

December 5, 2008

You can find the synod online at www.lakesandprairies.org or on My Space at www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies.

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1. WINTER SYNOD MEETING SLATED JAN. 18-20: The annual meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) runs Sunday through Tuesday, Jan. 18-20, at Mt. Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Farmington, Minn. The meeting opens with dinner Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday. The purposes of the meeting are to elect officers, to hear reports, to worship, to grow in fellowship and to take such actions as are necessary. ([Return to top](#))



2. CLEARWATER FOREST SLATES SNOW CAMP IN JANUARY:

Advent and Christmas are rightfully getting the focus these days, but staff at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Deerwood, Minn., are also pointing out that Snow Camp is just around the corner. The popular winter retreat is slated Jan. 23-25 and

offers a fun experience in the beauty of Clearwater Forest. Registration materials and information about Snow Camp can be obtained by calling the camp at 218.678.2325 or contacting the camp through its website at www.clearwaterforest.org. Registration for the camp requires a \$75 deposit. ([Return to top](#))

3. PRESBYTERIAN GROUP SELLS FAIR-TRADE OLIVE OIL:

As the Christmas season approaches, Peter Mann hopes his fellow Presbyterians will think about the land of Jesus' birth when they consider gift ideas. A Palestinian woman reaches for olives in a tree. A Palestinian woman harvests olives used to produce "Import Peace" olive oil. Mann is president of Import Peace

(www.importpeace.org) a non-profit organization that sells high quality, organic olive oil produced in Palestine. "A lot of church members buy it to give away as gifts," says the Presbyterian elder from Lake Shore, Minn. "It is an alternative gift that is fair-trade certified." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08880. ([Return to top](#))



4. WINNEBAGO PRESBYTERY HOSTS PRESBYTERY CAMP:

Winnebago Presbytery held its third annual Presbytery Camp at the end of October. The theme *The Communion of Saints* provided the backdrop for four days of music, learning, and fellowship. Recreation activities included hide-and-seek trick-or-treat, tie dying and paper airplane contests. Small group learning opportunities followed morning plenary sessions featuring keynote speaker Hans Peterson of Dakota Road Music. The culmination event was the nailing of the new 95 (or in this case 105) theses on the door of the pastor's study (see photograph at left). More information can be found on the



presbytery's website at

- 12. Church must reflect changing world, moderators told**
- 13. Fostering dialogue is key to leadership**

And just a couple more

- 14. Chamberlin remembers, 'You aren't supposed to be here'**
- 15. Search is on for next generation of church leaders**

<http://www.winnebagopresbytery.org/2008/11/24/reform-and-always-reforming/>. (Return to top)



5. HILLCREST'S BOARD APPROVES FAMILY LIFE CAMPUS INITIATIVE: The board of directors of Hillcrest

Family Services of Dubuque, Iowa, a ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, has approved three separate initiatives within its Family Life Campus project. According to its most recent newsletter, Hillcrest Calling, the three separate initiatives include a Spiritual Life Center, an Educational Center and a Multi-Purpose/Recreational Center. The newsletter noted, "the focal point of the Hillcrest Family Life Campus will be a visible sign of Hillcrest's longstanding relationship as a faith-connected agency. As a special ministry of both the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the chapel will provide a spiritual center for all Hillcrest clients, staff and community." The complete newsletter can be found online at <http://www.hillcrest-fs.org/PDF/ACF1C4.pdf>. (Return to top)

6. JAMESTOWN COLLEGE ESTABLISHES AGREEMENT WITH ANSAN: Jamestown College and Ansan College, South Korea, have established an Agreement of Academic Cooperation, paving the way for student and faculty exchanges and collaborative research projects. Jamestown College is one of seven Presbyterian-related institutions of higher education within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Five students from Ansan College arrived at Jamestown College this fall for a 16-week orientation program in English and nursing. The goal is to eventually bring Ansan nursing graduates to Jamestown College as transfer students to pursue their bachelor of science in nursing degrees and to expand the exchange to other academic programs. The complete story can be found at <http://www.jc.edu/campus/campusClips.php#j581>. (Return to top)

7. PENSIONS ISSUES LETTER REGARDING RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS: The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) issued a letter last month asking synod and presbytery executives to assist the Board in gaining compliance from church treasurers and business administrators with new Internal Revenue Service requirements pertaining to the Board's Retirement Savings Plan. Churches and employing organizations that have employees who participate in the Retirement Savings Plan must submit an Adoption Agreement by Dec. 31 to continue participation in the RSP. The form can be found online at <http://web.pensions.org/Publications/pensions/Home/Forms%20%26%20Publications/Forms/ors-006.pdf>. The agreements will support the Board of Pensions' compliance with the new IRS regulations for Section 403(b) plans, which take effect Jan. 1. An Adoption Agreement was mailed to each participating employer at the end of September. Plan sponsors and employers must complete this agreement to ensure compliance with the written plan document requirement of the new regulations. Compliance is required to maintain the tax-qualified status of their 403(b) plans. Churches or employing organizations that have questions about responsibilities under the new 403(b) plan regulations can refer to the Board's Employer Frequently Asked Questions at <http://web.pensions.org/Publications/pensions/Home/Forms%20%26%20Publications/Booklets%20%26%20Brochures/pub-609.pdf>. (Return to top)

8. BRUCE REYES-CHOW SCHEDULES WEBCAST: The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will host a conversation with Beau Weston, author of "Rebuilding the Presbyterian Establishment," during a webcast Tuesday, Dec. 9, from noon to 1 p.m. PST (2 to 3 p.m. CST). The webcast can be found at www.ustream.tv/channel/moderator-musings. Weston's paper can be found at www.pcusa.org/re-formingministry/papers/rebuilding.pdf. (Return to top)

9. PERU MINISTRY TO BE FEATURED ON CNN: For 10 years, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission workers in Peru have worked to empower the residents of La Oroya, a town high in the Andes that has been devastated by mining-related environmental degradation. That decade of educating and organizing Peruvians, Presbyterians and various governments and environmental and health organizations around the world will pay off in a dramatic way Dec. 11 when CNN televises a documentary, "Planet in Peril: Battlegrounds." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08868. (Return to top)

10. INFLUENTIAL PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR DIES LAST MONTH: The Rev. George M. Docherty,

the former pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church who delivered an influential sermon that led to the insertion of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954, died Nov. 27 of a heart ailment at his home in Alexandria, Pa. He was 97. Born May 9, 1911, the Scotland native served pastorates in Glasgow and Aberdeen before being called to New York Avenue, which Abraham Lincoln attended when he was president in the 1860s. Each year on the Sunday closest to Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, the church had a special service that was traditionally attended by the president. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08904. ([Return to top](#))

11. IMMOKALEE WORKERS REACH AGREEMENT WITH SUBWAY: Subway, the third largest fast-food chain in the world and the biggest fast-food buyer of Florida tomatoes, reached an agreement Dec. 2 with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-backed Coalition of Immokalee Workers (www.ciw-online.org) to help improve wages and working conditions for the workers who pick the sandwich shop giant's tomatoes. "Today, the fast-food industry has spoken with one voice, said Gerardo Reyes of the CIW. "With this agreement, the four largest restaurant companies in the world have now joined their voices to the growing call for a more modern, more humane agricultural industry in Florida." The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08897. ([Return to top](#))

12. CHURCH MUST REFLECT CHANGING WORLD, MODERATORS TOLD: Against the backdrop of a highly diverse, multicultural society, it's critical that Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) leaders for the 21st Century be adaptive and willing to build a "church that reflects creation in all of its colorful glory." That was the message brought by the Rev. Tony Aja, interim pastor at Louisville's Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, during opening worship for the 2008 Moderators' Conference held in Louisville in November. The gathering brought together synod and presbytery moderators and vice-moderators from throughout the denomination for a time of learning and growing. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08901. ([Return to top](#))

13. FOSTERING DIALOGUE IS KEY TO LEADERSHIP: Presbytery and synod moderators from throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gathered in Louisville recently to evaluate what it means to be a leader and to discern their own personal leadership styles. Meeting under the theme "Leadership for the 21st Century," the November Moderators' Conference united about 130 middle governing body moderators and vice moderators everywhere from Boston to Arkansas to South Dakota to San Francisco. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08893. ([Return to top](#))

14. CEMBERLIN REMEMBERS, 'YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE:' The Rev. Peg Chamberlin, ordained in the Moravian Church in American-North, has been the executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches for the last 14 years and next November will also become president of the National Council of Churches, wrote the lead article in the most recent edition of Thin Places, a newsletter of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis. She wrote: " I remember that it was late that evening by the time we got to the end of the ritual that would move Kwanza Presbyterian Church from fellowship-status to the status of 'church.' Many speeches and blessings and thanksgivings and, finally, it was the pastors' time to speak. An energetic, married couple, they spoke of their commitment to each other and to the congregation. The woman, the Rev. Alike Galloway, then began, and with tears of gratitude she said, 'I wasn't supposed to be here.' And my breath caught in my throat. 'I wasn't supposed to be here.'" The complete article can be found at http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/1455/ThinPlaces54_web.pdf. ([Return to top](#))

15. SEARCH ON FOR NEXT GENERATION OF CHURCH LEADERS: In a search across the United States and Canada for future church leaders, the Fund for Theological Education is inviting educators and clergy at colleges, universities and seminaries to nominate diverse students with leadership gifts for undergraduate and ministry fellowships. Local congregations can also tap funds to support first-year seminary students from their churches by nominating them for congregational fellowships. These awards match financial support provided by the congregation for tuition and living expenses. Additional information about the Fund for Theological Education can be found at <http://www.thefund.org/programs>. ([Return to top](#))