

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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UPDATE ON RICK FEE

Rick Fee, General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency suffered a serious illness necessitating heart surgery – valve replacement and repair. He is now recovering at home with family. Cards and best wishes for Rick may be sent to the office and they will be forwarded to Rick.

During Rick's absence, the Life and Mission Agency Committee has appointed J.P. (Ian) Morrison as Interim General Secretary. Ian will fulfill this role until Rick is able to resume his responsibilities.

2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2008 General Assembly will be meeting at Carleton University in Ottawa. This is a late change from the original venue, but Carleton is able to meet our needs with a very enthusiastic conference staff.

The Assembly office has now sent registration letters to all the East/West commissioners named to date. (The remaining letters will be sent Monday.) We are sorry about any inconvenience this has caused but are sure we can work quickly to catch up.

Commissioners are encouraged to return their registration forms to our office as quickly as possible so that travel and accommodation arrangements can be finalized. The Book of Reports is nearing completion and will be printed within about a week.

If you have any questions please contact the Assembly Office (416-441-1111; 800-619-7301).

JUSTICE MINISTRIES

MAY 16, 2008 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY INTERNSHIP WITH PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Project Ploughshares invite final application submissions for the second year of the Peace and Human Security Internship with Project Ploughshares in Waterloo, Ontario. The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 16, 2008**. 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. Internship qualifications and procedures are outlined on the information form, available online at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2504>

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.

WORSHIP RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY (MAY 25, 2008)

In March 2008, leaders from the Aboriginal community and the Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches visited Ottawa, Vancouver, Saskatoon and Winnipeg to mark the beginning of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Take time out, at least once, between Healing and Reconciliation Sunday (May 2008) and Aboriginal Day Sunday (June 22, 2008) to reflect on the place of Aboriginal people in Canada, the need for healing of relationships and building bridges of understanding in our communities.

Worship resources are available from Justice Ministries, or online at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2078>. Lori Ransom, Healing and Reconciliation program animator, welcomes the opportunity to speak with you. She may be reached at lransom@presbyterian.ca or by phone at 1-800-619-7301 ext 283.

HOW DID YOU MARK EARTH HOUR (MARCH 29, 2008)?

Canadians and global citizens turned off their lights for 1 hour between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Saturday March 29. This global initiative was a symbolic way of addressing climate change. Individuals, congregations and communities marked this event in different ways across Canada; congregations like Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church, ON, marked March 29th by holding a "lights out" service. Consider holding a 100-mile meal in the summer. More information on how to do this can be found at <http://100milediet.org/why-eat-local/>. Your involvement is appreciated.

Please share your stories with Katharine Masterton, program coordinator for Justice Ministries. She may be reached at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca, 1-800-619-7301 ext 250.

OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN CHIRSTIANS INVOLVED IN FAITH AND PUBLIC WITNESS

In the fall of 2007, 21 Presbyterians attended KAIROS regional meetings across 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. You are invited to attend a regional KAIROS meeting in the fall of 2008. We particularly invite young adult participation! Contact Katharine Masterton for registration information before June 30, 2008 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

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:
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2748>

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

THE VINE HELPLINE

OPENING DOORS TO DISCIPLESHIP COURSE B

Just released! Opening Doors to Discipleship, a free on-line congregational development course, has just released Course B: Bible Background. This course, in 12 sessions, walks participants through teaching modules and exercises and covers the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Sign up your entire congregation. The denominational registration number is 42596. This course is free to members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. More information can be obtained from *The Vine Helpline: Connecting people, places and programs*, 866-642-2830; thevine@presbyterian.ca.

LEADERSHIP LINKS

Looking for workshop resources/consultation for your congregation? Discover leaders across our denomination who are willing to help in your synod. Visit the church website at www.presbyterian.ca. Look under "Our Resources" on the left-hand menu of the home page. Click on *The Vine Helpline* and then on *Leadership Links*. Remember to check regularly as we continue to add new leaders. To use these resource people, simply follow the instruction steps at the top of that page. Two thirds of the cost of your event can be covered by *Leadership Links*.