



June 17, 2015

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY

To the saints called by God to be Lehigh Presbytery:

It is with deep regret that I write to inform you that on Monday evening, June 15, 2015, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, PA (FPC-B) voted to enter the gracious dismissal process.

I commend the Session for not having taken this step rashly. You may recall that a year ago, FPC-B hosted an event featuring speakers from both the PCUSA and from ECO. In addition, there have been town halls and round tables with a gracious invitation always offered for Lehigh Presbytery to be present. These events culminated in a survey of the congregation conducted by TAG Consulting.

Much study has been done, but questions remain; and Lehigh Presbytery is committed to being a partner with FPC-B in seeking answers to these further questions.

Our Gracious Dismissal Policy states the following Value of Lehigh Presbytery (2. B. d):
The goal of Lehigh Presbytery will always be reconciliation and continued engagement in relationship with all congregations within the Presbytery without the threat of isolation, estrangement or blame. Lehigh Presbytery is called to be a servant to the churches God has entrusted to it, encouraging and supporting them toward becoming healthy, growing, congregations. In doing so, Lehigh Presbytery hopes to creatively engage the concerns of the congregation, and enable them to make decisions based on facts and not assumptions, so that both the congregation and Lehigh Presbytery can concur that they have discerned God's will regarding continued denominational affiliation.

In the Providence of God, the lectionary points us this week to Mark 4:35-41 with Jesus asleep in the boat while the disciples confront the raging storm. *Mark 4:39 (NRSV) [Jesus said] "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.*

Let us pray for the peace of Christ to surround and sustain our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. May the work we do together in the time to come bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ and peace to those for whom life in the PCUSA is akin to a storm tossed sea.

In Christ,

Rev. David Duquette
Moderator

SUMMER CAMP 2015

Here comes summer! **On-line registration is open** for the **Kirkwood-Brainerd** summer camping season. To register on-line, visit <http://kirkwoodcamp.org>.



The Kirkwood-Brainerd Camp is located at 127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA.

For summer camp choices visit: <http://kirkwoodcamp.org/summercamp.html>

For summer day camp visit: <http://kirkwoodcamp.org/daycamp.html>

Come join us this summer for a week of fun in the sun!

SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR ELDER COMMISSIONER AND YAAD REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 172 presbyteries. The GA is full of activities: business sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, daily worship services, and mission tours sponsored by the Committee on Local Arrangements.

The assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries.

Lehigh Presbytery is seeking applicants for **two Teaching Elder** and **two Ruling Elder Commissioners** and **one Young Adult Advisory Delegate** to the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) being held **June 18–25, 2016** in **Portland, Oregon**. We are seeking prospective candidates who wish to contribute to the building of God's kingdom through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

You may nominate yourself or you may be aware of an individual whom you believe to be a qualified candidate. That person may only need a word of encouragement to get them to take the first step. Do not feel obliged to recommend or encourage anyone, but be prayerfully open to how the Spirit might be guiding you.

As Presbyterians we believe that any one person might be the instrument through whom God will work at a particular time. Thank you for taking the time to help us, in word and prayer, as we seek to be as faithful as we can.

Application can be found on the Presbytery website (www.lehighpresbytery.org) or by calling the Presbytery office. **Applications are due by September 22, 2015**.

2016 MONTHLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Worldwide Ministries Care Team (WMCT) would like to once again **highlight** Lehigh Presbytery churches with both **your local and international mission** accomplishments and ongoing projects in their **2016 Monthly Prayer Guide**.

Please review this information and submit your article (following the guidelines below) to Robin at the presbytery office (office@lehighpresbytery.org) by **July 27, 2015**.

If you are not able to meet the deadline but would like to be included in the Prayer Guide, please contact Robin to discuss an extension.

GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION:

- **150-200 word article** highlighting your global, national or local mission works; significant event(s) and or people.
- **2-3 pictures** (picture size will be adjusted to fit length of content)
- Provide **3 concerns or joys** to be prayed for
- Short **scripture passage** with Bible version noted

For reference you can **view** the **2015 WMCT Monthly Prayer Guide** online at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/resources/prayer/> or <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/worldwide-ministries/worldwide-ministries-prayer-guides/>

We look forward to your participation to make the 2016 Prayer Guide a success. If you have any questions please contact Robin at Lehigh Presbytery (610-391-9020 or office@lehighpresbytery.org).

Thank you,
Worldwide Ministries Care Team

2015 ARMSS / POAMN Conference THE SPIRIT SUSTAINS: *Purpose, Call, Mission & Ministry* October 13-16, 2015 Crowne Plaza, 1901 University Blvd., Albuquerque, New Mexico

POAMN is the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network, a network of persons who are engaged in ministry with older adults. These people work in presbyteries and synods, they are leaders in congregations, and some serve in specialized ministries such as chaplains in care facilities and presbytery staff who are involved with older adult ministry committees. POAMN is related to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information or a brochure visit their website at:
<http://www.poamn.org/index.php/2015/04/23/2014-poamnarmss-joint-conference/>
To register online at <http://www.poamn.org/index.php/association-events>



The purchase of a new hymnal is a big commitment for a congregation. The PC(USA) is making the hymnal more affordable by offering three bundles of resources to assist you as you make plans to adopt the hymnal or if you are operating with a small budget for worship resources.

Introductory Kits

This kit contains 5 copies of the pew edition, in your choice of Purple or Red, and one accompaniment edition.

Retail price if purchased separately: \$185

Bundle price: \$140



Small Church Kits

This kit contains 25 copies of the pew edition, in your choice of Purple or Red, one accompaniment edition, and one gift edition.

Retail price if purchased separately: \$635

Bundle price: \$499

Choir Kits

This kit contains 20 copies of the pew edition, in your choice of Purple or Red, one accompaniment edition, and one loose-leaf enlarged print edition.

Retail price if purchased separately: \$515

Bundle price: \$399

Visit us at Big Tent, July 30-August 1, in Knoxville, TN,
to view the entire line of Glory to God resources!

Click [here](#) for more information about the hymnal, including ways to raise funds, educate your congregation, and introduce the book to your church. You can also visit us on [Facebook](#) or call Customer Service at 1-800-533-4371. To place an order or see a complete list of products, click [here](#).

**2015 Job Fair hosted by Congressman Charles W. Dent
Saturday, June 27th from 10a.m. to 2p.m.**

Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC)

In the John G. Berrier Hall Gymnasium, 4525 Education Park Drive, Schnecksville, PA



The Job Fair will feature prominent employers from our area seeking talented and capable workers for a diverse range of positions. Job seekers from all educational and professional backgrounds are welcome.

The Job Fair is free to attend, and there is no need to RSVP.

Don't forget to bring copies of your resume and a pen to fill out applications!

For more information visit <http://dent.house.gov>, or email PA15JobFair@mail.house.gov, or call 610-770-3490.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Since late March 2015, the United States has experienced several series of severe storms that has caused significant property damage and at least six deaths.

In late March, a large storm system tore through the Midwest, impacting the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. Hardest hit was Oklahoma where tornadoes hit the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas.

In early April, severe storms again moved across the Midwest. Tornadoes, high winds and hail were reported in Illinois, Kansas and Missouri. Hardest hit were five Illinois counties – Boone, DeKalb, Lee, Ogle and Winnebago.

The end of April saw numerous storms, including 12 tornadoes, across the Midwest and Gulf Coast. Affected states include Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

From April 30 through May 12, multiple large storm systems tore through eight states (in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas) generating large hail, strong wind and several tornadoes that caused property damage, injuries and at least six deaths. Where tornadoes didn't hit, slow-moving storms brought torrential rainfall that flooded other areas, creating another life-threatening danger.

PDA Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has reached out to all mid-councils in storm-affected areas to offer the care of the broader church and assistance as needed and requested.

Assistance from PDA may include financial funds from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds, and the presence of National Response Team (NRT) members to help

local Presbyterian leadership respond to the disaster within their community. Since March, 12 NRT members have gone on-site to help Presbyterian mid-councils.

Assistance from NRT members can include help with assessing damage, connecting to long-term response organizations, assessing the need for volunteer work teams and potential hosting sites, and offering spiritual and pastoral support and providing other assistance as needed.

HOW TO HELP . . .

Give. Share your financial blessing and designate your gift to **DR000015 - U.S.A. Disasters and Emergencies**. Gifts can be made **through your local church OR**; online, by phoning 800-872-3283 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT, or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Act. [Assemble Gift of the Heart kit clean-up buckets](#) to help with response and recovery efforts following disasters in the U.S.A. Volunteers may be needed to help with cleanup and rebuilding; register your team's interest with the [PDA Call Center](#) or call 1-866-732-6121.

Pray. Pray for all who have been affected by storms and flooding, for those who remain in harm's way and for those involved in responding to needs.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery at the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington.
- **Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** – Helping Hands Care Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery.
- **Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** – Joint Meeting of the Committee on Ministry and Presbytery Lead Team at the First Presbyterian Church, Weatherly, PA.
- **Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.** – **Moderator's Forum** at the Washington Presbyterian Church, 715 N. 10th Street, Reading, PA 19604

Please note that the **Presbytery Office** will be **CLOSED** on **July 3, 2015** for the 4th of July HOLIDAY. We hope you have wonderful 4th!

During the week of **July 6th and July 13th**, there will be times the phones will not be manned as we will be busy cleaning out the files. So please leave a message on the voice mail or email and we will get back to you promptly. The office **will be open** for meetings.

The **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** will not meet over the summer months. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.