

**Presbytery of Boston**  
**E-Connection**  
**August 27, 2009**

## **Summary of the Presbytery Trial Held August 22**

In the trial of the Presbytery of Boston v. Jean K. Southard held August 22, 2009, at the Hartford Street Presbyterian Church, Natick, Massachusetts, the presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) did not sustain two charges that Ms. Southard violated the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) when she officiated at the marriage of two women on March 1, 2008.

The commission convened the trial at 9 a.m. in the church's sanctuary. After Ms. Southard pleaded "Not guilty" to each charge, the commission heard testimony by expert witnesses called by the prosecution and the defense, as well as testimony by the accused. It ended the public portion of the trial in late afternoon and concluded its deliberations after 9 p.m. When the commission then returned to open meeting, PJC Moderator Sarah Newhall read aloud the entire decision, copies of which were given directly to the parties. A dissent from the decision was also read aloud. The trial was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

The specific charges filed with the commission by the prosecuting committee stated (1) that by participating and directing the March 1, 2008, worship service "Rev. Southard disregarded the Directory of Worship W-4.9000, in particular W-4.9001" and (2) that she "failed to fulfill her ordination vow to be governed by our church's polity (W-4.4003e) by participating in and directing the ceremony as set forth in Charge #1...". Neither charge was sustained.

There were up to 35 observers present throughout the day and into the evening.

The stated clerk will report on and read the PJC decision to the presbytery at its stated meeting to be held September 28, 2009, at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Easton, Massachusetts.

## **Please Respond! The Presbytery Office Needs Your Contact Information**

With several upcoming opportunities for stewardship, triennium, and missions, it would be helpful to have full contact information for the individuals in each congregation who are responsible for the following areas of ministry:

Youth Pastor  
Christian Education  
Mission  
Treasurer  
Stewardship  
Evangelism

Please have the church office or clerk of session forward as much of the following information as possible to our office: [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net). Thank you in advance for your help.

### **2010 Mission Yearbook**

If you or your congregation would like to bulk order copies of the 2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study, please contact the PoB office at: [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net) or 978-365-5200. If we get enough orders to get the bulk rate, individual copies will be \$10; 2 - 9 will be \$8 each; 10+ will be \$7 each. We need your order as soon as possible to determine whether we qualify for the bulk order. ***The deadline is October 15***, and if we get enough orders, you will be notified to bring your check to the November 16 Presbytery meeting to pick up your yearbooks.

### **Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Elder David Park (Maria Park Chung's brother), of Quincy Young Sang, had quadruple bypass surgery and is recuperating at home.

Continued prayers for Bob Ferguson, John Kepler, Gino Maini, and Don Wick.

Prayers for the Young family, who are heading to their new home in Tampa, FL and expect to be there beginning September 1.

# Presbytery of Boston Meetings

## AUGUST

27 – Council, 7:00, NPC.

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 – CPM, Clarendon Hill
- 10 – Personnel, 12:30 Needham  
CS&D, 7:30 NPC
- 14 – **Reports Deadline**  
ICL board meeting, 3:30 at NPC
- 18 – CEM, 2:00 NPC
- 28 – Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston, Good Shepherd, Easton

## Ordination Anniversaries in September & October

Michael Duda	9/1/79	30 years
Young Ghil Lee	9/15/94	15 years
Stan Johnson	10/5/86	23 years
John Chung	10/8/00	9 years
Horatio Valdez-Romero	10/9/59	50 years
Martha Spear	10/11/87	22 years
Aida Spencer	10/14/73	36 years
William Spencer	10/14/73	36 years
Allen Fairfax	10/24/04	5 years
John Buchanan	10/31/56	53 years

*Congratulations and thank you!*

## E-Connection Classifieds

Good Shepherd in Easton and Hartford Street in Natick are actively seeking installed pastors.

## Early Registration Discount for World Mission Celebration '09

The early registration fee (\$225) for World Mission Celebration '09 continues through Sept. 15. After Sept. 15, the fee increases to \$275 for the Oct. 22-24 event in Cincinnati. The conference is for Presbyterians who are passionate about mission. Speakers will include mission personnel, global partners, World Mission staff, and mission initiators from congregations. Register online or call (800) 728-7228, x5729. Mission Celebration follows World Mission Challenge which is sending mission speakers into more than 150 presbyteries.

## Events Calendar

**Aug. 27** - *Reform Immigration for America Now Prayer Vigil in Support of Immigration Reform and the Dignity of Immigrants.* **Today** at 6:00 pm at the New Federal Building, 300 State Street, **Springfield, MA.** Contact Caroline Murray, Director, Alliance to Develop Power, 413.739.7233, [www.a-dp.org](http://www.a-dp.org)

**Aug. 29** – *Campus Ministry* meeting, Presbyterian Church in **Burlington.** Time TBD. Contact Rod MacDonald at [rodmac50@aol.com](mailto:rodmac50@aol.com)

**Sept. 12** – **Institute of Christian Leadership graduation at Newton PC.** Contact Mario DaSilva for more information: [mariofrombrazil@hotmail.com](mailto:mariofrombrazil@hotmail.com) or 508-816-1673.

*Deacons/Elders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*, 8 am to 3:30 pm, First Congregational Church in **Hopkinton, MA.** Sponsored by Barnabas Ministries. Registration deadline Sept. 4. For more information, go to: <http://www.barnabasministriesinc.org/>

**Sept. 19** – *"Strengthening Congregations, Growing Mission Deep and Wide, and Enriching Our Faith: A Return to Stewardship Fundamentals."* A workshop sponsored by the Stewardship & Budget Committee. 9 am to 2 pm at **Newton PC.** Contact Bob Stephens no later than Sept. 16: [rassaa@aol.com](mailto:rassaa@aol.com) or 617-264-7445.

*Gospel Fest 2009*, 7 pm at Fourth Church in **Hyde Park.** Free food and raffle with great prizes! Suggested donation is \$10, with proceeds going to the church's tutoring program.

**Sept. 24** – Theology Reading Group--Our next gathering to discuss William C. Placher's *The Triune God* at 10 am at the **Needham Church.** We will be looking at the third chapter, and choosing our next book! Contact Cindy Kohlmann at [ckohlmann@mac.com](mailto:ckohlmann@mac.com)

**Sept. 25** - PEI Sky Family Celtic Dance & Gospel at Ft. Square, **Quincy.** Call 617 471 6806.

**Oct. 18** – *"One Book, Many Voices,"* with Liz Walker. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Bible Society, at Wilson Chapel, ANTS, **Newton Centre.** 7-9 pm with reception to follow. Also on October 19-22 at other locations in MA. Contact the MBS for more information: [admin@massbible.org](mailto:admin@massbible.org) or 617-969-9404.

**Oct. 22-24** – *"World Mission Celebration '09"* Cincinnati, OH. Register online or call (800) 728-7228, x5729. Early registration discount through Sept. 15.

*"Words That Matter: A Poetry & Liturgy Workshop with Poet Ann Weems,"* Evensong Retreat Center, **Harwich Port, Cape Cod.** For further information, call 508-432-0027 or go to [www.evensongretreat.com](http://www.evensongretreat.com)

**Dec. 3** – Christmas with St. John's Bible, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Bible Society and Salem Covenant Church, **Worcester.** Exhibit and lecture. More information will be forthcoming.

## **Reminder: The Presbytery of Boston Office Has Moved!**

The office of the Presbytery of Boston, which had been located at 197 Herrick Road in Newton Centre (on the campus of Andover-Newton Theological Seminary), has relocated to Clinton, MA. We are now comfortably situated in the former manse of the Presbyterian Church in Clinton. Our new address and telephone are:

169A Chestnut Street  
Clinton, MA 01510-3610  
978-365-5200

Website: [www.presbyteryofboston.org](http://www.presbyteryofboston.org) (unchanged)

Office email: [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net) (unchanged)

Wayne Parrish's email: [presbyteryofboston.gp@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston.gp@verizon.net) (unchanged)

**Please note** that the office of the Stated Clerk, Rev. Catherine MacDonald, remains in Burlington, MA. Her contact information is: 9 Independence Drive, Burlington, MA 01803. Phone: 781-273-2213; Fax: 781-238-4425. Email: [bostonpres.sc@verizon.net](mailto:bostonpres.sc@verizon.net).