



Monday Morning in the Presbytery

A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska

Distributed by e-mail only to the churches, Clerks of Session, ministers, Presbytery officers and committee members and others who wish to be on the e-mail list.

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News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

Reminder: Stated Meeting of Presbytery

When: Saturday, February 20

Where: Church of the Cross, Omaha.

Webpage: Presbyterian Liturgical Practice

This time of year congregational leaders often find themselves addressing a truckload of questions surrounding the liturgical calendar. The PCUSA website has an excellent page of FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) that address many of the commonly posed questions. <http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/faq/questions.htm>

Having an Agenda



These are words familiar to many within the church: “Well, I guess we better get the meeting started. I really didn’t prepare an agenda, but I am sure we will figure something out. Is there anything you want to talk about? Oh, wait! We need to pray first.” Clearly such a gathering needs prayer, but even prayer cannot overcome poor preparation!

Not only does the lack of an agenda promote ineffectiveness, but it also reflects very poor stewardship and respect of people’s time! Further, it creates the expectation that nothing significant will be accomplished during the meeting ... and this expectation often becomes self-fulfilling prophesy.

Meetings need an agenda! Some resist developing an agenda for a meeting because it may appear there is a scheme in mind. A meeting agenda, however, is an ***agreed upon*** list of items the group needs to consider.

Notice the items are “agreed upon.” While effective leaders establish an outline of discussion and action items prior to the meeting, it is critical that everyone present add or delete items and then agree upon the agenda prior to starting the meeting. [Following Parliamentary Procedure, this is what is accomplished by “adopting the agenda”.]

Why is agreeing upon the agenda important? On more than one occasion I have participated in a successful meeting that was drawing to a close when someone interjects a toxic new item of business! Immediately the group often feels like they need to address immediately the anxiety created by the new item.

This is why ***agendas must be sent out in advance***. Important issues need to be publicized well in advance of a meeting. Should they not be on an agenda and arise during the course of a meeting, consideration and action on such matters should be postponed until the next gathering or a special meeting ***where the matter is listed upon the agenda***.

“Postpone? We need to act now!” The very words should set off alarms and flashing lights! Presbyterian groups are ***deliberative bodies*** indicating, that under the influence of the Spirit, thoughtful consideration is given to all matters. This is why it is so critical that leaders place all items on an agenda, publicize the agenda in advance, and agree upon the agenda at the start of the meeting.

By taking these steps, you will see a recognizable difference in the attendance and participation of those attending the meeting!

Kevin

A Note from Joan

In the Presbytery Library

PC(USA)

- *Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness with Study Guide.*

Alban Institute:

- *Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change.* Golemon, Larry A., ed.
- *Living Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Culture.* Golemon, Larry A., ed.
- *Teaching Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Pastoral Formation.* Golemon, Larry A., ed.
- *The Wisdom of the Seasons: How the Church Year Helps Us Understand Our Congregation.* Olsen, Charles M.
- *Managing Polarities in Congregations: Eight Keys for Thriving Faith Communities.* Oswald, Roy M. and Johnson, Barry.
- *A Lifelong Call to Learn: Continuing Education for Religious Leaders.* Reber, Robert E. and Roberts, D. Bruce, eds.

Mark Your Calendars

2010 Presbytery Meetings

February 20 (Church of the Cross)
April 24
August 27-28
November 20

2010 Council meetings

March 18 (Special Meeting – Strategic Planning)
April 8 (and docket planning)
June 10
August 5 (and docket planning)
October 14 (and docket planning)
December 2, 2010
Council meetings will be held at Central Presbyterian Church (726 S. 55th Street, Omaha) at 3:00 pm, unless you are notified otherwise.

News from our Congregations

First Presbyterian Church - Bellevue

First Pres. in Bellevue and Avery will share a meal and service on Ash

Wednesday. The two congregations have a long history of joining together for a potluck dinner and worship on Ash Wednesday. We alternate the site of the event between the two churches. Dinner is at 5:45 p.m. and the worship service will start at 6:45 p.m. No reservations are required.

Hastings College men's a cappella ensemble, "One Two Five" Performance

Where: First Presbyterian Bellevue - 1220 Bellevue Blvd. South

When: Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m.

All are invited to attend. There is no charge for the concert; however, a free will donation will be taken to support the Bellevue Food Pantry.

Please join us at the concert!

Westminster Presbyterian – Council Bluffs

What: Chili & Vegetable Beef Soup Supper

When: Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church -517 South 32nd Street, Council Bluffs

Cost: Advanced Adult Tickets - \$5.00 ~~ Adult Tickets at the door - \$6.00

Children 12 and under - \$3.00 ~~ Refills on soup – \$1.00

Proceeds will fund mission projects.

The public is welcome. For more information, call the church office (322-5732).
The meal includes choice of soup, beverages, relishes, delicious homemade desserts.

Note from the Editor

This is your space. Use it to let members of the presbytery know about special events, shared activities with other congregations, and opportunities for others to join with you in fellowship and ministry.

Continuing Education Opportunities

"Ethics in Ministry:

Establishing Boundaries, Preserving Connections, and Restoring Hope"

When: March 8-9, 2010

Where: Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska.

Attached to this email is a brochure and registration form

For more information, contact: Sharon Shields, Cotner College Program
Administrator - shieldscotner@windstream.net - 402.474.3207.

2010 Church Unbound Conference

When: August 11-14, 2010

Where: Montreat Conference Center

Lead plenary speaker: Brian McLaren.

Complete information and Registration materials can be found at:

<http://www.montreat.org/current/2010-church-unbound>

Last chance to register:

**Presbytery Youth Event ~Winter Lock-In
February 19th/20th
Avery Presbyterian Church
(1910 Avery Rd East in Bellevue)**

**Kris Adler at 553-4500 or <mailto:kris@centralpresby.org>
by Thursday, February 11th**

Czech Clergy Couple is looking for PC(USA) congregation to serve in 2011-12

Rev. Gabriella Horaková and her husband Rev. Martin Horák are interested in serving a PC(USA) congregation in the United States for one year (2011-12). They could begin in September of 2011.

The Horakovi are interested in experiencing a different setting between pastoral assignments with the ECCB, The pattern in the Czech Republic for pastors is to serve a congregation for ten years. At that time the pastor and the congregation, each have the opportunity to decide if they want the relationship to continue or not. Gabriella and Martin Horakovi would like to take a year serving a church in the USA, prior to the beginning of their next 10-year call.

For more information about the Horakovi or to contact them. Contact:
jody@czechconnections.org

Spotlight on Haiti

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, working in collaboration with members of the ACT Alliance, has provided the people of Bel Air left homeless by the earthquake with tents, water, psychosocial care and other support.

While parents try to create order in the lives of their families, the children dance. A Brazilian organization, now working with nearby ACT Alliance programs, has worked with children in this area for years. Capoeira sparring is marked by fluid acrobatic play, tricks and extensive use of sweeps and kicks. For some time, capoeira was criminalized and prohibited. It came to the Caribbean with slaves and was seen as a dangerous aggressive act. Not anymore.



“Capoeira creates a stronger sense of belonging to family and group”, says the dance instructor, Flavio Soares. “Haitian children are submitted to a great deal of violence, and children do not know how to express their emotions. For that reason, children hardly know how to work on their emotions. Capoeira can help children get in touch with their emotions and learn to control them. Since the earthquake, capoeira has become a tool for mental recovery and a part of the relief work”, he says. *(from PDA website)*

“While Much Is Being Done, There Is Much More To Be Done.”

Be a part of God’s answer to prayer for those affected by this disaster.

Give to the ongoing relief through [PDA account number DR000064](#).

or by sending a check to:







Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Please include the special designated giving account: DR000064 – Haiti.

Event Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	8 1PM POLICY AND POLITY (BENSON) 5PM MISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)	9 9AM STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES (PRESBYTERY OFFICE) 4PM EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHP (MOSHER-PILGRIM) 6PM HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRY WORK GROUP (CASTELAR)	10	11 1PM PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CENTRAL)	12	13	14
Febr	15	16 5PM SOCIAL JUSTICE & PEACEMAKING (WESTMINSTER, OMAHA) MARDI GRAS	17 ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19 9PM - BEGINS PRESBYTERY YOUTH WINTER LOCK-IN (AVERY - BELLEVUE)	20 8AM - ENDS PRESBYTERY YOUTH WINTER LOCK-IN (AVERY - BELLEVUE) 9AM - 10:45AM CLERK TRAINING BEFORE PRESBYTERY (CHURCH OF THE CROSS) 11AM - 2 PM (LUNCH SERVED) PRESBYTERY MEETING (CHURCH OF THE CROSS)	21

Prayer Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	8 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: The Cooperative Parish - Carson, Wales, Oakland Sharon. Rev. Mike Harvey pastors the three congregations. 	9 Pray for Rev. Dr. Gary Eller. Gary is the President of the Omaha Seminary Foundation  Pray for Teena Kern, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry	10 Pray for member-at-large, Rev. Jody Filipi. Jody is the editor of Monday Morning, chair of the presbytery's mission committee, and convener of the PCUSA, Czech Mission Network.  Pray for Ron Meyer, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry	11 Pray for Rev. Ed Fish. Ed is retired and living in Omaha. He is a chaplain at the VA.  Pray for Roger Wehrbein, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry Pray for the people of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.	12 Pray for Rev. Roy Fox. Roy is retired and living in Omaha.  Pray for Marge Adey, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	13 Pray for Rev. Lyle Franzen. Lyle is serving as pastor of Castelar Church.  Pray for Kris Adler, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	14 Pray for the Presbytery's Mission Committee (Jody Filipi, chair) and our mission partners: Crossroads Connections HELP, Adult Services International Partners in Nicaragua, the Czech Republic and Malawi ◆◆◆ Pray for the people of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.

