

THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

about

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER NOMINEES

NAME: Judith Porath

CHURCH: Trinity United Presbyterian Church

Local Church Experience:

- **Session Term 2009-2012 Elder of Equipping. New Elder position – research, develop, build team, oversight Year of Service: coordinate all-church data base entry [ministry opportunities – church, community, global; individual gifts assessment survey]. Run all-church gifts/service matches. Oversight/recruitment/employment of Director of Equipping, full time staff position. Initiate gifts based training for pastoral team, staff, session, ministry leaders. Liaison: Staff, Session, Ministry partners.
Participate in Gifts based training seminars – cross church/denomination/presbytery.
Develop profile for Session nominating team to recruit replacement.**
- **Sharing the Journey Women’s Mentoring. 2006-2009. one on one mentor program based on Titus mandate. Research, develop, build team, write program, oversight training. Acting chair, recruit replacement.**
- **MOPs Mentor Coordinator 2003-2006. Research, develop, build team, write program, oversight training. Mentor for every 7-9 members of existing MOPs program. Acting chair, recruit replacement.**
- **1985-2003 – various ministries related to children and youth.**

Service to the Denomination: (Presbytery and beyond)

- 2009-2012 Session Presbytery delegate – rotation.
- Research, study local church, Presbytery, denominational issues for Session interpretation.

Return to the Presbytery Office by February 16, 2012. This biographical Information sheet will be copied and provided for all the presbyters at the Presbytery meeting.

Please answer the following four questions with the total length of your answers to be a maximum of one page.

1. How would you describe your “call” to become a commissioner to the 2012 General Assembly?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. ...and you shall love your neighbor as yourself”. Matt. 22:37-40

As our life is perpetually moved forward by the grace of God, the required focus of our first love remains constant. The circumstances, both chosen and outside our control, are in a continual state of change and flux.

In all stages of life, confirming a clear sense of God’s leading remains my first priority. This I find through consultation of Scripture, prayer, listening for the voice of God and for His purposes revealed through trusted ministry partners. Direction also comes through consideration of the perceived needs and well being of the people God has placed me in service with. In this season, several factors have melded together to cause me to believe that the Lord is leading me to pursue nomination as Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly of PC(USA).

Firstly, I hear the questions and concerns of my local congregation. This is a faithful, dedicated body of believers, eager to continue in ministry and to see resolution in the denomination issues that impact us all. I am called and committed to serve these people and to represent their sincere faith.

Secondly, I have noted the movement of the larger church – globally and particularly in the west, Europe and the United States. In the last decades, and centuries, the decline of the Christian community is a cause of sorrow for all believers. Part of this downward trend is the grievous turmoil within the PC(USA). As a member of this remnant, I sense a responsibility to enter the dialog.

Thirdly, the shift in majority opinion with the PC(USA) has given rise to situations which challenge some of our smaller congregations. If decisions are made to accommodate those who were once in the minority, then I strongly believe that, in grace, decisions must also be made to accommodate and protect the firmly held convictions of those whose weaker position limits their options. Some of those limitations come in the form of size, demographics and financial resources. There are overtures on the docket which address some of these issues. As a member of a larger, stronger congregation which enjoys options and opportunities, I believe it is our obligation to engage in conversation on behalf of brothers and sisters who may find themselves in a position of compromise.

2. How do the Scriptures mold your faith?

I believe the Holy Scriptures to be the word of God. As such, I consider them to contain the “whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life...”

(Based on Westminster Confession 6.006)

My faith is based, molded and grown on the true and authoritative word of God. This word has been given for all generations as a revelation for salvation, relationship with God and man, for preservation of people and planets, for protection of spirit, mind and body.

Allowing scripture to shape my life, relationship and decisions, results in enjoyment of the presence and deep love of God and the bonds of communion with His people and His creation. This molding occurs as I read, study and meditate on Scripture with other believers, in worship and in extended periods of time dedicated to seeking the presence, power and peace of His spirit.

3 What do you see as the most significant issue(s) coming before this year’s general assembly?

Committee and overture issues which I consider to be of special importance for GA 2012:

-Role and function of middle governing bodies in PC(USA)

-Issue of freedom for congregations/Presbyteries to rule by conscience in light of recent national changes in policy. Some of these issues include but are not limited to:

- Presbytery affiliation - geography vs. like mindedness
- marriage
- Conflicting mandates of councils

