

Presbytery of Des Moines

Equipping pastors and congregations
in South Central Iowa with the tools
to carry on God's awesome love.



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **March 27-28** – *CANCELLED* PW Spring Retreat, Jericho Hills in Lucas
- **March 28** – The SEHARC Hot Pink Grannies Basketball Game benefits **Calvin Community's Good Samaritan Fund**. Admission is a donation which helps seniors at Calvin Community who outlive their finances. Calvin Community does not throw anyone out when they can't continue to pay.
- **April 2** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m. at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **April 3-4** – Spring Connection for Youth (6th-12th graders), 7 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church in Lenox

One Great Hour of Sharing from Atlantic Church

The First United Presbyterian Church in Atlantic is having "Hat Sunday" on Palm Sunday to raise money for One Great Hour of Sharing. Everyone is to wear a hat to church, men, women and children. This week and next week we are to pledge an amount for each hat that is worn to church on "Hat Sunday". (Some of us are even bringing extra hats for those who need them.) Our goal is to reach the **218th General Assembly's Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow's goal** of doubling our offering from last year!



2009 Mission Yearbook highlights the Des Moines Presbytery, March 21

"A few years ago, the **Presbytery of Des Moines' Social Ministries for Peace and Justice Task Force** began recognizing its churches for their social justice ministry with the Just Neighbor's Banner Award..."

To read the complete story, go online to: www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/Mar/21.htm or you can join in with other Presbyterian's as they pray and study

for church ministry by reading the yearbook as a daily devotional. Pick up a copy of the *2009 Mission Yearbook* at the Presbytery Office in Urbandale. Cost is \$6.50. Contact Office Manager Betty Dyer at 515-276-4991 or pbydesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

Solo Piano Benefit Concert for Iowa Flood Relief, April 8

The nationally know composer and pianist George Winston will perform at the St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 815 High St. in Des Moines on Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m. Tickets for general seating are \$35, students are \$15 and special forward seating is available for \$75. They are available at www.iowatix.com. You can also support the DMARC Food Pantry by bringing a donation of canned food items to the concert. Collection baskets will be at the entrance.

George will be playing from his latest CD *Gulf Coast Blues and Impressions – A Hurricane Relief Benefit*, as well as selections from his seasonal favorites *Autumn*, *December*, *Winter into Spring* and *Summer*, and his *Forest and Plains* recordings, played in his melodic fold piano style.

March 24, 2009

www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org



We are located at:

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Office Hours are:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- One Great Hour of Sharing From Atlantic Church
- 2009 Mission Yearbook highlights the Des Moines Presbytery, March 21
- Flood Relief Benefit Concert, April 8
- Joys and Concerns
- Registration is now open for *Face-to-Face* at the Big Tent, June 11-13
- The Vote for Amendment B

Joys and Concerns

The **First United Presbyterian Church in Atlantic** reported that Beth Troy, daughter of the **Rev. Don & Emily Seeger**, will be ordained Sunday, April 19, by the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. It will be a family affair: her mom, Emily, made 10 stoles for the participants; her dad, Don, will be preaching; her aunt, Emily's sister, will have a prayer; and her sister, Mary, will also be participating as well. Beth is a member of the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Louisville that burned in January. So the ordination will take place in the Catholic church where the congregation has been worshipping. The priest of that congregation will also have a part in the service – ecumenical all the way. Congratulations to the Seegers!

Prayers of healing are needed for **Margaret Welsh (Clive, Heartland)** as she recovers from knee surgery on March 17. Margaret has been a strong leader in Presbyterian Women's group both at the Presbytery and national levels and plans on attending the PW Churchwide Gathering July 11-15 in Louisville, Ky.

Registration is now open for *Face-to-Face* at the Big Tent, June 11-13

Face-to-Face is an opportunity for churches and church entities seeking a church professional – and church professionals seeking a call – to meet and attend to the leading of the Holy Spirit, as everyone considers whether there is a potential for a call to minister together. This is for Pastor Nominating Committees, Search Committees, Presbytery and Synod leaders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, candidates, and Christian educators. It is not necessary to register for **Big Tent** to participate in *Face-to-Face*, but [registration for Face to Face is required](#). In order to register, an individual must have a Personal Information Form (PIF) with Church Leadership Connection (CLC), while a position being represented at *Face-to-Face* must have a Church Information Form (CIF) with CLC.



The Vote on Amendment 08-B

An analysis by Hans Cornelder/
Presbyweb

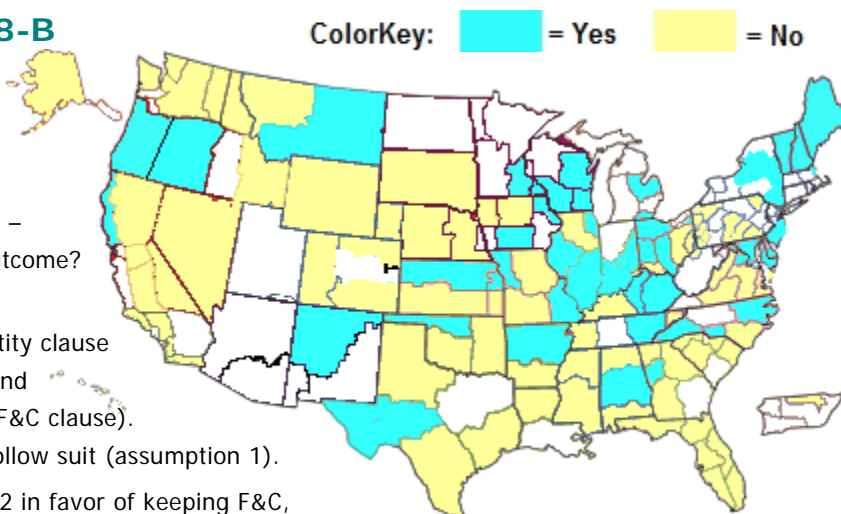
At the time I write this (March 23, 2009), Presbyweb has received the results of the vote in 130 presbyteries. The tally is 51 yes – 79 no. What does this mean for the final outcome?

1. Of the 46 presbyteries that voted in 2002 in favor of removal of the Fidelity & Chastity clause from the *Book of Order*, 28 have voted, and all voted in favor of 08-B (to replace the F&C clause).
Let's assume that the remaining 18 will follow suit (assumption 1).

2. Of the 127 presbyteries that voted in 2002 in favor of keeping F&C, 102 have voted this round, and 23 of them have changed sides, that is 22.5%. If we assume that this pattern will continue, then about 6 of the remaining 25 presbyteries in this group will also change sides (assumption 2).

If both assumptions are correct, the amendment will fail by 75 yes and 98 no. That is obvious. But are they correct? We certainly don't say they are, there are many unknown factors. This past weekend there were two big surprises, by nobody foreseen (Newark and West Virginia presbyteries). Above is Presbyweb's 08-B voting map which is updated whenever a voting result reaches us. For details, go to www.presbyweb.com/vote.

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

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