



The Wider Circle E-Newsletter

Presbytery of Des Moines votes "Affirmative" to 08-B Ordained Officers

After defeating (Yes 40, **No 53**) a recommendation for "no action" made by Des Moines Presbytery's Bills and Overture Committee, the Presbytery then voted "Affirmative" on Amendment 08-B. It was approved by a vote of **52 Yes**, 37 No, 4 abstentions.

The language, if approved by a majority of Presbyteries (87) of the PC(USA) would mean that current G-6.0106b language would change from excluding persons who are homosexual from full inclusion and participating in the offices of our church, Deacon, Elder and Minister of the Word and Sacrament. While the General Assembly 2008 did rule that all Definitive Guidance and Authoritative Interpretations (From 1978 until the adding of G-6.0106b to *Book of Order* in 1996) have no further affect that action only unlocked the door, it did not open it.

New language for 08-B reads as follows:

"Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate's sincere efforts to adhere to these standards."

This is a continued demonstration of the journey, while difficult for us all, those of us who support this and those who just as faithfully oppose this change. The Presbytery of Des Moines' majority vote will now wait for the determination of the other presbyteries.

If you are interested in learning more about the other amendments and actions taken by the Presbytery, watch for the January Meeting Minutes to be available in February.

January 21, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:
2400 86th Street, Suite 20
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306
515-276-4991

Office Hours are:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

This Week's Highlights

Presbytery Votes "Yes"

Lunch & Learn Series Set

Child Homelessness: It Affects All of Us Conference

Older Adult Ministry E-news

Blood Drive to Benefit Cottage Grove Avenue Church

Why Bother with the Church?

Prayers and Concerns

Year-at-a-Glance, Presbytery's Holidays and Special Events

2009 Lunch & Learn Series has potential for churches!

Mark your calendars! Presbytery of Des Moines pastors, church staff and volunteers have given their input for the following list of the topics. Each lunch sessions is held on the third Thursday of the month (except January), starting at Noon, for one hour, at the Presbytery office, 2400 86th St., Ste. #20, Urbandale, Ia.

January 22 – Do Calendars Tell a Story? (bring samples of your church's calendars)

February 19 – P.O.I.N.T. Tips and Tricks on Christian Education curriculums and VBS

March 19 – (Re)Visioning Your Church

April 16 – Web Site Writing and Optimization so Search Engines will find you

May 21 – Evaluating your Church's Communications Efforts

June 18 – Blogging 101 and Podcasting for Pastors

July 16 – Get the inside story about Khadamat Sudaniya's Ministry

August 20 – Social Networking Online with Youth (Facebook, MySpace and Twitter)

September 17 – Annual and Statistical Reports, Newsletters and E-announcements (bring samples)

October 15 – Public Relations 101 – How to Get Church News Noticed

November 19 – How to use Photographs in your Church Ministry

Child Homelessness: It Affects All of Us Conference

This conference on homelessness in our community will be held Monday, Feb. 29, 2009 at the Blank Children's Hospital/Iowa Methodist Campus, 1415 Woodland Ave., Des Moines. Mark your calendars for this free event sponsored by many community services including CROSS Ministries, and funded by a grant from the United Way of Central Iowa. The conference is for homeless service providers, case managers, outreach workers, healthcare providers, legislators, and anyone who works with homeless children or has interest in this topic is invited. To register by Feb. 16, go online to www.blankchilrens.org (click on: Coming Up, More Events), or call 515-241-4233 or e-mail honeica2@ihs.org.

Continued from above...

Monthly Older Adult Ministry E-Newsletter Begins

The Older Adult Ministries Task Force Moderator **Darlene Shepherd** has started to unite Presbytery churches with a monthly e-newsletter. Congregations can now share resources, ideas for programs and ministry work of what has or hasn't worked in reaching out to older adults. Please send articles or comments to Darlene at dshep@mahaska.com with subject line "Presbytery OAM", so the e-mail is not deleted as spam.

Our first e-newsletter went out January 14. A lot of information was left out which really emphasizes that while the children are the church of the future, our older people must be cared for and nurtured so there will be a church for their future. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, contact the Presbytery office, pbycommunication@qwestoffice.net.

Westminster Church to Host Blood Drive on Feb. 16 for CROSS

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines will host a Blood Drive for The Blood Center of Iowa on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2009, from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Blood Drive will also be a fundraiser for CROSS Ministries, a social outreach program of the **Presbytery of Des Moines** and **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church**. For every donor registered, Westminster will give \$5 to **CROSS Ministries**. CROSS serves low- and no-income families in the Des Moines area.

To make an appointment for the Westminster Blood Drive, contact Sue Freeman, 515-473-4699, or call the church office, 515-274-1534. Walk-ins are welcome. Eligible donors must be at least 16 years of age, in general good health, and must weigh at least 120 pounds. For more information about donating blood, visit www.bloodcenterofiowa.org. Westminster is located at the corner of Beaver and Franklin Avenues in Des Moines.

Workshop Explores Why Members Go to Church

How necessary is the church? This workshop will work on a solution to this question and others relating to the church goer's lifestyle. *Why Bother with the Church* will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the office of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ, 600 42nd St., Des Moines. This is an essential program for all pastors, religious leaders and lay leaders seeking guidance on successful congregations. Our own Presbytery member, the **Rev. Gus Nelson**, will be leading this event. Gus is director of *Project 21*, a three-year experiment aimed at developing "a new paradigm for the church in the 21st century and is former executive presbyter of the Des Moines Presbytery. Cost is \$25 and to register in advance, call Beverly at the Iowa Conference at 515-277-6369 or e-mail julia@ucciaconf.org.

Prayers and Concerns

The **First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center's Secretary Ardyce Enderson**, recently had hip replacement surgery and is recovering at home.

Official Presbytery 2009 Holidays and Stated Meetings Announced

The Des Moines Presbytery office will be closed in observance of the following holidays in 2009. Also included are the dates and locations for the quarterly stated meetings and other important events.

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008 through **Friday, Jan. 2, 2009** – Christmas and New Year's Day Holidays (Winter Break), Office closed

Saturday, Jan. 17 – Presbytery Stated Meeting, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Indianola

Monday, Jan. 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Office closed

Friday, Jan. 30 – Per Capita due

Sunday, Feb. 1 – Statistical Reports due

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday, Office closed

Tuesday, May 19 – Presbytery Stated Meeting, Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday, Office closed

Friday, July 3 – Independence Day Holiday, Office closed

Saturday, Aug. 15 – Presbytery Stated Meeting, Brooklyn First and Malcom First United Presbyterian Churches

Monday, Sept. 7 – Labor Day Holiday, Office closed

Tuesday, Nov. 10 – Presbytery Stated Meeting, TBD

Thursday - Friday, Nov. 26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday – Office closed

Thursday, Dec. 24 through **Friday, Jan. 1, 2010** – Christmas and New Year's Day Holidays (Winter Break), Office closed

To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter pbycommunication@qwestoffice.net.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at pbycommunication@qwestoffice.net or call 515-276-4991.

Learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org.