

The News

of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

March 2009

PRESBYTERY VOTES ON AMENDMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGES RETIRING GPC PASTOR

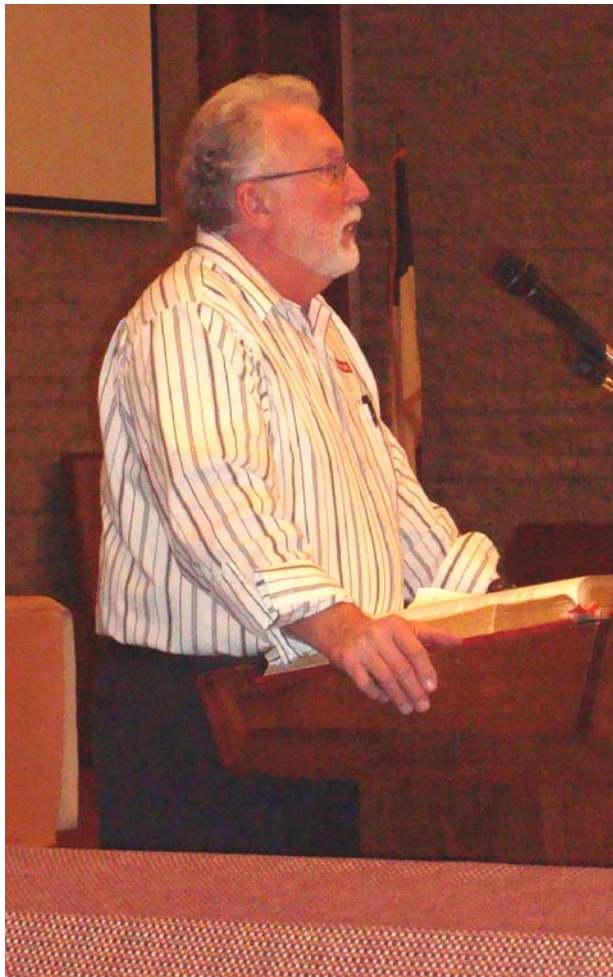
Members of San Fernando Presbytery had a full docket for their February 24 meeting at Panorama Presbyterian. The agenda included voting on several amendments, welcoming two new members and recognizing the service of a retiring pastor.

The first part of the meeting focused on the proposed changes to the Book of Order. Rev. Frank McCraven, Chair of Polity & Records, first presented the committee's recommendations on the amendments and then commissioners debated the issues involved. In the end, Presbytery voted to concur with three amendments: 8-E, relating to the formation of non-geographic presbyteries; 8-I, regarding the status of Christian Educators; and 8-J, an attempt to clarify the

Book of Order's stance on alternative forms of resolution. Members rejected all other amendments. There were also four Ecumenical Statements to consider regarding PCUSA's relationship with the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church, the Korean Presbyterian Church in America and the Moravian Church. Except for the statement regarding the Episcopal Church, all were accepted.

Commissioners also recognized the service of retiring pastor Craig Hall, who until recently served at Glendale Presbyterian Church. Craig spoke of his fondness for the Glendale congregation and gave thanks for the support he received from members there. Glendale Associate Pastor Ken Baker praised Craig's work in bringing the congregation together and re-focusing the church's energy.

(continued on page 2)



Rev. Craig Hall, formerly of Glendale Presbyterian

North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North

Joel Engle, lead pastor of a new church plant said; "I want us (the new church plant) to be pregnant when we are birthed." What he is saying is that he wants his new church plant to be birthing new church plants every 12-18 months. What a concept! The headlines could read "Baby church...born pregnant." 95 % of new church plants never give birth to other church plants. It does not appear to be on our radar screens to be looking at planting a new church. Thousands of Presbyterian churches in the US have never given birth. Perhaps it is time to begin to do so. Any of our churches, no matter how small or large have the potential to birth a new church plant. "What might it take," we ask? Faith, prayer, support and the willingness to take a risk. Jesus knew all about taking a risk, and constantly taught others to be willing to do the same. Nick and Whitney Warnes, our new church planters, are praying and planning for a new church birth from their new church plant. As the "old established" churches that make up our presbytery, let us allow a fresh breath of God's spirit to move us toward the birthing of new churches. What happens to the birthing "mother" is that there is renewed energy, a spirit of working together, an opportunity to see something new come from their faithful efforts as a church body, and the giving to God the glory and appreciation for being able to do so. Perhaps we can anticipate the headline: "Older mother gives birth!" May it be so, and may it be our individual and collective prayer.

Blessings,
Jerry North
Executive Presbyter



Rev. Victoria Isaacs

PRESBYTERY MEETING (continued from page 1)

Two new members were welcomed at the meeting. After presenting her Statement of Faith and answering questions from the floor, Rev. Victoria Isaacs was received from Pueblo Presbytery. Victoria lives at Edwards Air Force Base where her husband serves as chaplain. Candidate Chris Hays was examined for ordination, giving thoughtful and nuanced answers to a number of challenging questions. Chris has been called to a validated ministry as Assistant Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Fuller and will be ordained by San Fernando Presbytery in the near future.

Commissioners also heard from Nick Warnes, who has been working with the Evangelism & Church Growth Committee in their efforts to plant new churches. Nick is studying the Glendale/Atwater/Silverlake area as he and the committee explore creative ways to reach out to the unchurched in those neighborhoods.



Candidate Chris Hays

An unusual worship service closed the meeting, as the Committee on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation spoke about hunger around the world and the duty of Christians to minister to those living in poverty. Acknowledging first that many Americans are losing jobs and homes due to the state of the economy, JPIC members pointed out that there are millions of people in foreign countries who can't even obtain food. With hunger as the overall theme, the worship service wove together hymns, passages from the Bible and an offering of letters. In this way JPIC members hoped to highlight the need for advocacy by Christians to help those in direst need.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR....

Dave Lessley was installed as Moderator of San Fernando Presbytery at the called meeting in January. He is a longtime member of First PC, Burbank, and currently serves of the Polity & Records Committee.

I consider it a distinct honor to serve as the Moderator of San Fernando Presbytery in 2009. I am grateful for the advice and encouragement from Ken Baker, Past Moderator, and look forward to working with Ken as he chairs the Presbytery Council. We have a fine Presbytery with many people who are willing to give of their time and energy to accomplish the goals of the Presbytery. Especially important is the work under way by the ECG Committee under the leadership of Randy Lovejoy to help churches in the transformation process. We anticipate God doing great things in those churches that have begun that process.

At the Called Meeting on January 27, at which the Presbytery voted to retain the Book of Order language for G-6.0106b, I offered a closing prayer for unity among us. Several people have asked about that prayer, so here it is:

Almighty God, our most Gracious and Loving Heavenly Father—We give you thanks for the promise of your continuing presence with us. We give you thanks that, though we may differ with one another, we are also united by your common love for us—not only as individuals, but as Your Body in this Presbytery. ■ We pray, O Christ, for peace—your peace which is beyond our understanding, and yet which can unite us in ways we cannot do ourselves. ■ We pray for unity—within our churches and throughout the Presbytery. Bring us together, Lord Jesus, to carry out the calling to which you have called us: to spread to others—to the people in our communities who don't know you—the message of reconciliation, the message of your amazing love that was shown in your sacrifice on the cross and, even more so, in your resurrection. For it is through You, Lord, and You only, that we have the hope of eternal life. ■ As we move into this new year, O Lord, we give ourselves into your care, trusting that you will lead us, guide us, and go before us as our forerunner to show us the way. Let your Holy Spirit be alive in our minds and hearts. ■ Bind us together as your disciples and keep us ever mindful of your promise to be always with us. ■ We pray in the matchless Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

MUSIC AND WORSHIP WORKSHOP ROUND 2

*Kirk o' the Valley Presbyterian Church
19620 Vanown St., Reseda*

*Cost:
\$10 includes lunch and resources
Registration:
contact Kirk office at 818 345-2535 or kirkval@aol.com*

*Workshop Leader
Rev. Dr. Paul Detterman
Church musician
Sought-after conference speaker
Former associate for worship, PCUSA
Presently Executive Director, Presbyterians for Renewal*

Dr. Detterman stresses the "ministry" of music which moves beyond texts and tunes, styles and stigmas to proclaim Jesus Christ in and through our worship and to prepare disciples for ministry in a confused and broken world.

Lots of singing, questions and answers, opportunity for worship and just plain fun Pastors, music directors, worship committees, choirs and worship teams are encouraged to come!

This program is made possible through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc..

YOU'VE GOT NEWS!

Or you could have. If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, send your e-mail address to:
PJohanson@sfpresby.org
And don't forget to include your name!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPPORTUNITES

Choir Director Sherman Oaks PC

SOPC is seeking a choir director to lead their Chancel Choir and Spirit Ensemble in weekly rehearsals and worship services. Responsibilities include: choosing music for choral and solo performances, holding weekly rehearsals, leading hymns and conducting choirs in the traditional worship service, meeting regularly with the Pastor and Worship Committee, and enhancing the worship of God. Position is approximately 10-15 hours per week. Possibilities also exist for the performance of major works.

Compensation is competitive and will be based on experience and exact duties.

Application deadline: March 15, 2009

Please send a resume, including three references with email and phone number, as well as any supporting materials, either by mail or by email, to:

Pastor Zachary Kintner
Attn: Choir Director Search
Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church
4445 Noble Ave
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
(818) 788-3330

Zachary@ShermanOaksPC.org
ShermanOaksPC.org

Administrative Assistant Westminster PC, Westlake Village

Administrative Assistant to Student Ministries and Alternative Worship.

Full Time with benefits.

Please email resumes to Robert Douglas at:
robert@wpcwestlake.org

Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie

Sunday, March 15th
9:00 AM & 10:45 AM
La Crescenta Presbyterian Church

Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, a nationally known pastor and author, will be delivering the sermon in both Sunday services. Dr. Ogilvie recently served as the 61st chaplain to the United States Senate from 1995 to 2003. He was founder and host of the nationally syndicated television and radio ministry called "Let God Love You" that aired for over a decade. He is the author of 54 books and served as the senior pastor at Hollywood Presbyterian Church from 1972-1995.

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church
2902 Montrose Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214 (818) 249-6137
www.LCPC.net



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BIG TENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Would you like to....

- ▶ *Meet Presbyterian Peacemakers from across the country?*
- ▶ *Experience renewal through worship and Biblical reflection?*
- ▶ *Be challenged through speakers, workshops and field trips about justice concerns?*
- ▶ *Hone your peacemaking skills?*
- ▶ *Get some \$\$financial help\$\$ for doing the above?*

Then consider attending the Big Tent in Atlanta, Georgia June 11-13. The Big Tent includes ten conferences of different programs of the PCUSA. One of these is the Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference. All conferences will share some events in common, but will have their own particular activities. Scholarships of \$400 each are being made available for up to 4 persons by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee. These scholarships are for those wishing to attend the Peacemaking Conference. Here is what to do....

- Apply for a scholarship by going to the Presbytery of San Fernando website, www.sfpresby.org, or call Mission Advocate Wendy Gist at 818-891-4781.
- Get conference information and registration forms at www.pcusa.org/bigtent or call 888 728-7228, ext. 2417.
- Try to get some support from your church.

Please note that the registration fee goes up by \$50 after March 9.