

Presbytery of Boston

E-Connection

February 2, 2012

World Interfaith Harmony Week Begins

From Swords into Plowshares, by Mark Koenig, <http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/swords-plowshares/>

“The United Nations General Assembly designated the first week in February as World Interfaith Harmony Week. H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed the creation of the week. The week provides an opportunity for people of different faiths to seek fellowship, work together, and celebrate common concerns and values.

Different communities will observe World Interfaith Harmony Week in ways that are appropriate to their situation and relationships.

Ideas to observe the week could include (but not be limited to) praying with people of all faiths for peace in the Middle East and around the world, dialogues, work to "green sacred spaces," shared breakfasts or other meals, or joint community projects. Explore the Interfaith Toolkit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for additional ideas and resources.

Learn about events that are already planned for World Interfaith Harmony Week. Plan and register your event.

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an opportunity to practice "respectful presence." As the 209th General Assembly (1997) states, " Respectful presence is a way to follow Jesus of Nazareth, who met with people of many cultures and religions even as he fulfilled the nature and purpose of his God-given mission. Our expectation is that the practice of respectful presence can enable Christians to have fruitful experiences of interfaith dialogue, celebration, or worship. At the same time, our expectation is that respectful presence with people of other faiths can lead Christians into a fuller understanding and experience of their own faith.”

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/register-your-event/>

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayers for the family and friends of Neil Elliott, a long-time member of the Hartford Street Church who passed away in his sleep last week.

Sharon Wright would appreciate your continued prayers as she recovers from surgery.

****Note:** If you would like to share your prayer concerns with the Presbytery of Boston, please contact us at: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net. We continue to pray for the ongoing needs of those whose concerns are not listed.

Presbytery Meetings

FEBRUARY

- 2 – COM, 7:00 pm, NPC
S&B, 7:00, NPC
- 7 – Nominating, 11:00, NPC
- 9 – Special Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, NPC
- 13 – CEM, 1:30 pm, NPC
- 15 – Trustees, 12 noon, Sudbury

Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership

To: Presbyterian Churches of Boston

Please join us on Thursday, March 22, 2012, for an event celebrating the legacy of one of Greater Boston's extraordinary leaders, Rev. Hurmon Hamilton. We hope you will join us at 6.00 p.m. at UMass Boston's Campus Center in Dorchester for this event and ask that you also consider sponsoring the event [see attachment].

Your participation in the celebration event will help to generate the funding needed to sustain the legacy of Rev. Hamilton's work. Programs benefitting include:

1. **RPC Social Impact Center's** intensive academic enrichment programs that assist Boston students, especially at Dearborn Middle School, in achieving academic excellence. The SIC is a pivotal catalyst in the transformation now underway, transitioning the underperforming school into a premiere Early College, 6-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM] school; and
2. **Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's** work uniting the region's religious congregations and community organizations in a common prophetic voice that has achieved transformational

improvements in health care access, financial literacy, education reform, elder care, and more.

As you may already know, Rev. Hamilton has been called to serve as the Pastor of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship in California and has left his beloved Boston. Having served as the visionary Pastor of Roxbury Presbyterian Church [RPC], Chairman of RPC's Social Impact Center [SIC], President of Greater Boston Interfaith Organization [GBIO], Vice President of the Black Ministerial Alliance, and Board member of Trinity Boston Foundation, his 18-year journey of leading, renewing hope and inspiring dreams in Greater Boston ends in March 2012, Enclosed is a packet of information describing the celebration, ways in which you and/or your church may participate and how we will recognize contributions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-445-2116 or Pat Bonner-DuVal, our Celebration Manager at Pat@Bonnerent.com, or 617-232-5453, if you have questions about the celebration or the attached packet of information. **Thank you for considering this request!**

Sincerely,
Florence Huffman
Roxbury Presbyterian Church

Note: The Legacy of Leadership packet is available through the Presbytery of Boston: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net or 978-365-5200.

Tread Lightly for Lent from **Eco-Journey** **DAILY LENTEN CALENDAR FROM ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES (PCUSA)**

January 31, 2012 by Rebecca Barnes-Davies

As part of the season of Lent, Environmental Ministries is offering "**Tread Lightly for Lent**," a simple, daily calendar that encourages Presbyterians to reflect theologically about ecojustice and to take action on issues such as water, land, air, people, and other species. Each of the 40 days of Lent has a topic to think about, or do some movement towards, eco-justice. Resource can be used individually as well as in a congregational setting. To download this 2 page resource (if printed back to back), go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/tread-lightly-lent/>



Mother's Day Cards

Since 2001, the PC(USA)'s International Health and Development office in Louisville and Presbyterian Women have partnered to design special Mother's Day cards available in exchange for donations to the Healthy Women Healthy Families program. This program is a year-round ministry supporting projects in Africa, which protect and restore the health of women and children. The cards and promotional materials are free. Order by contacting Gail Bingham by email at gail.bingham@pcusa.org or (toll-free) 1-800-728-7228, ext. 5573. If you have questions, contact PWP Moderator, Beth Denier, at 781-231-9247 or a.denier@verizon.net.

Transforming Divisive Conversation: A Workshop for Clergy and Lay Leaders

Like all communities, faith communities are characterized as much by their diversity as by their shared identity, beliefs and values. Conflict can arise around differences in theology, worship, identity, and transition. *Transforming Divisive Conversation* will explore ways that congregational leaders can approach conflict, prevent corrosive interactions and help their members engage each other in constructive ways.

March 1, Watertown, MA

Facilitators: Bob Stains & Rev. Michael Duda

Early Bird Special: \$125 (Ends Jan. 19) Regular Fee: \$150 - Please register by Feb. 9

Sponsored by The Public Conversations Project, a conflict-transformation nonprofit in Watertown. The PCP prevents and transforms conflict driven by deep differences in identity, beliefs or values. To learn more and/or register online, visit us at <http://www.publicconversations.org/workshops/transforming>. Or contact Program Coordinator Seth Karamage at skaramage@publicconversations.org or (617) 923-1216 ext. 24.

Events

***Note: If you know of an event that would be of interest to the Presbytery of Boston members, please send your information to: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net.**

February 8 - Rev. Soong Joong Joo's divinity school chorus is performing at the Quincy Young Sang Church in **Quincy** at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Maria Park Chung: tmchung@comcast.net

February 15 – “Crisis, Faith and Action: Transitioning to a Beloved Community in the Era of Peak Oil, Climate Change, and a Dysfunctional Global Economy.” Massachusetts Bible Society February Luncheon with Guest Speaker Dr. Steve Chase, Quaker Transition Activist. 12:00 –

1:30. Location: The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Lawrence Room, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA. Suggested donation at the door: \$15. To register: Phone: 617-969-9404 or e-mail: admin@massbible.org Website: www.massbible.org

February 16-18 – *“Becoming a Multi-cultural Church: Building Inclusive Communities,”* Princeton, NJ. Participants will hear about and learn best practices of theological, ethical, social and pastoral frameworks for engaging multicultural ministry as Christian leaders and clergy, particularly in building dialogue and community in the areas of: interracial/ethnic relations and ministry, socio-economic disparities, and gender differences.

The institute will close with a panel discussion lead by the leaders of the institute where leaders and the participants will have a chance to share their questions, concerns and hopes of an intentional diverse ministry. <http://www.pcusa.org/events/20074/4th-institute-multicultural-ministry-building-incl/>

March 11 – The Church of the Covenant (67 Newbury Street / **Boston**, Massachusetts) is pleased to announce the **Installation of Reverend Rob Mark** on Sunday March 11th, 2012, at 3:00 PM. All are welcome!

March 22 – *A Legacy of Leadership*. “An event celebrating the legacy of one of Greater Boston’s extraordinary leaders, Rev. Hurmon Hamilton. We hope you will join us at 6.00 p.m. at UMass Boston’s Campus Center in **Dorchester** for this event and ask that you also consider sponsoring the event. Your participation in the celebration event will help to generate the funding needed to sustain the legacy of Rev. Hamilton’s work.” Contact Florence Huffman at 617-445-2116 or Pat Bonner-DuVal, the Celebration Manager at Pat@Bonnerent.com, or 617-232-5453, if you have questions about the celebration or the packet of information. The Legacy of Leadership packet is also available through the Presbytery of Boston: presbyteryofboston@verizon.net or 978-365-5200.

March 23 – *Compassion, Peace and Justice Training: Presbyterians and Economic Justice*, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington D.C. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. In these difficult economic times which further divide our nation and world between the “haves and the have not’s,” it is necessary for Presbyterians to lift up the ministries that address these growing economic disparities. The ministries of Compassion, Peace and Justice of the PC(USA) are coming together for the 2nd Annual CPJ Training Day in Washington, DC, to educate Presbyterians on the role that the PC(USA) is playing in helping people to overcome and survive these difficult times. CPJ Training Day is hosted by the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness; Presbyterian Hunger Program; the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program; Self-Development of People; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN; Mission Responsibility through Investment; Environmental Ministries; Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association; and Child Advocacy. Register at: www.pcusa.org/washington

March 23-26 – *Ecumenical Advocacy Days* – “*Is This the Fast I Seek?*” (Isaiah 58) is the theme for the 10th Annual [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) in Washington, D.C. The Ecumenical Advocacy Days will explore Economy, Livelihood and Our National Priorities. In this era of economic and political urgency, as critical decisions are being made about U.S. federal budget priorities and as national elections are fast approaching, join other Christian disciples in seeking

a global economy and a national budget that breaks the yokes of injustice, poverty, hunger, and unemployment - heeding Isaiah's call to become "repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in." Experts will offer a faith-based version for a just economy and training on key U.S. policy issues and grassroots advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capitol Hill. See www.advocacydays.org for registration and other information.

April 21 – *Presbyterian Women's Sisters Stand and Walk Together* [Presbyterian Women's](#) in the Synod of the Northeast's Sisters Stand and Walk Together is beginning enrollment for its third class on Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Sisters Stand and Walk Together is a 3-year program designed to acclimate and motivate new immigrant women from congregations within the Synod to Presbyterian Women. Thus far, participants and organizers have come from four continents and six countries: Brazil, Ghana, Korea, Nigeria, Taiwan and the US. There is no cost to the participant. The purpose of the program is to prepare these women for leadership roles not only within Presbyterian Women but [also] throughout all levels of the PC(USA). Sisters Stand and Walk Together seeks to prepare the women through leadership development training including forums and workshops where cultural differences are explored and leadership shared. For further information, contact: Charlotte Hasselbarth, Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast at 518-356-0637.

April 28, 2012 – *Presbytery Day*, at **Needham** Presbyterian Church. Presbytery Day will feature Eric H. F. Law and trainers from the Kaleidoscope Institute. There will be a program for youth, which will include the preparation of a media presentation for use later in the day. Please encourage youth (Middle School and High School) and young adults to attend. The adult courses will be of interest to everyone involved in the life of their local church or the Presbytery. Don't miss this special opportunity!

May 25-28 – *Voice: Montreat's Signature Conference*. People throughout history have heard God's Voice calling them to be people sent out into a world that is desperate for new imagination and leadership. Using their own voices, they have brought radical transformation to societies across the globe. How might we, too, be among those who hear and follow that Voice today? See: www.montreat.org

June 27-July 8 – *Summer Youth Institute*, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, to meet at GA. A brochure is available in the Presbytery office. See: www.pts.edu/syi

July 18-22 - Online registration for the 2012 *Presbyterian Women Church-wide Gathering* opened December 1. The Gathering will be held in Orlando, FL, July 18-22. Registration booklets will be available at the January Presbytery meeting.