

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
May 4, 2009

Post-amendment Letter

April 28, 2009

To: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presbyteries and their congregations

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Among the hundreds of actions taken by the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) last summer were ten amendments to the church's *Constitution* and four ecumenical statements that were then sent to all 173 presbyteries for ratification. Each of these items needed 87 votes, or a simple majority of the presbyteries, to be adopted or defeated.

While presbyteries have until June 28 to vote, the Office of the General Assembly has now received official notification from enough presbyteries to know the outcome of each item. With just a few dissenting votes, presbyteries approved historic covenants and agreements with the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church, the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, and the Moravian Church.

In addition, the General Assembly Council will have a new name – the General Assembly Mission Council –which will put the word “mission” front-and-center to reinforce the work of the council.

Slightly less unanimity but substantial support was shown by presbyteries as they approved amendments addressing the leadership of certified educators at presbytery meetings, as well as adding the vows of membership to the Book of Order. Also adopted was a change in the Rules of Discipline that expands the role of alternative forms of resolution.

The proposed amendment that would have replaced the current language of G-6.0106b with new language is the only amendment that did not receive approval by a majority of presbyteries. This item in its current form will continue to be part of the Book of Order.

We have witnessed and heard many different stories as the amendment on G-6.0106b was debated. In this and other deliberations, we as a church have learned better how to talk about difficult issues in a spirit of trust and faith. We may not always agree, but we have

never forgotten that those with whom we disagree are still our brothers and sisters, as together we strive to reflect our common calling to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

By God's grace, the Holy Spirit is at work, strengthening our commitment to one another through this denomination. We give thanks for a diverse and faithful church that challenges us all to serve with integrity and offer our gifts enthusiastically. Thanks be to God for our life together.

The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008)
Elder Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Council
The Reverend Grady Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Peg Ferguson is in rehab, probably for a couple more weeks. She would love to hear from you, through cards and/or phone calls:

Margaret Ferguson, Room 101 B
Millbury Health Care Center
312 Millbury Street,
Millbury, MA 01527
Phone: 508-713-4503

Prayers for the Lovelace family. Dr. Richard Lovelace's wife, Betty Lee, died on May 2.

Continued prayers for Desirée Lawson's step-daughter, Leta, and her family.

Presbyterian Planning Calendars 2009-2010

Presbyterian Planning Calendars will be available to purchase at the May 18 presbytery meeting. Quantities are limited, so if you would like to reserve one or more calendars, please contact Wren at presbyteryofboston@verizon.net or 617-244-4766. Calendars are \$8.00 each. *Orders of more than one calendar must be paid in advance.* Please mail a check made out to "The Presbytery of Boston" to: 210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Presbytery of Boston Meetings

MAY

4 - Reports Deadline

5 - Nominating Committee

7 - COM

11 - ICL

13 - CPM

14 - Supplemental packet Deadline, 12:00 noon.

15 - CEM (2 pm)

18 - Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Boston, First Quincy, 7:30 p.m. Pre-presbytery event: Come at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation from the New England Immigration Initiative, to be given by co-coordinators Jim Keller and Isaias Rivera. The Initiative is sponsored by the New England Presbytery Partnership Group as a New England mission project supported through the Synod of the Northeast.

Upcoming Events

May 16 – *“Engaging Conflict Well: The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation.”* A workshop led by Rev. Tom Porter and Rev. Rodney Petersen. From 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at **Newton Presbyterian Church**. Sponsored by the NEPPG and The Presbytery of Boston. Contact David Dorer at NEPPGwork@gmail.com. Presbytery Partnership Group. (Contact David Dorer for more information).

May 30 – *“Great Expectations for Students and Ministry in Higher Education,”* 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, **Presbyterian Church in Burlington**. Special guests Barbara Wheeler, President of Auburn Theological Seminary, and Rick Spalding, Chaplain at Williams College. Registration deadline is May 15. For information and to register, contact: Kelsey Rice Bogdan at: NEPCI.Coordinator@gmail.com or 617-625-4824.

May 8 – The Gospel of Mark (told from memory) by Rev. Bert Marshall, 7 p.m. Old South Church, **Boston**. Contact the Mass Council of Churches for more information: 617-523-2771 or council@masscouncilofchurches.org.

May 17 – *Multicultural Church Sunday*. For more information on this and other related events, see the PCUSA’s Multicultural Ministries at: <http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/>

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June 11-13 – The Big Tent. Event to feature conferences by ten PC(USA) ministries and groups. (New Website with promotional video just launched at <https://www.pcusa.org/bigtent/>.)

July 11-15 – *“God Will Do Wonders Among You.”* Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Louisville, KY. Register by May 15 to save \$50. For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/pwgathering.

July 14 - The PW Synod of the Northeast luncheon will be held on July 14. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Mail a check made out to PWSNE to Jane MacDonald before the Gathering. Her address is 36 Carriage Lane, Newton, NJ 07860-1927. She will send you

a postcard which will be your ticket to the luncheon. You will not be able to purchase tickets in Louisville.

E-Connection Classifieds

Presbyterian Conservation Corps Summer 2009 Eco-Stewards Trainings for 18-24 year olds. 1) *Eco-Stewards West*: July 5-12, 2009, Highlands Camp in Colorado and Greenwood Farm in Montana / and 2) *Eco-Stewards Midwest*, August 2-9, 2009: Stronghold Retreat Center, IL and Lake View Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL. To inquire or apply email Rob Mark robfirstpres@gmail.com or check www.presbyterianconservationcorps.org

This summer: Eco-Retreat / Family Vacation / or Place of Solitude to Write Your Dissertation or First Book - Escape to the Matheson Farm House, Cape Breton Nova Scotia. Help preserve 100 acres of ocean-front property while taking a wonderful retreat/ vacation. Special discounts for members of The Presbytery of Boston. Contact Rob Mark - robfirstpres@gmail.com - or see <http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p129034>