

Presbytery of Boston

E-Connection

March 16, 2009

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

2 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, pffoffice@pfrenewal.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!

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Prayers for Desirée Lawson's step-daughter, Leta, who is in the hospital on life support, and for Desirée and her husband, Anthony.

Continued prayers for First Presbyterian Church of Waltham as they search for a co-pastor.

Continued prayers for the Fort Square session and congregation and the PoB Administrative Commission as they work together to search for transitional pastoral leadership.

Prayers for Priscilla Kelso, who left on March 12 to be in the Philippines for two months.

Ordination Anniversaries

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------|
| Mario DaSilva | April 19, 1987 | 22 years |
| Burns Stanfield | April 21, 1991 | 18 years |
| Robert Perkins | May 1992 | 17 years |
| Richard Lovelace | May 1, 1966 | 43 years |
| Karl Gustafson | May 20, 1979 | 30 years |
| Catherine MacDonald | May 22, 1977 | 32 years |
| Alvaro Peña | May 25, 1979 | 30 years |
| Frank Cross | May 26, 1946 | 63 years |

Congratulations and thank you!

Presbytery of Boston Meeting Calendar

MARCH

23 – Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Boston, First Presbyterian Church of

Worcester, at 7:00. Pre-presbytery event “**Insights and Strategies for Collegiate Ministries in The Presbytery of Boston,**” from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

APRIL

- 2 -** COM
- 7 –** Nominating Committee, 11:30, Newton
- 8 –** CPM, 5:00 p.m., Presbytery office
- 13 –** ICL, Newton
- 15 –** Trustees, 12:00, at KCB
S&B, Newton
- 16 –** Personnel, 12:00, Needham P.C.
- 23 –** Council
- 25 –** NE PPG

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>

Upcoming Events

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

March 28 – Community Day Center of Waltham Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle, at First Evangelical Church, 6 Eddy St., Waltham. Begins at 5:30. All proceeds benefit the Community day Center of Waltham, a shelter that supports the homeless and low-income adults. See: www.communitydaycenter.org.

April 16-19 – Spiritual Formation Retreat with Marjorie Thompson, at Montreat.

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 – **Annual Walk for Hunger.** See article that follows calendar.

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

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 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/.](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.

July 16-18 – “*In Good Company: Becoming Faithful Readers and Doers of Scripture.*” A missional church conference for pastors, judicatory leaders, and lay leaders, sponsored by the Center for Parish Development. For details: www.missionalchurch.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing: “Together We Can Change the World”

“There are very few things you can do in a given week that will impact lasting change around the world. We encourage you to take time this week to **promote the offering** with congregations, groups, and individuals in your own circle of influence.

Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow has put a challenge before our churches to **double their offering** this year in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the **One Great Hour of Sharing**, and because now more than ever those who are most vulnerable in our communities and around the world are counting on us to help them make a difference in their lives. Most congregations receive the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday or Easter and use the season of Lent to promote the offering. So, please **take a moment now** to help ensure a successful offering this year. **Visit** the One Great Hour of Sharing Web site: <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/>

Together we can change the world...”

James (Randy) Ackley
randy.ackley@pcusa.org

Project Bread’s Annual Walk for Hunger, Sunday, May 3

Starts on the Boston Common, 7:00 – 9:00 A.M.

With poverty and unemployment rising at unprecedented rates and 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, this year’s Walk for Hunger is more important than ever. Since 1969, The Walk for Hunger has relied on support from religious organizations. Over the years, that support has grown from one to more than 1,000 religious and community organizations that come out to protest the social injustice of hunger in our midst. Now is the time to step up and join us for Project Bread’s Annual Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 3. With the economy struggling, every dollar, every mile, and every volunteer hour counts for our neighbors in need. Your pledges feed people through emergency food programs throughout the state and through many food programs in schools, after school programs, and pediatrician offices, which integrate help into the ordinary fabric of everyday life.

Celebrate the spirit of giving along with over 40,000 other concerned citizens by participating in this Massachusetts family tradition. For more information, visit www.projectbread.org/walk or call 617-723-5000.