

The Wider Circle

Presbytery of Des Moines 515-276-4991 / May 2006 Vol. 2, Issue 5



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

Of Special Interest

General Assembly Sees Layoffs

217th GA Update

Katrina Mission Trip Updates

PW Gathering Details

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GAC Adopts Sweeping Restructure of GA Offices

\$9.15 MILLION BUDGET CUT COSTS 75 JOBS, INCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT

The General Assembly Council (GAC) has approved the most radical restructuring of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s mission program since 1993, as it moves to reduce the 2007-2008 General Assembly (GA) mission budget by \$9.15 million.

In all, 75 national staff positions in Louisville have been eliminated – most effective May 1 – as well as 55 overseas mission co-worker positions. Staff cuts in Louisville account for \$4 million of the budget reduction, while the price tag

for the overseas mission positions is \$1.2 million.

The 2006 cuts are based on declining unrestricted giving by PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries.

Unrestricted receipts from them in 2005 were \$13.9 million – \$2.1 million less than the \$16 million budgeted. That unrestricted line in the 2006 budget, also \$16 million, has been revised to \$13.3 million.

In a 19-page document released in April entitled *2007-2008 Mission Work Plan: Objectives, Outcomes and Funded Work* (www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/fundedwork.pdf),

the GAC outlines, objective by objective, the dramatic overhaul of its mission program work with an overview of the work involved in each objective, what it considers to be successful outcomes, and detailed rationales for the programmatic work that will be funded as well as work that will be discontinued or scaled back.

To read the full story, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/.

To read the names of those laid off, most departed May 1; others set for Oct. 1, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06245.htm and www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06246.htm.

Phil's Corner



Most of you know I live in Atlantic. One of the many benefits of living there is that it has a daily newspaper. In it we learn about everything from community activities to actions of governmental bodies to who got a parking

ticket. The editorial page has a variety of columnists as well. Local and national writers are featured. One of my favorites is called "Everyday Cheapskate" by Mary Hunt, author of *The Cheapskate Monthly* newsletter. Hints from Mary and her readers on how to save money or how to use common household items to substitute from store-bought

products are typical of her column. Every once in a while she deals with more philosophical themes. One of these entitled "What Do You Need to be Happy?" struck me because it hits a theme we often discuss in the church. Also, she talks about the spiritual side of happiness.

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Christian Family Week is May 14-20

The week of special emphasis for Christian Family Week is May 14-20. The theme for this year's celebration is "Family Values: A Tapestry of Choices" with resources provided by the National Council of Churches in Christ and written by Presbyterian author, Carol Wehrheim.

To learn more about Family week go online to: <http://www.pcusa.org/family/>.

Worship and study resources are available as well as Church census materials from Baylor University about the make-up of families in today's congregations.

Events Calendar

2006

May 16 – Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church in Chariton

May 19-20 – *The Church, Climate Change, and God's Creation: How to Live as Faithful Disciples*, a National Council of Churches Ecological-Justice Training event, Northwestern Hall, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. This ecumenical regional event is on climate and energy concerns for pastors, lay leaders, church members, and students.

Explore our calling to care for creation. An interactive evening kick-off Friday, May 19, 7 p.m. with an exciting keynote. Registration and evening reception begin at 6 p.m. The training day, Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., includes lunch, a theological plenary, worship, fellowship time, exciting panels, and training workshops. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m. Cost: advanced registration is \$10; at the door is \$15. Portion of registration fees will be used to offset carbon footprint of event. For information, contact Matthew Anderson-Stembridge, mstembridge@nccusa.org; 651-698-3277. To register, contact Cassandra Carmichael, Cassandra@toad.net or call 202-481-6928. www.nccusa.org/

May 23-25 – *Transitional Ministry in a Changing World*, Interim Ministry Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri. Get inspired, learn from your peers, share your own successes, and get energized for the upcoming year. Among the featured speakers is Dr. Martin Marty, one of America's foremost theologians and religious historians and the author of more than 50 books. Go to: www.imnedu.org/conferences.htm or call 800-235-8414 for more information.

May 25-28 – *Many Peoples - One Family*, The 7th Annual National Multicultural Conference, scheduled at the Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Fla. Registration deadline is April 25. To request additional information, call 800-728-7228, ext. 5252. To register go online to: www.pcusa.org/diversity/training.htm.

May 24-29 – *Come to the Feast*, Portland, Oregon. A biennial gathering of young adults and young adult workers seeking to go beyond denominational lines and connect, empower, and strengthen young adult ministries. Topics of interest include: mobilizing, building community, renewing and expressing faith. If you are looking for an out-of-the-box experience, come to the feast! Visit the Web site at www.cometothefeast.org/ or

call Courtney Richards at 317-558-2863 ext.20

May 26 – Presbytery of Des Moines Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering, Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 29 – Memorial Day (Holiday) **Presbytery office is closed.**

June 2-3 – *Say No! to Torture* in response to a call from: General Assembly Moderator, Rick Ufford-Chase and Director of Presbyterian Military Chaplains, Ed Brogan. A free gathering to study, discuss, pray, worship and strategize together: Friday, 9 a.m. – Saturday, Noon, First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, Ill. Co-sponsored by: McCormick Seminary, Peacemaking Mission Team of Chicago Presbytery, National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), and No2Torture, a faith-based, grassroots organization. Go online to: www.no2torture.org to register or print a form for mailing. Questions? Send an e-mail to LaGrange2006@No2Torture.org or call 773-947-6283. Want to carpool? **Rev. Kirsten Klepfer, First Presbyterian Church; Grinnell**, is coordinating rides to the event. Contact

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her at 641-236-6059 for more information.

June 8-11 – The 10th Annual Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS) Convention, Looking Both Ways: *Looking Back and Looking Ahead*, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, Pittsburgh, Pa. The early registration fee is \$100. After May 26, the registration will be \$120. There are scholarships for Presbytery representatives who are in need of financial assistance to attend the annual PC(USA) convention. For details, contact Ginny Nyhuis at: 502-569-5472 or go online to: www.pcusa.org/olderadults/armss.htm to register.

June 12-15 – *Shine Like the Stars*, Presbyterian Youth Connection, Pre (General) Assembly Leadership Training, Birmingham, Alabama. This event will offer youth and youth leaders workshops designed to invite interaction, conversation and exploration! It will also feature worship; group Bible

Study and Small Groups; Recreation; Networking; and Resources. Get more information at www.pcusa.org/youthministry/. Plenty of booklets and forms are in the **Presbytery office, 515-276-4991.**

June 12-16 – *Do Something Creative This Summer!*, The United Theological Seminary's annual Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts is designed to provide the opportunity to explore the intersections between the arts and spirituality in one's personal life or faith community. Workshop topics include InterPlay and preaching, memory and transformation, our life in worship and our life in the world, and talking suitcases (art-making). Cost of full-day is \$265.00, half-day is \$190.00. Go online for registration information at: www.unitedseminary.edu/summerinstitute/index.asp, 651-255-6138 or rflesner@unitedseminary.edu.

June 15-21 – 217th General

Assembly (2006) Face-to-Face Event Birmingham Convention Center, North Meeting Room E, Birmingham, Ala. Church Leadership Connection (CLC) is sponsoring a Face-to-Face opportunity during General Assembly. Registration deadline is May 26. The Face-to-Face is open to all PC(USA) clergy and lay professionals who have an active PIF in Church Leadership Connection, and to churches, entities, or organizations with open positions for which there is an active CIF. This includes educator, interim, and governing body staff positions. For more information go to the Leadership and Vocation Web site at: www.pcusa.org/clc/facetoface.htm and on the PC(USA) calendar www.pcusa.org/calendar/index.jsp. To register, contact Shirley McDade, Sr. Administrative Assistant, at 888-728-7228, ext. 5731, or smcdade@ctr.pcusa.org.

June 17-24 – General Assembly, Birmingham, Ala. After Birmingham.




Sign Up for Insurance E-Newsletter

Presbytery of Des Moines churches can subscribe to the free GuideOne Advantage a quarterly e-news letter with information specifically for churches. You will need to know your policy number in order to subscribe. The URL address is:

www.guideone.com/Churches/Newsletters/index.htm.

Questions? Contact Presbytery of Des Moines account representative, Diane Thiering, CISR, with Lee Agency, at 800-225-9252 or

dthiering@leeinsure.com.



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

Why do they keep returning to Synod School?

- Christian fellowship
- Inspiring worship and song
- Growth in knowledge and faith
- Personal and spiritual renewal
- Fun for families and singles of all ages

.....

July 23-28, 2006

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

Go to www.blessandpriorities.org/events.html
or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.



Need Help With Congregation Communications?

*The Synod of Lakes and Prairies, along with PC(USA) are sponsoring at **Presbyterian Communicators Network** regional conference to be held August 2-4. This 3-day event will be at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minn., with lodging a block away in downtown Minneapolis at the Millennium Hotel.*

For more information or to register for this conference go online to:

www.pcusa.org/comnet/.

There will be a possibility of carpool, coordinated by Kim Coulter, Director of Communications at the Presbytery Office, 515-276-4991 or pbymunication@qwest.net.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Update

SMALL CHURCH WEB SITE NOW ONLINE

A new Web site dedicated to small churches was launched in early May by PC(USA). The site, www.pcusa.org/smallchurch/, is intended to further the mission of the Small Church Ministry Network, a voluntary association of people throughout the church involved or interested in small church ministry.

Small congregations are those with average attendance at Sunday worship of 100 or fewer. Two-thirds of PC(USA) congregations qualify for the designation.

The new Web site boasts networking opportunities, leadership training and resources, congregation success stories, and information about events such as Small Church Sunday (July 9). The site was designed in cooperation with the Internet Services staff in the PC(USA) Office of Communication.

Among the resources offered is the *Cooperative Parish Manual*. This resource guides a congregation or presbytery through the process of exploring and organizing a cooperative parish ministry.

WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES DIVISION LAUNCHES NEW E-NEWSLETTER

PC(USA) Worldwide, an e-mail newsletter devoted to the international mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will offer monthly updates on the work of the international mission personnel and the church's overseas partners in ministry.

The first issue that arrived in March will include articles on AIDS ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the new PC(USA) mission appointees and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan's quest for Taiwanese independence. PCUSA Worldwide will help you stay informed about the church's work overseas and enable you and your congregations to be a better interpreter of the church's international mission. To subscribe e-mail: ddean@ctr.pcusa.org.

PNS NAMED COUNTRY'S TOP RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

For the third year in a row and the fourth time in five years, the Presbyterian News Service has been named the best religious news agency in North America in a competition sponsored by the Associated Church Press (ACP).

Other Presbyterian "Best in Class" winners for work done in 2005, announced on April 25 during the ACP's annual convention, were

Presbyterians Today, which finished second among 15 denominational general-interest magazines, and *Noticias*, the newsletter of Santa Fe Presbytery, which finished second in the "one-person shop" category.

To read more about the awards and some individual journalists who were honored, go to:

www.pcusa.org/pcnews/.

23 PRESBYTERIES BUCKED FIVE-YEAR DOWNWARD MISSION GIVING TREND

While unrestricted giving by congregations and presbyteries to support the General Assembly mission budget has declined by almost 25% since 2000, 23 of the PC(USA)'s 173 presbyteries have actually increased their contributions.

The Stewardship and Mission Funding office of the General Assembly Council released mission giving figures for 2005 last week.

(The **Des Moines Presbytery** did not reach any of the top lists for 2005. However, in 2004 Des Moines was sixth in the top 10 presbyteries for per member giving to Basic Mission Support.)

To see a list of the results, go online to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06249.htm.

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Here is what she said:

"In a University of Michigan survey, interviewers asked people what they believed would improve their quality of life. The answer given was 'more money.'

"In the book *The Day America told the Truth*, the surveyors asked, 'If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?' The No. 1 response (at 64%) was 'Greater wealth.'

"We know from other studies that more Americans were 'very happy' in the 1950s than today despite the fact that we now have far more money, bigger homes and more stuff. In 1950, there were 3,000 shopping malls in this country; by the year 2000, there were 45,025. Greater affluence has not translated to greater happiness.

"Are there any circumstances under which more money will bring happiness? Of course, if you are living in poverty having more money will make a huge positive difference in your quality of life, and, yes, you will be happier. But if your basic material needs are met, having more money might be nice but it's not likely to make you happier.

"The problem is that money mystifies us. We can't live with it yet we can't live without it. We want more of it even though spending more

of it won't necessarily make us any happier and often makes our lives more difficult.

"I believe the answer to this predicament is found in understanding human nature. Each of us has three distinct parts, each with its own distinct need for fulfillment: emotional, spiritual and physical. To ignore any one of these or to attempt to satisfy them inappropriately is to live a life that is confused, needy and forever in search of fulfillment.

"Allow me to focus on each of these elements.

"EMOTIONAL: Research shows that happiness and contentment in life are strongly affected by the quality of our relationships, especially marital and family relationships. Based on 10 years of research, the authors of *The Case for Marriage* concluded that all the money in the world cannot take the place of meaningful personal relationships.

"SPIRITUAL: Every person is created with what some have characterized as a 'God-shaped hole' in our hearts. If you are attempting to fill your spiritual needs with human relationships or with money you will be left feeling empty, unsatisfied and unfulfilled. Those things will

never 'fit,' so you will be left with a gaping void that cries out to be satiated.

"PHYSICAL: Just as we are emotional and spiritual beings, we have physical needs as well. This is where money comes in – to fulfill our needs for shelter, food and comfort. I'm the first to admit that I thoroughly enjoy working hard to earn a living and I enjoy spending money like almost everybody else. Wealth is good. Financial security is crucial. We should not be opposed to work or money.

"Money has its place in our lives, and when used responsibly can certainly bring a great deal of satisfaction. That kind of satisfaction is much deeper than simple happiness that comes and goes and is depending upon how much money we have at any give time. It is the joy and contentment that comes from using money in a personally fulfilling manner. That is what wealth is meant to be."

I hope you find something helpful in this. I did.

As the school year winds down and summer plans are made, I hope you will find good relaxation times, refreshment for your soul, and solid sources of happiness.

Peace, Phil

Immigration In America: What Will Churches Do?

Presbyterians concerned about immigration, who are watching closely the Senate debate over immigration reform and feeling the press of an estimated 12 million undocumented workers on cities and congregations, know this: whatever legislation gets passed, this issue won't just go away.

A new "Presbyterians for Just Immigration" e-mail network located at www.pcusa.org/acrec/immigrationreform.htm is available for tracking the status of proposed legislation and lobbying efforts, and brainstorming about what, in local communities, can and needs to be done.

You can read the full article "Immigration in America: What Will Churches Do?" on *The Presbyterian Outlook's* Web site at: www.pres-outlook.com/tabid/730/Article/1519/Default.aspx

You must be a registered user to read the full articles online in *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Registration is free, easy, and painless. By registering, you will have full access to all articles and features.



PW Buttons are Available

Des Moines Presbytery buttons are being made for those attending the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, July 7-11. Please turn in your name to Emily Seeger, Atlantic Presbyterian Church, 712-243-4519 or seeger@metc.net. Buttons will be presented to the participants at the dedication service at the Spring Gathering on May 26th at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. If you are not attending the Presbytery Spring Gathering but are riding the bus to the Churchwide Gathering, Kate Dukelow will have your button on the bus. If you will not be on the bus, please e-mail or call Emily and she will mail you one.

Congregational Connection

Presbytery congregations have a reason to celebrate:

Rev. Duane Miller, Ankeny Presbyterian Church, interm pastor at Ankeny is leaving to pursue and position with the Lutheran church. He's been with our Presbytery for over a year and his service has been greatly appreciated. Good luck!

Mike Williams, son of **Rev. Lynn Williams at Grimes Presbyterian church** will be graduating May 13 from University of Dubuque Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

The Presbytery is invited to attend the Fort Des Moines Presbyterian Church's 90th Birthday Celebration, Sunday, May 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m. worship with a potluck to follow. For details, contact Rev. Don Elly at 515-279-8127 or ellydr@lhs.org.

The Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights is sending a mission team to Moscow Russia, June 5-16. Team members include: **Rev. Terry Amann, Ron Grohe, Larry Kenoyer, Hal DeGood and Jay Blankenship**. They'll be building the interior of an

apartment over a Moscow church for the pastor and his wife.

Our Presbytery Des Moines ministers have been invited to 'take on' the Hot Pink Grannies of Des Moines in a game of 6-on-6 basketball, June 15. They will be playing by the circa 1920 game rules of the Iowa Granny Basketball League at **Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church** near Easter Lake in Des Moines. Pastors and cheerleaders are needed. If interested, contact **Betty Dyer** at the Presbytery office, 515-276-4991, pbydesmoines@qwest.net.

World Refugee Day is June 17

WORLD REFUGEE DAY TO FEATURE MUSIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD On Saturday, June 17, Des Moines will celebrate hope, heroes, survivors, and their families during Des Moines' 4th Annual World Refugee Day observance.

Free to the public, the event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Downtown Des Moines Farmers Market and continue until Noon. Established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Refugee Day is celebrated worldwide. **Rev. David Madsen, Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church**, is Co-chair of the Des Moines event.



*Pictured are the **Mabaan Dancers and Choir from Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** performing at the 2005 World Refugee Day.*

Attendees will enjoy ethnic music and traditional dance from several countries. Informational materials will be available about the plight of refugees worldwide.

International law defines refugees as people who have fled their countries because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group.

Employment Opportunities

Educational Consultant – Iowa Religious Media Services (IRMS). This person would provide public relations and promotions, consultation with a multi-denominational client base regarding their resource needs, oversight of the screening and purchasing of new additions to the collection, and the maintenance of the IRMS Web site as well as other IT functions. IRMS is an important ministry supported by the **Synod of Lakes and Prairies**.

A more detailed position description may be downloaded from this link: www.irms.org and click on the link under *Employment Opportunity*.

Youth Director – First Presbyterian and First Christian churches in **Perry, Iowa**, are looking for someone to fill this full-time position for a Christian youth work and/or an ordained minister in either of the denominations supported by this joint parish. Person must be involved in community youth activities such as plays, concerts, athletic events in Perry. If interested, send resume and cover letter to: Attn. **Don Van Houweling**, P.O. Box 575, Perry, IA 50220, 515-240-7964, donvh@vanwall.com.

Administrative Assistant – Provides administrative and secretarial services for staff, committees, and volunteers, this part-time position is 20-hours a week, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If interested, contact the **Heartland Presbyterian Church**, 14300 Hickman Rd., Clive, IA 50325-7774, at 515-987-4246 or office@heartlandpresbyterian.org.

Interim Pastor – Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines. For more information, contact the Presbytery of Des Moines office at pbj1@qwest.net.



Interim Pastor – A full-time interim pastor is needed at the **Union Park Presbyterian Church**, 1307 Thompson Ave., in Des Moines. For details about the position or to apply, contact Clerk of Session, Joyce Rash, at 515-266-4988 or joycerash@hotmail.com.

Interim Executive Presbyter – The Presbytery of de Cristo is seeking an Elder or Minister of the Word and Sacrament to serve. Those wishing to apply, need to contact Rev. John Stevenson, Moderator of the Search Committee, Presbytery de Cristo, 401 E. 4th St., #C, Tucson, AZ 85705, 520-624-9070, pdcristo@aol.com.

PC(USA) Internships – Available at national offices (young adults, campus ministries, college students/faculty). Young adults are leading PC(USA) and will take us into the future. To strengthen their leadership and discernment skills, PC(USA) offers internships at the national offices in Louisville, Ky. Many former interns have gone on to seminary, mission work and other church leadership activities.

Help our young adults find their unique call to serve God and God's people by publicizing this Web site: www.pcusa.org/nvo/youngadultinterns/yai.htm, in your church newsletter or sending it to people you know at local colleges. For more information, contact Nancy Cavalcante, ncavalca@ctr.pcusa.org.



Internship Available in the Des Moines Area

Spend your summer doing something that just might change your life. Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines has an opening in it's summer internship program. SUMMIT (SUMmer Mission Team) is for college-age young adults who want to work in the community and the church to make a difference in the world. SUMMIT interns begin in June, working 20-25 hours per week for 10 weeks, and earn a \$2,000 grant or scholarship. For details, or to receive an application, call Lynda Albaugh, Outreach Director, 515-274-1534 or e-mail lalbaugh@westpres.org. Membership at Westminster is not required – community members are also encouraged to apply. Applicants will be screened.



Come May 26 to Presbytery's PW Gathering

The Spring Gathering of

Presbyterian Women of the Des

Moines Presbytery will be held on

Friday, May 26, from 8:45 a.m.

to 3 p.m. at Central Presbyterian

Church, 3829 Grand Avenue, Des

Moines, IA. Deadline for

reservations is Tuesday, May 23,

to: Sally Woodcock, 515-225-7589.

The cost for lunch is \$5.00. New

PW leaders will be installed.

Our program and mission project

will be the PC(USA) Mission

Initiative: Joining Hearts and

Hands in Egypt. Denise England,

RN, Director of Nursing at Panora

Nursing and Rehab for the past 14

years, will be on hand to tell us

about her upcoming mission work

in Egypt. Checks for this mission

work, can be made out to:

PC(USA), with MI #910061 on the

memo line.

Presbytery Happenings

2006 RAGBRAI TRAVELS THROUGH PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES

The towns of Audubon, Waukee and Newton are planning summer activities around the Register's Annual Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) event July 23-28. Presbyterian churches in these overnight towns for the annual bike ride will host a variety of activities. Here are just a few:

Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive will be offering a camp site for RAGBRAI participants on July 25 for the overnight stop in Waukee.

Heartland will provide the following services: dinner, shuttle to private residences for showers, laundry, tent set-up, air conditioning, restroom facilities, camping on church lawn, and breakfast to go for riders the next day.

Appropriate fees or donations will be part of Heartland's fund raising project. For more information or to make a reservation contact



Heartland Presbyterian Church, 14300 Hickman Rd., Clive, Iowa 50325, 515-987-4246, office@heartlandpresbyterian.org

Both the **First Presbyterian and United Presbyterian churches in Newton** are fixing different meals in tandem with the other denominations in town.

First Presbyterian Church in Audubon is hosting a dinner as well with other area churches.

HURRICANE MISSION UPDATE

Don't forget the upcoming Presbytery mission trips in June to the Gulf Coast region, contact **Anna Williams**, espanda@msn.com or **Jeff Gumm**, 515-987-2326, jsgumm@yahoo.com with **Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive**.

Other churches that are

responding are:

The **First Presbyterian Church in Creston** will be sending a work team to Mississippi to help with the Hurricane Relief effort in October. The tentative schedule is set for Oct. 14-21, or Oct. 21-28. If there is enough interest they'll send two groups. An invitation has been extended to anyone in our Presbytery interested in joining the mission trip. If interested, contact **Marion Hargin**, 641-782-7265.

Pastor David Welch of the Plano, Ia., Christian Church will speak at the **First Presbyterian Church in Centerville** on May 7 at 7 p.m. He will be telling about his volunteer experiences in the Gulf area early this spring. There will be an opportunity for joining a team to go to that area the second week of September.

If interested, contact **Marilyn Vanderlinden**, Outreach Chairman, First Presbyterian Church, Centerville, vander926@mchsi.com.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MOMENT

Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church – Church members, **Betty Richardson, Jewell Chapman, Phyllis Huxford and Collen Pulliam** are playing basketball with the 'Hot Pink Grannies' in a statewide senior citizens league. Church-member groupies following their team, include: **Kim and John Wilhelm** who lead the singing of the national anthem and **Dale Richardson** who announces at the games. The over-50-year-olds have a great time with the support from their husbands and congregation. "I just love the Hot Pink Grannies!" says, **Rev. Eric Keller**. "We had to clean out the church in order to give them room to practice weekly. Since we've cleaned up the building, we look more like a church on Sundays. This has put everyone; regular attendees, members, and visitors in a more worshipful mood and has improved our overall worship time."

217th General Assembly Update

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE:

This year there are 534 voting commissioners, 173 Youth Advisory Delegates (YADs) and Theological Student Advisory Delegates (TSADs) attending the 217th General Assembly in Birmingham, June 15-22.

YADs and TSADs, along with Ecumenical Advisory Delegates and Overseas Advisory Delegates, have voice and vote in Assembly committees but voice only in plenary sessions.

Our Presbytery's GA commissioners include:

Clergy – Rev. Sue Babovec of **First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa**, sbabovec@ottumwafirstpresby.org;

Elder – Ray Peters of **Ankeny Presbyterian Church**, lrrconsulting@msn.com; and

YAD – Cassandra Decker of **First Presbyterian Church in Corning**.

Here is an excerpt from **Ray Peter's** summary to our presbytery members:

"This year GA reports and recommendations are available electronically through **LES** (Laptop Electronic System). Reports will not be printed and/or mailed in advance like in the past. Commissioners and advisory delegates will use laptop computers to access a wireless Intranet, reading and tracking the business and the assembly's actions 'in real time.'

"The 29-page agenda is so long I can understand why they have moved to a paperless meeting.

"There are a total of 15 different committees at GA and I have been assigned to the *Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation* committee. Our primary focus will be business related to the church's pension, annuities,

insurance, and medical plans, including government or private retirement programs, and business related to the PC(USA) Foundation.

"The dominant issues include whether to continue the denomination's policy of selective phased divestment from corporations profiting from Israel's occupation of the West Bank; the report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church; and the proposed changes to the ordination standards of the PC(USA).

"It will be amazing to see how the Holy Spirit works through a diversity of ideas and opinions. Hopefully the Holy Spirit will consider overtime as we prepare for Assembly. I have purposely not listed each of the overtures, however, you can review them by going online to: www.pcusa.org."



Do You Have News?

There are numerous requests for information about our Presbytery churches. Please consider sending a news-worthy story to the following:

Our **Synod of Lakes and Prairies** is looking for mission, technology and church news for their newsletter. Explore www.lakesandprairies.org to learn more or contact Cathie Perrault, 800-328-1880, x208, cperrault@lakesandprairies.org.

Religious Reporter for the *Des Moines Register*, Shirley Ragsdale, needs ideas for her column. Send to: sragsdale@dmreg.com

Presbyterian Today wants story ideas and features for their magazine. If you have a article, contact Eva Stimson, 888-728-7228 x5635, estimson@ctr.pcusa.org.

Www.pcusa.org wants you to send your church photos! Buildings, steeples, stained glass windows, etc. are needed for the Web site (must be accompanied by a signed release when taking photos of people). Send to: Dianna Ott, 888-728-7228 x5709, dott@ctr.pcusa.org.

Support the Presbytery's Advocate to GA—Can You Help?

Our Presbytery's Social Ministries Task Force is raising funds to help defray the cost of **Ted Coppock's**, member of **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, trip, June 15-22, to General Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama. Unfortunately funding for overture advocates is not a part of the regular presbytery budget. Several congregations have contributed to this cause, but the goal of \$2,000 for travel expenses has not yet been met. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the **Overture Advocate Fund** is encouraged to call the Presbytery of Des Moines office at 515-276-4991.

Our Presbytery of Des Moines selected Ted to serve as an Overture Advocate because of his previous support of the overture that our presbytery voted to send to the GA last summer. The overture seeks to delete from the *Book of Order* the language that prohibits ordination of gays and lesbians as elders, deacons, and ministers of the word. Ted has worked tirelessly on this issue and will speak in support of this overture at GA. If you have questions about the overture, Ted's e-mail is htedcoppock@aol.com.

Make A Difference: Contact Your Legislator

Many times we like to sit on the sidelines and watch the world pass us by. If you feel that our country's politics are running a different way than yours – maybe now is the time for a letter to your congress member. You just might make a difference.

CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP INFO:
www.visi.com/juan/congress/
 (click on map of USA)

IOWA SENATORS
Charles Grassley (R-IA)
<http://grassley.senate.gov/>
 or 202-224-3744

Tom Harkin (D-IA)
<http://harkin.senate.gov/>
 or 202-224-3254

IOWA REPRESENTATIVES BY DISTRICT
Jim Nussle (R-01)
<http://nussle.house.gov/>
 or 202-225-2911

James Leach (R-02)
www.house.gov/leach/
 or 202-225-6576

Leonard Boswell (D-03)
<http://boswell.house.gov/>
 or 202-225-3806

Tom Latham (R-04)
www.tomlatham.house.gov/
 or 202-225-5476

Steve King (R-05)
www.house.gov/steveking/
 or 202-225-4426

Expectation, Reality Parted Ways in Joining Hearts & Hands Campaign

PARADIGM SHIFT' IN DENOMINATIONAL GIVING HAS 'CHANGED THE FLOWS' OF CONTRIBUTIONS

March 16, 2006

by **Toya Richards Hill**

LOUISVILLE— When the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands (MIJH&H) fund-raising campaign began in 2002, the idea was that money would come in to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s denominational office here, then be used to send missionaries abroad and build churches here at home.

It was a simple plan: a five-year effort to raise \$40 million – \$20 million for international mission personnel and \$20 million for domestic church growth, particularly racial-ethnic church development.

"The money would all flow in through Louisville," then back out in a 50-50 split, said John Detterick, executive director of the PC(USA).

Four years later, the reality is much different, reflecting several changes of circumstances, including a "paradigm shift" taking place in the denomination, according to Detterick and others.

"The world is changing in terms of funds development," Detterick said, and as a result, "the flows have been different."

At the end of 2005, almost \$24 million had been donated

in cash and pledges. Of that, almost \$15.6 million was earmarked specifically for church growth – and \$15.2 million of that must be allocated at the presbytery level.

Presbyteries want to have more involvement and make "mission decisions," Detterick said.

So far, only about \$3.2 million has been pledged for mission personnel – \$1 million of it endowed for seminary education in Kenya. But just \$20,000 of that is to be administered by presbyteries.

What's left to go to the PC(USA) headquarters in Louisville as unrestricted and undesignated donations? About \$5.1 million.

Detterick, whose term as executive director ends later this year, said he didn't expect campaign donations to come in as they have.

Frankly, he said, he and campaign leaders weren't knowledgeable enough in the beginning to foresee it. But they understand it now.

In the end, the campaign "may not have a 50-50 ratio," but the denomination will have built a long-term infrastructure of giving supported by presbyteries, churches, pastors and everyone, Detterick said.

Once campaign officials realized that "major donors" weren't emerging to propel

the funds-development drive, the focus shifted to presbyteries and congregations. Special attention has been given to matching presbyteries with specific international mission interests and mission needs in the PC(USA)'s Worldwide Ministries Division.

"This is learning new forms of partnership," Detterick said. "In a sense, this is part of the ongoing paradigm shift that the church is in, as we learn to do mission and ministry. We still all play roles, but the roles get modified."

An 'enabling vehicle' for presbyteries, Detterick said the denomination has "known for a long time that presbyteries want to see the church grow," as witnessed by the significant MIJH&H pledges to church growth. But what the campaign has done, he said, is provide a way to actually make growth happen.

"I think this response is a way of our own self-empowerment discovery," he said. "This (campaign) is a new enabling vehicle that's caught on very nicely."

The MIJH&H campaign director, the Rev. Jan Opdyke said the key is "a mutuality to the fund-raising" that combines the "visions and hopes and dreams" of presbyteries and congregations with the expertise of the campaign staff.

For example, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in

Joining Hearts & Hands Campaign continued from page 10

Houston, which the campaign lifts up on its Web site:

[www.pcusa.org/joining heartsandhands](http://www.pcusa.org/joining_heartsandhands), has pledged \$1 million to the mission initiative – \$850,000 of it for new-church development.

Memorial Drive Church already has a ministry specifically intended to help new churches blossom. Part of its vision is to plant one church a year for the next 10 years.

The campaign also highlights, among others, Santa Barbara Presbytery, where \$3.5 million has been pledged to the MIJH&H campaign, much of it for new-church development, including two new Hispanic churches.

Ironically, Santa Barbara is one of only a handful of presbyteries – others include Mid-Kentucky, Los Ranchos, Santa Fe and Peace River – that have pledged to the campaign and included racial-ethnic aspects in their development plans. Detterick and Opdyke believe that will change when more donors join the campaign and outline the needs in their communities.

Detterick said the national office is still determining how national staff will be affected, as presbyteries and congregations take on more responsibility for church growth and development.

"We're still working our way through all that," he said, noting that it could mean a smaller, more-dispersed staff.

Currently, new-church development falls under the

evangelism and witness area of the PC(USA)'s National Ministries Division (NMD).

International-mission picture is murky

The future is unclear for international mission personnel dispatched through WMD, which has a backlog of people waiting to be deployed, but no funds to do so. The MIJH&H campaign was supposed to ease that situation, but so far it hasn't produced enough money.

"We don't have a deficit of people to serve," said the Rev. Marian McClure, WMD's director.

The missing piece, she said, "has truly been the money."

K.T. Ockels, coordinator of mission service and recruitment, said 10 people are in the pipeline for international mission service, but there's no money to deploy them.

"Right now we can't really appoint new people unless they come with funds," McClure said.

She said the smaller amount pledged for mission personnel compared to church growth doesn't reflect a lack of interest, but a lack of emphasis by the denomination and a failure to effectively promote international mission work over the years.

The absence of an annual special offering for international mission has left the church with no "annual moment" to support it, she said.

"A program like this needs a way to find renewal resources on an annual basis," McClure said. The MIJH&H campaign will address short-term needs, but "really the denomination hasn't confronted the larger picture of the funding needs for international mission personnel."

One Great Hour of Sharing, which helps support the Self-Development of People program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, is perhaps the best-known annual-giving opportunity for PC(USA) congregations and members, but it doesn't support mission personnel.

McClure said promotion of international mission work – actually telling the stories of the missionaries – has not been as strong as it needs to be. That's the result of a system that discouraged financial appeals to middle governing bodies in the 1970s, followed by a spend-down of restricted funds that "hid the reality" of international missions' financial needs, she said.

"What we've got is the fruits of decades of silence," McClure said.

Now we have to cultivate a sense of excitement and "buy-in" regarding international missions, she said – by "telling compelling stories" and making the mission fields "live for people."

Lifting up those with a call Opdyke said telling of such stories will be the future of the

campaign as it moves toward its goal of raising \$40 million by 2007.

"One of the most compelling stories that we have is a woman named **Denise England**," she said.

England is a geriatric nurse from **Audubon, Iowa** who "has a real heart for serving in Egypt," Opdyke said.

There is a place for **England** to serve a geriatric population in Egypt, and "she has leased out her home in anticipation of going," Opdyke said. "She feels that God has called her to the mission field."

England is ready, except for the funding.

Opdyke said the campaign is specifically promoting **England**, and others like her, in the hope that a congregation will make a connection. The would-be missionary is even visiting congregations herself, so that people can match a human face to the appeal.

"The strategy is to be as specific as we can be," Opdyke said. "That's a whole new way of really presenting mission co-workers to the denomination."

By taking this approach, she added, "We've been able to deeply touch people's hearts – not just raise money."

Admittedly, Opdyke said, if campaign officials had known the church would respond as it has, "We would have gone to a much more specific approach early on. There's has been a learning curve. The good news is, we get it now."

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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.

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PC(USA) Update continued from page 4

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR SOCIAL-WELFARE HONOR

Nominations are being solicited for the John Park Lee Award, which is named in honor of the Presbyterian widely considered the founder of health and welfare ministries in the PC(USA).

The Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) sponsors the award, which has been presented during the association's biennial conferences since 1969. The

next conference is scheduled for January 2007 in New Orleans, LA.

This award recognizes Presbyterians who have done "faithful and exemplary work" in social welfare and justice ministries and exemplifies the qualities of concern, sensitivity and involvement for which Lee was known.

The deadline for nominations is July 1.

The last recipient of the award, in 2005, was the Rev. Bill Thomas, who spent his entire 35-year career serving small churches in economically stressed communities, mostly outside Pittsburgh.

For a description of the award and a nomination form, visit PHEWA's Web site:

www.pcusa.org/phewa/news

or call 888-728-7228, ext. 5800.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org
