

# PresbyNews OnLine

## June 2011

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*Norwegian Horses, North of Taos NM  
Photo by Bob Battenfield*

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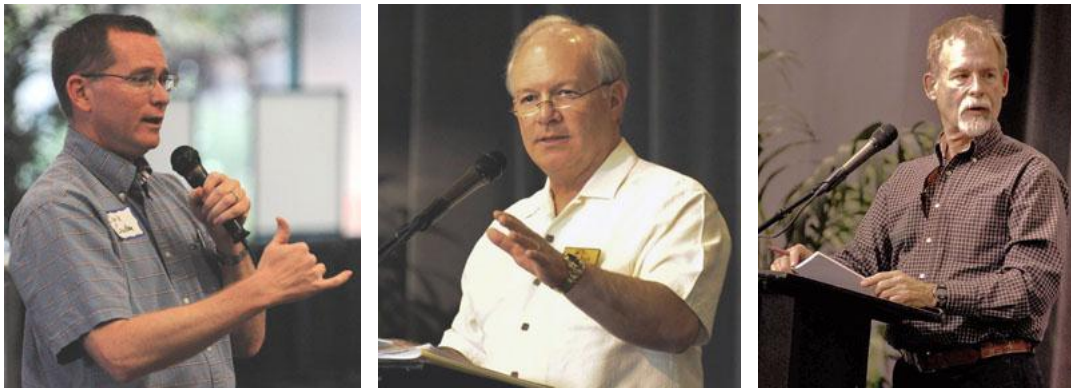
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## **“Lead Not Leave” – May 31 Special Gathering Learns Distant Churches Wish to Join San Diego Presbytery**

A gathering of pastors, elders and church members at large heard at a special gathering held May 31 at the Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe about three churches outside the bounds of San Diego Presbytery that have expressed interest in affiliating with us.

The three are **Glenkirk Presbyterian Church in Glendora, First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu, and First Presbyterian Church of Covina.**

“The purpose of this gathering was to talk about the interest of some congregations in transferring into our presbytery,” said **Executive Presbyter Clark Cowden**. “We wanted to share some information about conversations we have been having, to get input and feedback, and to help us think through how God might want us to respond to this new opportunity.



*Executive Presbyter Clark Cowden, Host Pastor Jack Baca, Vice Moderator David Buck*

“The more people we can hear from, the better we can discern how the Spirit is leading us into the future,” Cowden said.

The gathering consisted of small group discussions of four options for “Experiments Going Forward.” These were to remain a local, geographic presbytery; to become a regional presbytery; to become a national presbytery; or to become a new Reformed entity. Table groups discussed the benefits and concerns about churches transferring into our presbytery, what other information is needed or what other questions should be asked, and which of the four options are favored at this time.

A task force dubbed “Next Wave” has been formed by Presbytery Council. A report will be written summarizing comments put forward by the approximately 125 people in attendance.

### **Presbytery to Meet June 21 at Lakeside Presbyterian Church**

The next regular stated meeting of the Presbytery of San Diego will be held at 5 pm, Tuesday, June 21, at Lakeside Presbyterian Church. Go to the Home Page of this website, click on Meetings, to download the minutes of the last Presbytery Meeting and the Docket for the June 21 meeting. Be sure to make dinner reservations.

### *Around the Presbytery*

### **Get Yourself and Your Church Unstuck Seminar June 11**

Getting Yourself Unstuck (and introduction to Getting Your Church Unstuck) seminar will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm, led by Rev. Neal Nybo at the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church.

In a quick paced, interactive discovery process, individuals will discern how people, circumstances and events in their lives have shaped them. They will practice soul training and see God's fingerprints in their history to prepare them for their future. And, having gone through the process themselves, they will see how their church can be led through the same method.

The cost is only \$25 (includes lunch). It is limited to the first 50 people who register. Please RSVP to Lynn Tenuto at [lynn@rbcpc.org](mailto:lynn@rbcpc.org) or 858-487-0811 x281.

### **Reality Changers' 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Stars Under the Stars" June 11**

Reality Changers is holding its 11th annual "Stars Under the Stars" Scholarship Ceremony and Fundraiser on Saturday, June 11, at 7 pm, at 3910 University Avenue in San Diego. There will be a dessert reception and entertainment, followed by the scholarship ceremony. For more information, please email [ceremony@realitychangers.org](mailto:ceremony@realitychangers.org) or call 619-516-2222.

RC's Class of 2011 produced 55 inner-city students who earned more than \$3 million in scholarships. Director Chris Yanov had special praise for three who were awarded Gates Millennium Scholarships: Karla Armenta (Purdue) Evelyn Ramirez (University of Redlands), and Karina Santellano (Duke).

### **Registration is Now Open for "Moving Back 2.0" Consultation**

Registration is now open for our MOVING BACK 2.0 consultation on August 19-20 at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church. This event is designed for teams of church leaders, pastors, staff, and elders to come and work together on developing some concrete next steps to join what God is doing in your neighborhood. Our first event two years ago was sold out with 300 people, and we expect the same will happen this year. You can register online at [www.sendingout.com/events](http://www.sendingout.com/events)

"We hope that you and a team from your church will take advantage of this great opportunity," Clark Cowden said.

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are needed to see this picture.

### **Want to Support Presbyterian Urban Ministries (PUM), Have Fun Doing It?**

The **2011 Golf4Good** fundraising golf tournament to benefit PUM will be held at Doubletree Golf Resort on Friday, September 16. The event consists of a team scramble golf tournament, silent auction, raffle and fellowship dinner. You are invited to participate in all three activities. Or if you don't golf, come for the fun of the silent auction, raffle and dinner. Please visit the Golf4Good website [www.golf4good.org](http://www.golf4good.org) for more information and/or to register.

### **Mount Laguna Retreat Center Available for Churches and Organizations**

Did you know that the Presbytery of San Diego has a Retreat Center in Mt. Laguna? It is located on Sunrise Highway S1 between state highway 70 (north) and interstate 8 (south) in a 6,000 foot grove in the Cleveland National Forest east of San Diego.

The mission of the retreat center is to glorify God by providing a year-round, well maintained facility for churches and Christian ministry organizations to come for worship, fellowship, discipleship, spiritual renewal, recreation, and service. There are over 90 miles of hiking trails available. The chapel has seating for 50 people, the main house can sleep 12 people, and the bunkhouse can sleep 8 people.

If you are interested in reserving the facility for a group, please visit the website at <http://www.presbyterysd.org/mtlaguna>, or contact Nancy Sanks at [nancysanks@yahoo.com](mailto:nancysanks@yahoo.com) or at 619-561-6065.

## *Around the PCUSA*

### **GA Moderator Bolbach Urges Approval of nFOG**

*By Bethany Furkin, Presbyterian News Service*

With the recent ratification of one amendment proposed by the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010), leaders of the task force responsible for suggesting another major change are encouraging the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be bold in envisioning the future of the church.

Amendment 10-A, which was approved earlier this month, changed ordination standards to make sexually active, unmarried Presbyterians eligible to be ordained as church officers.

People across the church were deeply invested in the debate surrounding 10-A and have had less energy to spend on the proposed New Form of Government (nFOG), said **Elder Cynthia Bolbach**, co-moderator of the nFOG Task Force.

Bolbach is also moderator of the 219<sup>th</sup> GA, a position she was elected to after having served on the task force since 2006.

It's possible that the approval of 10-A has hindered presbyteries in voting for nFOG, another big change to the church's constitution, Bolbach said. "People say, 'We can't do a new Form of Government and an ordination change in the same year,'" she said.

As of May 23, 77 presbyteries have voted in favor of nFOG and 72 have voted against it. Those numbers are according to the Office of the General Assembly's official tally, which must wait for official word from presbyteries before posting. For the nFOG to pass, 87 of 173 presbyteries must vote in favor of it.

For the full story, go to [www.pcusa.org/news/announcements](http://www.pcusa.org/news/announcements).

For a range of views on the range of issues facing the PC(USA), these websites are offered. First for the denomination, go to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). For the conservative, evangelical view: [Presbyterian Lay Committee](#), the [Presbyterian Renewal Network](#), the [Institute on Religion and Democracy](#), [Presbyterians for Renewal](#) and the [Presbyterian Coalition](#). The Presbyterian Outlook ([www.pres-outlook.com](http://www.pres-outlook.com)) is independent of the PC(USA) and tries to cover both sides of

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these issues. Also for the GLBT view, go to More Light Presbyterians ([www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)).

**Proposed Amendments to the Constitution Scorecard  
As of 5/27/11**

<b>10-1</b>	<b>New Form of Government</b>	<b>83 yes</b>	<b>78 no</b>
<b>10-2</b>	<b>Confession of Belhar</b>	<b>80 yes</b>	<b>53 no</b>
<b>10-A</b>	<b>Gifts and Requirements – On Amending G-6.0106b</b>	<b>90 yes</b>	<b>69 no</b>

*Follow voting online at  
[www.pcusa.org/resource/ga219-voting-tallies-proposed-amendments](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga219-voting-tallies-proposed-amendments)*

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Responds to Joplin Tornado**

Tornadoes have ripped through more United States towns in recent weeks, including Joplin, Missouri, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since spring began, there have already been 18 federally declared major disasters in 14 states due to severe storms, tornadoes, or flooding.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in contact with people and churches in the region. At least one Presbyterian Church was damaged, and some members of the denomination are among the many families who have lost their homes. In addition to homes, communities have suffered major damage to public structures, including schools, fire stations and a hospital. Triage centers and emergency shelters have filled quickly. One Great Hour of Sharing funds are available to assist with immediate needs, as they begin to assess the impact of a disaster on their communities and how they can help respond to that impact.

You can Give, Act, and Pray. If you would like to Give, you can go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/give/DR000015/>. If you would like to volunteer (Act), please call 1-866-732-6121. You can also Pray for the disaster survivors, loved one of those who have been lost, congregations in the affected communities, and rescue workers helping in the response. Please pray that God will guide all of those involved, and that the hope of Christ will be evident throughout. – **Clark Cowden**

### *People*

**Rev. Burt Smith** died on Friday, May 13. Burt was a former associate pastor at First Presbyterian in San Diego, as well as at Christ United Presbyterian Church in San Diego. He was also the founder of UPLIFT and had a big heart for our

city. A memorial service was held Saturday, May 21, at Christ United.



**Rev. James L. McDonald** has been named president of San Francisco Theological Seminary. For the past 13 years McDonald, an ordained Presbyterian pastor, has been with Bread for the World, a faith-based advocacy group that urges legislators to end hunger nationally and internationally.

### *Upcoming Events*

**Rancho Bernardo Concert Series – Hymns 2 Him, June 5** Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church’s Traditional Music Ministry invites you to “Hymns 2 Him,” an exploration of the vast riches of traditional Christian hymns, 4 pm Sunday, June 5, in the Sanctuary. Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Orchestra, and vocal ensembles will “raise the praise” in fresh, colorful arrangements highlighting the gracious gifts of God. Free. Contact (858) 487-0811, ext. 288 or [awazny@rbcpc.org](mailto:awazny@rbcpc.org).

### **Disaster Preparedness Training Sessions Scheduled**

The Community Recovery Team of San Diego is sponsoring some training sessions to provide disaster preparedness. As we are heading into the potentially deadly fire season, they are working proactively to help people know how to respond to disasters before they hit.

The two upcoming training sessions will be held on Monday, June 13, from 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Crest Community Clubhouse, 120 North Park Dr., El Cajon, 92021, and on Saturday, June 18, from 10 am – noon, at the Rancho Bernardo Community Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr., in Rancho Bernardo.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [Crt@communityrecoveryteam.org](mailto:Crt@communityrecoveryteam.org), go to their website, [www.communityrecoveryteam.org](http://www.communityrecoveryteam.org), or call 1-888-450-8564 or 619-246-4300.

### **Second Summer of Service Projects Being Planned by Vision San Diego**

Vision San Diego invites area churches to participate in this year’s “Summer of Service,” a county-wide witness of Christ’s love for all people that began last year. Particular emphases in the coming months include:

**May: Affordable Housing** – San Diego Habitat for Humanity builds in National City, Oceanside and Imperial Beach.

**June: Kids Games** – training available to churches that are interested in hosting their own Kids Games (sports camps) as a way to reach the unchurched children

in their neighborhoods.

**July 15-17: Stand Down (Military)** – Community-based intervention program designed to help San Diego’s homeless veterans and their family members combat life on the streets. They will be provided meals, medical/dental care, clothes, a place to shower and sleep, counseling, etc.

**August 20: School Beautification Day** – South Bay, Inner-city San Diego, North County and East County locations – painting, cleaning, and building projects.

**September 24-25: Sleepless in San Diego** – 5th Annual Benefit Sleepout to Fight Homelessness.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of the Summer of Service initiatives, school adoptions, or Servant Leadership Collaborative, please send an email to [kstahl@visionsd.org](mailto:kstahl@visionsd.org) or call 760-839-5520.

### **Schedule of Stated Presbytery Meetings**

Tuesday June 21 at 5 pm  
Lakeside Presbyterian Church

Tuesday September 20 at 5 pm  
First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

Tuesday November 15 at 5 pm  
First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside

### ***PresbyNews OnLine***

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