



PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS

The Rev. Dr. Steve Minnema
Interim Executive Presbyter
exec.presbyter@gmail.com

Elder Michael Lochow
Stated Clerk
sc.pbvnp@gmail.com

January 14, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the PNP,

The council of our presbytery met today in Jamestown and asked me to write this letter to you regarding our response to the urgent situation in the nation of Haiti following the devastating earthquake that struck that impoverished nation on Tuesday. Haiti is a country I know quite well (after four mission trips there in the 1990's) and so it is with much personal passion that I write to urge you and your congregations to make a generous response to this emergency.

While we all know that there are many good organizations to which you can direct your gifts, your council wanted me to make a special appeal to you for your support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This is one of the great programs of our denomination and you can rest assured that all the money you send to it will be used responsibly and effectively to relieve the suffering of the people of Haiti. (I have in fact just learned that PDA has already released an initial \$100,000 toward this effort and will certainly be gearing up for more.) Another reason we can be proud of PDA is its track record in staying engaged in disaster-stricken areas long after other organizations have departed.

By what feels like a Spirit orchestrated coincidence, even before the earthquake the Council had on its agenda for today a proposal that we as a presbytery make a contribution to PDA in memory of Arabella Meadows-Rogers (our former executive presbyter) who had herself chosen this designation for all gifts given in honor of her life and work. Thus, we have two strong reasons to give to PDA – to help those who are desperate in Haiti and to send a message to Arabella's friends and family as to how much she has meant to us.

The council decided that the offering at our February presbytery meeting should be devoted to this cause so you will have that opportunity. But it also wanted me to urge both individuals and congregations to consider special gifts, transmitted through the Presbytery office, to PDA. All such checks should be made out to the Presbytery of Northern Plains and marked "For PDA-Haiti."

By way of offering you additional information, I am forwarding with this letter a communication I just received from our Louisville office about this disaster effort. If you still have questions or concerns, I would be happy to hear from you. May God bless you as you consider standing in solidarity with our desperate sisters and brothers in Haiti.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Minnema
Interim Executive Presbyter