

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
PCCconnect Email Newsletter
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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.

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JUSTICE MINISTRIES

REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN: ABORIGINAL AND CHURCH LEADERS' TOUR

The national leaders of the Assembly of First Nations, The Anglican Church of Canada, The United Church of Canada, and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, along with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, travelled in early March 2008 to Ottawa, Vancouver, Saskatoon and Winnipeg to highlight the need for healing and reconciliation.

Vital to healing and reconciliation is the engagement of all Canadians in the process of examining the legacy of residential schools and remembering the children: those who attended residential schools, the children and grandchildren of residential school survivors, and all the children of Canada who will learn from what all of us do today to support the historic work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

An estimated 1500 Canadians attended the four Leaders' Tour events. The response from the public to each event was emotional and powerfully encouraging. Residential school survivors were honoured guests, and their voices were heard at each event.

The tour had a profound effect on each of the church leaders, all of whom commented on how deeply and personally they had been changed by the process, and how taking part in the events had deepened their commitment to follow-up and pursue the work of healing and reconciliation. Remarks from The Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg, Moderator of the 133rd General Assembly, as he spoke at the Ottawa event on March 2, 2008, can be heard on the website at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2630>.

Those in attendance at the tour's concluding event in Winnipeg were reminded of the truth of the leaders' words that the journey to healing and reconciliation will be long. Two Aboriginal women, survivors of residential schools, were moved to speak up, to express their pain. One spoke of her disbelief in the leaders' words of apology. Words will need to be accompanied by action to demonstrate our sincere desire for healing.

All those who took part in the tour – Aboriginal leaders, church leaders, and survivors – agree it is critical that all Canadians reflect on the role they can play to contribute to the establishment of right relationships among neighbours in Canada. Only with everyone's support will we arrive at the truth of our history and achieve long-lasting healing and reconciliation.

For more information on "Remembering the Children" visit www.rememberingthechildren.ca.

For information on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission visit <http://www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/TRC-eng.asp>.

A Presbyterian invitation to become involved in healing and reconciliation

As indicated above, the Aboriginal and Church Leaders Tour highlighted the need for Canadians to take part in a national healing process. Project funding is available to Presbyterians wishing to become involved in this process. Consider opportunities to build new relationships and new friendships. Healing and Reconciliation is accepting applications for project funding. The next deadline for application submissions is April 30, 2008.

Application forms and project criteria can be found on the Healing and Reconciliation website at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/justice/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

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR YEAR TWO OF THE PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY INTERNSHIP WITH PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Project Ploughshares invite applications for the second year of the Peace and Human Security Internship with Project Ploughshares in Waterloo, Ontario. The second year of the internship will run from September 2008 to April 2009. A stipend will be provided to the intern. Applicants must be members or adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and have completed a post-secondary degree in political science, international studies or a related discipline. The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 16, 2008**. Internship qualifications and procedures are outlined on the application form. This program has been made possible through undesignated bequest gifts to The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Project Ploughshares is an ecumenical agency of the Canadian Council of Churches and implements the

churches' call to be peacemakers and to work for a world in which justice will flourish and peace abound. Contact Katharine Masterton at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca for more information.

A 100 MILE MEAL EARTH DAY INVITATION (APRIL 22, 2008)

April 22, 2008 is Earth Day. Pray about our responsibility to care for God's creation on or around this date. Your congregation might consider hosting a 100 mile dinner, lunch or picnic on Earth Day or at some point in the summer. Printed resources on how to plan a 100 mile meal are available from Justice Ministries or can be downloaded from www.re-energize.ca. The KAIROS campaign *Re-energize...Time for a Carbon Sabbath* has an excellent website with educational and worship resources. Do you know how much energy your family consumes? The website has an interactive energy calculator that can be used by adults or as a fun educational activity with children. Visit www.re-energize.ca or contact Katharine Masterton at Justice Ministries. Katharine welcomes the opportunity to discuss your Earth Day initiatives with you.

OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN CHRISTIANS INVOLVED IN FAITH AND PUBLIC WITNESS

In the fall of 2007, 21 Presbyterians attended KAIROS regional meetings around Canada. Participants learned about KAIROS' three year campaign *Re-Energize...Time for a Carbon Sabbath*. This program looks at the effects the fossil fuel industry has on people and the environment. On March 29 people around the world turned out their lights for one hour to mark a shared concern over global warming. Congregations like Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church, ON, marked March 29th by holding a "lights out" service. Presbyterians attended ecumenical services hosted by churches in their communities. Consider holding a 100 mile meal on or around April 22 (Earth Day). Your involvement is deeply appreciated. Katharine Masterton welcomes the opportunity to hear about or discuss your social justice initiatives with you. You are invited to attend a regional KAIROS meeting (see below) in the fall of 2008. Contact Katharine Masterton for more information at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca or by calling 1-800-619-7301 ext 250.

KAIROS Regional Meetings 2008

Atlantic: September 26-28 at the Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche Nova Scotia. Contact Kenn Stright: kennethstright@yahoo.ca

British Columbia/ Yukon: October 3-5, Vancouver BC at the YWCA downtown. Contact Susan Draper: graceful@shaw.ca

Cambrian-Agassiz: Winnipeg, MB. Date to be announced. Contact Audrey McClelland: mccllella@mts.net

Great Lakes-St Lawrence: Sept 19-21 at Mount Mary Immaculate retreat center, Ancaster, Ontario. Contact Sue Berlove: sueberlove@yahoo.ca

Prairies North: October 3-5, at the Christian Life Centre, Calgary AB. Contact Don Dale: dcdale@telus.net

Réseau Oecuménique Justice et Paix (francophone partner): date and location to be announced.

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

LOAVES & FISHES DINNER WITH PWS&D INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Please join us for dinner and a reception in Orangeville, Ontario, to celebrate the new Loaves & Fishes Fund, a planned giving vehicle to support Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). You will have the opportunity to hear directly from our overseas partners about the challenges and successes of PWS&D's international development efforts, as well as the benefits and opportunities of planned giving.

www.presbyterian.ca/node/2585

ZIMBABWE: MARCH ELECTIONS AND FOOD CRISIS

A major food crisis has emerged in Zimbabwe where over 4 million people desperately require food aid. Your help is needed to get life-saving supplies to people in need. Make a [donation online](#), or call PWS&D today at: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301, ext. 291. Read more at:

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

REFUGEE MYTHS

Refugee claimants pose threats to Canada's security. Is this myth or fact? Find out and unveil other myths and facts about refugees in Canada and around the world:

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

DARFUR: VIDEO SLIDE SHOW

Since the June 2004 launch of PWS&D's partnership with Action by Churches Together and Caritas in Darfur, we have globally shared our resources to help hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected people in South and West Darfur. Watch a powerful video slide show of this partnership at work! www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

DARFUR: NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – A PLACE FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Read a special report on how skills training at community centres are improving the lives of people displaced by conflict in Darfur, Sudan. www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

CLERKS' CONSULTATION 2008

In 1988, the Clerks of Assembly and the staff at St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver, developed a proposal for an educational opportunity for clerks of presbytery and synod and presented it to the General Assembly. The proposal was approved and the Clerks' Consultation was born.

Originally an annual event that hosted one quarter of the clerks at a time, since 1994 the Clerks' Consultation has been held every two years and all the clerks are invited and encouraged to attend. Funding is provided jointly by *Presbyterians Sharing...* and contributions from presbyteries and synods. Organized by a design team comprised of the Clerks of Assembly, presbytery and synod clerks and other national office staff, the purpose of the consultation is to provide clerks

with a forum in which they are able to learn from each other while discussing programs, policies and polity of the church in a relaxed and worshipful atmosphere.

This year's consultation will be held from Friday, April 18 until Tuesday, April 22 at the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. Leadership and support will be provided by The Rev. Stephen Kendall (Principal Clerk), The Rev. Susan Shaffer (Associate Secretary, Ministry and Church Vocations), Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton (Senior Administrator, General Assembly Office), The Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris (Dean of St. Andrew's Hall and consultation chaplain), Ms. Sheila Lang (Secretary, General Assembly Office) and The Rev. Don Muir (Deputy Clerk and consultation convener).

Friendships formed and fostered at consultations have not only reinforced bonds between the national office and the courts of the church but also resulted in many of the clerks encouraging and assisting one another throughout the intervening years. Please keep all our clerks in your prayers as they devote a great deal of time and energy to this vital ministry.

HEART MIND AND SOUL: Love God, Love Yourself, Love Others CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

A conference and retreat for Presbyterian Women in Leadership will be held from May 27-30, 2008 at The Presbyterian College in the heart of Montreal. The event is intended for ALL women in leadership such as: elders, clergy, Christian educators, musicians, lay leaders, camp leadership, diaconal ministers, clergy spouses, youth leaders, etc. It is designed to be a time away for networking, equipping, restoration, and learning strategies for whole person health. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Christine O'Reilly. The Registration fee is \$260 with a deadline of April 30, 2008. For more information, you can reach us by email at heartmindsoulmontreal@gmail.com or phone 514-227-2150. Look for the registration forms in the February PC Pak or find it at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2531>. Check our website for information about bursaries.

Despite the piles of snow, spring is in the air and things are warming up in Montreal. Registrations are coming in and we are heavy into preparations for this conference/retreat. Ladies, it is not too late to register so do consider being a part of this special event. Gentlemen, please continue to encourage and support the women in your sphere of influence to attend.

Here is the list of Workshops we are offering: Your Body and Stress; A Theology of Marriage, Singleness, Widowhood and Divorce; Body Prayer – Yoga & Spirituality; Sabbath-keeping; Money and Ministry; At a Loss; Time-management and Boundary-setting; Friendship; Passion, Play and Peace; A Laugh a Day... And here are the Soul Sessions: Polity and Presbytery Concerns; Family Matters; and Rx: Loneliness & Isolation. Soul Sessions are not leader-led but are facilitated group gatherings for sharing and motivation. Each session will have someone experienced in the particular field of interest. The facilitator will, if the group desires it, note ideas; solutions and/or recommendations to carry forward.

Here is some information about our plenary speaker, the **Rev. Dr. Christine O'Reilly**.

Christine O'Reilly is a gifted and experienced minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada with a long history of effective congregational ministry in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and currently Ontario. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto, Knox College, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. O'Reilly's focus has been on rural and small church ministry, and on dealing with congregations and clergy in crisis. Among other works of research,

writing, and teaching, she is co-author of a book published by the Alban Institute 2006 called *Where Twenty or Thirty are Gathered: Worship in the Small Church*.

For more information on Dr. O'Reilly visit our web site <http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2531>.

This conference is funded by grants from the Women's Missionary Society, the Experimental Fund and the Women in Ministry Committee (all of The Presbyterian Church in Canada).

EXECUTIVE POSITION WITHIN THE LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through the Life and Mission Agency, is inviting applications for the executive position of Associate Secretary, Communication and Resource Production at the national office in Toronto. The Associate Secretary will spearhead innovative communication techniques to present the gospel to a 21st century audience and will equip congregations to do the same. A complete position description is available on the webpage at www.presbyterian.ca.

The deadline for receiving applications is

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

Applications should be submitted to:

The General Secretary,
Life and Mission Agency

50 Wynford Dr

Toronto ON M3C 1J7

Email: rfee@presbyterian.ca

WANTED: PICTURES FOR THE 2009 CALENDAR

The 2009 calendar theme is "Living in God's Creation".

Please send photos of people living/caring responsibly, joyfully, creatively in God's creation.

Picture requirements: Only digital photos with a minimum resolution of 3072 x 2048 pixels will be accepted.

Deadline: 21 April 2008

- A short caption should be included.
- People will not be identified but please include written permission from any person(s) shown in the photo.
- All photos selected will receive \$100 so please include a mailing address.
- Any photos not used will be destroyed.

Please submit photos via e-mail to Pat Martin (pmartin@presbyterian.ca) in Communication and Resource Production.