

**PC(USA) Synod of the Northeast Annual Meeting of Synod Assembly
October 16-17, 2009 - Stony Point Center, New York**

Commissioners attending from Elizabeth Presbytery: Rev. Dottie Morris,
Rev. Chang Woo Lee, Elder Judy Wussler Ex cused: Elder Charlotte Toke
Also attending: Elder Alan Ford, Treasurer of the Synod of the Northeast

During pre-assembly worship, Rev. Stuart Buisch was installed as Synod Moderator for 2009-2010. The monetary offering received was designated, at his request, for campus ministries.

The meeting convened at 1 p.m.

A report was heard from the New Jersey Council of Churches. The report included highlights of their work on anti-violence, death penalty legislation, the environment, and the economy. A policy workshop entitled “The State of the Child” will be held on January 30, 2010 at the Shiloh Church in Trenton.

The Moderator of the Synod’s Presbyterian Women, Sandy Grillo, encouraged PW in each of the Synod’s five PPGs (Presbytery Partnership Groups) to have a Gathering in 09-10, using the theme “gather by the river” (Rev. 22:1-3). Each PPG PW planning team could interpret the theme as it wishes. New Jersey’s plans to have its Gathering by the Raritan River.

Each year the Synod presents a “Giraffe Award” to someone who “sticks out their neck”. This Assembly’s award went to Alan Ford, Synod Treasurer, for “just being himself” in matters of the Synod’s financing.

The Vice-Moderator of General Assembly spoke of what the outlook of the Presbyterian Church, and any Christian church, needs to be in these times. “It’s not about opening doors and people will come—it’s about *going out*. People are finally beginning to understand—church is *hard*...There are unlimited possibilities for mission right where we are.”

Reports were given by each of the Presbytery Partnership Groups.

The Higher Education committee will be looking at the question of, “Why are there so few campus ministries, when there are so many college campuses?”

Because we are seeing fewer and fewer YADs (Youth Advisory Delegates) participating at Synod Assembly, a YAD review task force will be appointed to look into whether they need to do something completely different to involve young people at the Synod level.

From the minutes of the Presbyteries’ Stated Clerks meeting on May 5-6: Elizabeth Presbytery was commended for “Nice reports on ordinations/installations” and “Excellent COR report”.

These elders from the Elizabeth Presbytery were either voted into various offices or will be continuing in their present capacities with the Synod:

Alan Ford - Treasurer

Michael Young - Permanent Judicial Committee

Barbara McLaughlan - Council Committee on Budget and Finance

Helen Mosley - Committee on Representation

A Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) has been looking into the operations of the New York City Presbytery and investigating a number of dysfunctions there. Synod Assembly voted to appoint a new special committee of five that will attend the next meeting of the NYC Presbytery and, for the next two years, monitor the Presbytery's response to certain directions given them. The committee will report back to Synod Assembly in 2010 and 2011.

New Jersey PPG (includes the Eastern Korean Presbytery) Meeting
during Synod Assembly - October 16, 2009

PPG members were given a "homework assignment" between their September meeting in New Brunswick and today's meeting to think of three ideas of what they thought important tasks of PPGs should be. It was obvious that sharing areas of concern between Presbyteries, and between congregations, was something that needs to be focused on so the entities can work together.

- Recommend that grant appropriations should be given only for ventures by two or more Presbyteries, meaning, for joint ministries
- Studies need to be shared by churches whose communities have changed around them, either racially or economically, or both
- There has to be better communication by congregations as to what their churches are doing to reach out locally

Other topics of service that might be considered as joint church projects:

- Statewide strategies for New Church Developments
- Training of lay leaders
- Campus ministries
- Concerns specific to small churches
- Mission to older adults
- Youth ministries - Camp Johnsonburg, youth triennium; scholarships for both

Although the Presbytery of Elizabeth fortunately does have a Synod Commissioner sitting on its Presbytery Council, it was observed that perhaps only two or three other Presbyteries in the PPG have such representation.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wussler, Elizabeth Presbytery

with a little help from Dottie Morris

Elder and Clergy Commissioners to Synod, respectively