

To: Members of the Synod Coordinating Team of
Presbyterian Women,
Synod of Living Waters (“PWS”)

From: Claudia O. Torrey
Vice Moderator of Issues, Justice, and Peace (“VM”)

Subject: Annual Report, June 2008 – October 2009

Date: October 14, 2009

This report is a brief overview of the past year. The dates stated above in the subject area include a Called Meeting in July 2008 and an approved Fall Meeting.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed two years of continuous service, since being installed into the VM position in June 2007 at the Synod Gathering of PW held in Franklin, Tennessee.
- Continued producing “quarterly–type” updates regarding justice/peace issues; trips; resources; and Horizons magazine. These updates are initially sent to: PWS Moderator Mary Weber, PWS Presbytery Moderators and their respective Justice/Peace Representatives, PWS Secretary Polly Banks, and select members of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of PW.
- Selected to be a member of the National Delegation of PW to the 53rd United Nations (“UN”) Conference of the Commission on the Status of Women (“CSW”); the

conference was held primarily in two places----the UN building and the UN Church Center.

- Wrote an article about CSW 53 that was featured: in *The Voice*, a bi-monthly newspaper for the Synod of Living Waters; on the website homepage of the denominational United Nations Office; on the denominational blog for the National Peacemaking Office; and in two church newsletters.
- Achieved unanimous approval for needed changes and updates to the PWS Bylaws.

POTENTIAL FUTURE GOALS:

- Maintain the “quarterly-type” updates stated above.
- The possibility of participating in the 2009 International Peacemakers program, in partnership with Louisville Seminary (“LS”), was explored (see Minutes of the PWS Annual Meeting held June 13-14, 2008). Unfortunately, LS had severe budget cuts which forced them to make the difficult decision that “timing” dictated it would not be prudent for them to partner with us; however, the door was left open for a future partnership.
- Continue to provide an Annual Report.

NOTEWORTHY FACTS:

- The voice & vote significance of women continues to increase around the world (see the UN map of *Women in Politics:2008*).
- The Horizons Bible Study is **still** the best selling curriculum in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- The month of October is used to highlight issues concerning breast cancer and domestic violence.
- October 16th is World Food Day.
- October 24th is United Nations Day.
- October 25th is Reformation Sunday.