



The Presbyterian of The Presbytery of Elizabeth



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PC(USA) Events

[Calling all Presbyterians to make just immigration a reality!](#)

Sunday, April 3rd, 11:15 am

Wyoming Presbyterian Church
432 Wyoming Ave., Millburn NJ
973-376-3066

Come and learn about immigration reform with theological and ethical principles with *Julia Thorne* Associate for Immigration Issues and Immigration Counsel, Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA)

[Ecumenical Advocacy Days -](#)

March 25-28, 2011

A conference for men and women of faith who want to be a force for change for the betterment of all!

Presbyterian Camps and Conference Centers Events

[Family Camp Winter Weekend at Johnsonburg](#)
February 18-20, 2011

[Cultivating Quiet Retreats at Stony Point](#)
February 20-22, 2011

Presbyterian Seminaries Events

[Princeton Theological Seminary](#)
February 28 - March 4, 2011
[Institute for Pastoral Leadership](#)

A message from Rev. Nadia Ayoub

My dear friends and all the churches family
Peace to you. I thank God from all of my heart for he has not forgot me but he continues to show his mercy all time. Thank you all for being willing to let God show his love through you.

After finishing my time in Tajikistan in 2009, and being able to pass my ordination exams and be ordained in 2010; I was reappointed to serve the Lord in Carpathian -Ukraine, to serve children among the Roma people. Although adults can speak Russian language and some Ukrainian, in this Ukraine's region the main language is Hungarian and children speak only Hungarian. For that I stopped in Hungary to have some starter in the Hungarian language. Toward the end of January Lord willing I will start moving to Carpathian-Ukraine. My work will be working a alongside with the Reformed Church's preschool programs in few cities and Roma settlements (camps are separate places for Roma people). In my short visit for two days in early November 2010, the workers there expressed interest in teaching the children Russian and English language beside Hungarian and I am so grateful for they gave me a point to start with, but this is not all what they need. One thing in my heart I pray that will happen to integrate Roma preschooler with none-Roma children, so time will come when the Roma and none will be worshipping and in school together. Carpathian area is like a village, no clean water, no paved roads and no public transportation except those minibus that they run when they like. I thank you so much for your desire to continue supporting and encouraging me, you are God's answer for unspoken prayer. Thank you so much and I pray the Lord's blessings to you through this New Year. Yours in Christ, Nadia
(To support Rev. Ayoub and her mission work, you can make your donation to "Early Childhood Education Trainer, Ukraine" E200473)

News from Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras-NCD and United Presbyterian Church: Our Parish Ministry!

We are pleased to announce that the Mission Development Resources Committee of PC (USA) has approved the continuation of the Mission Program Grant funding for 2011 for Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras, which we recognized as a New Church Development on June 22, 2010.

One of their main goals is to be able to charter as a church. In order to do so, they have incorporated a Bible Study component within the Worship Service structure. As a result their Sunday Bible Study has between 60 - 70 weekly participants. Members are being given teacher orientation on a bi-monthly basis while Seminarians assume the teaching role during those periods. A Presbyterian Beliefs initiative is being developed where information on the basic tenets of our Reformed Tradition is being explored. Rev. Aloyo also provides orientation to the Session in regards to the roles and responsibilities of the Session, elders, and deacons. In addition, Nuevas Fronteras has unanimously agreed to be part of a collaborative parish ministry venture with our sisters and brothers of the United Presbyterian Church. The major advantages in this partnership are the equal sharing of resources for selected joint outreach projects and the development of a pastoral team approach. Among some of the projects that they are already carrying together are: Two-week Vacation Bible School serving over 58 children ages 4-12, Monthly Soup Kitchen serving 20-25 individuals on the 3rd Sunday of the month, sent participants to Youth Triennium, and combined worship services. Let's pray for this "Dynamic Partnership For An Amazing Journey in Plainfield, NJ and Beyond!"

Proposed Amendments Voting Results (Part 3 of 3)

The 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved and recommended to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes proposed changes in the language of the Book of Order that, if approved, will amend the Constitution. During our 644th Presbytery Meeting a total of 110 members of our presbytery, Ministers and Elder commissioners, voted and here are the results:

LIST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN PART 3 OF 3

Proposed Amendment	Pro	Con	Abst
10-A. Gifts and Requirements—On Amending G-6.0106b	63	46	1
10-B. Removing Stated Clerk or Clerk of Session—On Amending G-9.0203b	101	6	2
10-C. Requiring Sexual Misconduct Policy—On Amending G-9.0404	104	4	1
10-D. Nominating Committees—On Amending G-9.0801a	18	89	1
10-E. Presbytery Rolls and Registers—On Amending G-11.0407	14	95	0
10-F. Certified Christian Educators—On Amending G-11.0407 and G-14.0730	15	91	3
10-G. Synod Function—On Amending G-12.0100	105	3	0
10-H. Nominations Process—On Amending G-13.0108, G-13.0111a, and G-13.0202b	18	90	1
10-I. Prayer Added to Ordination and Installation Services—On Amending W-4.4003h, W-4.4004a(2) and W-4.4006b(2)	103	5	1
10-J. Stay of Enforcement—On Amending D-6.0103	100	5	3
10-K. Preliminary Questions—On Amending D-6.0306, D-8.0302, & D-13.0302	102	6	1
10-L. Reviewing Work of Investigating Committee—On Amending D-10.0202	103	6	0
10-M. Time Limit—On Amending D-10.0401	20	89	0
10-N. Appeal of "Not Guilty" Verdict—On Amending D-13.0102 & D-13.0106	101	8	0
10-O. Decision of Permanent Judicial Commission—On Amending D-13.0404	100	7	2

All totals don't add up 110 as there were some one or two blank ballots.

March 10-12, 2011

[Turning the World Upside Down](#)

March 12, 2011

[Introduction to Faith and Public Life](#)

March 26, 2011

[The Times and Timelessness of the King James Version of the Bible](#)

The Alban Institute Newsletters

- [Tending the Vineyard](#)
- [September 11: A Challenge to Congregations](#)
- [Authority or Leadership](#)

Contact Us

525 E. Front St., Plainfield, NJ

Phone: 908-755-3776

Fax: 908-755-3216

office@elizabethpresbytery.org

www.elizabethpresbytery.org

[Rev. Greg Albert](#)

Ext. 3

Interim Executive Presbyter

[Rev. Paul F. Rack](#)

Ext. 2

Stated Clerk

[Dave Bomgaars](#)

Ext. 7

Treasurer

[Bruce Pereyra](#)

Ext. 5

Bookkeeper

[Sara Burke](#)

Ext. 6

Administrative Assistant

[Elizabeth Quintero](#)

Ext. 1

Administrative Assistant

Resource Center

Ext. 9

Helpful Resources for Further Study

Recommended by Presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee

Belhar

- On the nature of confessions in the Reformed tradition, and what proposed amendments to the Book of Confession mean: <http://oga.pcusa.org/publications/boc.pdf> (at link, click on "Confessional Nature of the Church Report" and "The Assessment of Proposed Amendments to the Book of Confessions" at the left-side index)
- Denominational Study Guide: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession/>
- From National Korean Presbyterian Council (pro): <http://bit.ly/ieGf0d>
- From Renewal groups (con): <http://www.reclaimbiblicalteaching.org/belhar.cfm>

New Form of Government

- Thoughts from two members of nFOG Task Force, published by thepresbyterianleader.com of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, available for purchase at (pro): <http://bit.ly/i4o36u>
- From Renewal groups (con): <http://www.reclaimbiblicalteaching.org/nfog.cfm>

Relationships & Care -- Yes, Relationships & Care

A good restaurant offers two primary products: pleasant ambiance and tasty food. A good clothing store offers reliable clothing. A good hardware store offers dependable merchandise and, if requested, expert advice. You need to know what you are selling. Any enterprise does more than the basics, from stroking the ego to promoting certain brands, as well as providing employment and purchasing supplies. But if the basics aren't done well, the enterprise will fail.

In these challenging days for congregations, a critical step forward is to remember why it is in business. What benefits do customers expect? If the secondary went away, what would be the core, the basics?

As I see it, congregations offer two primary benefits: faith-based community and faith-based pastoral care. They also provide worship and sacraments. Many congregations offer little else. They open for worship on Sunday and provide additional sacraments as requested. They pour their resources into keeping the worship space clean, heated and open. Their clergy see themselves as worship leaders, above all else. This has proven to be a losing strategy. It is, I believe, what underlies over four decades of relentless decline in mainline and Roman Catholic congregations. Not that worship doesn't matter, but worship isn't the primary benefit that people seek.

When I have asked people what they seek in church, they invariably say relationships and care. They want to be embraced, loved, known by name, and cared for during times of distress. They also will value what the community encourages them to value – worship, mission, education – but they do so in order to attain relationships and care. I learned this the hard way in my early years of parish ministry. I had been led to believe my primary work was to preach, teach and lead worship. In many ways, not always direct but still unmistakable, my parishioners said, We want you to love us. We will listen to you preach, but only if we know you love us. We will follow you in mission, but only if you love us. We will work alongside each other, but only if we believe this is a loving environment. It's First Corinthians 13 all over again.

Clergy and key lay leaders need to prioritize and leverage. Instead of spending hours in worship planning, they should lead small relational groups. Instead of attending organizational meetings, they should make hospital calls and home visits. On Sunday, they should be working the welcoming area and coffee hour. Let someone else line up the procession.

The word goes around. "Pastor called on me." "I was in the hospital, and a church friend visited." "I have such wonderful friends at church." They're great people. You should meet them."

Clergy can't do this relational and care-giving work alone. The needs are too great. Instead of assigning willing laity to manage the budget and facilities, train them to make calls. Instead of filling worship slots, raise up a cadre of greeters and home visitors. Most of all, get your people into small groups, and assign your most able laity to lead those groups.

When the word goes around – "Look at those Christians and how they love each other" – your congregation will attain health, growth, liveliness, and a determination to serve. In the absence of relationships and care-giving, your church will die.

(The above article was written by the Rev. Tom Ehrich, founder of the Church Wellness Project.)

What's Happening around the Presbytery



We send a weekly list of events happening in our congregations.

For the complete list please visit our website:

www.elizabethpresbytery.org

**Let us know what is happening in your church....
we'll help spread the word.**