

Presbytery of Boston
E-Connection
November 30, 2010

Brief report from November 15th stated meeting:

Presbytery's overture to amend GA Standing Rules on nominations from the floor

At the stated meeting held November 15th at the First Presbyterian Church in Worcester, elder commissioners and ministers heard a report on how the 219th General Assembly (2010) handled under the Assembly's standing rules a nomination from the floor challenging the nomination of the General Assembly Nominating Committee's candidate for election to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.

Presbytery discussed and adopted an overture proposed by Council to amend the General Assembly Standing Rules on nominations from the floor, seeking to accomplish these ends for future Assemblies:

1. Notify commissioners in a timely fashion that a contested vote is pending.
2. Gather additional information for the voting commissioners' use, in particular a statement from the commissioner making a floor nomination of the reason for challenging the Nominating Committee's nominee.
3. Extend the time available to commissioners during the assembly to reflect on the nominating speeches and to gather additional information that they feel they need prior to voting."

The presbytery's overture will be posted on the presbytery's website December 1. It has been transmitted to the Office of the General Assembly, and at the 220th General Assembly (2012) is expected to be referred to the General Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures. That committee would report its recommendations on the overture to the 220th, which would then act as a whole to approve or disapprove all or part of the recommendation. (If approved, the amendment of the GA Standing Rule F.6.c(2) would go into effect for the 221st General Assembly (2014).)

For details on this and other business handled at the November 15 presbytery meeting, download the draft minutes from the presbytery's website (also to be available on December 1).

Update from the Philippines

Greetings from Silliman University in the Philippines! We have been here for a month now and are finally out of jet lag and the labor-intensive stage of getting settled in a new location. Here is our current update. Bart may elaborate on this later.

After a 30-hour trip from Boston to Manila, we stayed with my brother and his family for a week in Manila, then proceeded to Silliman University where we settled in a 2-room apartment with a small kitchen, right on campus, Simple living but what a relief not to stumble over stuff and too much paper! We have been warmly received here and despite the bumpy start of getting our academic schedules in place, we are now creatively busy with our job descriptions for the next several months.

Bart is currently meeting with the international Master of Theology scholars from Indonesia and Tanzania, has spoken at the convocation of the Divinity School and at the recent retreat for faculty, students and staff. He was also the speaker at a dormitory on campus last week. Yesterday we were the liturgists for one of the Sunday services of the university church (4 services every Sunday) and sometime next month, we will co-lead a seminar on ministry boundaries for clergy and their spouses. Then Christmas. Thanksgiving is not a holiday here, so no turkey for us this year. But we are having dessert at a Korean restaurant near campus..

Priscilla is in the swing of things with her graduate course in British and American literature. After having been a student and faculty member of Silliman University many years ago, it is an amazing thing to be back and getting acquainted with a new generation of students. In the U-curve of cultural transition, she is finding how Filipino Bart is in dealing with the culture and its idiosyncrasies. It has been interesting, frustrating (the traffic here is a killer), hilarious and downright growth-producing! God is here and loving us through this retirement adventure! We have also met Cobbie Palm, director of the Peace Resource Center, and PCUSA mission specialist.

Thank you for your friendship and prayers and Presbytery's investment in cross-cultural missions in this academic setting, which is predominantly Presbyterian. We are learning to understand the dynamics of a multi-church staff here and the challenges of a university church as a key player in the spiritual moorings of a multicultural campus. Our best to you all at the Boston Presbytery from 10,000 miles away!

Priscilla and Bart Kelso

Hunger program announces grant recipients **More than \$1 million will go to fight hunger across nation, globe**

Presbyterian News Service

by Bethany Furkin

[Note: The following is an excerpt from the full article.]

LOUISVILLE – The Presbyterian Hunger Program has allocated \$1.3 million in grants to fight hunger in the United States and across the world.

The funds were authorized by the nine-member Hunger Program Advisory Committee during its semi-annual meeting here Oct. 14-15. The recipients were selected from a pool of applications submitted to the committee.

"It is wonderful that Presbyterians are so generous in giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering that enables PHP's work to alleviate hunger around the world and to support the ministries of local congregations," said Hal Johnson of Durant, Okla., chairman of the advisory committee. "I'm always impressed by the commitment and creativity of so many of the grant recipients, many of whom are doing tremendous work with limited resources."

PHP's work is funded by 36 percent of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, given by congregations for outreach since 1949 and collected on Easter Sunday. The remainder of the offering goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People, a long-standing program that funds organizations of poor people who are working to change their own lives.

About \$610,000 in international grants will go to nearly 20 countries to fund efforts such as African small farmers setting up grain and seed banks to feed their communities when food prices increase and an olive oil operation in the Galilee region of northern Israel that is staffed by female Jewish and Arab Israelis.

The West Africa Initiative — a project highlighted by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering in 2010 — received \$50,000. PHP, PDA and SDOP are collaborating on this multi-year agricultural training and development project impacting 20 rural communities in Sierra Leone and Liberia as they rebuild rural economies following years of civil war.

National grants totaling \$690,000 are funding education, direct relief, public policy and development in diverse settings, including PC (USA) congregations and presbyteries, community farms, rural crisis centers, councils of churches and agencies that assist migrant workers.

Among national grants.... Lifestyle integrity grants were given to a number of fair trade organizations, including the **Boston Faith and Justice Network** [*emphasis added for the Presbytery of Boston newsletter*], Partners for Just Trade of St. Louis, Mo.; and Global Exchange of San Francisco, Calif.

A map on the PHP website will provide more information about each grant recipient. If you would like to connect with any of this work, please contact the Presbyterian Hunger Program. [<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/>]

Information furnished by the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Cathy MacDougall requests your prayers as she continues with chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

Continued prayers for Arthur (Swee Leong) Koh and his wife, Vivian. Arthur is being treated for kidney cancer in his home land of Singapore.

Fourth Church will be 139 years young on December 12, so we will be having a church birthday party on **Sunday, January 30** (changed from the previously chosen date of December 13). Birthday cake, for sure, as well as a chance to give birthday presents to the church.

Plans proceed for second Big Tent event 2011 gathering set for June 30-July 2 in Indianapolis

*by Bethany Furkin
Presbyterian News Service*

LOUISVILLE – The second Big Tent event will follow much the same format as 2009's inaugural gathering, but will include some new conferences.

At the first Big Tent, held in Atlanta in June 2009, 10 conferences of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met concurrently, allowing participants to attend workshops and meet people from different areas of the denomination.

The 2011 event, held June 30-July 2 in Indianapolis, will do the same.

"You won't get a chance to see as many parts of the church in one place as you will at Big Tent," said Kerry Rice, manager of the General Assembly meeting service. Rice was speaking to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, meeting here Oct. 27-29.

Two groups that had conferences at the 2009 event — Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) and Stewardship and Investment — will not participate in the second Big Tent, Rice said.

However, three new groups will be at the 2011 event:

- * World Mission will host its Mission Celebration, last held in Cincinnati in 2009;
- * The Clergy Women's Leadership Institute, hosted by Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women; and
- * The National Black Presbyterian Caucus, which will be part of the Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation

Groups from 2009 that will also be at the 2011 event:

- * Healthy Ministries Conference
- * Presbyterian Communicators Network Conference
- * National Multicultural Church Conference
- * Evangelism and Church Growth
- * National Elders Conference
- * Peacemaking Conference
- * Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation

Pathways, a theological and practical training program for youth leaders and youth grades 9-12, will also be meeting in Indianapolis at the same time as Big Tent, enabling participants of both conferences to worship together.

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Two of three Big Tent preachers have been determined: The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, director of the Office of Public Witness in Washington, and the Rev. Serene Jones, president and professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Organizers are anticipating 1,600-1,700 participants at the 2011 Big Tent. They hope to have an event webpage by the end of the year and to open registration by February. Registration is \$285, the same as the 2009 fee.

Take a moment to consider ...

- * what has been **missing from our preaching?**
- * what has been **lacking in the church's spiritual and scriptural diet?**
- * what **specific words of the LORD** are just begging to be uttered anew?
- * what **texts, if rediscovered, might precipitate repentance, revival, renewal, and reformation?**
- * what will **advance the cause of biblical literacy and Christian understanding?**
- * what might **bring the factions of the church together and reunite them?**
- * what may just result in **longer pastorates, less clergy burnout?**
- * what will **draw preachers and pastors to return to their first love: exegesis?**
- * what might the **Spirit be saying to the churches *right now?***

BY THE GRACE OF GOD,
THE ANSWER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS
JUST MIGHT BE ...

YEAR D

Why not lead your flock through the fresh field of Year D?

The "cross-rhythm"* begins ...

The First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2010

The First Sunday of Advent

Malachi 1:1-14

Psalm 18

Luke 1:1-25

Hebrews 1:13-2:4

Want to know more? Want to find **all** the Year D texts?

theyearproject.blogspot.com

*For an explanation of "cross-rhythm," see "Expand the Lectionary!" at the site above.

December Ordination Anniversaries

Phillip Lin	12/66	44 years
Allison Moore	12/5/99	11 years
Nancy Kilgore	12/9/84	26 years
Cindy Kohlmann	11/17/99	11 years
Bob Ferguson	12/21/64	46 years
Sally Newhall	12/26/76	34 years
Pat Kepler	12/27/64	46 years
William Newman	12/30/79	31 years

Congratulations and Thank you!



Register today for the Board's 2010 Tax Tips Webinar for Ministers and Churches!

Get up to speed for tax season. Join us for our free education Webinar designed to help ministers and churches understand what's new for 2010 reporting and filing.

Featured speakers will be guest clergy and church tax expert Richard R. Hammar and Board of Pensions education specialist Steven Fleming. They will review these and other topics:

- recent tax law changes that will affect ministers and churches
- expenses that are and aren't deductible
- 10 steps to remember for year-end preparations
- common clergy housing allowance issues

Watch the Webinar online from the comfort of your home, office or anywhere you have a high-speed Internet-connected computer! Space is limited, so register soon.

When: Wednesday, January 05, 2011
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, ET

Where: Any high-speed Internet-connected computer

Register by: December 15, 2010

Here's how: Contact the Board of Pensions at www.pensions.org

Enough for Everyone

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is leading a delegation to Nicaragua, and you are invited!

January 8-15, 2011

Participants will experience the benefits of Fair Trade first-hand when they visit coffee and sewing cooperatives. The delegation is perfect for anyone involved in a congregation, college or camp that uses Fair Trade coffee, tea or T-shirts. It's also great for anyone who has hosted a holiday bazaar with Fair Trade products, or simply wants to learn more.

Delegates will:

- Meet Fair Trade farmers and artisans
- Pick coffee and stay in homes of farming families
- Meet the women who sew Sweat-Free Ts
- Build community with fellow Presbyterians
- Learn about Nicaragua, Fair Trade and more!

The delegation is sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Equal Exchange and CEPAD (the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua).

See more details and download the application:

<http://presbyterian.typepad.com/enough/2010/11/join-us-in-nicaragua.html>

Applications are due November 22.

For more information call (502) 569-5819.

Please consider joining us, and pass the word to others who may be interested.

Yours in faith,
Melanie Hardison
Enough for Everyone
(800) 728-7228 x5626

Need Tables?

“We have just received new tables for our Fellowship Hall and we will dispose of the old ones by Saturday afternoon. If you or a party you know would like any of the tables, plan to remove them before 1:00pm Saturday afternoon. You can contact me for more information.”

Donya Platt, Administrative Assistant
Presbyterian Church in Sudbury
978-443-9151, pcsudbury@pcsudbury.org

Events

December 3 - The Oasis Coffeehouse presents an evening with Michael Troy & Terry Kitchen, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 students/seniors, \$10.00 for Waltham residents and \$8.00 for Brandeis/Bentley students. Tickets may be purchased in advance through our website. For additional information including artist websites visit.

www.oasiscoffeehouse.org. The Oasis Coffeehouse is located at First Presbyterian Church of Waltham, 34 Alder St., **Waltham**, is a not-for-profit gallery run by volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church where it is housed, and provides a safe, inclusive and alcohol-free environment where all ages can enjoy live music, visual arts, fair-trade coffee and tea, home-baked desserts, and free Wi-Fi.

December 4 – Institute for Christian Leadership (ICL) Dinner, 7 pm at NPC, **Newton**.

December 11- Interfaith Fundraiser to benefit Partners in Health programs in Haiti. From 1-5 pm at the First Baptist Church in Newton, 848 Beacon St., **Newton Center**.

Interfaith Fundraiser Responds to the Growing Humanitarian and Public Health Crisis in Haiti

Offering art for sale from African Authentics and the Haitian Artists Assembly including stone sculpture from Zimbabwe, scarves, cards, jewelry, and Haitian artwork.

This fundraiser benefits Partners in Health programs in Haiti, particularly the public health efforts to prevent the spread of cholera and other diseases.

Date: Saturday, Dec.11, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church in Newton, 848 Beacon Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459

Co-sponsors: PeaceWorks, City Mission Society of Boston, African Authentics and the Haitian Artists Assembly.

For more information, contact Sarah Mausner, PeaceWorks, Inc. at (617) 969-6378 or peaceworks@rcn.com.