

The Wider Circle

Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / February 2006 Vol. 2, Issue 2



*Equipping pastors and congregations
with the tools to carry on God's awesome love.*

Of Special Interest

Transformation Committee is
Set to Begin

Spring Connection Brochure

January Meeting Snapshots

Egypt Mission Funds Needed

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Presbytery Committee Set To Transform!

It all started when **Rev. Jim Howland, First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset**, presented a proposal for the formation of a Presbytery Transformation Team to the Coordinating Council this past year. During his presentation, he shared a history of the development of the transformation process and it was voted by Council to establish a Presbytery Transformation Team. Rev. Howland accepted the immediate task as coordinator to enlist team members which include: **Rev. David Endriss**, Trinity United

Presbyterian Church, Indianola; **Rev. Sue Babovec**, First Presbyterian Church, Ottumwa; **Larry Milroy**, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Des Moines; **Jenny Braundmeier**, First Presbyterian Church, Oskaloosa; **Rev. Eric Keller**, Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church, Des Moines; and **General Presbyter, Rev. Phil Barrett**, First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic.

The purpose of the group is to provide leadership and resources to presbytery members as they are intentionally engaging in the

dynamics of transformation.

The team will accomplish this through the following methods and activities:

1. Modeling for the Presbytery the attitudes and visions that are necessary for positive transformation to occur.
2. Resourcing congregations and presbytery groups as they engage in intentional transformation.
3. Planning conferences, workshops, and special speakers for the members of the Presbytery and the committees/taskforces of the Presbytery.

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Phil's Corner



Go
Steelers!
Go
Seahawks!
Go
Hawkeyes!
Go

Cyclones! Go Panthers! Go Trojans! GO GOD!

Go God? Yes, Go God!
We've been cheering for our teams, and continue to do so. Some of this is out of support, and some out of desire to be part of the team. Why else would we

wear jerseys, hats, shirts, and put team symbols on cars, doors, and mouse pads?

As I shared at the January Presbytery Meeting, there is a need for us to support and be part of God's team. This team emphasis will be my focus for reports at presbytery meetings this year. A team works together for a common goal. Teammates support each other, and they get excited about good things

together and they grieve over lousy things. When one member does something well, the entire team celebrates and congratulates the member. When a member is having a tough time, other members offer support and encouragement. It is my hope that our Presbytery will increase in its working together as God's team in 2006. In many ways, this will be a pivotal year,

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Synod School 2006

A place where you . . .

- learn something new
- experience hospitality and grace
- stretch your mind and your faith
- leave spiritually and personally renewed

July 23-28, 2006
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!
Go to www.lakesandprairies.org/synodschool or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

**The Color of Grace
in a Black and White World**

Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. Designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families, classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some are intergenerational – to stretch the mind and nurture the soul. Watch for Course Catalogs and registration information coming to congregations in late February.

Events Calendar

2006

Feb. 14-23 – World Council of Churches 9th Assembly Travel/Study Seminar, Porto Alegre, Brazil. The theme is *God, in your grace, transform the world*. For details go to: <http://pcusa.org/peacemaking/#wcc>.

Feb. 16 – Presbytery's Coordinating Council Retreat at Wesley Woods in Indianola.

Feb. 17-26 – Newton Delegation to El Salvador

Feb. 17 & 18 – *Christian Workers Conference*, Peoria Civic Center, Ottumwa. Sponsored by Equip Ministries, workshop leaders include: David Arnold (Gospel Light), Rene Nobel (Kids Klub, Inc.), Rollene Storms (freelance author/teacher), Terri Sowers (Puppets From the Heart), William Martin (Urban Ministries, Inc.). Reserve your \$25 seat with Peggy Brock at pbnj@elvis.com.

Feb. 18 – *Advocacy Training Workshop*, sponsored by the Presbytery of Des Moines' Joining Hands Against Hunger. The workshop will be 10 a.m. to Noon, at **Central Presbyterian Church**, 3829 Grand Avenue, Des Moines. Come learn to: improve communications skills, be a more effective advocate, understand advocacy as part of our personal and congregational witness and ministry. The

workshop is led by Rev. Susan Guy, who is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and serves as the Director of Service, Social Justice, and Adult Ministry at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church in Urbandale.

Feb. 19 – Rev. MaryBeth Mardis-Lecroy Installation, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines at 4 p.m., the Presbytery is invited.

March 5 – *Spring into Action with AMOS!* Kick off meeting will be held 3-5 p.m. at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern in Ames. Leaders from 30 different central Iowa institutions affiliated with AMOS gather to celebrate their re-organization from *A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy to A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy*. For details about this event or AMOS, call Bev Reddick at 515-292-0861 or Sally Boeckholt at 515-255-5622.

March 5-7 – Annual Rural Ministry Conference, *Living With Hope in an Age of Fear*, in Dubuque, Iowa. For details, call Julie Phillips at 563-589-0273, jphillips@wartburgseminary.edu. Or go online to: www.ruralministry.com.

March 10-11 – *Spring Connection*, an overnight retreat for 7-12th graders at

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Ave., Des Moines. Sponsored by the Presbytery of Des Moines, the theme will highlight "Narnia Anon". Contact Registrar **Dennis Briston**, 515-282-9139, dnbriston@mchsi.com.

March 10-13 – *2006 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice*, "Challenging Disparity – the Promise of God, the Power of Solidarity" in Washington, D.C. For details, e-mail info@advocacydays.org. Online registration is at: www.advocacydays.org/registration/index.htm.

March 11-13 – *Considering Your Call: Conference on Ministry*, for individuals and guests, who are considering vocational choices, a call to ordained or lay ministry, college students or those contemplating a career change are welcome. Examine preparation for ministry, review curriculum, get a feel for seminary life, and meet with students, faculty, and staff of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. \$35.00 includes housing and meals. Registration begins Saturday at Noon, and the conference concludes Monday at Noon. To register, go online to: www.wartburgseminary.edu/template_FutureStudents.asp?id=256.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Update

IRS ANNOUNCED THE 2006 MILEAGE RATES!

The standard mileage rates for 2006 are:

1. The business rate will be 44.5 cents per mile.
2. The moving rate will be 18 cents per mile.
3. The medical rate will be 18 cents per mile.
4. The Charitable/Volunteer rate will be 14 cents per mile.

You should keep a written record of miles driven and the purpose of those miles.

NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT TAXES?

The *2006 Church & Clergy Tax Guide* along with the CDs "Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches",

"Church Treasurer Update" and "Clergy Filing Procedures" are available for perusal at the presbytery office.

In addition, the fact sheets *Your Charitable Contributions: 7 Things Every Church Member Needs to Know* may be copied for your use.

Contact **Betty Dyer**, office manager at the Des Moines Presbytery, 515-276-4991, or by e-mail at: pbydesmoines@qwest.net, with questions.

TAX TIPS FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCHES BENEFITSTALK AUDIO REPLAY NOW AVAILABLE
Nearly 600 people from all

over the country registered to participate in Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches, a teleconference presented by The Board of Pensions of the PC (USA) on Dec. 8, 2005. If you missed the presentation or would like to hear it again, you can listen to this recorded event on your computer with speakers. The presentation is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Learn about how to save on taxes, and discover tax tips for ministers and churches. To access *BenefitsTalk Replay of Tax Tips for Ministers and Churches*, just follow this link: www.pensions.org/library/publications/multi-media/taxtips/2005.htm.



Daily News that has an impact on Ministry

Sixteen members of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity have accepted an invitation from Presbyweb to submit an op-ed article about the Task Force and its report. Brief articles from the committee members will be posted in alphabetical order at: www.presbyweb.com. Articles by Dr. Mark

Achtemeier and Mr. Scott Anderson can now be found online. In the coming days the other ones will follow.

Although Presbyweb, an independent publication, requires a paid subscription, free trial subscriptions are offered to newcomers for one month.

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and a strong sense of working together will be necessary to continue to grow in God's service.

Oh – by the way, God's team doesn't need spectators, it needs players.

Speaking of God's players, a group of people from our Presbytery had a significant three days together. The last week of January, they attended the Synod training for representatives of the following committees: Congregational Care and Development (CCD), Professional Care and Development (PCD) and Preparation for Ministry.

"Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders" was the theme. Worship was an integral part of the event, and was lead by some of our own: **Rev. Mark Davis** and **Rev. Barbara Nish** from **Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive**. We not only grew spiritually, but also learned about our work in these areas as we participated in workshops. On top of all this, traveling and meeting together gave the group opportunities to work out ways to bring back to the Presbytery what was learned. The group received training for being part of God's team and helping to strengthen other players.

Another important event for the training of players will take place in October. Along with our friends in the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, we are hosting a Regional Transformation Training Event in Des Moines. October 6-8, will be a time for teams from congregations to learn about transformation and ways to integrate it into the life of their congregations. If you attended the presbytery meeting, you remember this: **SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 6 THROUGH 8!**

As we live through 2006 together – LET'S GO TEAM!

2006 Ecumenical Trip to Taize, France

Taize, in the south of Burgundy, France, is the home of an international, ecumenical community founded in 1940 by Brother Roger. "An Ecumenical Pilgrimage", to Taize, is June 2-13, 2006 for young adults. The trip has been shortened to include just a week in Taize, plus a couple of days in Paris for a reduced cost of only \$1970. The cost includes airfare, lodging, bus and train fares, transfers from airport and most meals. The deadline for application is March 1. For more information, contact: Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, Director of Ecumenical Formation, American Baptist Churches USA, Cooperative Christianity, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482, Phone: 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2279 or 610-768-2279.

Congregational Connection

Presbytery congregations have a reason to celebrate:

Cassandra Decker, First Presbyterian Church in Corning, is Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) and **Brendan Peterson, Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** is YAD Alternate. They were nominated by their pastors, and selected by the Camping and Youth Taskforce to represent the

Presbytery of Des Moines at the 217th General Assembly.

Rev. John Nipper was honorably retired by the Presbytery at the state meeting on Jan. 21. His daughter, Laura Kutz, commissioner for Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, was present for the warm reflections on John's career by members of the Presbytery and churches where he served.



Rev. John Nipper and his daughter Laura Kutz.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Rev. Ross Blount, Allerton Presbyterian Church, had knee

replacement surgery early this month. He is back home and recovering.

Employment Opportunities

Christian Youth Coordinator—

Full-time position for middle through High School youth programs. Contact Personnel Committee, St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston, 515-276-2818, jw.gilmore@att.net.

Designated Missionary to El Salvador –

The Designated Missionary is an employee of the Presbytery of Des Moines who works in El Salvador as an extension of *Compañeros* and the Social Ministries Taskforce and in partnership with the Community Pastoral Team of Berlín, El Salvador. This is a full-time position

requiring 40 hours of work per week or more. If interested, send letter of application and resume to: Nancy Lister-Settle, Des Moines Presbytery, 2400 86th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322-6403 or neitherthecat@aol.com.

Pastor (Head-of-Staff) – Pioneer Memorial

Presbyterian Church in Solon, Ohio, contact Greg Reynolds, at 216-224-7434 or in the evenings at 440-248-2181. Or go online to: www.pioneer-church.org.

Pastor (Head-of-Staff) – La Jolla Presbyterian

Church in La Jolla, Calif. Contact Bobby Foushee, at 858-454-0713 or

brfoushee@san.rr.com. Or go online to www.ljpc.org.

Pastor (Head-of-Staff) – Presbyterian Church of Stanley in Overland Park, Kansas. Contact Larry Lee at 913-681-8180 or Lee11@aol.com. Or go online to www.stanleypres.org.

Associate Pastor – Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas. Contact Rob Pitkin, at 913-642-9100 or search@thespire.org. Or go online to: www.thespire.org.

For more information about these positions, contact the Presbytery of Des Moines office.

Grants Available for Iowa Organizations



Iowa faith-based and community organizations with interest in building and enhancing their capacity to serve Iowans most in need are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$15,000 from *Compassion Iowa*, a new project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through its Compassion Capital Fund

Demonstration Program. These grants are only for organizations located in Iowa.

Administered by the Iowa Family Policy Center, approximately 25 grants will be awarded to small faith-based and community organizations in Iowa who serve at least one of the following: the homeless, re-entering prisoners, children of prisoners, at-risk youth, addicts, elders in need, families in transition from welfare to work, or organizations that provide marriage education and

preparation services to couples choosing marriage.

Eligible Iowa faith-based and community organizations are those with annual budgets of less than \$500,000 and those who have not previously received a direct competitive Federal grant. To be considered for *Compassion Iowa* grants, technical assistance and training or for grant procedures and application materials, go to: www.compassioniowa.org or contact Dr. Daryl VanderWilt, Project Director, at dvanderwilt@ifpc.org.



New Grants Program Seeks Young Clergy, Local Church Support

With many mainline Protestant denominations and the Catholic Church expecting fewer young pastors in coming years, the Fund for Theological Education (FTE) says that it will receive \$6 million from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., for matching grants to congregations that back seminarians starting their Master of Divinity studies.

Up to 40 Ministry Fellows will be named for the 2006-2007

academic year. Deadline is April

1. Applications are available

online at: http://www.thefund.org/programs/ministry_fellows_ips.phtml#.

For more information, contact

Melissa Wiginton Director of the Undergraduate Fellows Program at 404-727-1374.

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4. Participating in national, regional, and synod events that focus on transformation.
5. Becoming familiar with authors and other resources that provide insight in the dynamics of transformation and the application of those dynamics within the current status of the church.
6. Encouraging and supporting congregations, individuals, and presbytery entities as they engage in intentional transformation.
7. Working with fellow team members on strengthening our own discipleship.

In future *Wider Circle's* newsletters we will share

more transformational moments of council members.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MOMENTS

First Presbyterian Church, Creston – Russia Mission Trip and music provided by *Joyful Noise* is always great!

Monroe Presbyterian Church – Celebrated nine baptisms (two were adults) and 10 confirmands this past year. Also, K-12th grade numbers were up to a total of 80 children and teenagers.

First Presbyterian Church, Adair – A challenge for Hurricane Katrina financial relief, averaging \$100 per family unit and a \$1,000.00 bequest, totaling \$1,600.00. The final total of \$2,600.00 was donated to CROSS Ministries for the hurricane response.

First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn – Celebrated their 150th Anniversary, May 28. **Elder Charles Caldwell** had a great, great grandfather who laid the original church cornerstone. Dispite Charles' advanced cancer, he was able to be present at the 150th celebration re-dedicating the cornerstone before he died.

DMARC'S FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND: FEB. 18 & 19

Please remember to bring food items or cash/check to donate to

DMARC's Emergency Food

Pantry on Feb. 18 or 19.

Correction: DMARC is able to get hot cereal from the Food Bank of Iowa. It is the cold cereal that they can't get. So donate COLD CEREAL. Your money contributions will help purchase additional food items at wholesale prices. Please make

checks payable to DMARC Food

Pantry. Questions?

Call 515-277-6969.

PLEASE NOTE: The Food

Pantry will be open on

Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb.

20. Congregations are asked to

deliver the food on this day. A

crew of volunteers will be

available to accept your food

pantry weekend donations.

Presbytery Happenings

Out of chaos: Hope SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP

Southwest Regional Partnership is planning a "Spring Break" mission trip to the New Orleans area to do Hurricane Katrina cleanup.

The group is scheduled to leave early on Saturday, March 25, and will return to Iowa on Friday night, March 31. They will stay at the PDA village in Lulling, La. **Fifteen people are needed for the mission team;** no particular skills are needed. Work will likely include clean-up or helping with construction tasks as needed.

If you are interested, please contact SW Regional Partnership Moderator, **Rev. Tim Maxa**, at 641-333-4214 or 641-333-4208, Lenoxupchurch@LL.net. The partnership is also planning to take two other trips to the gulf region in 2006, one to Louisiana and one to Mississippi. Dates will be set at a later time.

JOIN HEARTLAND'S MISSISSIPPI MISSION TRIP

When Hurricane Katrina hit, it not only affected those who survived the storm, but the entire nation. We were shocked and we mourned those who died and those who lost so much.

Many of us felt helpless, but the nation came together

and gave money and supplies with the hope of providing some comfort and relief, and it did. Many more of us, though, felt we wanted to help in ways beyond this.

Recently, **Rev. Mark Davis** and the Mission committee of **Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive**, came together to discuss organizing a team or teams, to travel to the Gulf area. We would like to invite all who have the hearts, hands and determination, to join us on the Katrina mission trip. In order to assist, we need a team of at least three people, and many more if possible.

The dates are set for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd weeks of June 2006. You may attend a few days, or all 3 weeks. We feel 8 months later, when the daily headlines do not mention Katrina as frequently, the needs will still be great. This will also give those who wish to participate the opportunity to plan for the trip.

Cleaning and clearing of debris needs to be completed before much of the work can begin. Perhaps you have a skill or trade that you are able to share with others. As we find out how many people would like to join us, we will again contact the Presbyterian Disaster

Assistance (PDA) and they will guide us to a location where we can be most helpful. We will stay at one of the Volunteer Villages they have set up, sleeping in tents. Costs will include a daily rate of \$14.00 and transportation to and from the gulf area. More details to follow. Feel free to check out the PDA website www.pcusa.org/katrina for more information.

If you are interested, please e-mail hrtlandpc@aol.com or Anna Williams at espanda@msn.com.

You are not obligated to go if you sign up, but it will help us to have a head count as to who may be interested. If able, please denote which week you would prefer.

SUDANESE SESSION WANTS TO THANK YOU

Sudanese in the Presbyteries of Missouri River Valley (MRV) and Des Moines, share their joy and thanks with you.

During the Jan. 21 Stated Meeting of the Missouri River Valley Presbytery (which took place simultaneously with the Presbytery of Des Moines's State Meeting), it was recommended by

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January Presbytery Meeting Snapshots



Over 125 participants began worship service at the stated meeting with a sing-a-long. Rev. Terry Amann, pastor at Windsor Presbyterian Church gave the sermon titled, "What If Noah Set Sail at 50 Degrees Below Zero?"



The Peace Unity and Purity Task Force was officially commissioned by convener, Rev. Tiare Mathison-Bowie. Members present (left to right): Ted Coppock (Des Moines Westminster), Mary Lou Aspengren (Des Moines First), Rev. George Salnave (Montezuma First), Rev. Hans Cornelder (Oskaloosa First), Rev. Ross Blount (Allerton First), and Mary Kohlsdorf (Ankeny). Not present: Batul Chol (Des Moines Cottage Grove)



The Windsor Presbyterian Church greeters warmly welcomed the 462nd Stated Meeting participants on a cold, blustery Saturday, January 21.



Presbytery participants broke out in "herds of animals" found on the ark for small group discussion time which centered on spiritual practices using the Synod School guidebook.



Before the group dined in the lunch room, table center pieces of Noah's Ark puzzles and animals in arks were put together.



Iowa's Former Missionaries Give Challenge

From *Presbyterian*

Outlook – Jan. 16, 2006

George and Jan Beran, former Presbyterian missionaries now in their 70s and living in Ames, Iowa, have challenged other Presbyterians from Iowa to come up with \$250,000 for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Joining Hearts & Hands fundraising campaign. The money would be used to send two mission co-workers or a family to the Democratic Republic of Congo for three

years to do agricultural work. To kick things off, the Berans have pledged the proceeds from selling a duplex they bought 25 years ago as a rental property.

From their own time overseas, teaching as missionaries in the Philippines and later as Fulbright professors in Nigeria, the Berans have seen firsthand the impact of Presbyterian mission work.

They also know what grassroots believers can do.

Close to 30 years ago, their adult Sunday school class at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames was studying world hunger. Members raised money to support mission work in Kenya and Tanzania – underwriting projects that helped farmers learn to improve their crop yields, to store food and produce drinkable water.

To read more, go online to: <http://www.pres-outlook.com/tabid/520/Article/999/Default.aspx>.

Funds Needed for Presbytery's Egypt Mission Project

Egypt's elderly population is increasing at an alarming rate and the country has been unable to establish nursing facilities that provide adequate care.

Worldwide Ministries Division in partnership with Synod of the Nile Presbytery has established a mission co-worker position for a geriatric nurse in Egypt. The goal is to assist with establishing a geriatric facility at the American Mission Hospital in Tanta and provide training to local nurses and care givers in Cairo at the Presbyterian Geriatric Center and Evangelical Medical Center.



Denise England, a member of Audubon First

Presbyterian Church, has accepted the call to serve this mission project. Denise's involvement in the Presbytery of Des Moines' Joining Hands Against Hunger Program and her participating in four trips to Egypt have established in Denise a strong passion and commitment to the Egyptian people and their needs.

Unfortunately, Denise is unable to leave for Egypt

until funding for the three-year project is completely pledged. Through the Mission Initiatives Program, congregations and individuals can provide financial support. The project account number is MI910061 and needs to be written on all pledges and checks in the memo line. Pledges can be made by contacting Becca Snipp at Presbyterian Church (USA), Room 5415A, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396. Pledge forms and credit card support can be made online at:

www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands

Gilead: A Novel Earns 2006 Grawemeyer Award

Marilynne Robinson's book that won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, also has claimed the 2006 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion. The work was first published in 2004 and it is the first time a novel has won the international religion prize, which is given jointly by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville.

Gilead takes the form of a diary written by John Ames, a third-generation Congregational minister living in the small town of Gilead, Iowa, (north of Creston), in the late 1950s. Following the death of his young wife and their child, Ames lived most of his life as a bachelor, but late in life remarried. The book begins as Ames' heart is failing. He writes the diary as his legacy to his young son and reflects on life, ministry, and the tangled relationships of fathers and sons.

To learn more, go to www.grawemeyer.org.

Compañeros Delegation Visits El Salvador

In January, six members of Compañeros, which is the working group of Iowans who coordinate the Presbytery's mission in El Salvador, spent a week with the Pastoral Team and **Rev. Bob Cook, Designated Missionary to El Salvador.** While there, they had an itinerary that was very different from other delegations.

"The Team members invited us into each one's home and it was so inspiring to see how humbly each one lives, how hard they work, and still center their lives around their volunteer work with the mission. They set the standard incredibly high. I am so very proud to know them and call them my friends," remarked **Marcia Justice, Ankeny Presbyterian Church.**

At each home the delegation presented the family with a small walnut and brass cross inscribed "Compañeros" (companions), with the words of Psalm 22:22 on the bottom: "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you."

The purpose of the visit

was to meet with the Pastoral Team in order to experience the solidarity that is at the heart of this partnership—and to discuss and vision the future together.

Blair Lawson, Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola,

reflected, "This trip allowed us to do things many delegations don't get the chance to do: visit the many cantones besides the one with which our own church has a relationship. Best of all was the chance to better my acquaintances with Pastoral Team members as well as those of fellow Compañeros members."

Hunger Action Enabler and moderator of the Presbytery's Social Ministries Taskforce **Nancy Lister-Settle, First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center,** described it as a wonderful family reunion. "The serious business of



Compañeros team members pose for a happy memory with Parish Team members. Pictured here are (back row, left to right): Randy Haberthur (Wakonda Christian Church), Blanca Cruz, Idalia Coreas, Marcia Justice (Ankeny), Sue Hotovec (Des Moines Westminster), Cecilia Coreas, and Kathy Mahler (Clive Heartland); (front row, left to right): Milagro del Carmen Rodriguez, Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center First), Alejandro Lopez (bus driver), Rev. Bob Cook, Blair Lawson (Indianola Trinity), and Walter Escobar (translator). Important Parish Team members behind the scenes and not pictured here are: Balmore Guardado, Jesus Cruz, Otilia Guevarra, Miguel Angel Cruz, Emila Dominuez, Maria Elena Palacios and Father Candido Ramirez.

Don Justo Coffee with Dignity, Blanca's Bags and Just Light Candles and the search for a new designated missionary is important work. But just as important are the times spent bouncing along mountain roads in the back of the pickup, learning things we never knew about each other, and sharing a celebratory dinner together."

Compañeros Coordinator Sue Hotovec, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines said, "We've been working together for a long time but it was

great to meet "real-time" as a group to discuss the issues that are important to all of us involved in the project and to see the Pastoral Team in action as they discuss, decide, negotiate and guide the project."

"Also, to travel with other Compañeros members and further foster those relationships was a great joy and helps us work more effectively together. It was more of a "working trip" than some of my previous delegations have been, but it was very satisfying, fulfilling and worthwhile."

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Designated Missionary

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The Wider Circle *is published monthly by the Presbytery of Des Moines, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines, contact the office or go online to www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org.*

Copy deadline is the last day of the month. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word or compatible format; digital images and photos are both acceptable.

PREBYTERY OF DES MOINES

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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Presbytery Happenings continued from page 6

Rev. Bart Brunner, the executive Presbyter of the MRV, that the Committee of the Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship (which worships in the former Clifton Hill Presbyterian Church in Omaha), be officially recognized as the equivalent of a Session.

This exciting news is of great significance for the Sudanese who were up to this point, supervised by the Sudanese Commission, which were comprised of MRV member churches and Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship. Decisions such as

serving communion and conducting baptisms were previously made by the Commission.

The most important news that comes with this recognition is that the new session will send two of its elders to the MRV Presbytery meetings to represent them so that they have a voice at Presbytery.

The Sudanese session will from now on make those decisions until the commission hands over to them full authority to run the Fellowship Church.

Sudanese give thanks to the two Presbyteries for initiating the ministry and the member churches which made the final decision.

The two Presbyteries also helped the South Dakota Presbytery and other presbyteries within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to look towards their model for new church development and now are taking Sudanese ministry very seriously. South Dakota recently ordained Danyal Joseph in the East Side Presbyterian Church as Minister for Sudanese in their presbytery.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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