

PresbyNews OnLine

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Come Spend a Saturday Morning with Clark, Linda and Friends

At least once a year, the Presbytery of San Diego breaks its pattern of holding stated meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, and switches to the third Saturday. This is it – the June 19 meeting will begin at 9 am at Faith Presbyterian Church. Coffee and pastries will be available prior to the start of the meeting. No lunch is planned.

Among items on the docket will be the commissioning of the Presbytery's commissioners to 218th General Assembly, which will be July 3 to 10 in Minneapolis, Minn. **Elder Eloise Houseman** has stepped down from being a commission at GA; **Elder Pat Kellenbarger** who was alternate, will attend.

Rev. Ian Farrell, pastor of Linda Vista Presbyterian Church, will preach during the meeting worship service. The offering will go towards support of Trinity Life Fellowship.

Fallbrook Church Property Settlement Topic of Pre-Presbytery Meeting

The Fallbrook Administrative Commission will present the terms of the property settlement between the Presbytery and the congregation of the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church at a Pre-Presbytery session beginning at 8 am on June 19.

Around the Presbytery



Rancho Santa Fe Village Church Dedicated New Sanctuary May 23

On Sunday, May 23, 2010, the Village Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe held their Dedication Sunday for their new sanctuary building and campus plan. Their sanctuary is absolutely beautiful. Both the contemporary and traditional music was wonderful, including a new song especially written for the occasion. They had a great drama for the

children's message, a message by the **Rev. Dr. Jack Baca**, and visits by pastor emeritus **Charles Dierenfield** and former interim pastor **Donn Moomaw**. It was a wonderful morning of celebration and giving thanks to God. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. – **Clark Cowden**

Around the PCUSA

Highlights from General Assembly Mission Council Meeting

By Clark Cowden, Executive Presbyter and member GAMC

Here are some HIGHLIGHTS from our May meeting of the General Assembly Mission Council:

1. We approved the recommendations to reduce the annual budget from \$93.8 million this year to \$82 million in 2011 and \$80 million in 2012. The annual budget has been reduced by \$25 million since 2007. Presbyterians are still some of the wealthiest Christians in the world, and continue to give generously to the mission of the church, but they are giving fewer of those dollars through the traditional denominational avenues.

2. We approved the recommended Reductions in Force for the staff in Louisville. 73 positions were eliminated (12 of which have been vacant), and 24 new positions were created, for a net reduction of 49 positions. 13 of the staff people who are leaving are those who accepted a voluntary early retirement package. Most of the reductions were in the areas of publishing, support services, and communications and funds development. There are no reductions in the numbers of our mission workers around the world. The staff will now be reduced from 390 people to 341.

This was not an easy decision, but given our financial realities, we cannot support as many staff as we used to.

3. We voted on adding comments to about ten overtures going to the General Assembly in July. I was glad that we did not approve making a comment on an overture from Central Washington about Young Adult Advisory Delegates, as I believe it is inappropriate for the Council to comment on this, and the proposed language was clearly written in support of the YAADS without a good understanding of the difficulties involved.

I was disappointed that the Council approved two comments on overtures related to Palestine and Israel. I do not believe this is an issue the GAMC should be commenting on, I felt the comments were clearly one-sided, and outside of our expertise.

4. We said good-bye to about 1/3 of our council members who were attending their last meeting, and we installed Mike Kruse of Kansas City as the new chair for the next two years, and Carolyn McClarnan of Mississippi as the new vice-chair. I believe they will both do a good job.

5. We enthusiastically elected the Rev. Roger Dermody, executive pastor of the Bel Air Presbyterian Church in LA, as the new Deputy Executive Director for

Mission, the position Tom Taylor formerly held. Roger is an impressive guy, and I believe he has the skills to do a great job in this new position.

While many will focus on the sad news of the staff that were laid off, the good news is that we voted to create 23 new positions at the same time. This means that we are moving in some new directions, thinking creatively and generatively, and responding to emerging needs across the denomination where we see the Holy Spirit moving. We are thinking more strategically, and doing a better job of prioritizing where we need to invest our time and energy. We have many hard-working, skilled, dedicated Christians serving on our GAMC staff in Louisville. If you could meet them personally, you would be glad to have such people serving on our behalf.

GAMC Approves Re-Organization of PC(USA)'s Mission Enterprise; Plan is combination of strategic planning and cost-cutting measures

by Jerry L. Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) last month approved reorganization of the mission program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that its executive director, **Linda Valentine**, said "reflects healthy change that is adaptive to trends in the church and the world, and that is consistent with projected resources."

As part of the reorganization — which has been in development for 10 months — the GAMC approved General Assembly Mission Budgets that reduce spending by 12.2 percent in 2011 and an additional 2 percent in 2012. The cuts resulted in the net reduction of the staff at the Presbyterian Center here by 49 positions. Affected employees were notified Friday afternoon (May 14). Fifteen incumbents were offered new positions in the revamped organization.

In all 73.5 positions were eliminated. Twelve were vacant and 12 employees accepted voluntary separation offers in recent weeks. The staff reduction amounts to 13 percent, from roughly 390 employees to 340. Staff cuts occurred across the GAMC — 24.5 in Mission, 11.5 in Shared Services, 8 in Communications and Funds Development and five in the Executive Director's office.

The proposed 2011 mission budget totals \$82,097,234 — down 12.2 percent from the revised 2010 budget of \$93,841,273. The 2012 budget totals \$80,550,613, a further reduction of 2 percent. Both budgets will be forwarded to the upcoming 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis, July 3-10 for adoption.

"Role is changing"

"The role of the mission agency is changing from doing mission on the church's behalf to inspiring, equipping, and connecting the church for mission and

ministry," Valentine told the council as she outlined the reorganization plan. "Even as we make this shift, we know that God continues to provide all that is necessary for the church's mission."

She noted that "congregations and groups are engaging more directly in mission of all sorts" and "we as a church are re-committing ourselves to expanding partnership in God's mission and in the process expanding our witness to Christ in this country and around the world in ever more profound and impactful ways."

For the full story, go to
<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10415.htm>

New Deputy Executive for Mission Roger Dermody Wants PC(USA) to be a 'Turn-Around Denomination'

by Bethany Furkin, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The General Assembly Mission Council unanimously voted today to confirm the Rev. Roger Dermody as the deputy executive director for mission of the GAMC, one of the six agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

"He will be a great addition to our staff here," said Linda Valentine, executive director of the GAMC.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Valentine announced Dermody's selection in April. He succeeds the Rev. Tom Taylor, who left the position in December to be the president and CEO of the Presbyterian Foundation.

In his new position, Dermody will oversee the GAMC's mission activities. He'll also oversee the office of Research Services, which will be a new responsibility for that position, Valentine said.

Dermody has been a pastor for 13 years, the past nine of which he has spent as executive pastor of [Bel Air Presbyterian Church](#) in Los Angeles. That church has a staff of 67 and an annual budget of \$9.8 million.

Dermody said he comes to the position with a "deep sense of call and a profound sense of humility."

The PC(USA) faces many challenges, including budget cuts and layoffs that were announced at last month's GAMC meeting. Dermody acknowledged this, and said he is excited to build on the work that many have done in order to move the denomination forward. He wants the PC(USA) to be known as a "turn-around" denomination, he said.

"I like to envision the PC(USA) not merely as reversing the steady stream of membership loss, but one day truly becoming a turn-around denomination — one that other denominations point to and learn from because somehow, by God's grace, we figured it out," he said.

For the full story, go to

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10406.htm>

Philadelphia pastor fifth to stand for moderator

by John Sniffen, Special to Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — A Philadelphia pastor, the **Rev. James A. Belle**, is the fifth candidate for moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Belle, pastor since November 2005 of Holy Trinity-Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, notified the Office of the General Assembly last week of his intent to seek the post. A vote to endorse his candidacy is scheduled when the [Presbytery of Philadelphia](#) meets May 25.

Ordained in 1996 by Coastal Carolina Presbytery, Belle has held pastorates in North Carolina, Nebraska and Pennsylvania. He is a fourth-generation Presbyterian. His father, the late Rev. Milton Moses Belle Sr., was a Presbyterian pastor and civil rights activist in North Carolina.

Outgoing moderator the **Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow** selected Belle as vice moderator of the Middle Governing Body Issues committee for the 2010 General Assembly. He was also a minister commissioner to the 2002 GA and a theological student advisory delegate to the 1995 GA.

The ministry is Belle's second career. After graduating with a degree in music from the University of North Carolina, he served for 10 years in the U.S. Army band as a pianist, vocalist, auxiliary percussionist, arranger and resident composer.

Belle is divorced and the father of one teenage daughter.

Moderator field expands to six; Rev. Julia Leeth, former Youth Pastor at Lakeside, enters the race

By Edward Terry, The Layman, Posted Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Widening the field to six candidates, the **Rev. Julia Leeth**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lompoc, Calif., has announced that she will stand for moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Even though she had been considering it for months, Leeth said she made the

decision on Monday. The Presbytery of Santa Barbara has since announced a special meeting on June 1 to endorse her candidacy.

Leeth currently serves as chairwoman of Santa Barbara Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Prior to pastoring at Lompoc, Leeth was an associate at congregations in Lakeside, Calif., and Lakewood, Colo., according to PCUSA's online records.



For months, it appeared that GA commissioners would have only two choices for moderator, but since late April, four additional candidates have entered the contest.

The election of moderator is scheduled for the second business meeting of the assembly's opening day. The GA is scheduled for July 3-10 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Julia was a popular youth pastor at Lakeside Presbyterian Church early in her ministry, moving from Lakeside to the AP post in Colorado, according to John Alley, clerk of session. "She was well-liked," he said. "She has returned to perform weddings for two people who were members of the youth group she led."

Leeth joins **Elder Cynthia Bolbach** of National Capitol Presbytery, the **Rev. Jin S. Kim** of Twin Cities Area Presbytery, the **Rev. Maggie Lauterer** of Western North Carolina Presbytery, the **Rev. Eric Nielsen** of Northern Waters Presbytery and the **Rev. James Belle** of Philadelphia Presbytery, in the race for moderator.

The new moderator, to be elected July 3, the first day of the weeklong biennial meeting in Minneapolis, will succeed Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th GA (2008).

Presbyterian Women Assists Ministry to Children in Iraq

The Kindergarten and Childcare Center in Kirkuk, Iraq, will be one of the recipients of **Presbyterian Women's 2010 Birthday Offering**. The Center, operated under Christian principles of love, peace, tolerance and nonviolence, is a welcome institution in its Middle Eastern context. In its fourth year of operation, it already has requests for enrollment that far exceed its current capacity of 150 students and hopes to expand and add a primary school on a nearby property.



The Birthday Offering grant will help fund the purchase of its present kindergarten building and a neighboring building to house the primary school. The offering is a Presbyterian Women offering collected in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women.

Presbyterian Publishing Corp Launches New Retail Site Through TheThoughtfulChristian.com

Contact: Emily Kiefer (502) 569-5811

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Westminster John Knox Press, Geneva Press, and selected religious and inspirational books from other publishers are now available for purchase on [The Thoughtful Christian](http://TheThoughtfulChristian.com). The expanded site launched today.

Subscribers to the [The Thoughtful Christian](http://TheThoughtfulChristian.com) receive a generous 35% discount on thousands of titles. Non-subscribers who visit the site will receive a 20% discount. To celebrate the launch, from now through October 31, 2010 shipping is free for online orders of \$50 or more.

All WJK and Geneva books and resources can be ordered at these discounts by visiting [The Thoughtful Christian](http://TheThoughtfulChristian.com) or by calling (800) 554-4694.

To encourage subscriptions to [The Thoughtful Christian.com](http://TheThoughtfulChristian.com) and to ensure the best prices on books, annual subscription rates have been reduced to \$150 through August 31st, 2010. As an added bonus, the newest Thoughtful Christian study, *Lost: Live Together or Die Alone*, is free!

Marc Lewis, PPC President and Publisher, stated, "PPC's goal is to provide the broadest and most convenient availability possible. We want to make it as easy as possible for churches, clergy, academics, educators, and general readers to find and use our resources."

For the full story, go to

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/pressreleases/ppc10010.htm>

Western Office of Church Development Opens in San Clemente

The General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) is pleased to announce the creation of the Western Office of Church Development, to be staffed by the **Rev. Dr. Craig Williams**. This new, two year associate position which began April 1, is partially funded by almost 40 western presbyteries in support of our denomination's effort to Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide.

Craig will be assisting local churches and presbyteries in developing new ministries, new churches, and developing existing congregations. Craig's office

will be at the San Clemente Presbyterian Church, and he will work with people all across the western U.S.

Craig has served as the Director of Church Planting for the Presbytery of Cascades in Portland, Oregon, and was a church planter in Orange County for almost 20 years. Craig will continue to raise funds for his salary to make this ministry work. Craig received his M.Div. from Fuller Seminary, and his D.Min. from Columbia Seminary. Please remember Craig and this new ministry in your prayers. – **Clark Cowden**

People

New Pastoral Leader at Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana

On Sunday, May 09, 2010, we were excited to announce to the people of Iglesia that their new pastoral leader will be **Pedro J'ernantes**. Pedro has been involved at Iglesia for a long time, and has been one of the provisional elders. He has grown in his leadership and is ready to take this new step of faith. He will work there part-time, and continue to work part-time in his medical career. We are very excited about this new chapter! Please keep them in your prayers. – **Clark Cowden**



Upcoming Events

La Jolla Presbyterian Church Concert Series Will Present Mozart's Requiem on June 6

Mozart's *Requiem* will be performed by La Jolla Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and Soloists with Orchestra under the direction by **Dr. Keith Pedersen** at 7 pm on Sunday, June 6.

This masterpiece has achieved a status as one of the most important musical compositions in the history of western culture in spite of the fact that it was unfinished at the moment of Mozart's untimely death. No tickets are required for this concert. A free-will offering will be taken. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Child care is available for those under age six.

Schedule of Presbytery Meetings
Faith – Saturday – June 19, 2010
San Diego First – September 21, 2010
Rancho Bernardo – November 16, 2010

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