

Presbytery Times

August 2011

NOTES FROM THE CLERK



It is good to have a time to get away from both the joys and the stresses of ministry, and I hope that is what the summer will be for you. Looking forward to when things pick up again in the Fall, I encourage you to

prepare yourselves for two events in September:

Presbytery will meet on September 27, 2011, at First, Ft. Lauderdale. Part of the business we will conduct will be the adoption of a new Gracious Separation policy that was referred back to the Discernment Administrative Commission at the last Presbytery meeting to be returned to the Presbytery for a vote in September. You will receive the policy in the Presbytery packet. Please read it carefully, along

with all the other material in the packet, so you will be ready for the meeting, discussion, and vote.

Immediately following the Presbytery meeting on the 27th, there will be a make-up event for those Sessions which have not had their records for 2010 reviewed as of yet (23 Sessions). This will be the final opportunity to have those records reviewed. If the clerk is unable to attend that session, the records can be sent with your pastor and/or Presbytery commissioner(s) along with the completed record review form (available from the Presbytery office) including page numbers of examples for each item listed on the form. The person who brings the records will need to stay through the review to help with the process - they cannot just drop your records and leave. We would love to have 100% completion on the record review for this year, so please help us by getting your records reviewed at this final time.

Rev. Michel Yonts

The New Book of Order is now available on the Tropical Florida [Website](#).

REGION 1 UPDATE

Region 1 Pastors gathered for lunch on Thursday, July 21, hosted by Chip Falcone at Community Presbyterian Church in Hobe Sound. We had a chance to introduce ourselves to Dan Carlson (and he to us), the newly hired Director of Ministry and future Co-Pastor (if the way be clear) at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Our conversations focused mainly on sharing in mission opportunities together: youth ministry, weekly feeding ministries, helping keep local food pantries stay stocked with summer necessities, the Saint Lucie Habitat for Humanity Apostle's Build; the Grace Way Village Family Transitional Living Project at the former site of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Pierce and a PDA coordinated mission trip to the tornado zone in Tuscaloosa, AL this fall, being coordinated by Jeff Binder at Tequesta Presbyterian

Church. We ended our time together in prayer. Please, if you need any information on our future Region 1 gatherings or mission opportunities, I would love to talk with you and get you connected! I can be reached at 772-464-4263 x105 or wengerb@tfpby.org. Enjoy the rest of your summer! God's Blessings.

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger

Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351

REGION 2 UPDATE

Pastors and Lay Leaders Gathering: Pastors and elders are invited to the next gathering, which is scheduled for September 7, 2011 in Ft. Lauderdale. Attendees will have an opportunity discuss the implications of the new Form of Government and to review a sample of a Manual of Administrative Operations, which each session is now required to adopt to guide the work of its particular church.

New Pastors: The Reverend Dr. Lawrence "Mack" Sigmon and Mr. Noé (pronounced No-ā) Juarez were examined by the Committee on Ministry and given permission to labor within the bounds of this presbytery pending their examination and enrollment as members. Mack Sigmon will serve as Interim pastor/head of staff at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach and Noé will serve as the designated pastor at Sunset Presbyterian Church of Ft. Lauderdale.

Mission Trip: Pastor David Kwon led a group from the Wounded Healer Fellowship in Ft. Lauderdale to Nicaragua.

The highlight of the mission trip was the final night of the revival service on July 24.

Compensation Reports: Pastors and clerks of session are being reminded to submit to the presbytery the annual compensation report for each ordained minister serving the congregation. This review is important to ensuring that compensation is congruent with the terms of call for each pastor. Reporting forms were sent to each church and should be returned to the presbytery office c/o Shari Lowe, Executive Assistant.

Church Visits: The Associate Missional Presbyterian worshiped with Plantation Presbyterian Church and the Wounded Healer Fellowship in Ft. Lauderdale in July.

Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, Ph.D.

Associate Missional Presbyterian
Region 2 (southern Palm Beach & Broward Counties)

REGION 3 UPDATE

Engage, encounter, exchange, interact, involvement, participate or attract; this is what I find in the dictionary when I looked up "engage." It is the intentional effort to become involved in someone else life, the purposeful interaction with something or someone. This coming August 8 thru 11, I will be attending the ENGAGE Evangelism conference, in St Petersburg with 6 others from our region to learn, and receive inspiration on how to Engage Jesus in our lives; by igniting a greater passion for him and his word, by living the Story as disciples, and by engaging our friends and communities with the good news Jesus brings to our lives and communities. The origins of the word engage, gives us the notion of "pledging oneself to do something." In our context we can engage others by listening, getting involved, interacting and above all letting them know.

Paul, in sharing with Titus states the level of his engagement "I have been sent to proclaim the faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives" (Titus 1:1b New Living Translation)

May I encourage you to engage your session with a fresh approach to the year's program by just asking one new question: How can our program engage us, and the unchurched community together? This is missional ministry; engaging our community and not solely ourselves.

EVENTS:

- Region 3 pastors gathering/lunch: 17th of August at 12:30 at New life Presbyterian.
- Engage evangelism conference: August 8-11 St Petersburg
- Reception with GA vice moderator Landon Whitsitt, PW Moderator and other dignitaries (by invitation only) August 20th. Contact me if you wish to receive an invite.
- Installation: rev. Jose Manuel Capella Pratt's at First Hispanic Presbyterian church, Miami. August 21 at 4pm.

In God's Grip
Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
AMP Miami-Dade and the Keys



SHARI'S SHOUT OUT

The **2011-2013 Books of Order** have been received. If you pre-ordered, please submit payment and make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible. Extra copies were ordered if you need a few (\$9. ea.). We also have additional copies of the 2011-2012 Presbyterian Planning Calendar (\$7).

APCE 2012 ANNUAL EVENT

(Assn. of Presbyterian Church Educators)
February 1-4
Amway Grand Rapids Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI
apcenet.org after Sept. 1st

Rev. Dr. James Colvert, Sr. (1935-2011)

The Reverend Dr. James W. Colvert, Sr., passed away peacefully on July 22, 2011. A Memorial Service was held on July 26th at First Presbyterian Church, Pompano Beach. Dr. Colvert served churches in Alabama, Indiana and Florida. He served in varying capacities at Westkirk, Sunset, Plantation, Miami Shores, First Pompano and First Ft. Lauderdale. Dr. Colvert taught Philosophy and Religion at Broward College for over 30 years. He was active in financial development for the South Florida Council Boy Scouts of America, Nova Southeastern University and Florida State Music Teachers Foundation. An eagle scout and recipient of the Siler Beaver award, he was involved in the South Florida Council Boy Scouts for many years. Dr. Colvert was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve and had the honor of serving as Chaplain to Presidents Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon while they participated in the Inverrary Golf Classic.

Dr. Colvert is survived by his wife, Sue Bentley Colvert, and children, grandchildren and great-grandson.

Rev. Raul Martinez (1927-2011)

The Reverend Raul Martinez died on May 24th. On Sunday July 3rd at noon Pan Americana celebrated his life which was attended by his family and friends. Raul Jr. gave a beautiful Eulogy for his father and Ana Cecilia (both from New Jersey) who shared very warm and funny memories of him. Good friends from way back: Rev. Antonio Welty from Colombia shared fond memories from Seminary and their strong friendship; Rev. Añorga participated in Pan Americana's re-birth back in mid-seventies, with Rev. Raul's presence at that point who together with his wife, ignited the growth of the Church at that time, up from its ashes, because the original Inter-Americana Church (former name) was dead. Very interesting story, in the presence of old church members from then, who are still with the church today. Also participating in the service was Rev. Julio Delgado. Attendees heard a taped sermon by Rev. Martinez related to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Martinez's ashes were taken by his son to New Jersey, where he had been a pastor for many years before moving down to Miami, to be buried. Mrs. Martinez has returned to Pan Americana to help with plans to re-ignite its spirit through Evangelism and youth activities with the children of the neighborhood and their Day Care.

INNOVATIVE MINISTRY AWARDS

Is your congregation doing innovative ministry? Each year Union Presbyterian Seminary awards congregations for innovative ministry. Since 1991, 94 churches in 28 states have received these awards. Each of the eight awards carries a \$1,000 prize to support the congregation in its ministry. For more information and to apply for one of the UPSem

Congregation Awards, you may download the brochure and application or request an application by sending an e-mail to April Swofford at aswofford@upsem.edu or call 1-800-229-2990, ext 231. The application and instructions are only available electronically. The deadline for the 2012 Awards is FEBRUARY 15, 2012.

PRAYERS

For the people of Somalia and the aid workers seeking to provide relief

For the families and people of Norway grieving from tragedy

For South Koreans dealing with landslides and floods

For the Haitian people and the volunteers working on rebuilding Haiti

For those seeking a new way in the Middle East

For the Christians around the world seeking to gather in worship

For the people rebuilding their lives from tornadoes and floods

For the farmers who are suffering loss from the extreme heat

For the teachers preparing for a new school year

For the emergency responders and the volunteers that come to the aid in disaster

For those gathering in Minneapolis this summer Aug 25-26

For the students taking their Ordination Exams Aug 26-Sept 1

For the churches, pastors, elders and staff of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida

BIRTHDAYS

02	Rev. Robert Vance - HR
03	Rev. Jose Rivera - HR
03	Rev. Linda Lader – Second, Ft. Lauderdale
04	Rev. Kennedy McGowan – First, Hollywood
05	Rev. Donna Wrzeszcz - HR
08	Dr. Arlene Gordon - HR
15	Rev. Shirley Saunders – First, West Palm Beach
25	Rev. Maria Luisa Hernandez - HR
26	Rev. Pierre DuBose - HR
27	Rev. Devin Brown - Faith Church NCD
28	Dr. Thomas Culberson - HR

ORDINATIONS

01	Dr. Kenneth Smith - MOS
01	Dr. Patrick Shaffer – First, Tequesta
07	Dr. John Vaughn - HR
13	Dr. Raymond Anglin – Ascension Peace, Lauderhill
18	Rev. Jose Rivera - HR
24	Rev. John Kirkham - HR
25	Dr. Richard E. Neumann - HR
25	Dr. Audley Reid - MOS
25	Rev. Richard W. Anderson – Palm City
25	Rev. John Stewart - MOS
28	Rev. Pamela H. Barras - MOS
29	Jack Noble – First, Pompano Beach

CLERGY NEWS



Sunset Presbyterian, Ft Lauderdale welcomed their new resident, Noe Juarez on July 24.

Noe is one of two residents that will be serving in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. The residency is for two years and is part of the GA program “For Such a Time as This” sponsored by Eli Lilly Foundation. This is the program’s second year and Tropical Florida was one of six Presbyteries awarded the grant.

A native of Peru, Noe graduated from Union Presbyterian Seminary 2010, and then completed a yearlong CPE residency at Duke University Hospital. His wife, Laurie, is from North Carolina. She graduated from Union with a Masters of Arts in Christian Education (09). They have two children Paul Santiago (4) and Ella Gloria (2).

Noe will be examined by the Presbytery September 27, If the way be clear his ordination (if the way be clear) will follow. The elders at Sunset worked diligently to bring a full time pastor to their church. Join the elders and congregation at Sunset as they welcome Noe and Laurie to their new home.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEERFIELD BEACH

ANNOUNCES AFFILIATION WITH MARIA'S HOUSE MONTESSORI PRE-SCHOOL

Reverend Dr. Dennis Andrews of Community Presbyterian Church, and Elizabeth Sinatra, owner and Director of Maria's House Montessori School, are pleased to announce that the School has become a Christian Montessori pre-school directly affiliated with Community Presbyterian Church.

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The National Conference of the Administrative Personnel Association will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 3rd through November 5th, 2011. Classes offered at the conference include GA Entities, Legal Matters, Personnel Issues, Stewardship Programs and Capital Fund Campaigns, Polity I, Safety in the Workplace, Office Administration II, Risk Management, Theology as well as other pertinent classes applicable to any person working in a church office, governing body or institution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Held in Las Vegas, the city that never sleeps, you can be assured that the attendees will be wide awake learning from clergy, certified Christian Educators and other professionals, who will teach them skills needed to be more effective in their job. The knowledge gained from those attending the conference will benefit the staff and members of their respective organization as they will return with new and upgraded skills and higher productivity.

Have you considered budgeting continuing education funds for your valuable staff? For a minimum investment (\$75 for the membership fees and approximately \$500 for conference attendance), you will gain a more enthusiastic, spiritually-nurtured staff member who will share their knowledge with those around them.

For more information about the upcoming conference, go to <http://pcusa-apa.org/national.htm>. Remember that the deadline for registering is September 30th. Contact Barbara Prieto, President of the Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association, 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net to find out how your staff can benefit from joining the APA.

Nancy Fine

Membership Chair Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.floridaapa.org.

2011 PEACEMAKING OFFERING

RECEIVED BY MOST CHURCHES ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011



The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Peacemaking Offering celebrated their thirtieth anniversary in 2010.

The Offering was organized following the adoption by the General Assembly of Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling, which called for an emphasis on peacemaking across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year as your church plans to receive this Offering, remember the peacemakers of years past — in your congregation, presbytery, synod and the denomination as a whole. Make this year a time to renew your commitment to peacemaking as part of your calling as a follower of Christ, who not only taught us the ways of peace but is our peace.

The theme for the 2011 Offering is "A Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace" (James 3:18). The art is Santa Cena, a serigraph by José Ignacio Fletes Cruz. Please see the resources, ideas about promoting the Offering, and suggestions for how to use your

congregation's share of the Offering. Order any resources that will help interpret the Offering by calling Presbyterian Distribution Service, (800)524-2612, or by using the order form found at

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/peacemaking-offering/>

JOIN THE PRESBYTERY'S MISSIONAL VISION

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Presbyters from the Synod of the South Atlantic. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the work in presbyteries from the perspective of being Missional. Joining the conversation was Princeton Professor of Missional and Ecumenical Theology, Darrell Guder. Dr Guder is the author of the *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. (Wm. B. Eerdmans/1998)

I returned with an even deeper commitment to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida's vision to be more Missional. Missional churches reach out to the community, with less concern about growing their numbers in the church, and more concern about serving those who could use their help. Being Missional is keeping with the Great Commission in Matthew; it is a better way to represent Jesus Christ to others.

Many churches have experienced difficulty attracting visitors and new members, the Missional church does not abandoned those efforts. It does shift the focus from bringing people "in" to going "out" to the people. The church is rewarded by a sense of fulfillment for doing something for others.

Congregations become more connected working together for the greater good of their neighbors. New Life Presbyterian in Miami, Community Lauderdale by the Sea, and Goodwill PC in Ft Pierce are examples of churches that are small, but actively reach outside of the church. These churches support many who do not attend their churches, who may not believe in God, or know who provided that hot meal, warm cap, education or helping hand.

After spending two days with the other Presbyteries I can see that Missional is a trajectory that we are all seeking to travel. It is a better way to think about being a church; it brings the church back into the community. I encourage you to listen to John Terech, Dana Allin, and your Associate Missional Presbyters as they bring you ideas and offer trainings on how your church can become more Missional. You *can* make a difference and your church *will* become more connected in the process.

Blessings, Amalie Ash

WORDS FROM YOUR EARTH



Have you ever walked outside your house and felt cool air coming from your window or door? Have you wondered if you have enough insulation in your ceiling? If you

lived in the north you would be more aware of air leaks, insulation and heating/cooling efficiencies because they make a big difference in the cost of utilities and the comfort of the home. Checking those things and making the adjustments to your house, business, or church is called weatherization.

Weatherization is a hot topic for communities seeking to reduce utility costs and help the environment. And weatherization is a service churches can provide their congregations and communities. Check your county for information about a weatherization program in your area.

This could help your church, members who are on low incomes, and the homebound save significant money and help me, your Earth. Just Google "weatherization and your community name" for more information.

Love, your Earth

Weatherization Assistance Program (from US Dept of Energy)

The [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) (WAP) enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Funds are used to improve the energy performance of dwellings of needy families using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provides funding to states, U.S. overseas territories, and Indian tribal governments, which manage the day-to-day details of the program. These governments, in turn, fund a network of local community action agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local governments that provide these weatherization services in every state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and among Native American tribes. The energy conservation resulting from these efforts of state and local agencies helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. During the past 33 years, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 6.4 million low-income households. Families receiving weatherization services see their annual energy bills **reduced by an average of about \$437**, depending on fuel prices. Because the energy improvements that make up weatherization services are long lived, the savings add up over time to substantial benefits for weatherization clients and their communities, and the nation as a whole.

HAITIAN MISSION UPDATE

MFI MISSION WORK TRIP REPORT

Pat Ashley

In early April I shared some information with the presbytery concerning the possibility of a mission work trip to Haiti through Missionary Flights International. Missionary Flights International (MFI), based in Ft. Pierce, FL is an organization to which several of our churches have contributed in order to participate in Haiti earthquake recovery. MFI is now offering individuals or small groups (up to 14 people) the opportunity to spend a week on a work trip in Haiti to construct housing for earthquake survivors. The cost for such a trip is \$500, which includes housing, food, and transportation from/to Ft. Pierce. It does not include the cost of a passport, getting to Ft. Pierce, shots, additional food or drink beyond what is provided, or souvenirs. Additional contributions are encouraged in order to provide building materials. Roger Sands, 561-252-6615 / rogerS@missionaryflights.org, is the contact person. Churches may be in touch with him to discuss dates and arrangements for possible church-group trips. He can also send a link with pictures from previous trips. Because he is familiar with the culture, he can help the group navigate the adventure of customs and immigration, and has contacts for any special needs that may arise. For individuals or groups, there are spaces open in several scheduled trips: September 15-22, September 22-29, and February 9-16. Roger can provide extensive information about exactly what a trip entails. You are also welcome to visit the organization's website: www.missionaryflights.org.

I went on the June 23-30 trip. Fourteen of us stayed at Baptist Haiti Mission in Fermathe, Haiti, located in the

mountains a couple hours' drive from Port-au-Prince. The lodgings consist of two rooms of bunk beds and a large meeting/dining room. Food was available for breakfasts and lunches, which we prepared ourselves. Dinner (delicious!) was provided each evening. Bathrooms were located in a separate building, and the bathing facilities consisted of a spigot, a bucket, and a cup. The workday ran from about 8:15 am until 5:00 or 5:30 pm (including an hour's travel each way to and from the worksite). We rode to the worksite over marginal roads standing in the back of a flatbed truck. Our primary work consisted of laying cement blocks and applying stucco to the inside and outside walls. We worked each day with several highly-skilled Haitian construction workers, who taught us what we needed to do. There were devotions and a team meeting most evenings. On Sunday we attended an adult Bible study and worship in the morning, as well as a gathering for hymn-singing and Bible study with the missionaries in the evening.

We witnessed great beauty and great poverty. We worked hard and became a mutually appreciative and respectful team. We built 2 2/3 houses for three families. I had not realized the extent of earthquake damage in the mountains outside Port-au-Prince, and I felt privileged to participate in providing housing in an area that has received little media or governmental attention.

I would be happy to talk with you more about my experience.

INDIAN RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH /HAITI PARTNERS

Indian River Presbyterian Church has contributed funds for the work of Haiti Partners to rebuild schools in Haiti. Haiti Partners contact info: www.haitipartners.org; Jonathan Chan, contact person; PO BOX 2865, Vero Beach, FL 32961; Physical Address: Haiti Partners, 601 21st Street, Suite 100, Vero Beach, FL 32960; 772-539-8521; info@haitipartners.org / jchan@haitipartners.org

Sixteen Haitian co-workers are listed on the website for Haiti Partners. The organization works with seven existing schools, all of which have been formed and operated by local Haitian communities. The project provides payroll funding for 100 employees in the schools, as well as several hundred construction workers in a variety of capacities. 1100 Haitian students receive an education. Microloans also restore

employment for more than 180 small business owners to re-establish their earthquake-damaged businesses.

The church is currently working with the organization to provide feedback on new educational materials based on co-founder Kent Annan's new book, *Aftershock: Searching for Honest Faith When Your World Is Shaking*. The church has also offered to host seminars for Haiti Partners on an as-needed basis.

If you or your church would like to support this work, please contact Bryan Wenger, associate pastor, 772-464-4263 x105, bryan@irpcfamilly.org.

UPDATE FROM LEBANON AND HAMLIN NURSING HOME



There are many good things happening at Hamlin Home these days and the support given by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida has not been forgotten or lost in the progress being made. New projects have begun and plans continue to reopen the hospital. The amount of funding required is staggering but the resolve of Ms. Sanaa Koreh and the Synod of Syria and Lebanon remains.

The projects that are currently underway include the construction of a building for physical therapy. Also, a second building will augment the physical therapy facility and provide space as a conference room for mission groups or for those pilgrims on retreat. There is also a restoration project underway to refurbish rooms for those who wish to stay at Hamlin during a mission trip or spiritual retreat. Hamlin's ministry now provides mission opportunities for Christians from around the world that wish to see many areas mentioned in Scripture and to worship and speak with Christians from Coptic, Orthodox, Maronite, and evangelical traditions.

Regarding the funds that were sent to assist in the purchase a new generator, the process continues. Purchasing capital

equipment is not quite as efficient as in the U.S. and includes familiar pitfalls such as unreliable contractors. Unfortunately, unreliability applied to the first company utilized by Hamlin. Regardless, to Hamlin's credit their Director Sanaa will not accept such business practice and has been working with another company from Beirut. After talking with their representative, examining their proposal and having a building engineer from Baptist Hospital verify that the price and equipment are acceptable, there is hope that the new generator can be in place in the near future. And you thought 'Island Time' was unpredictable!

So it goes. Hamlin Home continues to provide care for the less fortunate elderly of Lebanon, capital projects go on, and the Ministry of Jesus Christ is maintained in the Middle East. If any congregation or individual is considering a mission trip to the Middle East, I would urge them to consider making Hamlin their destination. Those who consider going to Lebanon can contact the PCUSA Liaison to Syria and Lebanon, Dr. Nuhad Tomeh or Dr. Timothy Stover at Calvary Pres. God's Peace

OREGON NCD USES HOSPITALITY, EARTH CARE, FOOD TO LIVE INTO THE GOSPEL

Common Table Public House in Bend, Ore., serves up source-conscious food to the community. —Photo by Matt Ebbing
Special to Presbyterian News Service
by Erin Dunigan - BEND, Ore.



The town of Bend, in central Oregon, is in what is often referred to as the least-churched county in the least-churched state. Even still, it is no stranger to church plants.

“Bend is like a graveyard for churches,” said one of its more recent pastors, the Rev. Zachary Hancock.

Hancock was called to be the organizing pastor for a proposed Presbyterian new church development in Bend.

“When I got to town all the young pastors looked at me as if ‘That’s just what we need here: another church planter,’” he said.

But Hancock wasn’t actually that interested in getting people to go to church.

“My big goal is not to get people to go to church, but to engage people in doing the living into the reality of God, which is the way of the gospels, the way of Christ,” Hancock said. “That doesn’t necessarily have to look like going to church and sitting in a pew and listening to a sermon.”

What it is about is ‘doing service’ in and for the world.

As with many churches, the steering committee of this NCD was interested in finding a way to reach out to young adults ages 18-35.

“I felt that we could really engage young people who don’t want anything to do with church if we could give them something to participate in and believe in that their heart knows as truth,” Hancock said.

This is different than simply trying to gather the young people and bring them into the church.

“What I was saying is that we need to pursue not an age group, but what we have been called to — what Christ has called us to. When we do that, people will follow, whatever their age is,” he said.

That call, in the case of Bend, has taken the form of the Common Table Public House. Its mission: “Feed all people, cherish the earth and pursue awareness.” Hospitality, welcome and action are at the heart of this ministry experiment that serves people daily, in the

form of food and drink, and monthly with a shared meal and faith gathering.

“We are trying to be a place, to use the cliché, that earns the right to be heard — more than that, that earns the right to have the privilege of people joining you and trusting you that you are a safe place where they can be authentic, tell their story and participate.”

There are no crosses up at Common Table; as a public house, it has a full bar.

Common Table is trying to live up to its name — a common table that draws no distinction between people, regardless of who they are. One of the menu items, called the ‘World Bowl’ is offered by donations on a sliding scale. They’ve also created wooden tokens, with \$10 carved onto them, which are distributed to those in need, who can then trade them in for a meal.

Hancock likens the space to the diversity often found in a subway station — a mix of the corporate executive with the briefcase standing alongside a schizophrenic talking to the wall. It is in this ‘great mix’ that Hancock sees the Kingdom of Heaven.

“A lot of our labor is through volunteers — and that is not just to save a buck,” said Hancock, who believes people practice a spiritual discipline when they volunteer. As a reminder, the dishwashing sink is surrounded by a painted mural of Brother Lawrence, the monk who is known for his ‘practice of the presence of God’ in all situations — including washing dishes.

Common Table sees food sourcing as another spiritual discipline.

“One of the other reasons that we opened a restaurant was because I felt like one of the ways we can make an impact on our planet is how we source our food — how far we bring it, how it is raised and how it is delivered,” Hancock said.

That’s a challenging goal in a world where we are accustomed to tomatoes year round. But Common Table is at least trying to point itself in that direction, with about 10 percent of its food being locally sourced, and a monthly ‘Meet Your Farmer’ dinner that tries to connect people more closely with the food they are eating. Hancock recounts a story of some particularly mealy tomatoes: “They weren’t good because they were transported from really far away so I asked, ‘Why are we serving these if they are not good?’” They were being served because they were on the menu. “Then why don’t we change the menu?” he asked.

“We need to live out of our passion — I think people respond to that,” Hancock said. “I think that we don’t have enough imagination and we don’t trust that people are drawn to vibrancy.”

Erin Dunigan is a freelance writer, photographer, and pastor who lives in a small coastal community in Baja California, Mexico when she is not following her wanderlust out into the world.

ECUMENICAL NEWS

Christians Reach Broad Consensus on Appropriate Missionary Conduct

“Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct”, a five-page document on the conduct of mission “according to gospel principles”, was released during a public presentation on Tuesday 28 June at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.

The recommendations regarding respectful behavior on the part of missionaries, evangelists and other witnesses when sharing the Christian faith were issued following a five-year series of consultations among the World Council of Churches

(WCC), the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (PCID) of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).

The three bodies include Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal and independent churches with a combined membership of some two billion people representing nearly 90 percent of the world’s Christians.

[Read more.](#)

Baptist, Presbyterian Congregations Brew a Thriving 'pub-lic' Ministry

A pub is not necessarily the first place you’d expect to find a Southern Baptist pastor and a Presbyterian minister leading a conversation about faith and spirituality. But every Thursday night in Bellaire, Mich., you’ll find the Revs. Corey Lecureux

and Andrew Pomerville convening just such a group at Short’s Brewing Company.

[Full story.](#)

WCC Afro-descendent Conference Calls for Churches to use Education Against Racism

A call to churches worldwide to educate people about racism was made by church leaders from across the Americas and the Caribbean at the end of a conference held last week in Managua, Nicaragua.

The conference, which was organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Latin America Council of Churches (CLAI), focused on the violence of racism against people of African descent in the region.

It was the first ever conference to bring together church leaders of Afro-descendent communities in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Across the region, churches run educational institutions including universities, colleges, schools and Sunday schools, and they are encouraged by the conference declaration to review their curricula to make sure they include education on the racism and racist discrimination that is so common in Latin America.

[Read more.](#)

Religious Leaders Meet with President and ask Him to form ‘Circle of Protection’ around Programs for those in Need
<http://www.nccusa.org/news/110720obamameeting.html>

Prominent Christians, Jews, Muslims unite to protect funding for poverty assistance
<http://www.nccusa.org/news/110714budgetcoalition.html>

NCC Interfaith Relations Commission seeks nominees for 'Interfaith Engaged Congregations'
<http://www.nccusa.org/news/110623interfaithengagement.html>

Together in Christ



More than 1700 Presbyterians gathered in Indianapolis for the Big Tent conferences. Below are just some of the stories shared:

- Everyone has a stewardship story. [Read what](#) that means for communicators.
- Improving communication in the public square. [Read about a new initiative](#).
- Seeking ways to welcome all people. [Read more](#) from the multicultural conference.

[Find additional reports, videos and resources for from Big Tent](#) →



Spotlight on YOUth

Presbyterians Today carries a monthly feature on what youth care about and who Jesus is to them. Help us by encouraging young Presbyterians to share their stories. [Click here for the online form](#) →

High-tech, high touch—finding the balance

Churches are embracing technology to better connect with parishioners while balancing the need for one-on-one communication. [Read more](#) →

Doing mission in a digital age

Podcasts, webinars, social media, and texting are just some of the new ways the gospel is reaching more people. [Learn more](#) →



Invitation to the Word

"He touched her hand, and the fever left her."

—Matthew 8:15

In light of Jesus' actions consider how technology provides us unprecedented contact with others, remembering that effective ministry touches people.

[Read more](#) →



Reporting from Haiti

Haitians are sharing their personal stories with the world through a high tech mission project facilitated by GAMC. [See Haiti in a way you never have before](#).

The Haiti Response Team is on [Facebook](#)



Be a witness for Jesus Christ

[Download worship materials](#) for Evangelism Sunday on September 25. Learn how others can experience what we know about God through who we are, what we do, and how we live.



Electronic planning calendar

Whether a pastor or layperson, [click here](#) to get your own Presbyterian planning calendar, available electronically for the first time.

Presbytery Calendar



AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 10:00 AMPS & PtoP	16 1:30 MOSJP	17 9:30 FRC	18 12:00 Reg 3 Pastors Lunch	19	20
21 Rev Capella-Pratts' Installation	22 4:00 Discernment AC	23 Missional Conference	24 10:00 CON/COR	25 Newsletter Deadline Council Packets Mailed	26 Ordination Exams	27
28	29	30 7:00pm Reg 3 COM	31 10:00 CPM			

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 Council	2	3
4	5 Labor Day – Office Closed	6 2:00 COM Reg 1	7	8 12:00 COM Reg 2 1:00 COM	9	10
11	12	13	14 10:00 CPM	15 10:00 Multicultural 12:00 Reg 1 Pastors Presbytery Packets	16	17
18	19	20 1:30 MOSJP	21 9:30 FRC	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24
25	26	27 Presbytery Meeting First, Fort Lauderdale	28	29 10:00 –2:00 Covenant Group	30	

Access the annual calendar online: <http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html>