

# Lehigh Presbytery News

710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104  
610-391-9020 \* [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org) \* <http://lehighpresbytery.org>



March 9, 2017



**Remember to set your clocks  
forward 1 hour at  
2:00 a.m. on Sunday,  
March 12, 2017**

## *“Until Christ is formed among you”*

Paul’s hope for the church is that Christ would be formed among our congregations. (Galatians 4:19)

We are in the process of discerning how the Presbytery can best facilitate Christ being formed among our congregations.

**Join us for a day of worship and conversation** led by the **Expecting Hope Team**, and be a part of shaping our future together.

Please RSVP to the Presbytery office (610-391-9020 or [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)).

*“Expecting  
Hope” Lehigh  
Presbytery  
Retreat*

April 29, 2017  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Kirkwood Camp  
127 Kirkwood Road  
Stroudsburg, PA

**Save the Date!**

## MODERTOR'S GATHERING



You are invited to join our Presbytery Moderator Jack Felch and our Presbytery Stated Clerk, Marsha Heimann for our second Moderator's Gathering on **Sunday, March 26, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, PA.**

The primary purpose of our gathering will be for Jack and Marsha to listen to the Good News in the life of your congregation. They will bring back what they hear and share it with others in the leadership of Lehigh Presbytery. Of course, you may also have questions or concerns for which they will seek answers and provide timely feedback to you. On request, they would be pleased to schedule private meetings before or after the regional gathering to address sensitive topics, not suitable for public sharing.

There will be a small gift, a book, for each congregation represented at this gathering. It is Jack's hope that the book can be shared and circulated among those with a passion for being the church in this time and place.

Please RSVP by email to Robin, [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org), with the names of expected guests, no later than Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

---

## ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI DAY



The Rev. Dr. H. Richard McClain was honored with the **2016 Distinguished Alumni Award** on November 3, 2016 at the J.P. McCaskey High School celebration. Each year five individuals whose lives exemplify the excellence of the McCaskey High School Campus are honored by the McCaskey Alumni Association.

In November Rev. McClain was one of these honorees.

Rev. Dr. H. Richard McClain (class of 1956) has said that it was McCaskey High School that helped him develop an "I can" attitude. You need only glance at his list of accomplishments to see that Dick took this "I can" attitude into the world and gave it away to many others.

His life service began as a Marine and then as a public school teacher. He would soon receive an unexpected call to enroll at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Palmer Theological Seminary. He went on to serve congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. He was a frequent host of the WGAL Morning Devotions.

Rev. Dr. Richard McClain's ministry extended a long way beyond the pulpit. He has volunteered as a chaplain for the police departments of York City and West Hempfield Township, participated in child abuse awareness seminars, served as a director of Habitat for Humanity for ten years.

He has planned and participated in Katrina disaster relief mission trips and serves on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team. He is also the police chaplain for Upper Macungie Township.

*Congratulations Dick on this award! Blessings on your continued ministry.*

*(excerpts taken from the article in the Alumni Vidette – issue July-December 2016)*



Please join us as we welcome

**Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II**  
**Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**



**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**11:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

Followed by a light lunch and discussion in Fellowship Hall

**First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem PCUSA**  
**2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA**

Rev. Nelson is the highest elected officer in our denomination of 1.5 million members and about 9,600 congregations. The PC(USA), headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, is the largest Reformed denomination in the United States.

Rev. Nelson will lead worship in the Sanctuary from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. A light lunch and a question-and-answer discussion with the Stated Clerk will follow in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Plan to join us on this special day!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Biography**

**The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II**  
**Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II serves as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the largest Reformed denomination in the United States. He was elected at the 222nd General Assembly (2016) in Portland, Oregon.

The son, grandson, and nephew of Presbyterian pastors, Nelson is the first African American to lead the denomination, which has a 300-year history in the U.S. As Stated Clerk his duties include interpreting assembly actions, representing the church on various denominational and ecumenical councils, witnessing on behalf of the church to social justice issues, and making statements as directed by an assembly.

Prior to becoming Stated Clerk, Nelson served as director of the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. His service to the denomination also includes calls as pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, and organizing pastor of Liberation Community Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

As an extension to his ministry in the PC(USA), Nelson served as associate director of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis. As a consultant, he provided staff development training for teacher specialists, curriculum specialists, and principal leaders who provide assistance for low-performing schools.

Nelson holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; a Master of Divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/Urban Studies from Johnson C. Smith University.

He is a featured conference preacher and writer, and serves on various boards and professional organizations. His international travel includes trips to South Africa, Geneva, Switzerland, Montego Bay, Jamaica, and Havana, Cuba, on behalf of the PC(USA).

Nelson is married to the Reverend Gail Porter Nelson, and they have one adult daughter, Alycia Yvette Nelson.

## Lehigh Presbytery - Stated Meeting Hosts 2017



**Saturday, April 29, 2017**  
*(retreat)*

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. lunch will be served  
Kirkwood Camp  
127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA

**Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

4:00 p.m. dinner will be served  
Presbyterian Parish of Bangor-Roseto  
332 Kennedy Drive, Bangor, PA

**Saturday, September 30, 2017**  
*(retreat)*

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. lunch will be served  
Kirkwood Camp  
127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA

**Tuesday, November 28, 2017**

1:00 p.m. no meal served  
Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua  
210 Pine Street  
Catasauqua, PA



*Soup  
and  
Study*

*Featuring*

*"I Am" sayings of Jesus  
as found in the  
Gospel of John\**

*All are invited to come and join us !*

*When: March 8, 2017*

*(Continuing 6 weeks until April 12th)*

*Come for one or all!*

*Time: 12 pm - 1:30 pm*

*Where: Community Presbyterian Church*

*1755 S. Delaware Drive*

*Mt. Bethel, PA 18343*

*(570) 897-6766*

*[www.mtbethelpresbyterian.org](http://www.mtbethelpresbyterian.org)*

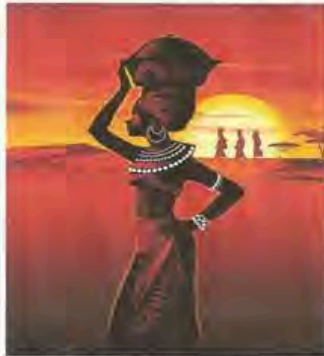
*\*I Am the Bread of Life, Living Water, Good Shepherd,  
Resurrection and the Life, True Vine, Light of the World*



# ***Kenyan Dinner***

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

First Presbyterian Church of Easton  
333 Spring Garden St., Easton, PA 18042



4:30 – 7:00 PM      Eat In or Take Out  
Adults \$20      Students \$10

***Enjoy a sampling of authentic Kenyan specialties:***

*Samosas (savory appetizers), Pili-Pili (hot sauce),  
Kachumbari (chopped salad), Chapatti (flatbread), Basmati rice,  
Cardamom Chicken (sautéed chicken breast), Mchuzi ya nyama (beef stew),  
Ugali (corn meal mush), Coconut Ndengu (green peas and coconut milk)  
Kabeji (sautéed cabbage), Sukuma Wiki (sautéed collard greens)  
Dessert: Mandazi (Kenyan donuts) and Ice Cream  
Kenyan Coffee (Kahawa#1) and Chai Masala (ginger tea with spices)*

## **Reservations and Tickets**

Contact: Shirley 610-258-4259 or ([shirlbimvannorman@verizon.net](mailto:shirlbimvannorman@verizon.net))

First Presbyterian Church of Easton, 333 Spring Garden St., Easton, PA 18042

Website: [www.eastonfpc.com](http://www.eastonfpc.com)      Phone: 610-253-3579      Email: [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org)



## **CRAFT SALE & FLEA MARKET**

Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua  
210 Pine Street, Catasauqua, PA  
Saturday, April 8, 2017  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Presbyterian Women of the Catasauqua Presbyterian Church will sponsor their Vendor, Craft & Flea Sale in the Church Chapel. Baked goods, Chinese Auction, Breakfast and Lunch will be available.



## **KIRKWOOD CAMP NEWS**

127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

570-421-8625

[www.kirkwoodcamp.org](http://www.kirkwoodcamp.org)

### **SUMMER CAMP**

At Kirkwood, Summer Camp is all about the kids. We offer a week-long, faithful and community building experience that sends our campers home full, happy, sleepy, and with new friends and deeper faith. On-line registration is now open at <https://kirkwoodcamp.org/summer-camp/>. There are several options to choose from:

- ⊕ **Traditional Camp** Rising Grades 3-12 - Join us for the week, and experience our vibrant camp community at its fullest. Fly down the zip-line. Make lasting friendships. Hike up to the ridge, with the opportunity to sleep out under the stars. Practice living the gospel, and have a blast while doing it!
  - **Sun-Sat, offered 4 times: 6/18-6/24, 6/25-7/1, 7/16-7/22, 7/23-7/29/2017**
- ⊕ **Night Owl** Rising Grades 6-12 - Have an incredible experience at camp—after dark! Night Owl campers will stay up into the early hours of the morning, only rising for a hearty breakfast at normal “lunch time.” Explore, create, sing, play, hang out, and worship in the middle of the night, while sleeping in our cool platform tents. Rising Middle and High School campers: This is going to be one camp week you don't want to miss.
  - **Sun-Sat, offered twice 7/16-7/22, 7/23-29/2017**
- ⊕ **Joy of Creation** Rising Grades 3-12 - A camper favorite, Joy of Creation week will happen at Kirkwood twice in 2017! Experienced volunteers join us for the week to explore the fine and performing arts, including vocal and instrumental music, art, drama, guitar, journalism, outdoor living, and dance. This is your outlet to be creative with new friends and cool camp counselors. Bring your instrument, your voice, your creativity, and your love of nature for JOC week.
  - **Sun-Sat, offered twice: 7/9-7/14, 7/30-8/5/2017**

### ***Are you or your group looking for a local mission project.....?***

1. There are youth in Lehigh Presbytery who may need financial help to attend camp this summer. Wouldn't you like to help them have a chance to experience God's beautiful creation? You help by providing a partial or full scholarship for a youth in your church or community.

If you ever had the chance to talk to someone who has attended summer camp at either Brainerd or Kirkwood they will tell what a great time they had and how that has impacted their lives in a positive way. It is an experience they remember for years!

Don't you want them to have the same experience?



2. ***Did you know that keeping an outdoor ministry going takes many hands?*** We are always looking for volunteers to take on projects like gardening, painting, cabin cleaning, and more at the camp. There are opportunities for all skill levels. You can contact them by calling 570-421-8625 or on line at <https://kirkwoodcamp.org/contact/>

# WANTED

We are looking for an awesome summer staff at Kirkwood Camp!

If you are, or know of any young adults who are looking for a summer job, the camp is looking for to fill counselor positions for the summer camping season.

We hope that will encourage any qualified young adults in your congregation to consider working at the camp this summer season. Applications are available online at <https://kirkwood.campbrainstaff.com/>.

If they should have questions or need more information they can contact Tommy Campbell the camp director at the phone number or email below.

For more information, please contact the Camp directly.  
Kirkwood Camp, 127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-421-8625, email [Kirkwood@kirkwoodcamp.org](mailto:Kirkwood@kirkwoodcamp.org), [www.kirkwoodcamp.org](http://www.kirkwoodcamp.org)

---

## Session Minute Reading



It is time for the Annual Reading of the Church Session Minutes. Clerks of Session are required to have their Minutes examined and Rolls/Registers reviewed during the month of May.

We have scheduled four opportunities for you to attend. Please feel free to attend the **one** that is most convenient for you. Thank you to those who so graciously offered to host.

1. **Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon** – Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 1129 Shawnee Church Road, Shawnee on the Delaware, PA.
2. **Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** – First Presbyterian Church, 3231 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA.
3. **Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon** – Freeland Presbyterian Church, 625 Front Street, Freeland, PA.
4. **Saturday, May 29, 2017 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** – United Presbyterian Church, 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA.

Please bring with you your current copy of the *Book of Order*.

Our method of review involves reading each other's Minutes while following a Session Minutes Examination Checklist (copy enclosed). For good stewardship of your time, **please fill these forms out in advance of our meeting and bring the copies to our meeting.**

As we asked last year, please bring the following documents **if you did not do so previously.**

1. Property deed(s)
2. **2016** Annual Report
3. Most recent directory
4. Current bylaws and standing rules
5. Current Sexual Misconduct Policy (G-3.0106)

We hope that all Clerks can be present. Moderators of Session are welcome to attend and participate, but their attendance is not mandatory. Many find this time helpful in their ministry as Moderator of Session.

## **2017 Boundary Training**

The Presbytery shall provide access to annual educational programs to inform and to promote the prevention of sexual misconduct. **All Covered Persons shall be required to attend such programs every four years**, and at a minimum must review this policy annually and attest in writing that the policy has been reviewed.

**Attendance and compliance records will be kept by the Stated Clerk.** (Sexual Misconduct Policy of Lehigh Presbytery, adopted 25 January 2011).

In conjunction with our ecumenical partners, the Pennsylvania Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is hosting a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop. Two all-day events are planned to help church leaders and members address topics that arise in your settings. These will also fulfill the every-four-year requirement for Lehigh Presbytery Teaching Elders, and be good education for others in your congregation.

### **2017 Boundary Training Dates (more information to follow)**

It is the Penn Northeast Conference's (UCC) turn to host. Below are your choice of dates and locations for 2017 Boundary Training.

- **October 4, 2017** – St. John's UCC, 183 South Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064
- **October 5, 2017** – Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202

Registration is 8:30 a.m. and the event starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:00 p.m. The trainer will be the Rev. Diane Wheatley from Fulton, New York.

Cost and registration information will be available soon.

#### **A REMINDER:**

According to the sexual misconduct policy passed by Lehigh Presbytery in 2011, **ALL** Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders are required to complete healthy boundary training

- that is at least six hours in duration and
- conducted in person (not electronic),
- and this must happen within four years.

---

## **BOUNDARY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, UCC will be hosting a Boundary Training Event that is open to members of your judicatory. Cost \$50 per person

- Boundary Training event will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at Epler's Church UCC in Leesport. That's also from 9:00a-3:00p. Registration is open at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boundary-training-may-23rd-tickets-31720991339>

For more information contact:

**Brea Rarick**

Registrar & Assistant for Search and Call  
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC

484-949-8774 ext. 311

[brea@psec.org](mailto:brea@psec.org)





In honor of the Synod of the Trinity's 300th anniversary celebration in 2017, we have created the following grants that are available to those serving in our region.

<http://www.syntrinity.org/grants-300th-anniversary/>

## **Sowing the Future: Gifts of Abundance Grants**

In recognition and honor of our region's continuing participation in world mission, we are offering every presbytery the opportunity for a matching grant of \$3,000 towards a world mission project or partnership of their choice.

Raise your grant by \$1,000 if you partner with another presbytery or use the funds towards something brand new or new within an existing relationship!

Presbyteries are invited to apply for a \$3,000 global mission grant to be used within existing mission partnerships that will:

- Help to facilitate partnership ministry projects already underway. We are looking for signs of clear partnership where mutual engagement is evident.
- Support ongoing global partnerships for learning, awareness and sharing on the part of all partners. We will be looking for evidence of how this relationship has impacted those who participate in ways that keep it ongoing.

Presbyteries who partner together for world mission projects or who undertake a new partnership or new aspect of a partnership will be eligible for an additional \$1,000 each.

The grant request must come from the presbytery and be used in a way that partnership participation is open to the whole presbytery. A presbytery may request for two different partnerships, but both must be a part of the original grant request and meet the criteria of the grant. This does not change the total dollar amount available to the presbytery.

**Note:** Only one application per presbytery may be submitted.

**Download the grant application [here](#).** Please fill out the entire form, print, sign and mail to The Synod of the Trinity. (This is a fillable form, meaning that you can type directly into the form once it is downloaded onto your desktop.) You are encouraged to contact Chantal Atnip or Susan Wonderland at (717) 737-0421 if you have questions.

**Grant applications will not be accepted after Dec. 1, 2017.**

<http://www.syntrinity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Abundance-Grant-2.10.17-FINAL.pdf>

## **Freedom Grants**

In response to the General Assembly priority around the plight of the African American male, we are offering grants to seed projects that relate to this concern across our communities. We will be offering six grants of \$5,000 (\$30,000 total). There will be a limit of one grant per city/municipality.

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) voted to "take specific action, not just in word, but also in deed, to address and improve the worsening plight of the African American male in any of the five specified cities as a pilot initiative pointing toward future and further nationwide intervention. Micah 6:8, with its powerful words to 'Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly [with your God],' calls us to action and not only proclamation."

While our congregations and presbyteries give to support the high calling of the General Assembly overture, The Synod of the Trinity encourages those areas of smaller African American populations to consider work that they might engage in to address the plight of African American males in their cities and towns.

Creative projects among congregations, between congregations and community agencies, or projects in partnership with local municipalities might be more important at this time than we can imagine. We will consider projects for a grant of \$5,000 and will be looking for projects that have a future trajectory with the potential for sustainability, and that actively engage members of a congregation. Projects developed earlier than Jan. 1, 2016 will not be considered. We encourage partnership and creativity with the African American male population being those primarily served.

**The deadline for grant consideration is Friday, June 30, 2017.** All signed applications must be in the Synod office by 4:30 p.m. on that date.

**Download the Freedom Grant [here](#).** Please fill out the entire form, print, sign and mail to The Synod of the Trinity. (This is a fillable form, meaning that you can type directly into the form once it is downloaded onto your desktop.) You are encouraged to contact Chantal Atnip or Susan Wonderland at (717) 737-0421 if you have questions.

<http://www.syntrinity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Freedom-Grant-2.7.17-wbox-1.pdf>

---

## REVEALING HOPE



The Synod of the Trinity is celebrating its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in a special way. Unveiled at the Synod Assembly meeting was a new feature called “Revealing Hope,” which will tell the stories of hope and resurrection of the people within the Synod. The Synod is seeking ideas for subjects of these videos and stories that will be available on the Synod’s website, newsletter and social media.

They have received a few suggestions and are working on moving forward with them, but they need more. Do you know of someone who is living out a life of hope?

The video example shared, featured David Bailey’s story of hope in the face of a brain cancer diagnosis.

These stories of hope do not necessarily revolve around illness or trauma; they can be about people who approach their day with a special and unique joy, who see a day as being half full instead of half empty, who can tackle a situation with a smile or determination because of their belief in God.

If you know of someone who fits this description or has a special story of hope to tell, please send an email with some details about them to Mike Givler at the Synod (contact information is listed below).

Mike Givler, Communications Coordinator  
The Synod of the Trinity, 3040 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-737-0421, ext. 233 [MGivler@syntrinity.org](mailto:MGivler@syntrinity.org)

## NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY



The Synod of the Trinity is currently beginning a process to discover and develop a network of leaders within the next generation area of ministry (which covers birth through graduation and even college-age ministry).

In our first phase we want to find out more about what is happening in the areas of children's and youth ministry across our synod - whether it is a small church, large church, in between, or on the community or Presbytery level. The ultimate goal is to develop a network of leaders throughout the region who can provide resources and support for others within the Synod. If you (or someone you know) is committed to this area of ministry, please contact our NextGen networker, Rev. Brian Wallace.

Brian has spent more than a decade working in youth ministry and recently joined the staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery. He is excited to work with others who are passionate about the spiritual growth of children and youth and to see a network evolve that connects and encourages leaders with one another.

E-mail Brian: [nextgen@syntrinity.org](mailto:nextgen@syntrinity.org)

---

## New Members workbook explores Christian discipleship in the PC(USA)

Latest title in 'Being Reformed' series invites new members into life of faith



Presbyterian News Service  
Emily Enders Odom

[\*Being Reformed: New Members: Call to Discipleship\*](#) reflects on the meaning of Christian discipleship as a member of the PC(USA). This new study, written by noted theologian Donald K. McKim, offers a unique perspective on different aspects of the ministry of church members.

Being Reformed workbooks can be used as a self-guided study, as a group study, or a ready reference for personal reflection. Suggested lesson plans are offered for group study.

The workbook provides opportunities to consider different dimensions of discipleship and gain a sense of direction for involvement through which we can live out our commitments to Jesus Christ in the church.

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding is a series of biblically based studies that provide adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Each six-session study—written by well-known and respected scholars—features Scripture, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection. Learn more about the curriculum at [pcusa.org/being-reformed](http://pcusa.org/being-reformed).

Being Reformed studies available in a workbook format also include *Ruling Elders: Formation*, *Ruling Elders: Transformation*, and *Race and Reconciliation: Confessions of 1967 and Belhar*.

-----

The workbook is available for [purchase at pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com).

*Being Reformed* is published by Congregational Ministries Publishing, the denominational curriculum publisher of the PC(USA). Its mission is to bring glory to God by inspiring, equipping, and connecting Presbyterians of all ages with faithful, affordable, educational resources that further commitments to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

## YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS

The final date in Round 3 for the [2017-18 application season](#) is three weeks away. Please encourage young adults to consider a formative year of service and follow [@yavprogram](#) on social media as [current YAVs](#) take over the account and showcase each site.

[National sites](#) are still open and quickly filling up. The final date to [apply](#) is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Feel free to share the attached images on your social media sites, websites and e-newsletters as well. Thank you for planting seeds of service and for your continued investment in the faith development of young people in our church. Blessings in your ministries!



### Blake A. Collins

Associate for Recruitment & Relationships

Young Adult Volunteer

(502) 528-5936

[blake.collins@pcusa.org](mailto:blake.collins@pcusa.org)

[www.youngadultvolunteers.org](http://www.youngadultvolunteers.org)

@yavprogram

Round 3 Final Date- April 1st- Fast Approaching (YAV)

Subscribe to our quarterly [Young Adult Volunteers eNewsletter!](#)



## 2017 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

The 120 year old *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* has transformed to a new digital-only resource. By offering this as a free resource through our website, we are able to broaden its reach, share inspiring content in a timelier manner, and demonstrate better stewardship.

Click the link to read the daily Mission Yearbook article.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>





## RULING ELDER PREPARATION

December 2016 - Office of the General Assembly, Louisville  
Rhonda Myers

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) holds fast to a representative form of government where ruling elders and teaching elders are elected to ordered ministry and share in ecclesial authority as, together, we seek to discern and represent the will of Christ in and through faithful service. To this end, “congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit” (*Book of Order*, G-2.0301).

Once a new class of ruling elders is elected by a congregation, the session is called upon to prepare these new leaders for service in the church. The responsibility for this time of study and preparation is sometimes delegated to a staff member, such as the pastor. But it is a responsibility of the session, acting as a whole, to prepare newly elected ruling elders for active participation in the leadership of the church. This training may include a review of:

- Biblical highlights of strong, courageous leaders (consider: Moses, David, Esther, Paul, Peter, etc.);
- Presbyterian polity and doctrine, including “The Marks of the Church” (F-1.0302), the “Notes of the Reformed Church” (F-1.0303), The Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304), and the constitutional questions asked of ruling elders at their Installation (W-4.4003);
- An inventory of spiritual gifts and talents;
- The duties and procedures of ministry, both in general and within a given context;
- The intersection of life and faith, as it pertains to church leadership.

After a time of study is completed, it is expected that the session will examine new leaders as to their readiness for service (G-2.0402). This *examination* is not intended to be harsh or punitive, but to serve instead as a mutual discussion about the church, its mission, and leadership. All this is done in a spirit of peace and for the sake of a nurtured and healthy community of faith. “Teaching elders shall be committed in all their work to equipping the people of God for their ministry and witness” (F-3.0202). This examination might include questions about the candidate’s:

- Personal faith and spiritual maturity;
- Commitment to Christ and the Church;
- Willingness to serve;
- Openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in becoming “a community of faith, hope, love, and witness” (G-3.0201);
- Desire to work for peace in the face of change, and to seek unity in the midst of diversity;
- Knowledge of the Constitution of the church (doctrine, government, and discipline); and
- Understanding of the duties incumbent upon a ruling elder.

Along with teaching elders, ruling elders are called to be stewards of the faith and champions of the gospel. Those who are called will lead by example. So it best be a good example!

---

*The Reverend Dr. Rhonda Myers is pastor of the Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church in Midland, Michigan, serves as chair of her presbytery's CPM, and is married to an intentional interim pastor, the Reverend David Myers, who is currently serving in Linden, Michigan.*

For more about the information provided here, please contact Martha Miller at [martha.miller@pcusa.org](mailto:martha.miller@pcusa.org) and browse the [Ruling Elders website](#).

Read this post in [한국의](#) and [Español](#).



## Looking Ahead: Women's Connection 2017

Featuring Rachel Held Evans

August 11-13, 2017

The theme of Women's Connection 2017 will be **The Fullness of Life**.

Women are made in the image of God, created as physical, emotional/relational, and spiritual beings. Women's Connection 2017 is a holy time for women to honor who God has created us to be. We hope to provide space for opportunities to nurture mind and body, to connect with community of old friends and new, and to recenter our communal lives and our individual selves in God's good news. Come as you are.



This year's conference, featuring [Rachel Held Evans](#), will encourage participants to find grace and renewal through reflection, rest, and community. Conference activities will include worship, fellowship, recreation, rest, and workshops. There will also be a time set aside to study and discuss Rachel's book together as a conference community. All participants will receive a copy of Rachel Held Evans's book, *Searching for Sunday*, as part of their registration for the full conference.

Visit their website to learn more: <http://www.montreat.org/women/>



401 Assembly Drive  
PO Box 969  
Montreat, NC 28757  
800.572.2257

---

### **BOARD OF PENSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 2016 and 2017 Tax Resources Are Here!**

The *Tax Guide for Ministers for 2016 Returns* and *Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches: What You Need To Know for 2017* are now available through [Benefits Connect](#) (search in Resources & Support). The Tax Guide will also be mailed to active and retired teaching elders this month.

Included with the Tax Guide is the [housing allowance letter](#), which is available on [pensions.org](http://pensions.org).

The web module [Tax Tips for Members and Churches – Tax Year 2016](#) is now available at Board University. This annual resource helps active and retired teaching elders, treasurers, and church administrators understand recent tax law changes that affect income tax reporting and filing. The module contains links to other helpful resources, including the Clergy Housing Allowance web module.

[http://www.pensions.org/BoardConnections/Pages/2017\\_February.html#A5](http://www.pensions.org/BoardConnections/Pages/2017_February.html#A5)

## **The Earl A. Pope Annual Guest Lecturer in World Christianity: Nonconformist Christianity in Africa's Cultural History**

When: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, Room 104

Presenter: Professor Derek Peterson, University of Michigan

Admission: Free



African theologians often argue that contemporary African Christianity is an outgrowth of older religious traditions. In this lecture I will argue that there was much that was strange, eccentric, and inconsistent about Christianity in colonial Africa. The lecture will focus on the reading habits and interpretive strategies that inspired Christian nonconformity. Nonconformists read the Bible idiosyncratically, snipping bits of text out of the fabric of the book and using these slogans to launch heretical and odd ways of living. Over time, some of Africa's nonconformists sought to position themselves in narrative structures that could authenticate and legitimate their dissident religious activity. That entailed experimentation with voice, positionality, and addressivity.

Sponsored by:

The Department of Religious Studies through the Earl A. Pope Guest Lecture Fund and supported by the Lyman Coleman Guest Lecture Fund

### **Contact information**

Name: Rob Blunt

Phone: (610)330-5520

Email: bluntr@lafayette.edu

Lafayette College, 730 High St, Easton, PA 18042



**KAIROS**  
SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Kairos is pleased to announce that they will be hosting a **Centering Prayer Workshop** in Allentown on Saturday, April 1, 2017. The day will be led by Steve Shussett, current Kairos faculty member, and will provide both instruction in the practice of Centering Prayer and opportunities to engage this prayer practice.

**Centering Prayer Workshop**  
**Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 9 am-3:30 pm**  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 36 South Eighth Street, Allentown, PA 18101**  
Registration Fee: **\$50** (Early Bird: **\$40** by 3/22)

More information and registration is available at [www.kairosjourney.org/centering-prayer-workshop/](http://www.kairosjourney.org/centering-prayer-workshop/). We hope that you will also consider sharing this email and/or the attached flier with those in your churches and local networks.

In a world that is so often hectic and busy, Centering Prayer allows us to be open to the Divine within us and in the world. Join us as we invite fellow travelers on this journey to deepen their relationship with God by being still.

## The Anatomy of Change

### John Bell

June 20, 2017 to June 22, 2017



Throughout the traditional denominations of the western church the word 'change' both unites and polarizes people. There is general agreement that some things should change, but which things – music, liturgy, buildings, organizational structures? And when it comes to alternatives there is rarely unanimity. Yet, at the centre of the Christian faith is a God who changes (???), a Savior who is resurrected, and a Spirit intended to make all things new.

So, rather than become embroiled in the detail of which color to paint the women's restroom, in this retreat we will look at the anatomy of change and of resistance, identifying ways in which people – including ourselves – can understand and enable change to happen. Good examples of effective practice from round the globe will be discussed.

**John L. Bell** is a member of the Iona Community's Wild Goose Resource group, which engages with the public through participation in conferences and events throughout the UK and abroad. With his colleagues, he has produced collections of original songs, compilations of music from the World Church, and books of worship resources and sermons.

Cost \$475 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition. Register on line at <http://kirkridge.org/?e=event&eventId=25905&rDate=6/20/2017>

Kirkridge Study & Retreat Center  
2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013  
610-588-1793 <http://kirkridge.org/>

*Hildegard von Bingen*  
**A Reformer** Before Her Time  
September 12–21, 2017  
Hosted by: Rev. Matilda Chase  
& Rev. Dr. Kathleen L. Roney



Join these two spiritual directors in this *500th anniversary of the Reformation* to discover the saint's message as you visit the "Land of Hildegard," located between the Rhine and Nahe rivers. Unique aspects of this particular trip include:

- Convent Hildegard-Forum in Bingen, **mediating the messages** of St. Hildegard of Bingen
- **Herbal medicines**, visit the herb garden and create your own marigold balm
- See Hildegard von Bingen's impressive **works of art** and listen to her **beautiful music**
- Discover how **gemstones** played a part in her medicinal remedies

*Much, much more...*

Learn more at  
<http://www.cvent.com/d/svqxc4>

Questions?  
Tel: (800) 874-9330