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This newsletter is sent to all congregational contact persons and others interested in the latest church news and information. This newsletter may be printed, photocopied and distributed.



COMMUNICATIONS

Assembly Council Trims National Budget

The Assembly Council of The Presbyterian Church in Canada has approved significant adjustments to the operating budget of the national church in an ongoing effort to maintain balanced finances. The measures include a closure of the national office building for one week,

some reductions in national staff compensation and a reorganization of staff assignments resulting in a net reduction of up to five full-time positions. These actions, with some additional changes to transfers between existing funds, will bring permanent savings of \$815,000 and temporary savings of \$900,000 over the next three years.

More information can be found at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pconnect/daily/4831>

JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Your Help is Urgently Needed to Get Kairo's CIDA Funding Restored

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a faith-based non-governmental organization that represents 11 of Canada's largest Christian denominations and church agencies, including The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). KAIROS works on a range of social justice issues, including human rights in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

A senior CIDA official called KAIROS' executive director Mary Corkery on Monday afternoon, November 30th, to inform her that CIDA would no longer fund KAIROS. Cutting this support was done after 35 years of cooperation between CIDA and KAIROS, and the ecumenical coalitions that preceded KAIROS.

KAIROS' CIDA funded program for 2006-2009 received an excellent evaluation and a positive audit report. The 2009-2013 program was developed within two priority areas of CIDA: promoting good governance (human rights) and advancing ecological sustainability (climate change). Ms. Corkery was told that KAIROS no longer fits CIDA priorities. No other explanation or information was provided.

CIDA's decision jeopardizes programs that support thousands of marginalized and vulnerable people.

Your help is needed. Please write to or meet with your MP and ask for his or her support to have this decision reversed. Please keep Justice Ministries staff informed of your actions. Detailed information and a form letter is available online [<http://www.presbyterian.ca/pconnect/daily/4851>].

Please contact Stephen Allen (sallen@presbyterian.ca) or Katharine Masterton (kmasterton@presbyterian.ca)

in Justice Ministries for more information. Justice Ministries staff can be reached by phone at 1-800-619-7301 (Stephen ext 256 and Katharine ext. 250).

Healing and Reconciliation Seed Funding Application Deadline January 31, 2010

Seed funding is available to help church groups (youth groups; WMS groups; mission committees, presbyteries and others) wishing to build relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The deadline for seed funding application submission is January 31, 2010. Application forms and project criteria can be found on the Healing and Reconciliation website at www.presbyterian.ca/healing. The Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator, Lori Ransom, welcomes opportunities to discuss your project ideas. She can be reached at 1-800-619-7301 ext 283 or by email at lransom@presbyterian.ca.

The World Council of Churches and KAIROS Request Your Prayers on Sunday, December 13, 2009 to Support the Climate Change Talks in Copenhagen

The Kyoto Protocol is the only internationally negotiated agreement to mitigate the effects of climate change. It concludes in 2012. From December 7 to 14, the international community meets in Copenhagen to negotiate a new Protocol.

On December 13 at 3:00 p.m. please join churches around the world in prayer, in support of these meetings, and in support of an agreement that will mitigate the most severe impacts of climate change. The World Council of Churches and KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives are asking church members to ring church bells (or another musical instrument if bells are unavailable) to support the Copenhagen negotiations.

Additional information is available on the World Council

of Churches' LINK: <http://www.oikoumene.org/nouvelles/prochaines-manifestations/ev/se/article/1634/bell-ringing-for-climate-j.html> and KAIROS' LINK: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/ecojustice/climate-change/copenhagen-2009/ring-350-for-copenhagen/websites>.

Remembering December 18, International Migrants' Day

December 18 is International Migrants' Day. There are nearly 200 million migrants in the world. Migrants move for many different reasons. These reasons may include seeking employment or education, or fleeing from armed conflict or environmental disasters. Thousands of migrants live and work in Canadian communities.

December 18 is International Migrants' Day. On this day in 1990 the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. This date may be observed by learning about migrants and their rights, and by marking this date in prayer.

Consider:

- Marking December 18 in prayers. A factsheet, including a prayer for migrants, is online (www.presbyterian.ca/webfm_send/1341).
- Remembering in prayer, the five Presbyterians traveling (November 8-14) to the Mexico/Arizona border to learn more about the experience of migrants who make the border crossing.
- Using the 2010-2012 church study on refugees "Making Connections: Staying Rooted in an Uprooted World" (www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/4696)

Contact Katharine Masterton at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca for resources and more information.

PWS&D

Gift of Hope Cards Make Christmas More Meaningful

Looking to make a meaningful gift in someone's honour this Christmas? You can make a donation to a PWS&D project in someone's name and we'll send them a Gift of Hope card. Call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291 or make your online donation and then send us an email at donations@presbyterian.ca. Include the name and address for the gift recipient and any personal message you would like included on the card.

PWS&D Responds: Thousands Homeless After Severe Flooding in El Salvador

PWS&D is responding to the disaster in El Salvador following massive rains, flooding and landslides. On 8 November 2009, as much rain fell on El Salvador in four hours as in four days of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Over 150 people have been killed, over 14,000 people are homeless, and crops, schools and other infrastructure have been destroyed. PWS&D is providing emergency food, cooking utensils and hygiene kits. Your prayers and financial help will ensure emergency supplies reach families in need. To learn more, visit <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pconnect/daily/4799> or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291.

Christmas Cards Help End Poverty

You can help others by purchasing PWS&D's Christmas cards this season. All proceeds support PWS&D programs working to end poverty around the world. For only \$20, you'll receive a package of 15 colourful cards. To learn more, visit <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/resources/cards> or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291.

PWS&D Newsletters Available Now

The latest editions of PWS&D's PWSDevelopments quarterly newsletter and the Spotlight e-newsletter are now available. In our feature story, we invite you to journey up into the mountains of Guatemala where PWS&D programs are working with the indigenous Maya people to overcome poverty through small groups, business, skills training, literacy, agriculture, health care and women's rights. To read the full text, visit <http://www.presbyterian.ca/pconnect/daily/4821> or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 293 to request a printed copy.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Ms. Margaret Evans appointed as a Volunteer Missionary to Serve with the Shauri Yako Community Youth Support Centre in Nyeri, Kenya.

International Ministries is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Margaret Evans as a Volunteer Missionary to serve with the Shauri Yako Community Youth Support centre in Nyeri, Kenya. Margaret is a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph and is a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a major in Globalization. She will serve a term that

began November 1, 2009 and finishes February 28, 2011. Margaret will serve as a Programs Officer responsible for the ongoing youth outreach and skills training program of the Centre. Among other things, she will engage on social work with street youth, providing counseling and training in life skills, lead Bible studies, help set up a music program, provide HIV/AIDS counseling, organize youth camps and other special events and assist the Shauri Yako staff in preparing project proposals and reports for prospective supporters of the Centre's ministry. Please remember Margaret in your prayers as she begins this exciting new ministry.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

Continuing Theological Education, February 15-19, 2010

Dr. Anthony B. Robinson

Mon. 15th afternoon *It's a Whole New World: Being Church in a New Time*

Tues. 16th morning *Leading Change and Living to Tell the Story*

Tony is an ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ, who has served four congregations. His present ministry is a multi-faceted one. He travels throughout North America as a speaker, teacher, preacher, consultant and coach serving congregations and their leaders. He has taught at several schools including Emmanuel College/Toronto School of Theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and Vancouver School of Theology. He is the President of Congregational Leadership Northwest, a Seattle-based ecumenical group that offers leadership education and support for congregational leaders.

Tony is the author of nine books, the most recent *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations*, published by Eerdmans Publishing Company in 2008. He is at work on two new books, one on preaching and leadership, the other on Scripture and ethics. He is also a frequent contributor to various magazines and journals, including *The Christian Century*, *Congregations*, and *Perspectives*. Tony also writes for the Northwest on-line newsource, crosscut.com.

Tony is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. He holds a Master's degree in European Cultural and Intellectual History from the University of Oregon. His Master of Divinity degree is from New York's Union Theology Seminary. He has done post-graduate study at Harvard Divinity School as a Merrill Fellow.

Dr. Jonathan J. Bonk

Tues. 16th afternoon *Missions & Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem ... Revisited*

Thinking Small: Toward a Missiology of Interruptions

Wed. 17th morning

The Gospel & Ethics: Pre-Christendom Faith in a Post-Christendom World

Africa and the Future of Christianity: Ecclesiastical Cartography and the Invisible Continent

Dr. Bonk is the Executive Director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Connecticut, and editor of the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. Before relocating to the United States in 1997, he served for twenty years as Professor of Global Christian Studies at Providence College and Theological Seminary in Canada. He was raised in Ethiopia by missionary parents, serving there with his wife in famine relief from 1974–1976. A Menonite, he has served as President of both the American Society of Missiology and the Association of Professors of Mission, and is currently President of the International Association for Mission Studies. He is the author of numerous articles and reviews, has published five books, and edited several others. He is best known for his book, *Missions and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem* (Orbis 1991/2007), reprinted eleven times before publication of a revised and expanded second edition in 2006. As Project Director for the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*, a multilingual, electronic, non-proprietary reference tool (www.dacb.org), he travels extensively in Africa. He is editor of the *Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries*, Volume 9 in Routledge's Religion and Society Series (2007), and serves as regular visiting professor of Missions and Evangelism at Yale Divinity School.

The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery

Wed. 17th afternoon *Prophecy to the Bones:
Preaching as a Ministry of
Hope*

Thurs. 18th morning *Prophecy to the Bones:
Preaching as a Ministry of
Hope (continued)*

Rev. Powery is the Perry and Georgia Engle Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in vocal performance from Stanford University. He has a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Theology from Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto. His teaching and research interests are located at the intersection of preaching, worship, pneumatology, performance studies, and culture, particularly expressions of the African diaspora. He is the author of *Spirit Speech: Lament and Celebration in Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 2009), and a member of the lectionary team for The African American Lectionary, a project funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. In addition, he is the present Secretary of the Academy of Homiletics. Nurtured in the Holiness-Pentecostal tradition, he is an ordained Baptist minister who has served in an ecumenical capacity in churches throughout Switzerland, Canada, and the United States.

Dr. Ian H. Henderson

Thurs. 18th afternoon *'She began to serve them':
Gospel perspectives on the
ministry of leadership*

Ian Henderson has taught and studied Historical Jesus Research, early Christianity and the New Testament at McGill University since 1988. The author of *Jesus, Rhetoric and Law* (1996), he publishes regularly, especially on Mark's Gospel and on public-speaking culture (rhetoric) in the religious life of the Greco-Roman world. He also has research interests in Argumentation Theory and Translation Theory in relation to contemporary Christian receptions of Scripture.

A native of Winnipeg, he studied also in Scotland (St. Andrews), Ontario (McMaster), England (Oxford) and Germany (Heidelberg). He has taught as a Guest Professor at the University of Erfurt, Germany—and at the Big Beaver House Bible Camp, Kingfisher Lake, Diocese of Keewatin.

More recently he has been a Visiting Researcher at the University of Strasbourg, France, engaged in a study of Mark's Gospel as a manual for leadership training. For many years Honorary Faculty of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, Prof. Henderson is a lay Christian active in the evangelical tradition.

Dr. Ellen Bradshaw Aitken

Fri. 19th morning *To Remember the Lord
Jesus: Leadership & Memory
in the New Testament*

Professor Ellen Aitken is Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University and has been a Faculty member since 2004, teaching in the area of Early Christian History and Literature. Prior to coming to McGill, she was on the faculty of The Divinity School, Harvard University. She holds degrees from Harvard University and the University of the South, with training in Folklore and Mythology, the Classics, and Religious Studies. Her current research, funded by SSHRC, investigates the relationship between Greco-Roman hero cult and ancient Christianity.

Professor Aitken has served on numerous committees at McGill, including chairing the B.Th. Committee in the Faculty of Religious Studies. She is a member of McGill's Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR) and an honorary faculty member of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. She was ordained in the Episcopal (Anglican) Church in 1986 and has been recognized widely as a leader in both scholarly and ecclesial communities. She has also received two awards for teaching excellence.

The programme starts at 1.30 p.m. on Monday and ends at noon on Friday. Details and times of lectures will be mailed to registrants.

For information: info@presbyteriancollege.ca
514-288-5256, ext. 200
The Presbyterian College, 3495 University St., corner
Milton (metro McGill)

Call for Nominations

Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, The Presbyterian College

Deadline: December 15, 2009

www.presbyteriancollege.ca for guidelines, nomination form and referee report

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING

Presbyterians Sharing Update

Goal for 2009: \$ 8,975,000

Received by Oct. 31, 2009: \$4,554,939

Received by Sept. 31, 2008: \$4,664,719

Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada which supports the mission and ministries we do together in Canada and around the world. In this time of economic downturn, the need for support is greater than ever before. Contributions to Presbyterians Sharing are currently 2.5% behind where they were in 2008.

Download a two-page newsletter with highlighting mission and ministry supported by Presbyterians Sharing at www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/433. Recent issues highlight St. David's inner city mission and the visit of youth from India for Canada Youth 2009 and updates from Jim and Ann Young serving in Grenada and Arlene Onuoha who served in Nigeria. Feel free to reproduce the articles from these updates in your church's newsletter.

Let us continue to work and pray together as we encourage congregations to reach and surpass their commitments in 2009. Donations to Presbyterians Sharing can be made online at www.presbyterian.ca/donate/presbyterianssharing or through your local congregation. Online donations can be credited towards your congregation's allocation.

MISSION

Fair Trade Study Tour to Nicaragua

Take a faith journey to Nicaragua to learn about Fair Trade. From bean to product, you will learn about the people that produce coffee and how their livelihoods are affected by our choices! Designed for ministers and lay leadership of all ages. PCC mission staff Denise Van Wissen together with PCC partners in Nicaragua will facilitate the group experience. Spaces on this trip are limited and filling up quickly. For information on how to apply, contact Lindsey Hepburn: 1-800-619-7301 (ext. 259) or email lhepburn@presbyterian.ca

Learn about Refugees!

The Bible is full of stories about people on the move, both by choice and without choice. Two new mission studies – one designed for adults and one for children – will help you and your congregation apply what the bible teaches and inspire you to find ways to live out God's call to care for the uprooted. A complimentary copy of the adult study was sent to every congregation in the November PCPak. Order copies of both studies from the Book Room or download from our website for free. Special - Order both studies and pay only \$20 for the two!

Adult Study - *Making Connections: Becoming Rooted in an Uprooted World* (www.presbyterian.ca/download/4047) \$12

Children's study - *Partners: Welcoming refugee friends to Canada* (www.presbyterian.ca/download/3949) \$10