

To: Justice and Peace Representatives

From: Claudia Torrey
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Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women (“PW”)
Synod of Living Waters

Subject: Highlights---Number Three

Date: June 7, 2008

The following information is by no means exhaustive, but seeks to give an overview of interest items.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The current Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Clifton Kirkpatrick, recently led an international ecumenical delegation of church leaders from the World Council of Churches (“WCC”) to Kenya. This trip occurred as a result of the deadly violence in Kenya after its presidential elections in December 2007.

On the inside back cover of the May/June 2008 issue of Horizons magazine, Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick authors an article about the WCC trip and a meeting with Kenyan women leaders similar to PW leaders. He states that the women “...were eager for real dialogue, for everyone to come to the table and to seek common ground. The Kenyan women reminded me of you. As Presbyterian Women, you consistently and actively demonstrate your gifts for building community and showing hospitality in countless situations, large and small, tense and otherwise. To put it in the words of one of the great ends of the church, you are faithful in the ‘exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.’ (Book of Order, G-1.0200).... Thanks be to God for Presbyterian Women!”

I am sure you will agree with me that this is a wonderful acknowledgement to all of us.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS THIS YEAR IN SAN JOSE, CA (JUNE 21-28, 2008):

- The theme is from Micah 6:8 paraphrased as “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God;”
- Election of a new Moderator and a new Stated Clerk (Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick will not seek another term) will take place, and;
- Some of the agenda items for the voting commissioners will be: the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Form of Government; social issues; world mission partnerships; ordination exams; immigration; and the status of women, both elected and employed, within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

CONFERENCES:

1. Please refer to the second highlights communique’ sent out in March 2008 for both the upcoming Ghost Ranch Conferences and the Peacemaking Conference. This information can be found at our website www.pwslivingwaters.org.
2. The National Network of Presbyterian College Women will have its Annual Event in San Francisco, CA on the campus of San Francisco Theological Seminary from August 6 – 10, 2008; the participant limit this year is fifty. The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Katie G. Cannon---the first Negro woman to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The conference theme is “The Power of Poverty.”

Registration received by June 15th is \$125 or \$150 if received after June 15th. Travel scholarships are available to every

participant whose travel costs to and from San Francisco exceed \$200. For further assistance contact Noelle T. Gulden at (502) 569-5848 or at noelle.gulden@pcusa.org.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY (OCTOBER 5, 2008):

The theme is “Break the Bread of New Creation” from the hymn Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!, written by Brian Wren. On this Fall Sunday, the Peacemaking Offering is received by those congregations who choose to participate. It should also be noted that 2008 represents the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commitment to Peacemaking.

NEW CAMPAIGN—“FIVE for FIVE”:

No matter how large or small, your congregation can be designated as a *FIVE for FIVE* church by receiving the following four special offerings: the Christmas Joy Offering, the Peacemaking Offering, the Pentecost Offering, One Great Hour Of Sharing, **PLUS** a contribution to Basic Mission Support.

For more information contact Jon Brown at (888) 728 – 7228, ext. 5194.

NEW ROAD FOR COOK SCHOOL:

Cook School for Christian Leadership (formerly Cook College and Theological School) in Tempe, Arizona is charting a new direction. The property and buildings will be sold by the Cook School Board of Trustees, and sale proceeds will be used: to operate and expand the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program via a partnership with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, the Synod of the Southwest, and other denominations; to continue to offer Summer and Winter Terms; to provide Workshops on Wheels to Native American oriented churches; and to provide short-term workshops

on pastoral leadership in collaboration with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and other denominations. Thus, an investment program will be established (The Cook School Investment for Native American Leadership) with the sale proceeds being held in trust and invested for posterity in order to complement the continuous donations of churches, individuals, and organizations.

For background purposes, Cook School was founded by Charles Cook --- a missionary and teacher who came to central Arizona in 1870 to work with Pima Indians. The Cook Bible School was founded in 1911 by the Presbyterian Church, and became ecumenical in 1941. The primary mission of Cook School has been (and in many ways will continue to be) to educate, to empower, and to equip Native Americans for leadership in their churches and communities. The Cook School leadership and community still adhere to the motto of living your life as thank-you notes for all gifts.

QUOTE FOR THOUGHT:

Remembering that Pentecost was celebrated about one month ago on Mother's Day, I give you the following quote for thought ----
“.... But if Pentecost stands for anything at all, it stands for this: The church of Jesus Christ belongs to no governing body, no pastor, no committee, and no “right” way of thinking. The church was not crafted by a task force or by a General Assembly action, and neither was it engineered to serve any human agenda. It is not the property of any denomination or the possession of any movement whether it be tagged liberal or conservative, moderate or centrist, left-wing or right-wing. The church, wonder of wonders, is God's possession, despite every wart and blemish that we humans bring to it. It is nothing less than the redemptive body of Jesus Christ poured out in divine love for all creation.” *This We Believe—Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm* by Stephen W. Plunkett.