

THE DAY AFTER summarizes some of what went on at our Presbytery meetings. The minutes, obviously, will continue to be the official record of the meetings, but THE DAY AFTER will provide a tool for sharing and reporting what happened. The Presbytery's website (www.pacificpresbytery.org) is another source of information about Presbytery meetings and other Presbytery events and activities, and a place to receive meeting materials.

[Presbytery of the Pacific]

The Day After

March 12, 2008

www.presbyteryofthepacific.org

Hawaii Here We Come

The next meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific, May 17th, will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu, Hawaii. Honolulu First's Executive Pastor, David Stoker, and Elder Pat Taylor, members of the planning team for the meeting, extended a verbal invitation to come to paradise for the meeting. Plans are under way for reduced green fees for those wanting to play golf on the course owned by Honolulu First, for special entertainment for the evening after the meeting, and for special activities for those who stay for a day or two beyond the meeting. Since five of our churches are in Hawaii, the Presbytery has decided to hold one of its presbytery meetings in Hawaii every five years. This will be the third time the Presbytery holds a meeting there.

Information has already sent to churches on how to arrange travel and housing. Information will soon be sent out about the other activities and actual registration for the meeting.

Lissa Eichenberger Bradford Approved for Ordination

Bel Air Presbyterian Church member Lissa Eichenberger Bradford was examined by the Presbytery and approved for ordination. Ms. Bradford serves as a hospice chaplain in Maine, and has received word that the Presbytery of Northern New England will validate her chaplaincy service and receive her into membership upon her ordination. The actual ordination service for Lissa will be in August of this year at Bel Air Presbyterian Church.

Aline Gram Advanced to Candidacy

The Preparation For Ministry Committee presented Ms. Aline Gram, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, to be advanced to candidacy. Ms. Gram is currently a student at Fuller Theological Seminary. Following the approve of advancing Aline to candidacy, Care Crawford led the Presbytery in prayer for both Aline and Lissa Brandford

Peggy Cantwell Received into Membership

The Reverend Peggy Cantwell was received into the membership of the Presbytery. Ms. Cantwell retired three years ago and has moved back to the Los Angeles area. Peggy comes to this Presbytery from Mission Presbytery (Texas).

Big Sunday Weekend - May 3 and 4

The Mission Interpretation and Promotion Committee presented information about "Big Sunday Los Angeles," which is really Big Weekend because it include both the Saturday and Sunday of May 3 and 4. The Presbytery is encouraging churches to pledge a tithe (10%) of their membership to be involved in this community-wide "help others" event in thanksgiving to God. General Presbyter Linda Culbertson revved up the crowd on serving God by getting out of the four walls of the church and working for others in the community as an act of thanksgiving. Nine churches had previously signed up. There were over 20 churches committed to participate by the time the meeting was over. Leslie Boatright and Heidi Worthen Gamble are the contact persons for church groups wishing to sign up or looking for creative ideas on promoting the service weekend.

Even our Hawaii church felt the spirit moving in the presbytery meeting and signed up to tackle service projects in their communities on May 3 and 4.

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Recognition for Theological Education Fund Supporters

20 congregations of the Presbytery were recognized for having supported the Theological Education Fund in 2007. St. Luke's Presbyterian Church has supported the fund longest, for twelve years, and Korean Presbyterian Church of Honolulu just started supporting it in 2007.

2008 General Mission Budget Approved

The Presbytery voted to approve a General Mission Budget of \$424,810. The budget was approved so fast that Presbytery Treasurer Paul Nibarger didn't even get to say that pledges received so far are \$28,000 higher than last year. There are still many pledges to be received, but so far the majority are either increases over last year or the same as last year.

Creating Partnership

Several of the team members who visited the town of Nueva Vida, Nicaragua, reported on their experiences of getting to know the people and the area. The Presbytery is exploring what it would mean to be in partnership with the community of Nueva Vida. Sue Fisher, Jason Gamble, Kee Dae Kim, Leslie Evans, and Felipe Martinez each shared some part of their learning as a result of the trip. The Presbytery is working with CEPAD, an association of Evangelical Churches in Nicaragua, to explore the partnership.

Other Business Conducted by the Presbytery

- Received information that COM approved the Reverend Elizabeth Steele serving the First Congregational Church of Bakersville as Interim Pastor on March 1, 2008.
- The Reverend Donna Lee Merz was renewed as the Stated Supply Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Gardena beginning February 1, 2008.
- Dismissed Esther Smith to the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon.
- Several people were elected to committees.
- Received information that the memorial service for long time Presbytery servant Arilla McZeal would be at Bel Vue on Saturday, March 15, 2008.
- The Reverend Dr. K. Edward Brandt, who is also Reserve Army Chaplain (Colonel) Ed Brandt showed a video about military chaplaincy and spoke about his experiences as a military chaplain. The Reverend Alfred Pena, a Navy chaplain, had requested the opportunity to tell the Presbytery about military chaplaincy, but was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Brandt also led the Presbytery in the Prayers of the People.

Bethany Commission Final Report

The administrative commission appointed for Bethany Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles made its final report to the Presbytery. The commission was created in the year 2000 to deal with specific difficulties in that congregation. The Presbytery reaffirmed the decisions of the commission in placing the church property under the authority of the Presbytery trustees and then dissolving the Bethany congregation when that is accomplished. The commission was grateful to be dismissed after an eight year stint in office.

