



## An occasional newsletter from the Moderator and Stated Clerk to Teaching and Ruling Elders of the Philadelphia Presbytery (PCA)

Brothers, in an effort to be more diligent in our communication we are planning to send out this newsletter via email at least once between meetings of the presbytery. We hope you will support our effort in at least two ways: **1. READ IT!** We know dozens of emails will come your way each day. We will try to be concise and organize the material in a way you can read quickly. But it is important to stay as informed as possible of presbytery news. **2. FORWARD IT!** This is going out to Teaching Elders. Most of you can forward this on to your Ruling Elders as an email. If not you can reproduce it to include in your monthly elders' "packet." Your REs need to feel that they are part of our presbytery. Thank you for your commitment to the work of the Lord in our city and presbytery.

We hope your summer season is going well. It is wonderful to hear reports of good attendance at VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, summer Bible camps, etc. from all over the city. This is a very important time for sowing the seed of the gospel and praying that "God will give the increase." I continue to be impressed with hearing the stories of people who first heard of Jesus through these summer outreach efforts. Please take a few minutes to read over the items mentioned here, and forward this email to your Session.

1. **DATES FOR Presbytery 2009-2010.** The revision of the Standing Rules calls for the Coordinating Team to arrange for the meetings of presbytery. This allows some flexibility when necessary, but it is still our intention to set the meeting dates well in advance. Please take a moment to note the following in your personal and church calendar:

**Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 (5pm-10pm) @ Third Reformed WITH PICNIC DINNER!**

Saturday, NOVEMBER 14, 2009 (8am-12pm) hosted by Cresheim Valley

Wednesday, JANUARY 13, 2010 (6pm-10pm) @ WTS

Saturday, MARCH 13, 2010 (8am-12pm) @ TBD

Saturday, MAY 15, 2010 (8am-12pm) @ Tenth

2. **Policy on women in diaconal ministry.** The CT was asked to discuss and recommend to the Presbytery how to complete the business of our called meeting in February. This was when we debated three possible ways to understand the matter and it became clear that there was not consensus as to how to move forward. The CT will present the following motion at our September meeting, and will be accompanied by a fuller rationale: The Coordinating Team proposes that further debate on the the current Main Motion (The Smallman/Ryken Proposal) be deferred until the next regularly scheduled Presbytery meeting after the 2010 General Assembly.

3. **Installation of Lance Lewis.** The CT called to order a meeting of presbytery for the purpose of establishing a commission to install Lance Lewis as Pastor of Christ Liberation Fellowship on July 26, 2009 at 11:00am. The commission is TEs Stephen Smallman and Greg Hobaugh, and REs Carlos Cardoso and Anthony Jackson (REs of CLF).

4. **Please support the Presbytery.** Treasurer Al Gramp has notified us that the church have been very slow in fulfilling their commitments to support the Presbytery.

1) For the first half of 2009, we have received \$8,596.40, or 30% of our budget of \$28,695.60.

2) Expenses have been restrained to \$10,720.72, or 37.4% of the budget.

3) Expenses are \$2,124.32 over income. Note: During the previous 3 years, income was below the budget, but income and expenses tracked closely together.

5. **A Personal Note.** With this News 'n Views I pass the baton of leadership to RE Dave Viehman. Dave is extremely capable as a leader of meetings, but I'm also pleased that he has been active in Presbytery matters and was one of our delegates this year to the Bills Committee of the GA.

I feel badly that my season as your Moderator was dominated by the discussion of how Presbytery should deal with various positions about women in diaconal ministry. I confess that the energy required to deal with that issue kept me from offering the kind of leadership I had hoped to bring to our exciting missional vision. Nevertheless, this past year has seen new churches become particularized (Chresheim Valley, Cityline Church, Christ Liberation Fellowship), "multiplication through division," of the liberti congregations, and the progress of the Northeast mission work. Possible church plants are on the horizon, and we continue to see the growth of most of our congregations.

I step down with a continued sense of optimism about the contribution our Presbytery can make to the advance of Christ's kingdom work here in the city of Philadelphia. But to do that we need to "forget what is behind and press forward toward the goal of God's upward call in Christ Jesus." I know I'm not quoting this in context, but I do believe we have a higher call that should dominate our sense of mission and purpose. I look forward to supporting you as we move forward. Thank you for the great opportunity to serve.