

**Presbytery of Boston**  
**E-Connection**  
**October 5, 2009**

## **Finding Our Way Forward**

Friends,

After much discussion and controversy at the September 28 meeting of the Presbytery of Boston, a way forward was adopted. The following motion provides an initial \$1,000 budget for the PJC appeal while the process for future funding of judicial process is considered. When the Moderator has completed her selection of the 5-Member Team, we will send that announcement, along with their contact information, so that anyone who has ideas and information can send it directly to the team.

Vice Moderator Elliott Hipp offered the original motion, which was amended by David Dorer, so that our decision was:

"That the Presbytery of Boston create a committee of five presbyters

- to be appointed by the Moderator no later than October 2, 2009;
- to study the issues raised by Presbytery's funding of judicial process in disciplinary cases;

and

- to report to the Presbytery at its stated meeting on November 16, 2009, bringing any recommendations that the committee deems appropriate, and presenting its written report to the Presbytery prior to the meeting;

and that the Presbytery authorize expenditure of up to \$1000.00 from unrestricted trustees funds for judicial expenses beyond funds already committed prior to the committee's report."

(This excerpt is from the draft minutes.)

*Wayne Parrish*

**\*Note:** A copy of the Permanent Judicial Commission's *Decision and Order* is available for viewing on the Presbytery of Boston website. Login at [www.presbyteryofboston.org](http://www.presbyteryofboston.org) and click on the "Presbytery Meeting" page. The document is posted at the top of the page.

*Due to time constraints at the September 28 Stated Meeting, Rev. James Keller, Co-Coordinator of the NEPII, was not able to present his report to the Presbytery of Boston. For this reason, we are including it in our newsletter as follows:*

## **Report by the New England Presbyterian Immigration Initiative (NEPII)**

“I welcome the opportunity to present the results of the Immigration Questionnaire that the New England Presbyterian Immigration Initiative (NEPII) distributed to the PSNE and the Boston Presbytery, which you have in your packets. I have more for those who do not have a copy. 220 completed questionnaires were returned from the two presbyteries. I will make several quick comments about the answers, and let you study it in greater detail.

I was glad to see that an overwhelming 150 responded positively to question #4: *“Should the 12 million undocumented (illegal) immigrants living in the US be allowed to remain here and be given a path to citizenship.”* This is in stark contrast to the Christian Right organization, Focus on the Family, in which nine to one of their members believe that, *“Illegal immigrants should be identified, arrested and sent home.”*

A challenge is presented to us in responses to how many members know of and have read the PCUSA document: *“Resolution Calling for a Comprehensive Legalization Program for Immigrants Living and Working in the US.”* Approved by the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2004). Very few have read it, and only a relatively small number knew about it. Rev. John Fife, Moderator in 1992, in an interview in Yale Divinity School publication, *Reflections*, commented, *“The problem is . . . that statements and policies face a major roadblock - the clergyperson at the congregational level. Fearing division in the flock, they don’t tell their congregations about the social policy witness that is being recommended by the leadership.”* Do you agree? How do we get more congregations to study this GA resolution, and others, about immigration?

Answers to Question #12 surprised and pleased me, “Members of churches should be encouraged to advocate for immigration law reform, being guided by the 216<sup>th</sup> GA *“Resolution . . .”* Our New England Presbyteries can build on this willingness to be advocates for change in the law by discussing how to influence legislators and the Administration to act on change in the law.

A major goal of the NEPII is standing in solidarity with immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented, and we ask you to join in this witness. Many of our churches and presbyteries are seeking to be welcoming to the increasing number of immigrants in our midst, and to learn what their needs are, of which there are many. Uppermost in immigrants’ minds, both documented and undocumented, is their immigration status or that of loved ones. I have visited Presbyterian immigrant churches in which half, or more, of the members are undocumented, and yet have been in the US for 10-15 years. When a person in this situation wakes up in the morning, goes to bed at night, is working or relaxing, this thought is never far from their minds.

I invite you to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Christ by joining the Immigration Task Force of the Presbytery of Boston, which can develop educational programs for non-immigrant congregation on the issue of immigration, get to know and listen to immigrants themselves, perhaps provide legal assistance to those seeking help sorting out their status, and learn about the immigration situation in our nation, which is going to get more discussion, and I hope action for change in the law in 2010.

If you want to learn more about joining the Boston Presbytery Immigration Task Force, speak to Elder Gary MacConnell or Rev. Young Ghil Lee, members of NEPII Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of Boston Presbytery Immigration Task Force, or contact me: [jpkeller2@earthlink.net](mailto:jpkeller2@earthlink.net).”

*James Keller*

## **October Epistle**

“Even before entering the small frame church on the dirt road, I could hear the voices. Raised in twelve-part harmony, accompanied by shouts, stamping and clapping, the song flowed over me as we walked into the space. I couldn’t help it, I started clapping and stepping in rhythm as the pastor led me down the center aisle. All around me, people smiled and sang, and the Spirit blew through the open windows with almost visible flames.

This is just one of the many amazing experiences waiting for the pastors who travel to Amatola Presbytery in South Africa in the summer of 2010. After hosting four pastors from Amatola in 2007, it is now our privilege to send up to six pastors to South Africa for four weeks. During those four weeks, our New England pastors will sing, clap, and maybe even dance in worship. They will meet with other pastors from the Uniting Presbyterian Church of South Africa, formed in 1999, and enter into the struggles of trying to mend what was so very badly torn in the years of apartheid. They will attend a presbytery meeting, and while the form is different than what we are used to, the content is the same: how best to be the people of Christ serving the Presbyterian church in the places where we have been planted.

During their time in Amatola, pastors will be hosted by urban, rural, and settlement churches, preaching in liturgical city churches to English speakers, and having sermons translated into Xhosa in the settlement churches. A five-day seminar will introduce the New England pastors to other pastors in Amatola, and examine what leadership and friendship mean in our differing contexts. As they are hosted by the churches, the pastors will visit HIV/AIDS clinics, help lead Bible studies, share tea in the morning and evening with parishioners, and enter into the day-to-day life of the congregations of Amatola.

There will also be time for play and time for rest. About halfway through the exchange, the New England pastors will gather by themselves at a beachfront house to reflect on their experience, and enjoy the beauty of the western Cape. At least one excursion into a wildlife reserve is planned, as well as time for sightseeing and souvenir gathering.

In short, this is an opportunity not to be passed up. Words can hardly begin to describe how your life will be changed and impacted, what you will see and learn, and the grace and joy you will then carry home to New England. Step out in faith, and join this ten-year journey of building bridges and breaking barriers in the summer of 2010.”

By *Cindy Kohlmann*, published in the PNNE October *Epistle*

## **Presbytery Day 2009: “Changing World, Emerging Church”**

Don't miss this year's Presbytery Day! Our special guest will be Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director of Stony Point and Former Moderator of General Assembly. Rob Mark and Rick Spalding will be offering worship opportunities, and there will be workshops on campus/young adult ministries, technology, incarnational congregations, and new models for parish sharing. The ever-popular Blue Ribbon Barbeque is providing lunch, and a John Calvin birthday party is also included! Presbytery Day will take place at the Presbyterian Church in Needham on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$15. We encourage you to sign up soon by sending an email to the presbytery office ([presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net)) or calling us at 978-365-5200. A copy of the flyer is available on the home page of our website, linked to the announcement posted there ([www.presbyteryofboston.org](http://www.presbyteryofboston.org)). For additional information, please contact the presbytery office.

## **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**

### **Joys & Celebrations**

Thatcher Freeborn and his fiancée, Erin Albright, were married at Marsh Chapel at Boston University on Saturday, October 3rd.

Arnold and Betty Rots celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 24.

Prayers for the work of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and also for the inquirers and candidates under care of the Presbytery of Boston.

### **Concerns & Intercessions**

Bob and Peg Fergusons' son, Tom, will have surgery just as they anticipate his wife giving birth this week.

Prayers for Leslie McKinney, who was in the hospital over Labor Day weekend due to a fainting spell. She is feeling much better now, but please keep her in your prayers.

Beverly Shank had the first of 2 cataract surgeries in mid month September. All went well. Prayers for success in her second surgery on October 7.

Alice Hageman notes that her husband, Aubrey has a grandson, his first grandchild, born September 10. He had some complications, and was back in the hospital from Tuesday afternoon until Sept. 19. Please include baby Eli, and his parents Jeanette and Steve, in your prayers.

Prayers for Mary Brondyke, who broke her foot.

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



At the Global Gala, women from several African countries lead interactive song and dance. Photo by Danny Bolin

### **Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women:**

## **God Did Wonders!**

More than 2,500 Presbyterian women (and a few men) attended Presbyterian Women's Church-wide Gathering in Louisville, July 11-15. Exploring the theme "God will do wonders among you," participants attended workshops, witnessed the commissioning of PC(USA) mission co-workers, celebrated worship, received inspiration from plenary speakers and enjoyed fellowship with sisters in faith from around the world. Voting delegates to the business meeting accomplished significant work, incorporating Presbyterian Women and electing a

leadership team, which for the first time has a Hispanic Latin American woman serving as moderator.

## Peacemaking Notes

“The Bible proclaims that peace is a gift of God and that peacemaking is central to discipleship following Jesus. *The Biblical Witness to Peacemaking, 2009-2010* is a daily lectionary that bears witness to God's gift of peace and to Christ's call to live as peacemakers. It may be used by individuals or by congregations or other groups in devotions, worship, or Bible study. Make copies for members of the congregation. Include the readings from the lectionary in the bulletin or newsletter on a weekly or monthly basis.”

“Lift up the health and well-being of children. Observe a Children's Sabbath worship service. The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is an annual ecumenical and interfaith celebration that takes place on the third weekend of October. This year's observance, “*Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow*,” falls on October 18 and focuses on strengthening families, calling for health care for all children and families, and bringing hope and a better tomorrow for all of us. Lesson plans to use with children of all ages are available to accompany the Children's Sabbath manual. Find information about helping children cope with the economic downturn in the 2009 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supplement. Use the bulletin insert, “*Children: The Silent Victims*,” that focuses on the impact on children of observing domestic violence.”

*From “Peacemaking in Congregations,” a newsletter by the Peacemaking Program, part of the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For more information, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/>*

## The 2009 Kneeland Awards were announced by the Stated Clerk at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting:

“It is reported that the following are recipients of awards annually distributed under the terms of the Martin D. Kneeland Trusts: the United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville for the largest increase in reported church membership in 2008, the Korean Church of Boston for the largest reported increase in church school enrollment in 2008, and Alvaro Peña as the longest tenured pastor in a current position who has not previously been given the award. This year there is no award to be given to a pastor receiving the lowest salary, or to a church for being newly chartered in 2008.

The Rev. Dr. Martin D. Kneeland was an active member of the Presbytery of Boston and the Synod of New England in the old Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. He established these trust funds in 1934, directing that the interest income be paid annually on the basis of the previous year's reports to the presbytery. These awards, intended as expressions of encouragement to Presbytery's churches and ministers, are distributed each year on Dr. Kneeland's birthday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.”

*Catherine MacDonald*

## **October Is Pastor Appreciation Month!**

So many pastors serve the church with so much energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, it stands to reason that churches would want to say "thanks" to them and to their families in tangible ways. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We'd like to encourage you to show your appreciation.

**HERE'S THE DEAL!** Send us a note or email to the office, or fill out an appreciation note at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting. In your personal expression of appreciation for your pastor, be sure to include their name, the church, and your name. Keep these brief and focused. For example: Hawkins Memorial Presbyterian Church expresses appreciation for dedicated service by Pastor George Whipple and his family, wife Janice, and children: Lauren, John, and Will.

Pastors will be recognized at the November Presbytery meeting. One of the pastors receiving notes of appreciation will be selected via a random drawing to receive a special gift. Send in as many expressions of appreciation as you want, though it will not affect the odds of the drawing.

## **Presbytery of Boston Meetings**

### **OCTOBER**

**6** – Nominating, 11:00

**8** – CS&D, 7:30

**16-17** – Synod

**16** – CEM, 2:00

**19** – S&B, 7:00

**20** – ICL, 3:30

**21** – Trustees, Noon

**22** – Council, 7:00

## **E-Connection Classifieds**

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

A bride who was married this summer would like to donate the white table cloths from her wedding reception to a church. If you are interested, please contact the Presbytery of Boston office at 978-365-5200 or [presbyteryofboston@verizon.net](mailto:presbyteryofboston@verizon.net).

## Events Calendar

**October 9-11** - *“Embracing the Latina/o Paradigm: Challenges & Opportunities for Effective Ministries in the PCUSA.”* This event will take place at **Princeton** Theological Seminary. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, Professor of World Christianity at Columbia Theological Seminary and ordained minister with many years of parish experience. We will also conduct several panel discussions with key practitioners in the ministry field. Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and the cost will be \$250.00 which includes meals and accommodations. For more information on this viable conference you may visit <http://ptsem.edu/ce/coursepr10hlp501.php>.

**Oct. 13-15** – David Wells Symposium sponsored by the Ockenga Institute, 8:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Kaiser Chapel, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, **So. Hamilton, MA**.

**Oct. 18** – *Climate Convocation with Bill McKibben*, at Memorial Church, Harvard University, **Cambridge**, at 2:00 pm.

*“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.

**CANCELLED:** *“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)

**November 14** – **Presbytery Day 2009:** *“Changing World, Emerging Church.”* SpecialGuest, Rick Ufford-Chase. At the Presbyterian Church in **Needham**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**December 3** – *The Saint John Bible Exhibit and Lecture*, Salem Covenant Church, 215 Mountain Street East, **Worcester**. At 7:00 p.m. Join us for a public showing of the Wisdom, Prophets, and Psalms volumes of the Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition. Followed by a lecture with Father Eric Hollas, OSB, Senior Associate for Arts and Culture, Saint John's University & Jim Triggs, Executive Director of the Heritage Program. Please contact Nathan at [admin@massbible.org](mailto:admin@massbible.org) or call 617-969-9404 with any questions.