práctico, también."

"Para algunos, la antigua Forma de Gobierno era tan cómoda como un viejo par de zapatos. Es fácil preguntarnos por qué necesitamos un nuevo par. Pero creo que nos vamos a acostumbrar a estos zapatos nuevos y que nos servirán muy bien. En nuestro propio



presbiterio, la Comisión Claboradora de Ministerio y el Grupo de Liderazgo de Misián Prioritaria Desarrollo de Congregaciones están trabajando en una nueva política para comunidades de adoración. No es que no se podía hacer antes, pero la nFOG realmente alienta tal creatividad."

## ¿Pero los cambios van a ser difíciles?

En una carta abierta a la IP (EUA) fechada 7 de junio del 2011, **Cynthia Bolbach**, Moderadora; **Gradye Parsons**, Secretario Permanente; **Landon Whitsitt**, Vice moderador de la 219a Asamblea General y **Linda Valentine**, Directora Ejecutiva, Concilio de Misián Asamblea General escribieron:

"Muchos presbiterianos verán nada repentina o dramáticamente diferente con una nueva Forma de Gobierno. Los servicios de adoración continuarán como de costumbre, y congregaciones seguirán enseñando la fe, sirviendo a sus comunidades, llegando a los necesitados y trabajando por el Reino de Dios en la tierra. Sin embargo, ¿lo qué será diferente es que las congregaciones, presbiterios y sínodos tendrán la oportunidad de adaptar la misión y el ministerio para ajustarse a sus propios contextos y desafíos particulares.

"Es una temporada de muchos cambios en la iglesia, y cambiar a menudo va acompañado de ansiedad. La transición de la actual Forma de Gobierno a la nueva tomará tiempo, paciencia y gracia. Todos estaremos viviendo gradualmente en estas nuevas dimensiones de la gobernanza de la iglesia."

Barbara Bundick está de acuerdo. "El impacto en las iglesias no es tan grande como lo es en los Presbiterios. Sin embargo, hay cosas que las congregaciones tendrán que hacer y podemos ayudar a responder a las preguntas sobre esas cosas. Reuniones Congregacional solían requerir un 10% de asistencia como quórum. Pero no está en la nueva Forma de Gobierno que establece en su lugar, "Congregaciones dispondrán por reglas el quórum necesario para llevar a cabo negocios." Así que las congregaciones deben abordar esto en sus reglamentos.

Otra cosa es que la nueva Forma de Gobierno requiere que los consistorios sigan las Reglas de Robert, pero no lo requiere a la congregación. Pero mi recomendación personal es que las congregaciones pongan las Reglas de Robert en sus reglamentos. Es profundo. Por ejemplo, las Reglas de Robert enfrentan una novedad muy importante para todos nosotros – es decir, si los consistorios quieren votar por correo electrónico o por llamadas de conferencia, tienen que poner algo en sus reglamentos para autorizarlo. Nada de este (nFOG) es un gran negocio. Pronto todos nos vamos a ajustar a ella. Sólo tardará algún tiempo."

Cynthia Bolbach cerró sus observaciones al presbiterio en junio con aproximadamente el mismo sentimiento, "Con un poco de tiempo y paciencia, todos viviremos en la nueva Forma de Gobierno. Lo que realmente importa es cómo proclamamos eficazmente el evangelio en el siglo 21."

Para obtener más información acerca de la Forma de Gobierno y encontrar gráficas comparando la versión anterior a la nueva, vaya a [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Se puede descargar o solicitar copias del Libro de Confesión y el Libro de Orden en inglés, español y coreano.

## Bolígrafo del Presbítero

### Comisión de Cuerpos Medios del Consejo AG

POR RDO. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, PRESBITERO EJECUTIVO

En una publicación el 11 de octubre "Noticias y Anuncios" de la Asamblea General, apareció un informe en lo que respecta a la labor de la Comisión de Cuerpos Medios del Consejo AG (GAMCC por sus siglas en inglés). Hay pistas en el artículo sobre el futuro de cuerpos medios (anteriormente conocido como cuerpos gobernantes medios). El Presbiterio de Chicago (un concilio medio) está envuelto actualmente en un "proceso de visión orgánico" sobre el futuro de nuestra misión, encabezada por tres moderadores de Asamblea presbiterio. Hay que pensar para nuestra visión en el informe de la Comisión. Partes del artículo se citan a continuación, algunas de las cuales he añadido comentarios personales en cursiva.



Robert C. Reynolds

"La GAMCC fue creada por la 219<sup>a</sup> Asamblea General (2010) para consultar abiertamente con la iglesia sobre la misión y la función de los cuerpos gobernantes medios – ahora llamados concilios medios con la aprobación este año de la nueva Forma de Gobierno – y para 'desarrollar modelos que reflejen las funciones de los cuerpos medios gobernantes en nuestra política y los cambios en el contexto de nuestro testimonio en los Estados Unidos y su relación con otros cuerpos medios gobernantes.'

"En reuniones anteriores de la Comisión, el cuerpo de 21 miembros identificó suposiciones operativas para su labor:

- No hay ningún modelo de "talla única" para cuerpos gobernantes medios
- Congregaciones son básicas pero insuficientes centros de misión y ministerio, es decir, si queremos seguimos siendo una iglesia conexional
- Estructura debe servir y apoyar el liderazgo compartido sano, espiritual y colaborador. (*Precaución: Estructura que sirve a líderes, independientemente de su estilo, alienta "comando y control" más que colaboración. Estructura, tal como líderes, debe servir misión y propósito!*)
- Estructura debe servir para crear "un gran piso de baile" para cuerpos gobernantes medios de todo tamaño, forma y estilo. (*Aunque la Comisión se centra en concilios medios y tal*

vez la metáfora sea intencionalmente limitada, ¿donde en los "grandes de baile" son sesiones, sínodos y el GA? Esta pregunta proviene de una preocupación por ser funcionalmente conexional, a través de todos los concilios).

"Durante un extenso informe por su grupo de recopilación de datos, la Comisión discernió varias direcciones para su labor:

- Volver al énfasis de misión, ministerio y conexional
- Reducir la jerarquía y el énfasis en la estructura y gobierno. (*¿Reducir énfasis en gobierno? Sí, si enfatiza la gracia de Dios sobre la ley. Pero, un elemento importante de la nueva Forma de Gobierno, activada en julio de este año, es en que los consistorios y presbiterios asuman mayor responsabilidad en autogobierno.*)
- Mantener los elementos del presbiterianismo que siempre nos han definido, pero aplastado la organización
- Salir del modo de supervivencia y abrazar el futuro y una teología de abundancia
- Centrarse en la energía de la denominación y recursos en las congregaciones locales. (*¿La mayoría de los recursos de las denominaciones está en congregaciones! ¿Estos recursos no son la sangre de la denominación IP (EUA)? ¿Qué entendemos por "denominación"? ¿Se excluyen los consistorios? La pregunta es sobre la mentalidad, no pura semántica.*)
- Prestar especial atención ministerios étnico racial y de inmigrantes. (*Esto suena como un post-data, considerando que debería estar al principio de la lista. "Atención especial" es insuficiente. Por el contrario, ¡vamos a hacerlo! ¿Por qué no decir esto: "Ser una iglesia intercultural y racialmente diversa, a través de todo?"*)

"El miembro de la Comisión John Vest del Presbiterio de Chicago, presidente del grupo de modelos emergentes, expuso preguntas que deben ser respondidas en la evaluación de diversos modelos estructurales. ¿Nuestros modelos:

- Apoyarán el desarrollo de nuevas iglesias?
- Nos ayudará a alcanzar a nuevas generaciones?
- Nos ayudará a administrar la polaridad de nuestra iglesia?
- Nos ayudará a convertirnos en una iglesia verdaderamente multicultural?
- Garantizar la participación de las personas étnicas raciales?
- Ser lo suficientemente flexible como para adaptarse anticipando cambios rápidos continuos?
- Fomentar una iglesia conexional y relaciones?
- Mejorar la paridad entre ancianos/as gobernantes y de enseñanzas?
- Reflejar una eclesiología misionera? (*OK, ¿pero qué tal más específicos? Serán nuestros modelos de concilios medios:*
  - *Promover asociaciones de iglesias para el desarrollo de la comunidad local, regional y mundial, de arriba a abajo a través de la IP (EUA)?" y/o*
  - *¿Liberar a todos los concilios de IP (EUA) para actuar con audacia como socios por la paz, nacional y mundialmente? y/o*
  - *Mobilizar las asociaciones locales, regionales y mundiales para la justicia y la misericordia?)*

• Activar la participación, creatividad e innovación?"

El trabajo de GAMCC hasta la fecha es encomiable. Es evidente que los miembros están sintonizados con los desafíos que desde hace mucho tiempo enfrenta la IP (EUA) que requieren un despertar a la misión de Dios en el mundo y una visión renovada de las funciones de los concilios medios. La comisión presentará su informe final a la Asamblea General en Pittsburgh el año próximo. Recordémosle y a todos los involucrados en el proceso de visión del Presbiterio de Chicago, en nuestras oraciones.

## Nuevo Coordinador del Ministerio Juvenil para el Presbiterio de Chicago

El Rdo. Tom Brown, Pastor Asociado, **Western Springs**, asumirá el papel de Coordinador del Ministerio Juvenil el 17 de octubre. Tom escribe: "Ministerio juvenil es mi pasión y algo que he dedicado más de la mitad de mi vida. Yo mismo soy un producto de ministerio de la juventud y conozco el poder que puede tener en formar el sentido de autoestima de una persona joven y sus objetivos de vida. Será un privilegio trabajar junto con otras congregaciones, así como la que sirvo en desarrollar una misión y pasión por ministerio."

Esta posición de 20 horas al mes es financiada por el Equipo de Misión de Liderato de Dar Poder. Rdo. Brown seguirá sirviendo a tiempo completo como Pastor Asociado en Western Springs con el apoyo del consistorio y Pastora principal.

La labor del coordinador consiste en cuatro áreas de énfasis:

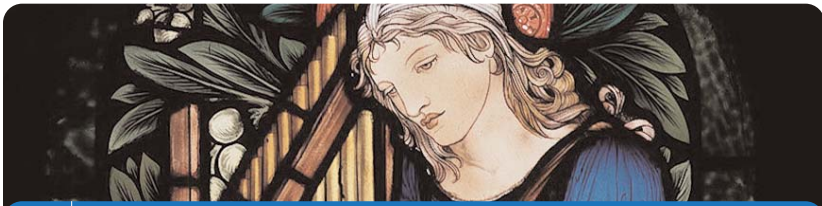
- Trabajar con el Equipo de Ministerio Juvenil para mejorar la labor del presbiterio con la juventud.
- Planificar y realizar cuatro eventos de juventud presbiterial anualmente.
- Servir de recurso a congregaciones con nuevos ministerios juveniles.
- Fomentar una red entre los trabajadores con jóvenes en las congregaciones de todo el presbiterio.

Tom trae más de 20 años de una variedad de experiencias en ambiente de ministerio juvenil, una visión para el ministerio juvenil y pasión por inspirar el liderazgo juvenil así como habilidades construyendo consenso y trabajando en equipo con el liderazgo de la juventud del presbiterio.

Mientras le damos la bienvenida a Tom a esta función también le ofrecemos nuestro sincero agradecimiento a la Rda. Beth Freese Dammers que trabajó cuatro años como coordinadora del ministerio de la juventud. Beth sirve como pastora asociada interina en **Arlington Heights primera**.



Damos la bienvenida al Rdo. Tom Brown como nuestro nuevo coordinador del ministerio de la juventud.



## 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 plans for winter retreats and summer camp

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

**Psalm 84:5** *Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.*

As the fall season comes to an end, and final preparations are made to close the summer cabins for the winter season, the



members of the Camp Oversight and Development Work Group (CODWG) and camp staff reflect on another year of camping and retreats at the Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck.

In light of the uncertainty for the future,

the committee was recently asked to vote on whether we were willing to continue with planning another year of summer camp programming. The vote was a unanimous “yes.” As we prepare for the snowfall on the dunes, we look ahead to the future and begin planning for what the new year will bring. And so we give thanks for God’s blessings and begin to plan for Summer 2012.

Winter is a wonderful time at Presbyterian Camps. The snow-capped dunes and the frozen lakefront are just a few of the wonders of God’s creation to see. Although camp is typically



closed from the middle of December through the middle of January, there is plenty of time for a winter retreat. Come and enjoy winter activities at Presbyterian Camps. Groups of 15 or more are

welcome to come and spend their days sledding or walking on the snow-covered beach and enjoy their evenings by a fire in the dining hall drinking hot chocolate. Be sure to pack your winter coat and mittens! Call the camp office with questions and for availability (269) 857-3751.

Volunteers are an integral part of the camp ministry at Presbyterian Camps. If you are interested in serving on CODWG, download a nominations form from the Presbytery’s website [www.chicagopresbytery.org](http://www.chicagopresbytery.org) or contact a member of the Recruiting and Nominating Work Group. We welcome new ideas and energy as we prepare for 2012.