

# 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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**July 12, 2010**

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- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: [pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com](mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com).  
However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer ([joan@pmrv.org](mailto:joan@pmrv.org) or 402-553-8300 or 800-603-8980).
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## News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

### Musings from Minneapolis

The 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Minneapolis contained many important actions and meaningful worship services. In no particular order, here are a few of the highlights...

### Greetings from Chaz!

MRV will be delighted to know Rev. Chaz Ruark, our former Interim Executive Presbyter, broke into his best Minnesotan accent during his welcome of the Assembly!

### Moderator

The Assembly heard from six candidates (five ministers, one elder) all of whom expressed their love for Jesus Christ and for the Church. Following speeches and Q&A, on the 4th ballot the commissioners voted to elect Cynthia Bolbach of National Capital Presbytery as the Moderator of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Several Commissioners indicated that they believed it was important to elect an Elder as Moderator. During Q & A, Bolbach stated, "Elders rule!" Moderator Bolbach and Vice Moderator, Landon Whitsett of Missouri Union Presbytery did an excellent job of guiding the Assembly.

### New Form of Government (nFOG)

By a vote of 468 for (69%), 204 against (30%), and 6 abstaining (1%) nFOG was approved by the Assembly. The new Form of Government will be sent to the Presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes.

### Standards for Ordination

Contrary to what has been reported by some news media, the PCUSA did not "authorize gay ordination". As I stated in my column on June 28," National media need 'stories that will sell'. Many reporters are employees of for-profit corporations, who understand that controversy and conflict generate sales."

There absolutely is no language about ordaining gays mentioned! The standards recommended are based on theology not sexuality. On a vote of 373 for, 323 against, and 4 abstaining, the Assembly voted to amend **G-6.0106b as follows and send it** to the Presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

***"Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates."***

## Middle East Study Committee (MESC)

One of the highly anticipated matters before the Assembly was the Report of the Middle East Study Committee. Many of the more controversial portions of the report were removed and extensive revisions were made to provide a more balanced document from the Assembly. The report attempts to address the many, complex issues involved in Israel and Palestine and, at the same time, renew the call for peace and tolerance.

## Civil Union and Marriage Issues

In an interesting move, the Assembly sent to the congregations of the PCUSA both the majority **and** minority report on Civil Union and Marriage Issues for the church's **study**. It is critical to distinguish that *study papers* do not define policy or polity. They are designed for the distinct purpose of engaging church members in reflection, discernment, and prayer. This study paper is worthy of consideration by the Presbytery, in light of the State of Iowa's change in its law surrounding marriage.

## Overture from MRV

The Overture sent by Presbytery, **On Full Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Services in U.S. Correctional Facilities, passed the Health Issues Committee (which Bonnie Brown served as Vice Chair) by a vote of 47 for, 1 against, 1 abstaining, and then was approved by the full consent of the Assembly**

## Commissioners

We are grateful for the many long and late hours of service rendered on our behalf by our Commissioners: Elder Bonnie Brown, Elder Mike O'Bradovich, Rev. Rick Sleyster, Rev. Sally Carlson, and YAD Lauren Watson. They will offer a full report at the August Stated Meeting at Calvin Crest.

## More info

More information on the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is available at <http://ga219.pcusa.org/>. Also available is a pastoral letter from the Moderator and Stated Clerk, which contains some helpful FAQ's regarding some of the major actions taken by the Assembly <http://ga219.pcusa.org/news/2010/7/10/post-general-assembly-pastoral-letter-moderator-an/>

All in all, this was an Assembly that seemed to take great care in listening to all sides of the issues and in making decisions that attempted to respect all parties. Even in some of the more controversial subjects, commissioners tended to adopt what might be viewed as a "moderate" stance. And as in all decisions made by governing bodies, we continue to pray for the Spirit's sound guidance as we implement and take further action on these matters.

Grace and peace,



*Kevin*

## Family Day at Rosenblatt

**Missouri River Valley Presbytery is hosting a fun-filled family day at Rosenblatt Stadium on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

The Omaha Royals baseball game begins at 1:35 p.m. with clowns doing face painting and balloon art during the game, as well as a "fun area" for kids.

A block of 100 tickets has been purchased on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line. **If you and your family would like to attend you may pick up the tickets, \$5 each, at the Presbytery office which is \$2 off the regular price.**

We hope you are able to come and enjoy one of the last games at The "Blatt" as well as a summer afternoon with other members of the Presbytery.

*A quartet from the Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church will be singing the National Anthem for this game. The members of the quartet are Cheryl Miller, Fort Calhoun education director and the pastor's wife, Alice Johnson, Fort Calhoun's organist and choir director, Sherry White, Fort Calhoun's 4th-8th grade choir director and Kristie Bolen the 3rd grade and under choir director.*

## 2010-2011 Planning Calendars

The new 2010-2011 Planning Calendars are now available in the presbytery office. They are \$6.30 each

## Social Justice Opportunities

### Book, Movie & Music Drive for Omaha Digital Bridge Project

**Spring Cleaning? First Presbyterian Church, Omaha needs your unwanted or no longer needed Books, Movies and Music.**

**All proceeds will support** FPC Omaha's computer lab's newest mission: Omaha Digital Bridge

**The goal:** to eliminate unemployment in Omaha and build contributors to our community by: Serving the needs of the un- and under-employed; Equipping them to bridge the digital divide\*; and Deploying them with employable skills to serve others and our community.

*\*Digital Divide: The troubling gap between people who have the ability, access and skills to benefit from computers and the Internet and those who do not.*

**Bring your books, movies and music to FPC, Omaha.**

**Program contact:** Rev A David Paul 402-345-5383 [adpaul@fpcomaha.org](mailto:adpaul@fpcomaha.org)

**For more information and a flyer to promote this program,** click on or paste the following link in your browser:

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm\\_100531\\_book\\_movie\\_music\\_drive.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm_100531_book_movie_music_drive.pdf)

## "OWLS" – Older, Wiser, Livelier Saints

### Greetings from your OWLS Committee.

Very shortly each minister in Missouri River Valley and Homestead Presbyteries should have in their hands a 'hot off the press' copy of our exciting "Celebration".

***Dear Pastors - OWLS committee has completed the plans for another successful Celebration. Now we are counting on you to help us. Please put the information in one or more locations in your church and in the Sunday Bulletin. We would like to have several members from every congregation who are older, wiser, livelier saints (OWLS) join us September 15-16 at beautiful Camp Calvin Crest We are inviting pastors to participate as well.***

Those who have attended before should will receive a copy of "Celebration" and a reservation sheet. Please feel free to make copies to share with your friends.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SEPT. 15-16 - Calvin Crest**

Any questions - e-mail [jmeenen@futuretk.com](mailto:jmeenen@futuretk.com) or contact Calvin Crest (402) 628-6455

## Positions Available

### Full Time Youth Director

**Dundee Presbyterian Church** of Omaha is seeking a Youth Director.

This position is a full time position with benefits.

Candidates must have a love for Christ and Bachelors level degree or equivalency in Christian Education experience.

- The Youth Director is not an ordained position.
- 
- This position will report directly to the Senior Pastor of Dundee.

**Please send your resume to:** David Daisy, Director of Operations, Dundee Presbyterian Church, 5312 Underwood Ave, Omaha, NE. 68132 or by email to: [ddaisy@dpcomaha.org](mailto:ddaisy@dpcomaha.org)



### Presbytery Mission Trip: Meet our Nicaraguan Partners!

**When:** October 29 – November 5, 2010

**Who:** Everyone!

**For Informational Flier, click on or paste the following link in browser:**

[http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100308\\_mission\\_nicaragua.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100308_mission_nicaragua.pdf)

**Contacts:** Lyle Franzen at [lyl\\_franzen@yahoo.com](mailto:lyl_franzen@yahoo.com) or 210-6845, or Joyce Serenil at 345-6093 or [blackcat100@cox.net](mailto:blackcat100@cox.net)

## PC(USA) Malawi Mission Network Meeting

**The annual conference of the Malawi Network will be held from August 12th through 15th in South Bend, IN.** This conference will be very informative and enjoyable for any individuals or congregations interested in mission in Malawi. *PMRV has a mission partnership in Malawi.* There will be many outstanding speakers and organizations represented, including Hunter Farrell, head of World Missions for our denomination and the ambassador of Malawi.

**For a flyer about the meeting, click on or paste this link in your browser:**

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm\\_100531\\_malawi\\_network.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm_100531_malawi_network.pdf)

**For more information about the conference, including registration and cost information see:** [www.malawinetwork.org](http://www.malawinetwork.org)

## News from our Congregations

**For news about a group from the Fort Calhoun congregation singing at a Royals Game, see "Family Day at Rosenblatt" on page 3.**

**Submit activities or stories about your congregation to Jody at**  
[pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com](mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com)

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### ***Continuing Education for Staff***

The Administrative Personnel Association (APA) offers opportunities for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Encourage your support staff to attend.

### ***The 2010 APA Rocky Mountain Regional Conference***

**When:** August 5 - 8, 2010

**Where:** Cheyene Wyoming.

Courses include: Biblical Interpretation, Church History, GA Entities, Effective Meeting Minutes, Directory for Worship, and Office Administration

**Registration Deadline:** July 15, 2010

**For more information, a brochure and registration form:** click on or paste the following link in your browser:[http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100607\\_ap\\_a\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100607_ap_a_brochure.pdf)

## **“How Shall We Sing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land? – Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Society”**

**When:** March 23-April 1, 2011.

**Where:** The Protestant Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic

**The seminar will be in English.**

Rev. Barbara A. Renton describes this as an “exciting continuing education opportunity” for Presbyterian Church (USA) pastors to “share experience, discovery and reflection with Czech pastors.” A former chairperson of the General Assembly Mission Council, Renton urges us “to consider engaging with Czech pastors in what is the oldest Reformation country (100 years before Martin Luther) that today has been called the most secularized country in Europe, to explore the challenges facing Christians today.”

Registration is limited to 12

Participants will also encounter local Czech congregations and have an opportunity to explore the city of Prague.

**For additional information and the registration form, click on or paste the following link in your browser:** <http://czechconnections.org/conferences.html>

**Deadline for registration: September 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **2010 Nebraska Health Ministry Network Conference**

**When:** August 27-28, 2010 (August 27, 4:15- 8:30pm August 28, 7:30am- 4:15pm)

**Where:** Immaculata Monastery and Spirituality Center, Norfolk NE

**Target Audience:** Nurses, social workers and others who work in health care and is designed to refresh, inform and support those working in health ministry,

**Cost:** \$50 for workshop, including continuing education credit (CEU), workshop materials and meals ~ or

\$75 for workshop, CEUs, workshop materials, meals, and lodging in Immaculata Monastery

**For additional information or questions, please contact:**

Sharon Kalcik at IMN (402) 476-3391 or im50427@windstream.net

Daniel Johnston at NMC (402-354-7080) or Dan.johnston@methodistcollege.edu

**For brochure and registration form, click on or paste the following link in your browser:**

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm\\_100705\\_2010\\_healthministry\\_conference.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm_100705_2010_healthministry_conference.pdf)

## Montreat Conference Center

### **BEING "CHURCH" IN A CHANGING WORLD: Two Timely Conferences**

**FAITHFUL POLITICS**, August 8-11. **New in 2010**

If God Doesn't Quit When Things Get Political, Why Do We?" For all the talk about faith and politics in the media, there are precious few conversations in our congregations about faithful political engagement. It is time to do better.

**CHURCH UNBOUND**, August 11-14. **Back by popular demand**

The dialogue continues ~ take part in fashioning a new vision for the church are invited to join the conversation.

*For more information or to register online, click on <http://www.montreat.org>*

## **Crisis Care Responder Training Courses**

### **Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support**

**When:** August 6 & 7 (Friday and Saturday); 8:00 – 4:30 both days

**Where:** Omaha NE (Exact Location: TBA)

**Cost:** \$115.00 or if CCR Member \$100.00

This course is designed for anyone who desires to increase their knowledge of individual (one-on-one) crisis intervention when dealing with individuals who are working their way through the grief cycle, recovering from a crisis in their lives, or suffered loss.







**This course is required to serve as** an Emotional & Spiritual Care Provider with CCR (<http://www.crisiscarerresponders.com>) and it is a required course to obtain a Certificate of Specialized Training with the International Critical Incident Foundation. ([www.icisf.org](http://www.icisf.org))

**For a complete listing of courses offered in 2010 and a registration form** please email Marcia Flom: [mflom@cfc.org](mailto:mflom@cfc.org) or call her at 402.408.6888.

### **Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)**

July	12	13 3PM EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP (MOSHER PILGRIM)  6PM HISPANIC WORKING GROUP (CASTELAR)	14	15 12:30 FAITH, EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP (CENTRAL)	16 NOON RETIRED PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH (OLD COUNTRY BUFFET, 75 <sup>TH</sup> /DODGE)  PW GATHERING STORM LAKE JULY 16-19	17 SUDANESE WORKING GROUP - NO MEETING  PW GATHERING STORM LAKE JULY 16-19	18  PW GATHERING STORM LAKE JULY 16-19
July	19 9:30AM MRV PW CT MEETING (NEW HORIZON)  PW GATHERING STORM LAKE JULY 16-19	20 STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES – NO MEETING  5PM SOCIAL JUSTICE PEACEMAKING - (WESTMINSTER- OMAHA)  PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium, PURDUE UNIV., WEST LAFAYETTE, IN	21  PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium, PURDUE UNIV., WEST LAFAYETTE, IN	22  PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium, PURDUE UNIV., WEST LAFAYETTE, IN	23  PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium, PURDUE UNIV., WEST LAFAYETTE, IN	24  PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium, PURDUE UNIV., WEST LAFAYETTE, IN	25  SYNOD SCHOOL, BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY, STORM LAKE, IA

## Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

<p>July</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Mount View and the Karin Community. The Rev. Lye Meester is serving as pastor of this congregation.</p>   <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Dr. Bill Bowers; ordained in 1970.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Keith Roumpf; ordained in 1964.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Ron Hubler. Ron is retired and living in Omaha.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Jody L Filipi member of the Presbytery's Spirituality, Theology and Worship Committee</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Stephanie Huisman. Stephanie is serving as temporary supply pastor at Dundee Presbyterian Church.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Dr. Russ Palmer; ordained in 1964.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Darrin Seaman; ordained in 2002.</p>  <p>Pray for Michael Heller, member of the Presbytery's Spirituality, Theology and Worship Committee</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Melvin Hurst. He is the Pastor at United Trinity in Hamburg.</p>  <p>Pray for Alan Reinarz, member of the Presbytery's Spirituality, Theology and Worship Committee</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Portia Iverson. Portia is serving as Interim Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Papillion.</p>  <p>Pray for Muriel Baldwin member of the Presbytery's Spirituality, Theology and Worship Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Please pray for Rev. Harold Johnson. Harold is retired and living in Omaha.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Becky Balestri, member of the Presbytery's Spirituality, Theology and Worship Committee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Sarah Dickinson; ordained in 1999.</p>  <p>Please pray for the staff and the board of the Omaha Seminary Foundation. Rev. Gary Eller is President of the Foundation.</p> <p>Pray for the children and youth who live within the bounds of our presbytery.</p>
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