

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

July 2010

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please pray for the people and all of creation that have been affected by the oil spill off the Gulf Coast. Guide those who are called to cope, to clean, and to care for damaged habitat and creatures in that area.

Please hold our Chogoria partners in your prayers.

HAPPENINGS AT JUNE PRESBYTERY MEETING

By: Elder Michael Lochow, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains

The Special Meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was hosted by Jamestown College on June 11-12, 2010. The themed portion of the meeting was to "Discover the Creative Spirit in our Midst."

A good deal of time was spent "Discerning our Priorities Going Forward." Various groups were formed to work at discerning these priorities. The priorities were endorsed and referred to Council for further discussion. You can look for more detail regarding these priorities in the minutes of the meeting.

The keynote speaker was the Rev. Sue Coller, Minnesota Valleys Presbytery Executive. The title of her presentation was "How to Teach Old Churches New Tricks." The meeting was highlighted by two different rounds of workshops. The titles of the workshops were: Examen: A Technique for Prayerful Discernment (Dan Wolpert); Best Practices in Community

Mission (Sue Coller); Empowering Creative Leadership (Leadership Task Force); Partnering with Chogoria (Nancy Legerski); Social Capital in Your Community (Lynette Flage); Best Practices in Creative Worship (Deanna Reikow); and Finding Peace in the Midst of Conflict (Gretchen Graf).

The First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks, North Dakota, voted to sell their organ and asked the Presbytery to approve the sale. The Corporate Affairs Committee of Presbytery Council recommended that the Presbytery delegate to its Council the authority, after an appropriate examination of the process followed in the Grand Forks Church leading to that congregation's request for permission to sell its organ, to decide within two months of the adjournment of the Presbytery meeting whether or not to give that permission. After considerable debate the Presbytery rejected the recommendation of the Corporate Affairs Committee and instead voted to approve the sale of the organ, whether real or personal property, on the basis of the vote by First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks.

The Committee on Ministry presented Jessica Zolondek, under care of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery, as a candidate for ordination. Following her examination she was approved for ordination. Jessica's call is as a full-time chaplain at Trinity Health Systems in Minot, ND. She will be ordained on August 1, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church, Minot, ND.

Other items from the Committee on Ministry included: the Rev. Brian Hazard (UMC - Sibley Trails) enrolled as a temporary member, Mark Frueh's commission as a CLP at Minot revised to full-time, the Rev. Elaine Bidgood Sweet's call to part-time ministry at LaMoure and Edgeley approved and the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Nancy Emerson and the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN, dissolved.

Last year the Presbytery approved an oil lease with Marathon Oil on property located in Dunn County at Werner, ND. The church was closed in 1958 and a question arose about the legal title to the property. Presbytery authorized Bismarck attorney Casey Chapman to take the necessary steps to clear the title to the satisfaction of the oil company and North Dakota law.

Presbytery Council presented two matters which were approved. The Committee on Ministry has been expanded to fifteen members and Presbytery will have four meetings each year instead of two beginning with the June 2011 meeting. The meetings will be in March (NE, Friday-Saturday), June (W, Monday), September (SE, Saturday), and December (Saturday by video conference).

One of the final items of business was the election of the Rev. Dan Wolpert to serve on the Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Board of Directors.



The Rev. Sue Coller, Minnesota Valleys Presbytery Executive, presenting the keynote address at the June Presbytery Meeting.

CLERGY RENEWAL AND EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND



June 2010 - The Presbytery of Northern Plains (the Presbytery) has previously established the Clergy Renewal and Education Endowment Fund (the Fund). Each Year approximately 90% of the interest on the principal of these funds is available to assist Minister Members of the Presbytery and Commissioned Lay Pastors with expenses related to continuing education.

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors serving in the Presbytery may apply for a portion of these funds. The Committee on Ministry (COM) has full jurisdiction in the administration and disbursement of these funds. Presently the COM has indicated that \$150 in travel expenses is available for those who apply directly to COM for a qualified education event. As of June 2010, the total amount of funds available is less than \$1500; therefore, not everyone who applies will actually receive funding. Funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. According to the Fund's policy, those with access to other funding including continuing education provisions by his or her church should utilize those resources first.

As outlined in the COM's policy for the Fund; application for continuing education assistance may be made by submitting a proposal to COM. The proposal should contain the following:

1. a brief description of the content and nature of the event
2. cost of the event including tuition, lodging and travel
3. brief description of how the event will benefit the person's ministry
4. other financial resources available

Please submit your proposal to the COM member heading up the area of clergy support. Currently that person is Nancy Emerson. You may reach her by email at nancy68emerson@hotmail.com. If at all possible, please make the application at least 8 weeks in advance of the training or education event.



WILL THE “REAL PEOPLE” PLEASE COME FORWARD?

By: The Rev. Dr. Steve Minnema, Interim Executive Presbyter

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (I Cor. 12:7)

Now that the Jamestown meeting is behind us, we can begin to turn our attention to the next phase of our transition life together. We have – more or less – completed the first outcome identified by council in August of last year. We have discerned our priorities. Though these are always subject to refinement, of course, commissioners looked into the future and saw something like the following as God’s call to the presbytery in the years ahead:

- To strengthen relationships between neighboring congregations through worship exchanges and sharing of best practices.
- To develop some common materials on our Presbyterian heritage so that all of our churches can in some way have a united understanding of our distinctive way.
- To develop leadership through retreats that brings clergy and elders together and focuses on our vision for our ministries.
- To identify, affirm and utilize the gifts of individuals and congregations.
- To keep an active conversation going as we seek to discern the mission beyond ourselves God is calling us to.
- To “cross the digital divide” by encouraging the use of new technologies in both the presbytery and its congregations.

In a way that I find quite appropriate, the fourth priority above is actually a clear segue into our next task and that is to focus on council’s second objective:

We will identify and affirm the gifts of real people (e.g. those who show up for service), train them and then match work with workers in positive ways that divide the work equitably.

Reading this over again, I am somewhat amused by the language council chose to use in articulating this hope, especially the phrase “real people.” Apparently, we don’t want any “unreal people” showing up for service. But the point, I suspect, is the rather intriguing idea that “showing up for service” is what it means to be “real.” And that accords well with the text above that reminds us that the gifts we’ve been given by the Spirit are for the sake of the common good. As Christians we can rightly be urged to “Get Real!” by reporting for duty to the cause of the coming of the reign of God.

Continue on next page.

If I recall the discussion, there was another meaning intended as well. It was that the presbytery ought not to structure itself as if we have an unlimited number of people willing to serve its ministry. In other words, the presbytery needs to be realistic in its planning and recognize that we can always imagine more participants than we can realistically expect. While this is in some ways true, we also have to be careful about being overly “realistic.” Who knows for sure what the Spirit is up to? Who knows how many people in our churches might in fact catch a vision of service they would be delighted to do in and through the presbytery?

So this is our next challenge: to think about the ways in which we can better identify, train, and empower people as we match them to work for which they feel a calling. As always, your input is appreciated and we look forward to discovering where we are being led on the way to “realizing” this outcome.

ZOLONDEK TO BE ORDAINED



The Rev. David Thompson, Chair of Committee on Ministry, presented Jessica Zolondek for examination for Ordination at the June Presbytery Meeting.

Jessica Zolondek comes from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, but she spent her childhood in both Florida and Louisiana. She is married to Francis (Frank) Zolondek, Jr., who is in agriculture, and she has two children -- Gabriel (age 13) and Julia (age 10). Jessica has been called to serve as a chaplain at Trinity Health Systems in Minot, North Dakota.

Her B.A. is in English education from the University of Florida, and she also did post-baccalaureate work in journalism at UF. Right after college she served in the United States Peace Corps in Senegal, Africa and then later worked as an editor and writer in the Washington D.C. area.

Jessica is a 2005 M.Div graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary and she is continuing her D.Min studies

in Christian Spirituality there as well. Between her second and third year of seminary, she did a yearlong Clinical Pastoral Education residency at the public hospital in Atlanta. She has also worked as a pastoral intern in Buffalo/Tower City, ND and served as a full-time chaplain in a Catholic hospital in the time since she graduated. In addition, she has ministered in nursing homes and prisons as well as taught at Minot State and on the Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation.

Jessica’s family enjoys fishing and hiking together and she is also an avid reader and photographer. Her special interests include: retreat leadership, writing as spiritual discipline, and teaching about prayer practices. She looks forward to her new call at Trinity Hospital, continuing her *Snowy Owl Publications* business, and being an active part of the presbytery!

RESOURCES

Hope in Conflict: Discovering Wisdom in Congregational Turmoil (book)

By: Sawyer, David

This helpful guide shows pastors how to look beyond the superficial or most obvious reasons for a particular conflict within their own church, find what is hopeful in the conflict, and reframe the situation, giving the congregation the strength to change it as well.

Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief (book)

By: Williams, Rowan

Engaging the classic statements of the Nicene and Apostles' creeds, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams guides readers through the central elements of Christian faith.

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To borrow this or a different resource, contact the **Resource Center for Churches** at telephone (888) 293-9901 (toll free) or info@resourcesforthejourney.org.

The staff will gladly reserve one of these or another resource for you. The center has books, DVDs, reference works, choir anthems, and even a labyrinth available for loan. For a complete listing of resources, go to: <http://resourcesforthejourney.org/>

You are invited to

Ordination of Word and Sacrament

Who: Jessica Zolondek
Date: Sunday, August 1, 2010
Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Location: First Presbyterian Church of Minot
Address: 1000 3rd Street NE – Minot, ND

Please RSVP to 701-578-5089 or jessicazolondek@yahoo.com by July 15, 2010.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



The Presbytery summer office hours will be Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. Due to flexible schedules and reduced staffing during the summer, please call before stopping by to

make sure someone will be at the office.

Once again, here is the office contact information:

Address: 5555 South Washington Suite A
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Phone #: 701-772-0783 or 800-243-3532 (Toll Free)

Fax #: 701-775-7599

Additional staff contact information:

Steve Minnema, Interim Executive Presbyter

exec.presbyter@gmail.com and 701-213-6712 Cell

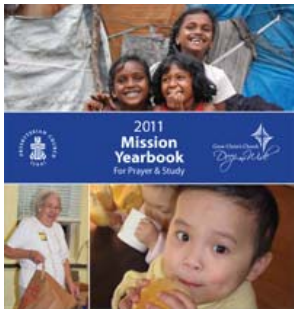
Michael Lochow, Stated Clerk: sc.pbynyp@gmail.com

Bill Cawley, Treasurer: bcawley@cawleycpa.com

Laurie Elhard, Communication Coordinator

pnpooffice@gmail.com

LET THE PRESBYTERY SAVE YOU MONEY!



Let the Presbytery save you money by placing your 2011 Mission Yearbook order with us. You can order the 2011 Mission Yearbook for a discounted price.

The Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study inspires thousands of Presbyterians daily as they uphold the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in intercessory prayer. This everyday

practice helps encourage new relationships and enhances those already established between presbyteries and partners overseas. Synod and presbytery maps and mission-partner maps show mission locations around the world. Demographic profiles help readers learn about particular countries where the church has mission partnerships.

We request that you pay with your order; we will charge postage if you do not send a check with your order. Thanks!

Please fill out the following form and return to the Presbytery office by August 15, 2010.

Name: _____

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Church: _____

Number of Mission Yearbooks _____ X \$ 8.50 = _____

Mail orders to: **Presbytery of the Northern Plains**

5555 South Washington Drive Suite A

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

Presbytery's Calendar

July 3 -10	General Assembly in Minneapolis
July 5	Independence Day holiday – office closed
July 13	Chogoria Partnership Mtg
July 19-26	Presbyterian Youth Triennium Conference
July 25-30	Synod School
July 27	Staff meeting
July 28	Transition Task Force Mtg
Aug 1	Ordination of Jessica Zolondek
Aug 2	Budget & Finance Mtg
Aug 11	Council Mtg
Aug 12	Committee on Ministry Mtg
Sept 6	Labor Day – office closed
Sept 21	International Day of Peace
Sept 23-24	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) mtg in Jamestown
Sept 24	Committee on Ministry Mtg at Jamestown College
Sept 24-25	Fall Presbytery Mtg at Jamestown College
Oct 3-5	Synod Mtg

CC = Conference Call

VCS = Video Conferencing Sites

PNP vision statement:

“A vibrant, informed, Presbyterian community which nourishes ministry and joins in Christ’s mission.”

Would you like to receive the Light of the Northern Plains electronically? You can by signing up for the paperless edition. It costs nothing. To sign up, simply email pnpooffice@gmail.com and request to be put on the electronic newsletter list.

Light of the Northern Plains is published under the Council of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

Contributors: Steve Minnema, Michael Lochow, Nancy Emerson, Jessica Zolondek and Laurie Elhard

Copy deadline for the Light is the twenty-fifth of the month. Items may be sent to:

Laurie Elhard

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

5555 South Washington Street Suite A

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-0783

pnpooffice@gmail.com