

PresbyNews OnLine

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*Next Wave – Bachas Beach, Gallapagos
Photograph by Bob Battenfield*

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New Website for NextWave

Our Next Wave Administrative Commission has been hard at work on your behalf during these summer weeks. Last month, a brand new website, www.sdpnextwave.com, was launched. Information will be posted to keep you informed and you can follow along in their work. Please keep the commission members in your prayers as they seek to discern God's will for our presbytery.

NextWave – A Backgrounder

By Clark Cowden, Executive Presbyter

In short, the NextWave Administrative Commission grew out of a Task Force, which had grown out of a conversation.

The Task Force grew out of a conversation with the Presbytery Council last March about how to respond to some of the changes going on across the denomination. Even before the Executive Presbyter was able to pull together the group for its first meeting, the presbytery office had received a couple of requests from churches requesting to transfer into the Presbytery of San Diego. This ended up shaping and focusing the subsequent conversations.

The Presbytery Council made this an official task force in May. The Presbytery acted in June to create an Administrative Commission.

Because many things have happened in a short period of time, questions and requests for information have arisen about what the presbytery is doing. One way to address the anxiety about the speed at which things were progressing is to put information here on our website, so that people could go online and read it for themselves, when they had time available to do so. We hope the information we have posted here will help you better understand what has been happening and why.

The following links are to documents that have been presented to presbytery at various times since March of this year, explaining developments as they have occurred.

1. [Timeline of Events](#)
2. [The Honolulu Story Revised](#)
3. [Glenkirk and Covina Conversation](#)
4. [Synod Conversation 0511a](#)
5. [May 31 Table Conversations](#)
6. [FAQs 0611](#)
7. [AC Motion Presbytery June 2011](#)

10-A Unacceptable to Mexican Presbyterians

On August 20, we learned that the General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico had voted 116 – 22 to end its 139-year relationship with the Presbyterian Church (USA), in response to the vote by the PCUSA to change its ordination standards. Amendment 10-A removed from our constitution the requirement for “fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness.” See the following statement from Hunter Farrell, director of World Missions.

Here in San Diego, we have had a long relationship with Pueblos Hermanos of Presbyterian Border Ministry, a bi-national ministry between our two denominations. This vote raises some questions about what the future of this ministry will be. Please be in prayer for these important ministries and for the conversations that will now take place about how to move forward. – Clark Cowden

National Presbyterian Church of Mexico Terminates Relationship with PCUSA Over Ordination

By Hunter Farrell, Director World Mission, PC(USA)

Presbyterian World Mission has learned that 116 of the 138 delegates to the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico’s extraordinary General Assembly meeting in Mexico City voted on August 18 to terminate the church’s 139-year-old relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The action came in response to the PC(USA) General Assembly’s action in 2010 regarding ordination standards. The Mexican G.A. further voted not to re-enter a relationship with the PC(USA) until Amendment 10-A is rescinded.



“We had a very honest and direct conversation,” said **Gradye Parsons**, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA). “I deeply regret their decision to end a relationship that has brought blessings to both churches.”

“Presbyterians do mission in partnership here and around the world, so we take the voice of the Mexican church very seriously,” said **Hunter Farrell**, Director of Presbyterian World Mission. “We are grieved by their decision, but we want to emphasize that we are grateful for their witness and our history together, and will listen carefully as we engage in dialogue about where God is leading us in mission.”

Farrell added that World Mission will be in consultation with the leadership of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, PC(USA) mission co-workers, Presbyterian Border Ministry leaders, and presbytery and synod partnership leaders to discuss next steps in our shared mission work.

What is the Impact on Pueblos Hermanos and Baja Presbyterian Missions?

*By Bob Battenfield, Editor**

While this decision does have immediate impact on Pueblos Hermanos and the five other Presbyterian Border Ministry projects along the US-Mexico border, it does not affect the relationship between Baja Presbyterian Missions, Inc., and its partnership with the Mexican presbytery and the nearly 20 missions and churches in Baja California.

Baja Presbyterian Missions is an independent, nonprofit California religious corporation, founded in 1964, and is not under the PCUSA. BPM raises funds to help the Mexican church plant new missions in Baja and supplement pastors' salaries until the churches become self-sufficient.

Meetings are being held this month between officers of the two denominations and members of the bi-national Presbyterian Border Ministry executive committee to establish a process of disengagement.

* Involved in Border Ministry since 1988, Battenfield is a member of the Pueblos Hermanos board of directors and president of Baja Presbyterian Missions. He also represents the Presbytery of San Diego at the annual meetings of Presbyterian Border Ministry.

Around the Presbytery

September Presbytery Meeting will be at Oceanside First Presbyterian

Commissioners and pastors will head north for the September 20 meeting of the Presbytery of San Diego as **First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside** hosts the event. The meeting will begin at 5 pm. No Pre-Presbytery gathering is planned. Those who attend should download the agenda packets and other reports from this website by going to the Home Page and clicking on Meetings. Be sure to RSVP for dinner as well.

Moving Back 2.0 Event at Solana Beach Presbyterian

Clark Cowden's involvement in Moving Back 2.0 took different paths on three successive days.

On THURSDAY, he met with **Alan Roxburgh** and **Mark Lau Branson** from The Missional Network and the board of the **Presbyterian Global Fellowship**, who were in town for our Moving Back 2.0 event. "We talked about the keys for working with congregational leaders in cultivating experiments that will help our people discover what God is up to in our communities," Cowden said.

On FRIDAY, he joined a gathering of about 35 pastors for a seminar on missional leadership. The group discussed how the Holy Spirit is disrupting the church, how the Holy Spirit is among the people of God, how the Holy Spirit is ahead of

us in where we are going, and how God's people are the Body of Christ in our neighborhoods. "We talked about continuing the conversation in monthly pastor cohort groups," Cowden reported, adding any pastors who would like more information about these cohort groups should contact **Jerry Deck**, Executive Director for Presbyterian Global Fellowship, at jerrydeck@gmail.com or **Clark Cowden** at clarkcowden@presbyterysd.org.

Then on SATURDAY, Cowden and about 120 church leaders gathered at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church to engage in conversations about Moving Back into our Neighborhoods. Time was spent dwelling in Luke 10. "We talked about how it begins with listening/discerning and developing Appreciative Inquiry questions," remarked Cowden. "We focused on how to ask the right questions and moving towards the development of missional experiments."



Rev. Chris Lenocker, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in San Diego, asks a question during the Moving Back 2.0 sessions.

Nate Landis and UYC Boost High School Clean Up Day

Rev. Nate Landis, founder/director of the Urban Youth Collaborative, led an effort on Saturday, August 20, to clean up high school campuses. With the San Diego Mission Team, Vision San Diego, the US Navy, and many churches, alumni associations and other community organizations all joining to work on beautification, landscaping, and facility projects at 33 different school campuses around San Diego, about 1500 volunteers showed up to bless our community in tangible ways.



Steve Barclay, center, advocate for Urban Youth Collaborative on the mission committee at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, rallied alumni of his Hoover High Class of 1964 to participate in the UYC clean-up at his alma mater. Joining Barclay for the photo are Lorna Dublin Heramb and Evelyn Mosesso Riddick.

"In a climate of considerable education budget cuts, many schools need help preparing their buildings and grounds before students return to school. We are thankful that so many people are choosing to minister to our children, our youth, and our schools in this way," commented **EP Clark Cowden**.

Landis was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor and evangelist by the Presbytery of San Diego and is a parish associate to Northminster Presbyterian Church.

Editorial: Like a Spring Whose Waters Never Fail

By Jerry Deck, Executive Director, Presbyterian Global Fellowship



Amidst the turmoil in our denomination it is easy to get into a “wait-and-see” mode. What will happen when the **Fellowship of Presbyterians** gathers? What will we do if members of our church begin to leave? How will Louisville react if congregations begin to leave? How will Louisville react if congregations decide to stay?

While these questions address real fears that many in our denomination are wrestling with, they can also drain us of the energy we need to be about God’s mission right now. In other words, while they are important questions that will be answered in the future we must be mindful that they not consume us in the present.

In mid-August the board members of PGF came together in order to continue to discern the Spirit’s calling in our movement. One scripture text that helped guide our time together was from Isaiah 58:5-12. Two verses in particular which spoke deeply to us were these: *“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”*

We were reminded in those words of how easy it is for us to point fingers and malign others, especially in this time of tumult. We were reminded as well that in order for our light to truly shine we have to get past our fears, anxiety and anger and move forward in serving God by serving others. It doesn’t mean that we are oblivious to our denominational issues, but it does mean that we understand fully that our weary church bodies will only be revived as we are giving of ourselves as witnesses for the God who restores.

As Isaiah says it is in doing this that we “will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

As PGF moves forward we are committed to helping churches cultivate an environment in which pastors, elders and other church leaders can truly discern how the Spirit is stirring in them and in their communities so that they can truly be restored.

As a part of this mission, last weekend around 120 church leaders gathered at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church for **PGF's Moving Back into the Neighborhood 2.0**, facilitated by **Alan Roxburgh** and **Mark Lau Branson**. It was an incredible opportunity to gather together, read scripture with one another, and begin (or continue) to ask questions about how God is working in our neighborhoods and how we can join him in this work.

It is amazing how much we can feel the presence of God when we simply meditate on his Word, listen to the Spirit and one another, and celebrate the stories of how people have taken risks for Christ. *For the full article go to <https://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:1403964.7175560868/rid:e30e8f901ef542eef504e3d6a31ff5ce>*

Fellowship of Presbyterians: A New Presbyterian Order?

By Jerry Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterians committed to theological orthodoxy should consider a special vow, akin to special vows taken by members of various Catholic orders, Fuller Theological Seminary President **Richard Mouw** told the **Fellowship of Presbyterians** at its Aug. 25-26 gathering in Minneapolis.

In a wide-ranging and free-wheeling address and question-and-answer session, Mouw said, “Historically, when Catholics felt the church had gone astray, they didn’t leave, they formed special orders who took special vows according to their commitments. The commitment to theological orthodoxy for many of us should take the form of a special vow, to witness to the essential tenets and the power of the Reformed faith.”

Mouw commended to the 2,000 Presbyterians gathered here the essential tenets and “Reformed distinctives” developed by **San Diego Presbytery**, but cautioned against “word-for-word subscriptionism.”

Some statements in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s *Book of Confessions* — such as the declaration in the Westminster Confession that the pope is the anti-Christ — “are historical statements we don’t want to subscribe to,” Mouw said, “but we don’t want holes big enough to drive a truck through. There are essentials.”

For instance, he continued, “We have to make a choice about the authority of Scripture, the inherent lostness of human beings and the need for the atoning salvation of Jesus Christ as our only savior.”

Also central, he said, “is our Reformed conviction that election [by God] is for both salvation and service — to involvement in a covenant community that demonstrates the sovereign rule of God over all of human life ... that covenant community is central — gathering in (worship) and sending out (service).”

Essential tenets make us missional, Mouw said. “We’re elected to participate in the life of a community that seeks to perfect God’s plan here and now, bearing witness to God’s mission in the world.”

For the full story, go to www.pcusa.org, and click on News to find it.

Upcoming Events

Sexual Misconduct Prevention Seminar October 13

The Committee on Ministry will host a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training Seminar on Thursday, October 13, from 9 am – 3:30 pm. This event will be led by **Rev. Dr. Robert Hunter** of the Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. All pastors serving churches and in validated ministries are expected to attend. Please RSVP to Heather Paton at Officemgr@presbyterysd.org. The location of the seminar will be announced soon.

What is Older Adult Ministry?

Do you lack the tools and experience to provide an engaging, vital ministry with your older members? Are you hoping to avoid reinventing the wheel as you look for resources for your congregation? You’re in luck!

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN) has scholarship funds for first time attendees who would like to go to the annual POAMN Conference.

This year’s conference will be held October 11-14 in San Antonio, Texas.

In addition, limited San Diego Presbytery funds are available to assist with travel and hotel expenses! You can’t lose! For more information on the conference, including a complete list of seminars and speakers, go to www.poamn.org. For more information on the POAMN scholarship (including the application form) and the San Diego Presbytery funding, please contact **Cindy Wright** at 858-509-2587.



10 Years Later: Resisting Violence

Recommit to working for peace and justice as we mark the 10th anniversary of September 11.

Go to

gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/september11/#discuss?c=7185

Organ and Trombone Featured in Concert at Christ United Presbyterian to Mark 9/11 Anniversary

In observance of the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, a free concert will be presented on Sunday September 11 at 4 pm. It is the Fall Concert presentation of “Romantic Melodies of the 20th Century” as performed by Organist Alison Leudecke and Trombonist Sean Reusch. The program will be held at Christ United Presbyterian Church, 3025 Fir Street in South Park, San Diego.

This is a chance to experience our great pipe organ in a completely different genre than we are accustomed to, combined with the soulful tones of the trombone, according to spokesmen **George Billingsley** and **Peter Moller**. The concert is a presentation by ARTSCUP (Art, South Park Cultural Urban Project).

9/11 Memorial Concert Combines First Presbyterian San Diego, La Jolla Presbyterian and San Diego Symphony

On September 11, 2011, beginning at 6 pm there will be a special commemoration of 9/11 at First Presbyterian Church, San Diego. Musicians and singers from First Presbyterian Church will be joined by La Jolla Presbyterian and members of the San Diego Symphony. **Rev. Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie**, former United States Senate Chaplain, will be special guest speaker.

Schedule of Stated Presbytery Meetings

Tuesday September 20 at 5 pm
First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside
Tuesday November 15 at 5 pm
First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

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