



Monday Morning in the Presbytery

A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska

Distributed by e-mail only to the churches, Clerks of Session, ministers, Presbytery officers and committee members and others who wish to be on the e-mail list.

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News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

Reminder: Stated Meeting of Presbytery

When: Saturday, February 20

Where: Church of the Cross, Omaha.

Clarification re: Board of Pensions Online Salary Changes

Notification of the process to accomplish online salary changes.

- The church's designated person (Treasurer, Financial Secretary, etc.) must first register through Benefits Connect on the BOP home page www.pensions.org
- Once registered, the authorized individual then may make online salary changes.
- The changes may not be made by the plan member (i.e., pastor).
- If you encounter problems or have questions, please call the Board Of Pensions Member Services at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN), Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

Ongoing Leadership Development



While many if not most congregations do a good job of training their new officers, the educational process often concludes with ordination/ installation to the office. Congregations that practice regular, ongoing leadership development often are far healthier and better equipped to deal with the challenges and complex situations often faced by a Session or Board of Deacons.

Leadership development does not mean boards are to engage in extensive coursework. It, however, does suggest there must be an intentional plan to support the leaders in their growth! The suggestion congregational leaders need to be equipped for their work is not a strange notion. Many elders and deacons in their professional lives are required to participate in "in service" training and complete routine certification courses.

The church does not need to apologize for seeking to support and strengthen its leadership! After all, if we want our churches to make a difference in people's lives and in the community, then we must first equip our leaders to be prepared for the challenges they encounter.

There are a variety of models for leadership development. Some Sessions and Boards of Deacons set aside a short period of time on a regular basis for leadership development. Other groups of leaders find that quarterly events are more effective. Often, it simply is a matter of finding the type of advancement that works best for the particular congregation.

At the very least, congregational leaders would do well to read and discuss books or articles that are relevant to their work. A good starting point and text might be [Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times](#) by Peter Steinke. A basic understanding on the part of leadership of the principles within this work would be invaluable to the life of any congregation. Since the Presbytery has an Institutional Membership with The Alban Institute, we may order these books at 40% off the list price (plus shipping and handling).

Please know I always am willing to participate in the ongoing development of the leadership in our congregations. Do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail kevin@pmrv.org or by phone 402-926-6060.

Kevin

A Note from Joan

REMINDER

The Annual Statistical Report and the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire are due "online" by Tuesday, February 23, 2010. (Please **do not mail** the Questionnaire to the Presbytery office – please **complete "online"**.)

If you have any questions regarding these reports, please contact Joan at the Presbytery Office. (402.553.8300 or joan@pmrv.org)

A friendly reminder: If you wait until the last week the system becomes very slow and it takes very long to enter the information.

Thanks, Joan

News from our Congregations

“Gatherings” during Lent

Are you joining with another church or other churches for Ash Wednesday Services or a Maundy Thursday Service and Meal? Send your announcement to pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com Let's publicize our unity in Christ in Monday Morning.

Czech Clergy Couple desires to serve a PC(USA) congregation in 2011-12

Rev. Gabriella Horaková and her husband Rev. Martin Horák are interested in serving a PC(USA) congregation in the United States for one year (2011-12). They could begin in September of 2011.

The Horakovi are interested in experiencing a different setting between pastoral assignments with the ECCB, The pattern in the Czech Republic for pastors is to serve a congregation for ten years. At that time the pastor and the congregation, each have the opportunity to decide if they want the relationship to continue or not. Gabriella and Martin Horakovi would like to take a year serving a church in the USA, prior to the beginning of their next 10-year call.

For more information about the Horakovi or to contact them. Contact: jody@czechconnections.org

Spotlight on Haiti

While Much Is Being Done, There Is Much More To Be Done.”

Port-au-Prince, Haiti ~ January 26, 2010 –

The hope of the Haitian people can perhaps best be summed up by Herode Guillaumette, director of (SKDE) the Christian Center of Integrated Development. The center is a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance supported Church World Service partner.

"I am not afraid anymore," Guillaumette told me last week. "I have survived the worst disaster in the history of Haiti and I am alive talking to you now. I can survive anything now." "It is like I died in the earthquake, but I am alive. I am alive. Thanks, God, thanks, God, thanks, God," he said in his strong Creole accent.

Guillaumette knows there are so many needs, but is thankful for the support of those all over the world, including churches. "We are thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have not forgotten about us. We are still treating many of the injured and sick, and we are feeding them and giving them water."

There will continue to be many needs in the future, including housing for those who lost their homes and are now living in tents or sleeping in the streets and parks. For additional updates on the churches response, [please visit PDA](#).

Let us pray for Haiti

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As the eyes of the world turn to Haiti,
let us join our hearts in prayer: God of compassion
Please watch over the people of Haiti,
And weave out of these terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace.
Surround those who have been affected by tragedy
With a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith.
Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted;
Guide us as a church to find ways of providing assistance
that heal wounds and provides hope
Help us to remember that when one of your children suffer ~ We all suffer
Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. Amen.
(Adapted from Book of Common Worship)



You, too, can be part of God's answer to prayer for those affected by this disaster. Give to the ongoing relief through [PDA account number DR000064](#), or by sending a check to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Please include the special designated giving account: DR000064 – Haiti.

Note from Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz

Greetings, I am writing to you as a former member of MRV Presbytery and have I got a deal for you!

As many of you may know **I am preparing to move to the Czech Republic**. I have accepted a position with the PCUSA and I will be serving as a Mission Coworker and my title will be Ecumenical Relations Facilitator.

Since I am moving overseas many of my books need to find new homes.

*When the Presbytery Center was relocating I took **Kittle's 10 volume set** (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament edited by Gerhard Kittel.) If anyone in MRV would like this set I would love to give them to you. I also have a lot of William Barclay's books including his commentaries. As those of you who know me, I am a self confessed bookaphile so if you are looking for something I may be able to help you. **Help me find good homes for my books!***

You can call me on my cell at 402-216-5135. You can also email me at kmoritz@neb.rr.com or umhe_karen@windstream.net

*With thanks, Rev. Dr. Karen R. Moritz
Cornerstone Campus Ministry, Lincoln NE*

Editor's Note: As Convener of the Czech Mission Network, I am excited that Karen is going to be the new Mission Coworker in the Czech Republic. We are looking forward to working together.

**Announcing:
The Sole Session of Week Three Interim Training
Being Offered in 2010**

When: April 5-9, 2010

Where: Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe

What: Beyond Basics Interim Ministry Week:

Three tracks offered for Interims who have already taken Weeks One and Two and want to continue their learning. They are also open to governing body folk who want to grow in their ability to support their interims.

Complete information is available on line at www.ghostranch.org

**Presbytery Youth Event ~Winter Lock-In
February 19th/20th
Avery Presbyterian Church
(1910 Avery Rd East in Bellevue)**

For more information or to register contact:

Kris Adler at 553-4500 or <mailto:kris@centralpresby.org> by Thursday, February 11th

**29th Annual Rural Ministry Conference
March 7-9, 2010
Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque IA**

Where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered. This year's theme: **"Nurturing Generosity" ~ releasing God's abundance in a time of perceived scarcity.** *To view full brochure and register, download the brochure attached to this email or visit www.ruralministry.com*

Event Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	1 Winter Pastor's School Feb.1-4 (Hastings NE)	2 4pm Evangelism & Discipleship (Underwood Hills) Winter Pastor's School Feb.1-4 (Hastings NE)	3 Winter Pastor's School Feb.1-4 (Hastings NE)	4 Winter Pastor's School Feb.1-4 (Hastings NE)	5	6	7
Febr	8 5PM MISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)	9 9AM STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES (PRESBYTERY OFFICE) 6PM HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRY WORK GROUP (CASTELAR)	10	11 1PM PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CENTRAL)	12	13	14

Prayer Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	<p>1</p> <p>Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Bethany Rev. Greg Carlson is serving the congregation as stated supply.</p>   <p>Pray for the people of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Jack Pettit who ordained on this day in 1960. Jack is retired and living in Arizona.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Sarah Dickinson. Sarah is the pastor at Mosher Pilgrim</p>  <p>Pray for Pray for Rev. Rick Sleyster, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pray for member-at-large, Rev. Kevin Diffie. Kevin and his family are living in Colorado Springs.</p>  <p>Pray for Pray for Rev. Gary Warren, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Howard Dooley. He is retired and living in Omaha.</p>  <p>Pray for Pray for Rev. Charles Bulger, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Ken Bunnell. Ordained in 1967, Ken is retired and living in Elkhorn.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Howard Dotson. Howard is the pastor at Westminster, Omaha.</p>  <p>Pray for Pray for Rev. Deena Candler, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Neal Earley. Neal serves as associate pastor at Faith Presbyterian in Papillion.</p>  <p>Pray for Pray for Rev. J Keith Cook, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pray for the Faith Education and Leadership Development Committee. Susan Mayer serves as chair of the committee.</p> <p>Continue praying for Rev. Kevin Keaton in our "Deep South Omaha" Office, as he continues to recover from his accident and subsequent surgery.</p>  <p>Pray for the people of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.</p>

- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com. However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer (joan@pmrv.org or 402-553-8300 or 800-603-8980).
- Please report email address changes to please send your new address to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com.
- To stop receiving Monday Morning drop an e-note to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com.