



The Assembly of Yes...Mostly

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (GA221) will most likely go down in history as one that said “yes” on a number of controversial issues that have been before various previous Assemblies without resolution.

- 1) By a vote of 310-303 (51%-49%) to divest from three companies whose business practices, the Assembly determined, are contributing to non-peaceful pursuits in Israel-Palestine. The companies are Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions.
- 2) By a vote of 371-238 (61%-39%), the Assembly approved an “authoritative interpretation” of section W-4.9000 of the Book of Order to grant pastors discretion in determining whether or not to conduct same-gender marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal (19 states and the District of Columbia). Sessions still have the right to decide if the building may be used. “Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the PC(USA) understanding of the Word of God.”
- 3) By a vote of 429-175 (71%-29%) the Assembly also proposed an amendment to W-4.9001 that would change the constitutional definition of marriage from “between a man and a woman” to “two people, traditionally [between] a man and a woman”. This proposed change goes to the denomination’s 171 presbyteries for ratification over the next year.
- 4) By a vote of 469-110 (81%-19%) the Fossil Free Divestment Overture was sent on for further study, with a plan due back in two years. It resulted in a first-ever denominational request for and discussion of divestment based on concern and care for the environment. An overture was passed supporting sustainable development and regard for the precautionary principle. A motion to review the impact of coal exports on human health and well-being was accepted. This was brought by Presbyteries in WA and OR and reflects what they’re experiencing with the huge increase in coal trains to the coast and on to Asian markets.
- 5) By a vote of 551-87 (86%-14%) the Confession of Belhar—which has its roots in struggle against apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s—to the 171 presbyteries for their votes to include it the PC(USA) Book of Confessions.
- 6) By a vote of 449-128 (78%-22%) the Assembly agreed to reduce the number of PC(USA) synods from 16 to between 10 and 12.
- 7) The Assembly added \$295,119 to the General Assembly mission budget for 2015 and \$68,418 for the 2016 budget. Therefore, the Assembly approved revised mission budgets for the two years of \$73,671,744 and \$78,226,389 respectively.
- 8) In other issues, the Assembly declared its opposition to targeted killings by drones; supported measures to prevent gun violence; urged the U.S. government to lift all restrictions on travel to Cuba by US citizens and requested the Obama administration to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism; addressed conflict zones including Egypt, Syria, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Western Sahara; approved a policy statement entitled “The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)”, which states that the denomination “at all levels will be open to and will seek opportunities for respectful dialogue and mutual relationships with entities and persons from other religious traditions. It does this in the faith that the church of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is a sign and means of God’s intention for the wholeness all humankind and all creation.”



Rummage Sale Thanks

Thanks to all of your hard work, donations, and support for the Silent Auction, the rummage sale took in a profit of approximately \$4,500 after expenses! Our biggest expense, but well worth the price, was the construction of our own clothing racks by the Wednesday Warriors! In the past we have had to borrow or rent clothing racks for more than it cost us to make them. We appreciate the Wednesday Warriors and their willingness to help us with this project! Now we have our own clothing racks for future rummage sales. As noted in the session notes, the profits will be split with \$2,000 going into the church's general fund, and the remainder toward the interior improvements fund. We feel blessed to be part of such a generous church. We truly felt your support and commitment throughout the sale. Many thanks again to our wonderful department leaders and many volunteers. We enjoyed our fellowship time with you! Blessings Always!!

Your Rummage Sale Chairs,
Linda, Marge, and Mary

Wednesday Warriors or Three Musketeers?

Due to a number of our valiant property workers being unavailable, the Wednesday Warriors has recently only consisted of Lou Rabe, Bob Grecco and Ed Waters.

They, of course, do a magnificent job and save RCLPC a lot of money as they apply lots of TLC to our aged plant and building. But the odds are against them! We urgently need some more volunteers who will commit regular times and dates to keep RCLPC in good working order! Come on men and women, step up!



Pastor John



to *Next SPIRIT*
Deadline-
Friday, August 8

A Paddle in the Connecting Link

The beautifully painted paddle hanging in the connecting link is the RCLPC contribution to Crystal Lake's Centennial celebration.

Thanks to Lori Thompson who designed and painted the paddle, RCLPC is participating in the celebration in a dramatic and colorful way.

Starting July 1st, Crystal Lake is holding a scavenger hunt with a drawing for prizes for the people who visit participating businesses. Information is available in the RCLPC office, as well as at City Hall.



3rd Annual Jim Holder Memorial Golf Outing

Cary Country Club donated a foursome with carts and many restaurants gave gift certificates for our raffle. A great day is planned; there will be creative baskets, a floral gift from Renee's and prizes for longest put, best overall score and a great new putting contest. RCLPC benefits from your support, so check August 7th on your calendar today. With the scramble format, everyone is a winner! Sign up in the connecting link or contact Nate at zacher91@att.net for a foursome, to be added to a foursome or for lunch.



Workshop of Wonders (WOW) VBS is Coming Soon...

and we need volunteers!! We have something for everyone-decorating, crafts, music, science and much, much more! Sign up in the connecting link today or contact Jodi Iddings or Wendy Sanders. With your help it will be WOWderful!!

Did You Lend a Table for the Rummage Sale?

Please come pick it up so that we can put the classrooms all back together!



RCLPC History Snapshot

The 1960's began a period of tremendous growth in Crystal Lake as unprecedented building brought folks with more ties to Chicago-area business than to farming. While many small, rural churches might have been resistant to change and reluctant to accept these newcomers, the Ridgefield congregation greeted them warmly and adapted graciously to the changes that came with this growth. The Rev. A.G. Tozer was installed in 1962. During his term of service, the church chancel was rebuilt and its furniture, designed by Rev. Tozer to harmonize with the early American architecture of the building was installed. Pews and choir stalls from McCormick Theological Seminary were restored by the congregation. In 1966 extensive remodeling took place. We added two church school rooms, storage space, an enclosed stairway, a new entry, new parking facilities, and a driveway.

Share Your Gifts in Worship This Summer!

If you'd like to share your gifts of music, art and/or dance in worship this summer, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board outside the choir room. You may select the 9 or 11 service. For more in-

formation, contact Sherri Dees at sherri@rclpc.org or call the church office at 815-459-11342



Family Pizza and Game Night!!!

Join us Friday, August 15th from 5-8pm for a fun evening of food, fellowship and games. There will be games for everyone so bring the entire family and your favorite board or card game. Sign up in the Connecting Link today! Hope to see you there! -Matt Brown



Let's Put The Freeze On Hunger This Summer!

During the month of July, come out and support the Crystal Lake Food Pantry and participating area businesses. Visit any of the participating ice cream vendors in Crystal Lake on indicated days in July and they will donate a percentage of their proceeds to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. A calendar including participating ice cream shops is available at <http://www.clpantry.org/>



Fair Trade...Your Purchases Count Twice

By choosing fair trade, you enable small-scale farmers to support themselves, their families, and their communities. And by purchasing fairly traded products through the Presbyterian Coffee Project -- that's the coffee you find on the Coffee Cart in Fellowship Hall, you are directly supporting the Presbyterian Hunger Program's essential relief and development work around the world. Last year, Presbyterian congregations and communities across the U.S. purchased 107,425 pounds of fairly traded products from Equal Exchange. As a result, Equal Exchange made a \$16,113 donation to PC(USA). And that's a great help!

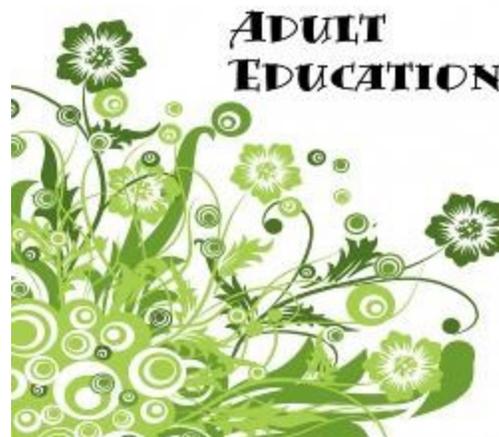


Plan Ahead For Adult Ed

Living the Gospel beyond the US while in the US: An exciting Adult Education series is coming to RCLPC this fall.

Beginning September 14, Ann Legg will present a 4 week series on Colombia, Venezuela and El Salvador, three countries to which she has recently traveled. Watch for more information on this series.

Beginning in October, Alice Haznedl will facilitate a class using Zionism Unsettled, a study guide prepared by the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA).



What role have Zionism and Christian Zionism played in shaping attitudes and driving historical developments in the Middle East and around the world? How do Christians, Jews, and Muslims understand the competing claims to the land of Palestine and Israel? What steps can we take to bring peace, reconciliation, and justice to the homeland that Palestinians and Israelis share?

Zionism Unsettled embraces these critical issues fearlessly and with inspiring scope. The booklet and companion DVD draw together compelling and diverse viewpoints from Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Israel, Palestine, the US, and around the globe. By contrasting mainstream perceptions with important alternative perspectives frequently ignored in the media, Zionism Unsettled is an invaluable guide to deeper understanding.

Ponder these questions as you prepare for an enlightening experience and an opportunity to see the world and the Gospel in a new light.

The Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) presents,

An Afternoon at Sanfilippo

August 2, 2014 from 1 - 5 p.m.

- **Tour the Sanfilippo Mansion and visit one of the world's finest collection of restored antique music machines, Sanfilippo Estate, Barrington Hills, IL 60010.**
- **Enjoy an organ concert by award-winning organist R. Jelani Eddington on the world's largest restored theater pipe organ.**
- **Learn about the ministries of The Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants from ministry leaders.**
- **Finish the afternoon with an ice cream social and raffle drawing in the Carousel Room, home of Eden Palais, a fully restored European salon carousel.**
- **Raffle prizes: A weekend at Aqua Lakeshore East with dinner and concert tickets, family fun basket, wine basket and more!**



All proceeds benefit ICDI programs.

Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity by the IRS

Admission ticket:

Raffle tickets:

\$65 per person

\$5 each, 6 / \$25

To purchase tickets call

For more information,

773-779-6011 ext. 3846

visit www.icdichicago.org

Travel to Alaska to Learn about Climate Change



Presbyterians for Earth Care Regional Conference September 2-7, 2014. Spaces are still available to join a group this fall for an in-depth look at climate change. Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care is providing this opportunity to see first-hand how climate change is being felt and addressed in their beautiful state. Look for a new, more detailed brochure on the Connecting Link bulletin board, or visit pbyukon.org/events.html for more information. ~Earth Care Team

Ann Legg to travel to Columbia

I leave for Colombia on July 12 with 3 others from the Chicago Presbytery, Gary Cozette of Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, Linda Eastwood of McCormick Seminary and Jules Billups of First United Church of Oak Park. This is at the invitation of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia to accompany communities who were displaced but have returned to their lands. These communities are attacked by paramilitary groups and multi-national corporations who want the land for their own purposes. We will start out in Barranquilla and Cartagena on the North Coast where most of the land restitution has taken place. We will then travel to Bogotá and Medellín and meet with various groups there including the human rights officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá.



On July 19, I fly to Venezuela to join a Witness for Peace Delegation. The purpose of this delegation is to understand U.S. policies toward Venezuela and their potential impact on the people of Venezuela, to gain insight into innovative social programs of the Chavez and Maduro governments such as health care, education and cooperatives and travel outside the capital to learn about rural and afro-indigenous communities. We will meet with labor organizers, scholars, professionals, business people, representatives of the media and activists to understand the economic, social and political issues confronting Venezuelan society.

Teacher Help Wanted

The Christian Education Team is asking for your help by being a Sunday school teacher or assistant for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. After teaching for many, many years, a few of our teachers have decided to step down from teaching to pursue other things in the church. We especially need help in grades pre-school-2nd grade and high school. Curriculum would be provided for you, no experience necessary! If you are interested in sharing the love of God with our children, please contact Karen Nelson at nelsvenska55@sbcglobal.net or 815-477-4862, or Matt Brown at matthew@rcclpc.org



Picnic!

A church event for **all adults**; join the RCLPC Café group for a summer picnic! Friday, July 18, 2014, 6:00pm, Norge Ski Hill in Fox River Grove. RCLPC Café group invites everyone to attend and see what all the fun is about. No matter what the weather we will have a good time; deck and clubhouse available. It's a potluck and sign up will be in connecting link for sides, appetizers and desserts. A small collection will be made for the grilled items.



Summer Preaching Topics

My thanks to all who submitted topics and texts. I planned to preach on every single one, but there were too many to fit into the Summer! One or two were similar enough for me to address together, all were excellent and challenging. – John Dillon

July 20 Mathew 8:5-13 “What the Hell?”

Hell.....human or divine

July 27 Jeremiah 18:1-12 “Getting Smashed for Jesus?”

Church in 21st Century and the increase in “None’s”

Aug 3 Proverbs 2:1-15 “What use is the Bible?”

How God’s Word affects our live