

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center February, 2009

TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, PLANTING CHURCHES

JANUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING COMMISSIONERS REJECT ORD STANDARDS CHANGE

Proposed changes to the *Book of Order's* ordination standards were decisively rejected by San Fernando Presbytery at a called meeting on Tuesday, January 27, at Panorama Presbyterian Church. The meeting drew an unusually large crowd, 104 commissioners, along with a number of interested visitors.

Attendees first broke into small groups to discuss the proposed amendment. When the gathering re-assembled in the sanctuary, commissioners had the opportunity to express their opinions to the entire gathering, and then a vote was held by secret ballot. The final count was 74 yes and 22 no, with 4 abstentions.

At the end of the meeting 2008 Moderator, Rev. Ken Baker, handed his gavel over to Elder Dave Lessley, who will act as Moderator for 2009. Dave has been a member at First Presbyterian Church, Burbank since 1955, and has been active at the church on a number of levels. He has also served on the Committee on Ministry and is currently a member of the Polity & Records Committee. His wife, Carolyn, is clerk of session at First, Burbank, where both of them also sing in the choir.



Elder Dave Lessley
2009 Moderator
Presbytery of San Fernando

FEBRUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING COMMISSIONERS TO CONSIDER OTHER AMENDMENTS

The year's first stated Presbytery meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, starting at 3:00 pm. The host church has not yet been determined. At the February meeting commissioners will consider other amendments proposed by the 218th General Assembly. The amendments deal with membership vows, the ordination of church officers, non-geographic presbyteries and other issues.

The Evangelism and Church Growth Committee has embarked on an ambitious, two-pronged program to spread the Gospel in San Fernando Presbytery. The first step is The Jeremiah Initiative, an aggressive program of church transformation that is already underway. The second step is a renewal of the Presbytery's church planting efforts which involves completely rethinking the traditional approach to starting new congregations.

The Presbytery has been working with the Evangelical Covenant Church, a denomination that in recent years has had tremendous success in planting new churches. Last November ECC members participated in the ECC's rigorous assessment process in order to identify candidates who would likely be successful church planters. Two of these candidates, Nick and Whitney Warnes, come from Glendale Presbyterian Church.

"Whitney and I have been very thankful for the opportunity to join the PCUSA in their desire to once again be a presbytery that plants churches," says Nick. "For me, two of the next steps that will be happening in order to continue in this process will include a residency, which will be accomplished through GPC and will include a host of opportunities to become more competent for church planting. Another step will be to

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begin gathering a 'launch team'. It is from this team that the vision will continue to unfold."

Nick has been working in youth and young adult ministry at GPC. He is currently attending Fuller Theological Seminary and has met with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry which will work with him as he begins the process of being ordained within the PCUSA. Along with his passion for spreading the Gospel, Nick shares ECG's belief that the Presbytery must dramatically change its approach to church planting.

"It will be important to make known that we do not have a desire to simply plant a church. Instead, we envision planting a church that plants churches that multiply. (You might need to read that sentence again!) It is our prayer that we, as a presbytery, will be constantly on the lookout for potential planters that might be able to move this vision forward. We have been learning that church planting is much more about people, relationships, and incarnational ministry, and much less about property, buildings, and presbytery lines."

While the effort to start new churches is still developing, ECG is already moving forward with its plans to transform existing churches. It has already hosted two workshops on The Jeremiah Initiative, extending an open invitation to all those interested in revitalizing their congregations. Though both sessions attracted members intrigued by the program, Executive Presbyter Jerry North hopes to see broader support for ECG's efforts. "We had a hundred and thirty people show up for the January meeting to discuss ordination standards. It would be great if we could get the same turnout to support evangelism."

Ending Hunger in God's World

March 14, 2009, Noon - 3:00 pm

Glendale Presbyterian Church, 125 South Louise Street, Glendale



Featuring:

- **You! Youth & adults will discuss their ministry to people who are poor & hungry in our community**
- Bible study & reflection
- **Break-out Sessions for young adults and the young at heart**
- Advocacy Tools & Tips

\$5.00 Attendance Fee

Lunch will be provided

With thanks to our sponsors:

Bread for the World, Glendale Presbyterian Church, San Fernando Presbytery Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Committee

CPIP LOSS PREVENTION SEMINARS

Saturday, February 21, 2009
Presbytery of San Fernando
14225 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama City

The Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program will be offering 4 Free Loss Prevention Seminars for all CPIP Members and Non-Members. CPIP Members will qualify for a 4% premium discount upon June 1, 2009 renewal if all four seminars are attended. The Seminars should be attended by Church employees, Session Members, volunteers and Staff, based on their involvement in the Seminar topic. Seminars are not intended to be attended by the same person; it is important that seminars be attended by those that the particular topic will benefit in their duties.

- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. **Employment Practices and All about CPIP**
Persons attending should be Head of Staff,
Personnel Committee, Human Resources
(anyone that deals with hiring & firing).
- 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Child Abuse Prevention / first half**
Persons attending should be anyone dealing
with children and children's programs, School
or Day Care personnel (employees and volunteers).
- 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. *LUNCH (provided by CPIP)*
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. **Child Abuse Prevention / second half**
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. **Property Safety/Loss Prevention**
This seminar deals with property and
fidelity (money handling).
Persons attending should be
Property Chairs, employees,
Session Members, Treasurer and/or
Finance person.

Please RSVP by: 2/18/09 to: pjohanson@sfpresby.org or carmen@cpip.org

Recording Artist

CALVIN TAYLOR

will be performing at
St. Stephen Presbyterian Church
20121 Devonshire St., Chatsworth
on Sunday Feb. 22nd at 4:00 PM

Dr. Taylor has toured the world. Awarded a full scholarship to Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, his ability to improvise led him to become the first student in the school's over one hundred-fifty years to improvise a graduate concert encore.

***Circle the date.
Invite your friends.
Enjoy the talent of Dr. Calvin Taylor.***

A freewill offering will be taken.
For further information please call 818/360-7460.

Intergenerational Worship & Music Workshop

**Saturday, March 21, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Kirk o' the Valley Presbyterian Church**

**An encore performance with Dr. Paul Determan building on learnings from the successful Enhancing Music & Congregational Singing Workshop.
Cost: \$10 for materials/lunch**

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The C&CS Committee has suggested that it would be more efficient to distribute this newsletter via e-mail, but first it means we need your e-mail address. If you would like to receive *The News* via e-mail, and also see it in glorious color, please send a message with the subject line "E-Mail Newsletter" to Pat Johanson at:
pjohanson@sfpresby.org

**The Presbytery of San Fernando
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This summer, discover a PCUSA that is more exciting, more diverse and more faithful than you ever imagined. The Big Tent event, which has been called “a denominational happening”, will be held June 11 – 13 in Atlanta, GA. It will bring Presbyterians together from all over the country for a gathering that will be celebratory, diverse and participatory.

Ten PCUSA ministries and groups will hold their conferences in conjunction with the Big Tent event, including the Healthy Ministry Conference, the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, the National Multicultural Church Conference, the Stewardship and Investment Conference and the Peacemaking Conference. There will be common worship services and shared meals, an exhibit hall and several workshop sessions open to all. Youth programs are being organized and provisions are being made for child care.

To learn more or to register, visit

www.pcusa.org/bigtent



***The Presbytery of San Fernando News* is published monthly by the Communication & Church Support Committee of the Presbytery. Contributions are welcomed. Deadline for each issue is the 25th of the preceding month.**