

Lehigh Presbytery News

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



February 19, 2016



Join Presbyterians from across the Tri-State area for a **conversation with Heath Rada**, Moderator of the 221st General Assembly, and **Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia**, Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly, at **Princeton Theological Seminary**.

We will explore the unique gifts and resources of theological education that can/should equip the local church and regional governing bodies to serve Christ in the world. This is a part of the Moderator's larger, "Call to the Church."

The conversation will result in a report that will help shape discussion at this summer's General Assembly in Portland, OR. All are welcome to participate on **Saturday, March 19 from 10 am - 3 pm**. Cost is **\$10 per person and includes lunch**. Please register online at <http://pts.to/sdxmgy>

For more information, please contact Larissa at 609-497-7785 or larissa.kwongabazia@ptsem.edu.

ENGAGE

The Lead Team heard your desire to be equipped to face the challenges of being God's Church in the 21st century. To that end, we plan to have every Presbytery meeting in 2016 focus on either a concern of or an opportunity for our congregations.

We begin with our February 23, 2016 meeting at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church (55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA). **David Loleng from the Office of Evangelism of the PCUSA will present "Engage,"** a program of evangelism and engagement that equips congregations to become relevant again in our communities. We invite you to review the program at <http://www.pcusa.org/engage/welcome/>.

Therefore, **we ask that you bring as many as you can to this meeting. "Engage"** is not a program for a teaching elder and a ruling elder; it is a program that begins with training a session, who in turn train key leaders, who together train a congregation to name the way God is at work in our lives, claim the gift that God's work in our lives is, and share that in our community in a way that connects.

It's a new day in Lehigh Presbytery! Let's live into it!

****February 23, 2016 Presbytery meeting at the Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA, begins at 1:00 p.m.; David Loleng presentation on "Engage" a program of evangelism and engagement that equips congregations to become relevant again begins at 1:30 p.m. ****

Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery Called for Tuesday, February 23, 2016

The February Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery is called for Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA. No meal will be served at this meeting.

Commissioners are asked to bring a can of food for the local food bank. A collection basket will be at the registration table.

Commissioners can access the meeting documents on the Presbytery website.

Lenten Wednesday Soup and Study



The Community Presbyterian Church of Mt. Bethel and Portland will be offering a luncheon and study on each of the Wednesdays of Lent starting with February 17, 2016 from 12-1:30 p.m.

The meal will be simple with soup, bread, side dish and dessert. After gathering at 12, we will start eating by 12:10 and the study will begin around 12:30 p.m. Child care will be provided if there is a need.

The lunch/study has no charge unless you wish to purchase the book; however, it would be helpful to know about how many people to expect. Walk-ins are most welcome and you are encouraged to invite a friend.

The study will be using Foster's book, *A Celebration of Discipline* and will be led by Rev. John Heinsohn. All are welcome. For more information call 609-462-1639

The church is located at 1755 S. Delaware Drive, Route 611, Mt Bethel, PA.

New Camp Director at Camp Kirkwood



The Kirkwood-Brainerd Transition Team is pleased to announce the hiring of Tommy Campbell for the position of Camp Director for Camp Kirkwood, a joint ministry of the Philadelphia and Lehigh presbyteries, effective January 1, 2016.

You can meet Tommy at the February 23, 2016 Lehigh Presbytery Meeting. Come early and chat with him at registration. It is going to be an exciting camping season and he will be there to share his enthusiasm for this year.

<http://kirkwoodcamp.org/>

The more links we have to our page, the higher search engines will rank our site. So, we need your help! Please add the link to the camp, www.kirkwoodcamp.org, to your website to increase the camp's visibility on the web.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH *Triennium*

It is time for you to consider sending youth to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana from July 19-23, 2016. Triennium's program includes daily worship services and theme presentation in a theater-style auditorium. Each participant will be assigned to a discussion group that will meet each day of the event. There will be a variety of special events including recreation, movies, concerts, prayer services and yes, even some quiet time.

Lehigh Presbytery has been given a quota of **15 youth delegates** to participate in the Triennium. We are also in need of Adult Participants to attend the Triennium with the youth. Ideally, we are looking for one female and one male Adult Advisor for our delegation.

You will find an information sheet on Triennium along with a preliminary application for youth or adult advisors on the Lehigh Presbytery website at

<http://lehighpresbytery.org/news-events/other-news/presbyterian-youth-triennium/>.

The **deadline for the youth applications is March 4, 2016**. The **deadline for the Adult application is February, 26, 2016**. If you have any questions about Presbyterian Youth Triennium, our delegation from Lehigh Presbytery, or signing up to participate, you can contact Jen Henshue at 610-737-5881 or at jen@henshue.org with your questions.

Helping Hands Seeking Volunteers



The Helping Hands Care Team is seeking volunteers for their next mission work trip to Georgetown, South Carolina. This area experienced extensive flood damage and are in need of help to not only rebuild their homes but their lives.

The mission work trip is planned for April 2-9, 2016 and travel will be in rented passenger vans. The cost is \$150.00 per person and that includes travel and meals while on the worksite. It does not cover meals in route to South Carolina or incidental personal expenses. You will be housed at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, SC. You are asked to bring sleeping bags and air mattresses to sleep on.

An information flyer and registration forms can be found on the Lehigh Presbytery website at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/helping-hands/>

or by calling (610-391-9020) or emailing (office@lehighpresbytery.org) the Presbytery office. Registration deadline is March 17, 2016.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Join Our Youth Ministry Team And Share
Your Skills and Talents While experiencing
ministry in an established Youth Ministry

LOOKING FOR TWO SUMMER INTERNS:

College students or seminarians
June 1 - August 13, 2016
Full-time, Paid Internship



SUMMER INTERNS:

- minister with 6th through 12th graders in various settings including Sunday worship, Middle School and High School Fellowships, Mission Mornings, Workcamps, and other special summer events
- actively participate in team planning and leadership of the Summer Youth Ministry and more!

Check out the full job description and application inside this booklet.
Additional copies are available on www.fpcallentown.org.

Application deadline is March 15, 2016

For more information, contact:

The Rev. Stephen T. Emick
Pastor, Spiritual Formation and Discipleship
stephen.emick@fpcallentown.org
610-395-3781, Ext. 19

HELLO MY NAME IS

*Summer
Intern*



Regarding ruling elders: ruling elders and deacons

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

February 16, 2016

Office of the General Assembly, Ralph Hawkins, Louisville



The *Book of Order* calls ordained deacons to a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress” (G-2.0201). A tall order! In addition, the previous Form of Government, when describing the responsibilities of a session, included the charge to ruling elders to “lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing and reconciliation in the communities in which the church lives and bears its witness” (*Book of Order*, 2009–11 version, G-10.0102g). That, too, was and remains a tall order, asking ruling elders to think and pray beyond the walls of the congregation’s bricks and mortar to consider the well-being of the world immediately around the congregation. It follows that given these current and historical mandates, a primary responsibility of active ruling elders is to provide for the mission and ministry of the deacons as they lead the congregation, including the session, in blessing the communities in which the church lives.



Unfortunately, the ministry of deacons in our congregations is often limited to those mundane tasks in the internal life of the church that no one else wants to do, the Cinderella tasks—“do the mending and the sewing and the mopping. . . .” To be sure, a part of the deacon witness is humble service, and in the spirit of Philippians 2:1–13 there are no tasks so menial that they cannot become an act of ministry and a moment of witness for the common good of God’s people. But ruling elders would do well to ensure that deacons are not so burdened or burned out by the maintenance tasks of ministry within the congregation (setting up tables for every church meal) that they have no energy or imagination left over for the mission tasks of ministry beyond the congregation (breaking bread with neighbors and strangers). A wise session will counsel with the deacons, offering to redistribute or retire some or all previous tasks in order to make room for person-to-person ministry with those who most need to see the “redeeming love of Jesus Christ” (Ibid) within but also beyond the congregation.

Another way ruling elders can support the ministry of the deacon is by interpreting said ministry to the wider congregation. Often in Presbyterian churches, the office of deacon is perceived as a secondary or peripheral ministry; perhaps even understood as a kind of proving ground for possible “promotion” to ordination as a ruling elder. But if there is wider agreement than ever before that the church does not just have a mission, but is a mission, and that if our summons as followers of Jesus is not only to go to church but to be the church, then it follows that the ministry of the deacon—“compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ” (Ibid)—is the leading edge of our common life in and for the world. Sessions would do well to train nominating committees to seek out those saints with spiritual gifts that align with the sacred work of compassion, witness, and service to serve as deacons.

Furthermore, ruling elders should use their influence to highlight and encourage the work of the deacon, regularly reminding the congregation that the church is always and everywhere called to participate “in God’s mission to care for the needs of the sick, poor, and lonely; to free people from sin, suffering, and oppression; and to establish Christ’s just, loving, and peaceable rule in the world” (*Book of Order*, F-1.0302d).

Let ruling elders lead the church precisely by providing for deacons who lead God’s people outward and upward, always pointing to Jesus—the chief minister among us all.

Ralph W. Hawkins serves as executive presbyter and stated clerk of the Presbytery of Shenango, which has forty-nine congregations in western Pennsylvania. He is married to Elizabeth, an ordained deacon.

For additional reading, *The Presbyterian Deacon: An Essential Guide* is available for purchase at <http://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/066450325X/the-presbyterian-deacon.aspx>.

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



Change the world on a mission trip that doesn't require airfare

As a PC(USA) Special Offerings ambassador, you can travel a short distance and have a far-reaching impact. By visiting congregations near your home, you are able to help ministries such as orphan care in Liberia, earthquake recovery in Nepal, affordable housing in Detroit, and job training for people struggling with mental illness in Florida. We need people like you to communicate the wonderful work the Offerings make possible and invite congregations to support them.

Your efforts will strengthen the four churchwide Special Offerings in their mission to improve lives across the globe. Join this band of dedicated individuals and participate in the transformation of the world through the power of the gospel.

Click here to find out more. http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/leader_support_network.html

Presbyterian Mission Agency, an agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202
800-728-7228 | 502-569-5000

New Live Simply Resources are Available Now

Live Simply, based on Philippians 4:11, is the theme for just-released resources published by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. Use [Giving magazine volume 18](#), Live Simply [theme materials](#), and the digital [Companion Resource](#) to create your congregational stewardship emphasis. Magazine writers include Adam Hamilton, Shane Claiborne, and Nathan Dungan. [More](#)



Peruse all of ESC resources <https://stewardshipresources.org/resources>

Special Offerings blog

By Margaret Mwale, Self-Development of People

Where do your donations make an impact?

New map resource details partner initiatives, funding and opportunities

Sometimes, when you donate money to a charitable cause, you have to hope and trust your funds have a direct influence on the people or the group you're striving to help. With our new interactive [Engagement Map](#), you can learn exactly where your donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering are having impact.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) collaborated to develop this map which easily allows donors and others to connect to OGHS efforts in their communities, both in the U.S. and overseas. It is a tool that truly illustrates the breadth of the work performed across the church.

It is also a valuable tool for learning about the various volunteer, internship and advocacy opportunities offered by our program partners in ministry. My fellow colleagues in PHP and PDA invite you to take a close look to learn how our three ministries work together. Thank you for your generous contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that affirms God's concern and love for people! Your contributions continue to positively impact thousands of lives in and outside the United States. Donations to OGHS are still made through the [OGHS donations page](#).

Let us know what you think! We'd love your feedback, email specialofferings@pcusa.org with your comments or questions.

"The OGHS ministries are driven, not so much by who the recipients are, but by who we are – faithful and generous followers of Christ Jesus. As such, our intention is to follow the lead of Jesus who looks upon everyone as a valued child of God, worthy of God's good gift of life abundant. This is our foundation and motive."

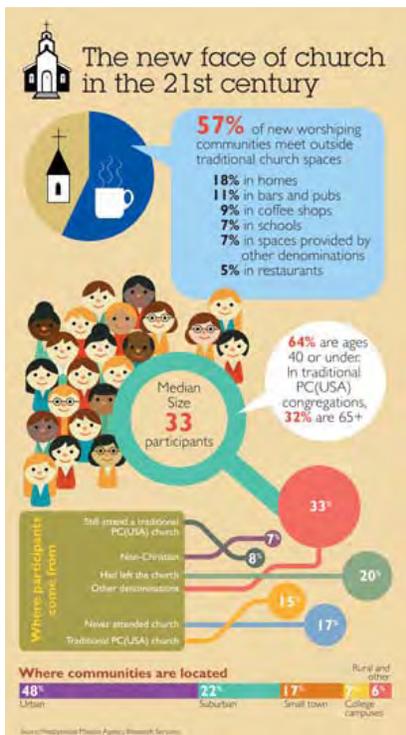
The Reverend Joseph Johnson, Evergreen Presbyterian Church - Dothan, Alabama

2016 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 below to read the daily Mission Yearbook article.





The new face of church in the 21st century

Article from the *Presbyterians Today*

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/0116-gofigure/>

Go Figure - - - New worshipping communities start with mission

by Angie Andriot and Deborah Coe

Recent interviews have revealed that worshipping communities tend to begin with a *mission* emphasis rather than a *worship* emphasis. In fact, they tend to see mission and evangelism as forms of worship. They strive to instill the Holy Spirit in as many hearts as possible by (1) offering time and energy in service to improving God’s kingdom on Earth, (2) communing in fellowship with those who have not yet been brought to grace, and (3) showing appreciation for all God has provided.

They honor God, they said, by being God’s “hands and feet.” And, through modeling this behavior publicly and around non-Christians, they hope to bring more people to God. The idea is to “show the gospel” before “telling about it.”

This means that not only are new worshipping communities energizing their sponsoring congregations, they are also reaching people who were previously unengaged with church.

To read the whole article visit: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/0116-gofigure/>

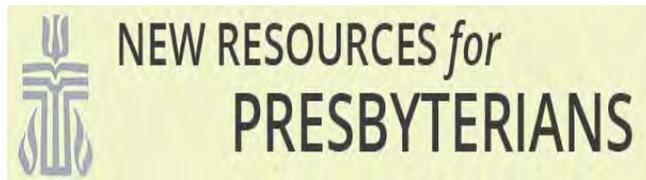
Angie Andriot and Deborah Coe are staff members of Research Services for the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Announcing the World Mission matching campaign for spring 2016

A group of our committed donors has pledged to match all gifts sent for mission personnel support, up to \$30,000, through March 27, 2016. This means your gift of \$50 today will be matched with another \$50 to provide \$100 for Presbyterian World Mission. Or perhaps you can give \$500, which will become \$1,000 when matched. We urge you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to **double your gift’s impact**. When you give online, please write “matching gift” in the comments field.

[Double your gift’s impact by giving now.](#)



You can now order or preorder the newest resources for Presbyterian members and leaders. ***The Presbyterian Handbook, Revised Edition*** is the perfect gift for new members. And ***Principles of Presbyterian Polity*** and the **revised editions** of ***Making Disciples, Making Leaders*** are excellent resources for your staff and leadership teams.

You can either click the links above or visit the PC(USA) Store at <http://www.pcusastore.com/>



Furniture Medic by Abracadabra is an independently owned and operated franchise subsidiary of ServiceMaster located in Bethlehem. We specialize in commercial, precision on-site repair/restoration of wood furniture and fixed millwork, including pews, doors, floors, paneling etc.

Our services provide a cost-effective alternative to replacement, enabling Presbytery members to maintain the beauty, historic value and structural integrity of their churches and related buildings while saving money.

If we can help in any way, please call or e-mail me.

Gina Sutton, Senior Sales Mgr.
ginaFMbyAbra@ptd.net

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2016

ROBERT K. CAMPBELL LECTURE
ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

DUBBS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER
457 ALLEN STREET, ALLENTOWN

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 4:00 P.M.



Featuring Mary Doak, PhD
Associate Professor of Theology and Religious
Studies at the University of San Diego

REGISTRATION REQUIRED | COST \$25

For more information and registration visit www.lehighchurches.org

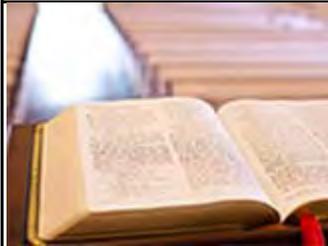
HOSTED BY THE LEHIGH CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

To reserve your seat, download a registration form.
<http://lehighchurches.org/event/2016-campbell-lecture/>

[Register Now](#)

[Click here](#) for a printable flyer.

COMING THIS SUMMER

	<p><i>Frederick Buechner Writers Workshop</i> June 7–10, 2016. Registration is now open for this summer workshop designed for writers and pastors seeking to communicate their Christian faith with clarity and power. Leadership includes Philip Yancey, Kathleen Norris, Jeff Chu, Marilyn Nelson, and many more.</p> <p>REGISTER NOW</p>
	<p><i>The Engle Institute of Preaching</i> June 12–17, 2016. Practice the craft of preaching in the company of colleagues at the Engle Institute of Preaching. Apply to be a 2016 Engle Fellow if you are in the first three to seven years of your preaching ministry.</p> <p>LEARN MORE</p>
	<p><i>The Annual Black Theology and Leadership Institute</i> July 17–23, 2016. Grow spiritually. Be challenged. Apply to be part of the 4th Annual Black Theology and Leadership Institute. The theme is “African American Biblical Interpretation in a Protest Era.” Leadership includes Neichelle R. Guidry, Marion Hall, Obery Hendricks, Lisa Bowens, and more.</p> <p>LEARN MORE</p>
	<p><i>Hatch-a-thon</i> March 2–4, 2016. Join Mark DeVries and Kenda Creasy Dean for a collaborative incubator experience designed to turn wild ideas into actionable, sustainable ministries.</p> <p>LEARN MORE</p>
	<p><i>Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry</i> April 26–29, 2016. Youth ministers were born to dream! Join fellow youth leaders, scholars, and innovative thinkers to consider what it means for the church and youth ministry that Christ is “making all things new!”</p> <p>REGISTER NOW</p>

Questions about events described in this newsletter can be directed to 609.497.7990.
 More information is also available at ptsem.edu/coned.

The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe on Exhibit in the Harrington Center

Decatur, GA—The Center for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary is hosting a new exhibit, *Witness to Faith: The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe*, featuring original works of graphic art by Japan's foremost Christian artist of the 20th century. The exhibit is on display now through April 25, 2016 in the Harrington Center. The Columbia Seminary campus located at 701 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA near Atlanta. The event is open to the public.

Born in 1913, Watanabe was baptized as a Christian at age 17 and devoted his life to depicting the stories of the Bible in a visual language understandable to the Japanese. Watanabe saw himself as a Christian printmaker whose mission was "to stand within the artistic tradition of Japan." In his interpretations, the creatures entering Noah's Ark correspond to the animal signs of the Asian zodiac; Jesus and his disciples wear kimonos and gather at the Last Supper to eat fish and drink sake.

Watanabe found inspiration in the mingei folk art movement that developed in Japan in the mid-1920s to promote traditional handcrafts made from natural materials. Working with his wife, Harue, Watanabe cut all his stencil patterns by hand and printed his images on handmade paper, coloring them with vegetable and mineral pigments.

He created small biblical scenes on untreated sheets of washi Japanese paper and large folio-sized prints on momigami wrinkled paper, made by crumpling and stretching sheets of mulberry paper to create a textured surface. Examples of both types of prints can be seen in the exhibition along with Christmas cards and calendars with print reproductions that Watanabe authorized for publication each year.

The exhibit is on display on the second floor of the Harrington Center through April 25. It is open to the public during regular office hours (8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday). Arrangements to view the exhibit at other times may be made by contacting the Center for Lifelong Learning at 404-687-4577 or lifelonglearning@ctsnet.edu.

For more information, please contact:

Corie Cox
Media and Marketing Coordinator, Center for Lifelong Learning
CoxC@CTSnet.edu 404-687-4636

Columbia Theological Seminary 701 S. Columbia Drive Decatur, GA 30031

2016 LEHIGH PRESBYTERY STATED MEETINGS

- **Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** – dinner will be served at \$8.00 per person (must RSVP) – First Presbyterian Church, 3231 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA.
- **Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** – dinner will be served at \$8.00 per person (must RSVP) – Pennside Presbyterian Church, 253 N. 25th Street, Reading, PA.
- **Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** – dinner will be served at \$8.00 per person (must RSVP) – College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, PA.
- **Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** – no meal served – Community Presbyterian Church, 1755 S. Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel, PA