



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Nov. 5** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines**
- **Nov. 6** – World Community Day
- **Nov. 7** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9:30 a.m., **Presbytery Office, Urbandale**
- **Nov. 8** – *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*; Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- **Nov. 9-11** – Synod of Lakes and Prairies *Collegiate Ministries Conference* for chaplains and collegiate ministry leaders. Beginning Monday, 3 p.m. and ending Wednesday, 11 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 902 Main St., Cedar Falls, IA 50613. The conference is targeted at campus ministry staff and chaplains of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities.
- **Nov. 10** – **Presbytery Stated Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., **First Presbyterian Church, 255 E. 1st St., Earlham** registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

November 3, 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

World Mission Celebration Booth was a Success!

Des Moines Presbytery's booth at the World Mission Celebration in Cincinnati, Ohio, the week of October 22-24 was well attended. Our Social Ministries Task Force Moderator **Nancy Lister Settle (Dallas Center, First)** and **Sue Burns (DM, Westminster)** gave away coffee samples which were a big hit! And you can see in this PNS write-up, www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09912.htm, that we were the only presbytery-sponsored booth at the event. People were impressed!

Looking for a Good Digital Piano?

For sale: an 88-key digital Technics SXPR53 piano with all bells and whistles. The owner moved to smaller space. This piano would cost \$3,000+ today if new and is about 5 years old in mint condition. It also has a leather bench and the original owner's manual. The asking price is \$1,250. The sellers would like to see it used in the Lord's work if possible. Call 515-289-1198, if interested.

DMARC Food Pantry Board Seeking New Members

Are you passionate about ending hunger in our community? Do you truly want to make a difference? The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry is looking to add three to four new members to its committee for three-year terms beginning in January 2010. The Food Pantry Committee is a working committee whose primary mission is to increase cash and food donations so that Pantry sites can provide emergency food assistance to those in need. This is a genuinely rewarding experience, one in which you can tangibly see the results of your efforts. Are you interested in serving? Contact Trudy Holman at 515-697-3666 or Brendon Comito at 515-249-1015.

Also, mark your calendars! DMARC's fall assembly will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, December 1, with location TBA. The assembly is for DMARC board and delegates and will provide reports on what we've been up to in the past year and where we stand currently.

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Reconciliation is Heart of Muslim-Christian Ministry

"How many of you are afraid of Muslims?" asked Bernie Adeney-Risakotta, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission worker to Indonesia, during an adult education class at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, Iowa. From the class of 30 adults one brave man raised his hand, and Adeney-Risakotta suggested the fear we may feel when seeing a Muslim in Arab dress is "the very fear that may prevent us from establishing relationships with Muslims and finding common ground between Islam and Christianity." The complete story can be found at the Presbyterian Neighbor News Web site, under "Reconciliation." <http://lakesprairies.pnnews.org/view/articles/15163>.

IRMS Newsletter to Feature Iowa CE, Youth Director

Karen Trotman, Christian education and youth director at United Presbyterian Church, Washington, Ia., will be featured in the November issue of "eNews," published by Iowa Religious Media Services, a resource center supported by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Trotman will talk about her usage of the multi-part resource "Faith Lessons," explaining why she uses it and how to make it work easily for middle school through adult groups. Those who do not subscribe to IRMS' "eNews" can do so by sending an e-mail to the editor at jwrite@ecity.net and noting "'eNews' subscribe" in the subject line. The e-mail should include name, church, city and church relationship, (i.e., minister, lay leader, etc.).

Nonprofits can attend Fall 2009 Educational Series in Des Moines

The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and the *Business Record* are pleased to announce the Fall 2009 BoardLaunch Series. BoardLaunch enhances the management and leadership skills of local charitable nonprofit board members by providing timely technical and leadership instruction. This year's series focuses on recruitment of nonprofit board members and the trends and best practices in nonprofit governance in hopes of participants increasing their skills as leaders in the nonprofit sector. The final fall workshop on Monday, Nov. 9, offers experts Melynda DeCarlo and Tammy Rogers, cofounders and consultants with the Mevyn Group, presenting *Nonprofit Board Recruitment*. Sessions are \$40 each and will be held at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave. in Des Moines. Register online to reserve your place at these workshops.



YAV Program Offers National & International Options

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offers opportunities to serve in communities of need nationally and internationally. The program, open to people ages 19 to 30, requires a commitment of one academic year. The application deadline is Jan. 20 for the 2010-2011 year. In addition to service, the program emphasizes living in intentional Christian community and spiritual formation. The PC(USA) Web site contains more information about the YAV Program, www.pcusa.org/yav/.

PC(USA) Women's Social Media Web Site Wins Award

AllWomen in the Church, the social media site launched in March 2009 by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has been honored with a "Landmarks of Excellence Award of Merit" from the Louisville, Ky. chapters of the International Association of Business Communicators and the Public Relations Society of America. The award went to PC(USA) Web content developer Dana McMahan and designer Thommy Browne. The *AllWomen* Web site, www.pcusa.org/allwomen/, reaches out to women across the denomination and is part of the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area with more than 500 member participants.

GAMC Reaffirms Support of Presbyterian News Service

The General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) reaffirmed its support for the Presbyterian News Service, calling the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s news agency "a high priority and an essential function" of the church. In approving the report of a six-member task force authorized by the council a year ago and appointed by GAMC chair Carol Adcock, the council approved new editorial guidelines that clarify and strengthen the news service's editorial freedom and responsibility. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09823.htm.

Development of New Presbyterian Hymnal Continues

Work on the monumental new Presbyterian hymnal continues at the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. The project began in 2006 when the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) authorized Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to research, develop, and produce a new hymnal, the first new Presbyterian hymnal since 1990. Featuring more than 600 selections from celebrated classics to the latest contemporary selections, the project represents a huge undertaking. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/ppc09005.htm.

GA Committee Unanimously Recommends Adoption of Belhar Confession

LOUISVILLE – A special committee authorized by the 218th General Assembly (2008) has announced that it will recommend to next summer's 219th Assembly that the [Belhar Confession](#) be added to the PC(USA)'s *Book of Confessions*. Amending the *Book of Confessions* requires a two-thirds vote by two successive General Assemblies plus a two-thirds ratification vote by the denomination's 173 presbyteries between Assembly ballots. The confession was written in 1982 and adopted in 1986 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in response to the apartheid system of racial separation in South Africa. It declared apartheid a sin and the church's theological justification of it as heresy. But Belhar's greater value to the PC(USA), special committee member the Rev. J.C. Austin told the GAMC's executive committee, Sept. 23, lies in its "fundamental themes that go beyond the apartheid struggle." Austin, a Presbyterian minister who works at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, said those themes are the unity of the church, reconciliation and a commitment to justice. [To read more, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09820.htm]

'We cannot agree,' says marriage/unions GA Panel

LOUISVILLE – The [Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Unions and Christian Marriage](#) has acknowledged what has been clearly demonstrated in debates, governing body votes and judicial decisions throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Presbyterians are not of one mind on the role of same-gender relationships in the church. The special committee, authorized by the 2008 General Assembly (GA), unanimously approved its [preliminary report](#) to the 210 GA, Sept. 17, answering the central question before it – What is the place of covenanted same-gender partnerships in the Christian community? – with a three word response: "We cannot agree." Though it reached unanimous agreement on the preliminary version of its report – the group will receive feedback from the church until Nov. 15 and prepare a final report at its Jan 22-25, 2010 meeting – it tabled action on any recommendations it might make. [To read more, go to: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09807.htm]