

Presbytery of Boston

E-Connection

March 2, 2009

Special Presbytery Meeting March 3

Ministers, Session Clerks, and churches have been notified of the special called meeting of the Presbytery of Boston. The packet for the special meeting on Tuesday, March 3 is now available to view and print. Go to www.presbyteryofboston.org, log in, and select the "Presbytery Meeting" tab at the top of the home page to access the meeting documents. (Scroll below the special meeting notice.)

In accordance with the requirements of G-11.0201, the Moderator has called a Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Boston on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at the Hartford Street Presbyterian Church, 99 Hartford Street, Natick, Massachusetts, with the sole purpose of the meeting being to respond to a request from the Committee on Ministry that an administrative commission be approved to inquire into and settle differences within the Fort Square Presbyterian Church, under the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Voting on the Amendments at the March 23 Presbytery Meeting

As we approach the Presbytery of Boston's upcoming vote on the Amendments to the Constitution, we ask each congregation and member of the Presbytery to be in prayer. Some on-line resources for studying the proposed amendments are listed below. *Please note that the meeting planned for March 14 to explore the amendments has been canceled.*

Resources: Amendments to the Constitution
Proposed by the 218th General Assembly (2008)

1. Proposed Constitutional Amendments and Ecumenical Statements, Office of the Stated Clerk, PC(USA) <http://www.pcusa.org/generalassembly/amend.htm> will provide

access to the document in English, Korean, and Spanish, as well as vote tallies and an explanation of the voting procedures.

2. Overture 05-09, On Deleting G-0106b and Substituting a New Paragraph; on Amending G14.0240 and G-14.0450; and Providing a New Authoritative Interpretation, Submitted by Boston Presbytery to 218th GA Committee on Church Orders and Ministry <http://www.pcusa.org/mgbconnect/pubs/amendment06-a-comparison.pdf>

This document puts the current Book of Order Chapter 14 in a side-by-side table with the proposed revision that will result if Amendment 06-A is approved by the presbyteries.

3. Analysis of Proposed Amendments, Association of Stated Clerks

http://www.statedclerks.org/Amendments/Analysis_Amendments-_GA_217.pdf

4. Analysis of Proposed Amendments to the Constitution 2008, *Presbyterian Outlook*, Oct 12, 2008

5. Statement in Response to the Actions of the 218th General Assembly and Amendment 08-B Talking Points, Covenant Network of Presbyterians

6. Resources for the Debate on Amendment B, The Presbyterian Renewal Network

7. Eighth Day News from Presbyterians For Renewal, pfroffice@pfr renewal.org

8. Toward a Church as Generous and Just as God's Grace, Covenant Network, triciadk@covenantnetwork.org

9. Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement, Office of the General Assembly, 1992

10. Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church, Office of the General Assembly, 2006

11. Guidelines for Communal Discernment, Office of the General Assembly, 2007

Big Tent June 11 - 13, Atlanta

Check out the website www.pcusa.org/bigtent to explore the 10 different conferences taking place at the same time. Early Bird Registration has been extended, but please act quickly. Download the registration, or contact the office and we will send you a form. Complete your selection of what you would like to attend, a room-mate preference, etc. and send it to Wayne Parrish, 131 Independence Road, Concord, MA 01742-2654 NOW! Registration will be completed and paid for through our presbytery scholarships. You will then be asked to make your hotel arrangements and flight arrangements. We hope to have at least 15 people attend from our presbytery. Act now to be one of them!

“Terri Talk”

Presbytery of Boston Candidate Terri Cissé hosts a radio talk show, “Terri Talk.” As Terri describes it: “I wanted to create a ministry platform where people (academics, ministers, and lay persons) could share their life narratives and discuss the ways in which God has revealed his purpose and plan for [them]. After a recent interview on a local talk show, I was encouraged by a few colleagues to start my own show. It’s public service so there is no cost involved, only a time investment. [Recently] I interviewed the Rev. Hurmon Hamilton. He shared his riveting testimony and inspiration about the future of the Black church, Presbyterians in particular.” Here is the general link to Terri’s show: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/Terri-Talk>

Her interview with Rev. Hamilton can be found at:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/Terri-Talk/2009/02/27/The-Black-Church-Looking-Back-and-Going-Forward>

Lenten Reflections

Fast from judging others; feast on the presence of God within each person.
Fast from focusing on differences; feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness and gloom; feast on the reality of light and enthusiasm.
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the brilliance of Resurrection!

Source: an anonymous reflection from a newsletter of a Catholic retreat house.

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayers for Susan Gleason's great-niece, Yasmine, age 16, who has a 6-12 month recovery following surgery. Prayers also for Yasmine's mother, Dorinda, and Dorinda's four-year old, who has been diagnosed with ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome.

Prayers for Tim Hughes (CS&D) and his family. Tim's grandfather recently passed away.

Wren Collé would appreciate your continued prayers.

Presbytery of Boston Meeting Calendar

MARCH

- 3 – Nominating, 11:30, NPC
- 3 - **Special Meeting of The Presbytery of Boston, 7:30 p.m., Hartford Street Church, Natick, MA**
- 4 - Trustees, 10:00 a.m., Sudbury Presbyterian Church
- 5 - COM, 7:00, NPC
- 9 – ICL, 3:30, NPC
- Reports Deadline for March 23 presbytery meeting**
- 11 – CPM, 5:00, Presbytery office
- 18 - CCS&D, 7:30 p.m., Presbytery office
- 23 – **Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Boston, First Presbyterian Church of Worcester**

**“Cross Examinations”
Clergy Lenten Theological Conversation
with
Professor Mark Heim of ANTS**

4:00 p.m., SUNDAY, MARCH 15 to 4:00 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 16

Rolling Ridge Retreat Center, North Andover, MA

“Cross Examinations” will address non-violent views of the atonement and the meaning of the cross today. Cost is \$50 (subsidized by the Committee on Ministry and the East Boston Fund.) Please contact The Presbytery of Boston to register. *Please note: Deadline for registration is Monday, March 9 by 12 noon.*

Upcoming Events

March 6-7 – Synod Design Consultation, Stony Point, NY

March 7 – “*Everything Must Change*,” Brian McLaren. (See paragraph below.)

March 9-11 – “*Stewardship Kaleidoscope*” Presbyterian Stewardship Conference. Kansas City, MO. See: www.heartlandpby.org/kaleidoscope.

March 13-16 – “*Enough for All Creation*” in Washington D.C. Join us at the 7th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, as we explore ways to bring about a world with 'Enough for All Creation'. Learn about the connections between climate change, migration and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Come together with faith-based advocates and activists from across the United States in the nation's capitol as we discuss the abundance of our world and how it can be allocated in a way that is fair and just for all Creation.

Register now at www.advocacydays.org

March 15-16 – **Theological Conversation “Cross Examinations” with Prof. Mark Heim (ANTS), 4 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center, N. Andover, MA.**

March 15-18 - “*Conversations on Renewal and Transformation in Mainline Congregations*” with Diana Butler Bass, Marcus J. Borg, and Brian D. McLaren.

Louisville Seminary will welcome this celebrated trio of church leaders/scholars at the Seminary's annual Festival of Theology. Register online.

March 18-19 – “*No Conflict Necessary.*” 11:00 Wed. to 4:00 Thurs. at the La Salette Retreat Center, 947 Park St. **Attleboro, MA 02703.** Contact the Synod of the Northeast for more information.

March 28 – **NE Form of Government discussion group**

April 19-23 – Arts & Sabbath, Montreat

April 20-23 – Associate Pastors’ Conference, Montreat

April 20-22 – “*Deep and Wide: Engaging the Church in Multicultural Outreach.*” A conference at Stony Point sponsored by the Board of Pensions. For more information, contact Rev. Chris Foster (cjfoster@alumni.princeton.edu)

April 23-24 – *Presbyterian Writers’ Conference* at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. For more information, contact Steve McCutchan at steve@smccutchan.com or Twila Belk at twilabelk@mchsi.com.

April 25 – **NE PPG**

May 3-7 – “*Engaging the Other: Pentecost Spirit for a Changing World.*” Early Ministry Institute (EMI), Stony Point Conference Center.

May 16 – **Conflict Resolution Workshop** Sponsored by the Northeast New England Presbytery Partnership Group. (Contact David Dorer for more information).

May 27-30 – Presbyterian Young Adult Ministry YAM Jam Conference, Austin Seminary. See PACHEM.org or register through the [Collegiate Ministries Office](#).

YAM-Jam is limited to 125 participants and there is a goal of 50% leadership/participation by young adults

June 1-5 – Christian Education conference, Montreat

June 1-5 – “*Proclaiming the Text*,” Montreat.

June 2-4 – 2009 Interim Ministry Network Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. See:

<http://www.imnedu.org/>

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 4-7, 2009 – *2009 Christian Life Conference*, sponsored by Presbyterians for Renewal, at Montreat Conference Center: www.montreat.org.

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.

PC(USA) Electronic Newsletter Subscriptions

If you are interested in subscribing to any of the electronic newsletters from the General Assembly, you can do so at the following website:

<http://www.pcusa.org/subscriptions/>

"Everything Must Change," with Brian McLaren Saturday, March 7, 2009

“The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Spring Learning event is "Everything Must Change" with Brian McLaren. McLaren is the author of *Everything must Change* and *The Secret Message of Jesus*. He is a noted international speaker, a leading voice in the emergent church movement, and listed by *Time* as one of America's 25 most influential Evangelicals. All are invited for this engaging talk and workshop opportunities. "In a time of massive social change and urgent global challenges, the world needs a church less bound to institutional maintenance and internal controversy and more passionately concerned to make disciples: not just converts or churchgoers, but people “who do life the way that Jesus did.” Sherman Union, Boston University. 10 AM – 3 PM (check-in opens at 9:30 AM). Register at www.diomass.org Cost: \$15.00 general admission, \$9.00 for students, advance registration is required. Workshop leadership and sponsorship provided by these partner groups and organizations: Lutheran Episcopal Ministry at MIT, Bethany House of Prayer, Boston Faith & Justice Network, Episcopal Divinity School, MA Council of Churches, Boston Emergent Cohort, Episcopal City Mission, the Relational Evangelist Project, and The Crossing.”

