



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.

October 14, 2008

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Give thanks to the Lord for Rev. Chris Seah who was ordained at Tenth Pres. on Sunday evening, September 28. Chris has served as an intern at Tenth and will soon be returning with his wife and new son to Singapore, which is his home. Chris has been called as the Pastor of a Reformed Presbyterian Church in Singapore.

We are also looking forward to the ordination of Maranatha Chung at 10 AM on Saturday, November 22. The ordination will take place at the building of New Life Northeast Mission, 3300 Tyson Ave. in Philadelphia. Members of Presbytery are encouraged to attend and participate in the laying on of hands.

OUR NEWEST CHURCH

The commission appointed by Presbytery will be meeting with elder candidates of City Line Church on Friday, October 17 to examine them in anticipation of City Line becoming a particular church. The particularization is planned for Oct. 26 during their morning service.

PLEASE PRAY ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

On October 16 members of our Presbytery will be meeting with the Standing Judicial Commission to hear the appeal of Crossroads church. Crossroads asked the full SJC to rehear their appeal of Presbytery's action to license and ordain a candidate who believed Scriptures allow for a woman to be a deacon. Pray for God's wisdom to be known through this process. Steve Smallman and Chris O'Brien will represent the Presbytery, as they did last June, and Dudley Reese and Mark Grasso will represent Crossroads church.

Earlier in the summer you got the initial judgment from the SJC panel that met in June. For some reason we did not receive the full statement until recently. Note that we are attaching this full statement. It is important to read it because it will affect our discussion of the practice of women in diaconal ministry that we will have in January.

REMINDER—SESSIONS NEED TO REVIEW THE DOCUMENTS

Please make sure to schedule a time when your Sessions can review and discuss the documents we have passed along to you—the Crossroads overture and the Policy statement that was offered as a substitute. We have asked each Session to respond in two ways: 1). Briefly describe your current practice of diaconal ministry. Not only the question of how women are involved, but a general overview of what you are doing. We hope to compile these and make them available as a way to encourage one another in our mission to care for the weak and needy of our congregations and community. Of course we also want you to define if and how you involve women. 2). Please comment on the draft Policy statement and changes you would like to see. We anticipate a full discussion of this in January, but it will help to have suggestions in advance.

NEXT PRESBYTERY—KOREAN UNITED CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Our November presbytery meeting on Saturday, November 8 will take place at KUCP. The church is celebrating its 40th anniversary, so it will be our joy and privilege to share in their time of thanksgiving. They will graciously provide lunch after our meeting.