



The Wider Circle E-News

Mark your calendars this week for:

- **Oct. 20** – Transformation Team, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., American Institute of Business, Des Moines
- **Oct. 20** – Worship Task Force, 4:30 p.m., **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, Des Moines
- **Oct. 21-24** – *Mission Connection Celebration '09* in Cincinnati, Ohio. Branches of the same vine, is the theme for this final celebration for mission networks, mission pastors, mission trip leaders and other mission initiators and supporters, www.pcusa.org/missioncelebration/.
- **Oct. 22** – Pastor's Welcoming, 10 a.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale. Lunch is included. RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 21.
- **Oct. 22** – Session Records Review, 7 p.m., **United Christian-Presbyterian Church, Bedford**
- **Oct. 24** – United Nations Day
- **Oct. 25** – *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*; Reformation Sunday
- **Oct. 25** – New Church dedication, 2 p.m., **United Christian-Presbyterian Church, Bedford**
- **Oct. 27** – *Mission Dollar Challenge Consultation 2010*, 1-4 p.m. at **St. Paul Presbyterian Church**, 6426 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston. Sponsored by the Stewardship and Mission Interpretation and the Budget and Finance committees. To RSVP, contact the Presbytery Office, 515-276-4991. Churches are asked to send 1-2 session members and bring 2008/2009 church annual budgets. Participants will return prepared to help sessions set goals for funding 2010 mission work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

October 20, 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

Highlights on Next Page:

- GAMC lowers 2010 mission budget by 6%
- BOP Announces 2010 Medical Plan Changes
- Reggie's Sleepout at Drake Stadium, Oct. 24

Joys and Concerns

Prayers are needed for the **Allerton Presbyterian Church pastor the Rev. Ross Blount**, whose mother, Dorothy Crandall, died Oct. 4 at the age of 101. She was very active in the Mobile, Ala., PC(USA) church and in the 1950's served on the delegation for the National Council of Churches. Throughout her life, Dorothy was also involved with ecumenical and interracial ministry. You may send condolences to Ross and Lorena at: 405 N. Central Ave., Allerton, IA 50008-8606.

Attend Westminster's Coffee House featuring Swing Jazz Band

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Ave., in Des Moines invites you to the Anchor Coffee House and the CJC Big Band, 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24. Offering the popular jazz sounds from the swing era, the band is sponsored by the Des Moines Community Jazz Center, an organization providing young musicians with an opportunity to develop their talents and enjoy music in a non-competitive environment. Free childcare. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Call 515-274-1534 to purchase tickets by phone with credit card. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Use Allison entrance.

Bring Fair Trade to your congregation

Hosting a Partnership Sale is an excellent opportunity to fundraise for your own cause, bring economic and social justice to your church, and provide your congregation with a beautiful selection of gifts that have a positive impact! By ordering online, you receive 25% off products and can use this profit for whatever cause or project you choose. And to make your sale even easier, PJT provides resources about Fair Trade and promotional support to sale coordinators. Visit www.PartnersForJustTrade.org/pb to learn more about how to host a Partnership Sale or call 314-773-7358.

Join Nonprofit Workshop, Measuring Success Toward Mission

The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines is pleased to offer *Measuring Success: Being Results-Oriented Through Measuring Advancement Toward Mission* facilitated by David Styers, BoardSource consultant. This workshop will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines. Registration is \$50, and includes lunch and *The Nonprofit Dashboard: A Tool for Tracking Progress*. Nonprofits today are expected to look for the best ways to assess and evaluate their organizations to show their impact and effectiveness. Measurement tools can help nonprofit board members assess the organization's effectiveness without getting overly involved in day-to-day operations. They can provide the type of quantitative and qualitative data critical to illustrate success to funders. This workshop explores user-friendly tools that provide a clear display of performance measures and allows boards and staff to drill down to detailed, refined understanding of organizational and program effectiveness. Nonprofit board members and key management team members are encouraged to attend.

GAMC lowers 2010 mission budget by 6%

Spend-down of Katrina recovery funds accounts for most of cuts

By Bill Lancaster, Special to Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE – The General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted Sept. 24 to revise its 2010 budget downward by \$5.76 million, or about 6%. The revised budget totals \$101,141,077.

The largest area of reduction – \$6.8 million – falls in Compassion, Peace and Justice (CP&J) ministries, due to a planned spend-down of \$5.6 million in Hurricane Katrina funds. Another \$1 million is a reduction in Self Development of People (SDOP), which is funded from the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering.

The revised budget includes no national staff reductions.

“The most significant change in the budget is that we are dropping from almost \$20 million to \$12 million in what we can take out of prior year receipts and reserves,” said Joey Bailey, the GAMC’s chief financial officer.

On the income side, \$86,614,716 is expected from current receipts, and \$14,526,361 from prior-year receipts and reserves. “We need to get closer to a time when we spend what we receive,” Bailey said.

The original 2010 budget was approved by the General Assembly in 2008. “It’s unfortunate that we have to budget so far in advance, but with biennial assemblies, that is a fact,” said Joey Bailey, chief financial officer of the GAMC.

Approximately \$24 million was given in response to Katrina, and CP&J – which is committed to long-term recovery as a strategy – spread the spending of these funds over five years.

This year, recovery operations in Mississippi were completed and shut down and operations shifted west to New Orleans.

By 2011 the funds allocated for Katrina will all be spent through planned reductions, and the long term Katrina recovery efforts will be wrapped up, according to Sara Lisherness, director of CP&J.

By contrast, only about \$300,000 was given in response to Hurricane Ike that hit the Galveston, Texas, area a year ago, causing about as much damage as Katrina. The reduction continues the gradual trend of lower income for the GAMC. Bailey said he expects that reduction to continue year by year. (www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09824.htm)

BOP Announces 2010 Medical Plan Changes

As first reported in the summer 2009 issue of [The Board Bulletin](#), a number of modifications will be made to the Medical Plan, January 1, 2010.

- Changes to out-of-pocket costs—for both medical and surgical care and prescription drugs.
- A new health management service provider—ActiveHealth Management® replaces/expands services currently provided by CareAllies
- Expanded coverage for children with congenital developmental disabilities—per the 218th General Assembly (2008).
- An increase in the maximum lifetime benefit—from \$3 million to \$3.5 million.

Details about these changes will be e-mailed, mailed, and posted to www.pensions.org over the coming months.

Dependent Coverage Waiver Available Oct. 1

Active members enrolled in the Traditional Program can waive coverage for their spouse and/or dependent children provided they have comparable medical coverage through another employer- or military services-related group healthcare plan. See [Administrative Rule 206](#) and www.pensions.org for details. **Note:** Choosing this option will not affect the benefit dues paid by the employing organization.

Open Enrollment is Oct. 5-Nov. 20

This year’s open enrollment period for Optional Dental and Supplemental Death Benefits will be Oct. 5-Nov. 20, 2009. There are no rate changes for either program for 2010. For details, visit the [Optional Dental Program](#) and the [Supplemental Death Benefits Program](#) pages. This year, [Pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org) will also serve as a central repository for all of the required enrollment materials, so look for the online materials beginning Oct. 5.

Save the Date for Tax Tips Webinar

This year’s Tax Tips event for ministers and churches is scheduled for Dec. 9. Registration opens mid-October, so watch www.pensions.org. New this year, the popular session will be presented as a Webinar, although members can still call in if they do not have access to the Web.

