



OCTOBER 19, 2007

You can find the synod online at www.lakesandprairies.org and on MySpace at www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies.

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1. HILLCREST FAMILY SERVICES HOPES TO EXPAND SERVICE AREA: Hillcrest Family Services, Dubuque, Iowa, is planning to expand its service area to the Upper Midwest, according to Gary Gansemer, president. Hillcrest, which has a covenant relationship with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, currently offers its multi-faceted family services mostly to families in Iowa. Details about Hillcrest can be found on its Web site, www.hillcrest-fs.org. In Hillcrest's October newsletter, Gansemer wrote, "I see a bright future where Hillcrest is the premier faith-connected health and human service agency not only in Iowa, but the entire Midwest." The complete text of his column can be found at www.hillcrest-fs.org/PDF/ACFCB.pdf.

2. SYNOD WEB SITE OFFERS SERMON, WORSHIP LINKS: There are a variety of links to Web sites on the Synod of Lakes and Prairies site that provide materials for sermons

and worship. In some cases, the linked site may have a complete sermon or at least an appropriate illustration. On the worship side there are music, drama and dance links. There are even links for bulletin and newsletter art. The links can be found at www.lakesandprairies.org/links_sermon.html. Along the same line, if anyone has a good link for sermons, worship or graphics, and if you're willing to share, email it to dsweep@lakesandprairies.org.

3. SOUTH DAKOTA PRESBYTERY OFFICE MOVES: The Presbytery of South Dakota Office has moved to a new location – Presbytery of South Dakota, 1001 E Sixth Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103. The telephone numbers for the presbytery remain the same. The presbytery can be found online at www.posd.org.

4. CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS ON COVER OF PRESBYTERIANS TODAY: The Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights, Minn., a member of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, is on the cover of the October issue of Presbyterians Today. The cover photograph and connections to the full cover story can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/today/>. In the same issue, Jack Marcum, associate for survey research in the Research Services office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has put together a summary of the current status of multicultural congregations. His column can be found at www.pcusa.org/today/department/go-figure/go-figure.htm.

5. NORTHERN PLAINS NEWSLETTER NOTES ECO-FRIENDLY SITES: A variety of sites that offer direction and guidance for congregations that seek to become more environmentally friendly were listed in the October issue of Light of the Northern Plains, a publication of the Presbytery of Northern Plains. Capsule, an eco-justice news and views Web site of the National Council of Churches of Christ, lists a variety of programs and resources at www.ncccojustice.org/capsules.htm. A personal "carbon footprint" calculator is available at www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator/. See what Presbyterians for Restoring Creation are doing at www.prcweb.org. Learn how the Synod of Living Waters is contributing to clean, sustainable water worldwide at www.livingwatersfortheworld.org. Research what other congregations and denominations are doing about food, fuel and climate change at www.webofcreation.org. The site includes a 116-page Environmental Guide for Congregations. And see why the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) promotes the Environmental Protection Agency's "Energy Star Congregations" program at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations.

6. ST. JOHN'S PRESENTS AWARD TO FORMER PC(USA) MODERATOR: St. John's School of Theology-Seminary in Collegeville, Minn., has awarded its annual Dignitas Humana Award to Rick Ufford-Chase, moderator of the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), co-founder and former director of BorderLinks, and current executive director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. The award is given each year to an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of human dignity in the United States and around the world. The award was presented to Ufford-Chase Oct. 17.

7. ALL IOWA GULF COAST MISSION TRIP SET IN JANUARY: A multi-presbytery group from Iowa will travel to the Gulf Coast region in January to help re-build the lives in post-Katrina New Orleans. The mission trip, according to an article in the October issue of The Wider Circle, the newsletter of the Presbytery of Des Moines, takes a week of participants' time and \$100. The multi-presbytery group will depart Jan. 19 and arrive Jan. 20 at a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance camp. The group will be working at area homes. The group will begin its return trip Jan. 25 and return home Jan. 26. Churches interested in participating in the mission should contact Betty Dyer, office manager, at 515-276-4991, or

by email at pbydesmoines@qwest.net for trip fact sheets and registration forms. The presbytery will also assist in coordinating transportation and lodging once the forms and fees are received. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 26. Churches unable to participate, but that would like to support the project financially can purchase Home Depot and Lowe's gift cards to send with participants.

8. 'FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO' SHOWING IN MINNEAPOLIS: A new documentary that is actually getting theatrical distribution, "For the Bible Tells Me So," is currently showing at Landmark Laguna Cinema in Minneapolis. The show runs through Oct. 25. "For the Bible Tells Me So" is about the intersection between scripture and homosexuality, and how Christian families work to understand gay children, according to an announcement by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Additional information about the movie can be found at <http://www.forthebibletellsmeso.org/index2.htm>.

9. PC(USA) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE: The new National Presbyterian College Scholarship Application for students starting college Fall 2008 is now available online. These funds are offered through the Student Loans & Graduate Grant Programs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of Financial Aid for Studies. The National Presbyterian College Scholarship Program is restricted to students planning to attend participating Presbyterian related colleges and universities. Questions concerning the program should be directed to Laura A. Bryan, program assistant, at 888-728-7228, ext. 5735, or by email at laura.bryan@pcusa.org. The application can be found at <http://groups.google.com/group/npcsapplications?hl=en>.

10. LOUISVILLE STAFF HAS NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES: The General Assembly Council staff, and staff in the Office of the General Assembly have been given new email addresses. The new address is firstname.lastname@pcusa.org. If you send to the old address (i.e. mmarchal@ctr.pcusa.org) you should receive a bounce-back notification giving you the new address (i.e. mindy.marchal@pcusa.org).

11. NEW DVD TELLS STORIES OF GAC WORK: A new DVD General Assembly Council Overview: A Visible Witness of Jesus Christ is now available for presentation to your presbytery, synod or congregation. As one way of interpreting the work of the GAC staff the DVD tells seven different stories about ministries in partnership with groups across the United States and around the world. The DVD contains two versions of the program, one is an auto run, and the other is a self play that allows the presenter the ability to be a more integral part of the presentation. Copies can be obtained by contacting Mindy Marchal at mindy.marchal@pcusa.org.

12. 'HERE AND NOW' ADS DIRECTED AT YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has created a series of print, radio and television ads titled, "Here and Now," that is directed at youth and young adults. The "Here and Now" messages appeal to youth and young adults through real-life situations, such as getting a first "real" job or starting out on your own. The materials reach out in an understanding and contemporary fashions, letting the viewer know that "... when you're ready, there's a church — Here and Now." To view sample TV kits (in English or Spanish) go online to www.pcusa.org/media/hereandnow.htm. Phase 1 of the marketing campaign includes two TV spots, one radio spot and eight print messages. All messages can be used with the generic PCUSA ending, or customized to include local church or presbytery information. Phase 2 of this campaign encourages the recipient of the message to not just celebrate Easter or Christmas, but to "take the complete journey" of Advent or Lent. This phase speaks to how meaningful these occasions are depending on what one worships, for instance a chocolate Easter bunny, or Jesus Christ. This phase

includes one TV spot, one radio spot and four print messages for Advent, and the same number of new materials for Lent. Cost varies between \$40 and \$65 per phase. Additional details can be obtained from Becky Trinkle at 888-728-7228 (ext. 5210) or by email at becky.trinkle@pcusa.org.

13. COMPARATIVE 2006 STATISTICS AVAILABLE: The book "Comparative Statistics 2006: A Look at What Others Are Doing" is now available through Research Services of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The book provides a variety of windows on churches, where money or members or modes of leadership can be compared within and among particular populations. More information can be found at www.pcusa.org/research/compstats/cs2006.htm.

14. SEARCH BEGINS FOR STATED CLERK NOMINEE: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Stated Clerk Nomination Committee (SCNC), elected at the 217th General Assembly in 2006 in Birmingham, Ala., is now accepting applications for the position of General Assembly stated clerk, the top ecclesiastical post in the 2.3-million-member Denomination. Next summer's 218th General Assembly in San Jose, CA, will elect the successor to the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, who announced last month that he will not seek a fourth three-year term. Kirkpatrick was first elected stated clerk in 1996 and is only the second General Assembly stated clerk elected since Presbyterian reunion in 1983. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07636.htm.

15. ECUMENICAL CONSULTATION OUTLINES 'BOLD' THEMES: A consultation designed to help frame the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s stance on ecumenical relations has outlined what it says are bold themes for the committee that ultimately will submit language to the 2008 General Assembly. A widely diverse group of people, taking part in the first Ecumenical Consultation since Presbyterian reunion in 1983, met in Louisville Sept. 27-29 to help craft the denomination's position on ecumenism. The complete story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07643.htm.

16. COGA DISCUSSES 'DISCERNMENT DECISION-MAKING: The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) was directed — and planners and moderators of other governing bodies were urged — by the 217th General Assembly (2006) to "explore the use of alternate forms of discernment." The Assembly's near-unanimous action, in response to a recommendation of its Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church (PUP) was designed to move the often-contentious Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from parliamentary wrangling to studied consensus building as it continues to grapple with potentially divisive issues. The full story can be found at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07656.htm.

17. VALENTINE 'BLOGGING' ASIA TRIP: In what's believed to be a first for a top Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) official, General Assembly Council Executive Director Linda Valentine is writing a blog during her three-nation mission tour of Asia. Valentine will be visiting Presbyterian mission in Thailand, China and Korea during her trip, which will last most of October. She is accompanied by her husband, Chris, and the Rev. Insik Kim, the PC(USA)'s Asia/Pacific coordinator in the Presbyterian World Mission office. In addition to her own entries, Valentine's blog is located at www.presbyterian.typepad.com/lindavalentine/. It includes links to many of the mission programs she will visit and background information on the PC(USA)'s partner churches and agencies in the three countries.

18. PDA ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE GIVING IDEAS: Each year Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives requests for alternative Christmas giving ideas. In response,

PDA has identified areas where additional funds are needed and has provided a realistic estimate of the cost to respond to disaster survivors' needs. This information is available online www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/alternativegiving.htm. In response to congregations that hold Alternative Gift Markets and also in response to specific requests received at the recent Mission Celebration '07, PDA is making available pre-printed alternative gift cards in varying amounts. Four different cards with a value of \$12, \$20, \$50 and \$250 are available. The subjects for the cards were chosen based on the magnitude of the disaster or ongoing recovery needs. Proceeds from each of the four cards will be put into an account designated for the particular disaster response. Photos and text of these cards can be found at www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/alternativegiftmarketcards.htm.