



Presbyterian Men In Action

A quarterly publication of the National Council of Presbyterian Men



Spring 2011

Volume 28, Number 2

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

One of the joys of my employment in higher education for over 36 years was my involvement in campus ministry at five of the six institutions where I worked. This usually meant being the volunteer advisor of a multid denominational-supported student religious organization and serving on the Student Religious Activities Committee. To show our pride in and our commitment to Christian living, the students and I sometimes wore T-shirts with the organization's emblem on the front and Bible verses or slogans on the back. On one of my shirts, I had "Ain't God good". Once the slogan was printed on the shirt, I looked at it and thought, "Hmm, something is grammatically wrong with that." Oh, I didn't mention that English had always been one of my favorite subjects and I was working on a university campus with a doctorate and all. Then the answer occurred to me, and I told the printer that there was no question mark at the end. She looked at the design and said, "You know, that really is not a question. It's a declarative statement." She was correct, of course. It was not an interrogative, and, as we both agreed later, it was not simply a declarative, but an exclamatory statement. So if any punctuation were to be used, it should be several exclamation points.

Yes, God is good; and, as we are fond of saying, "All the time..." God is good. He blesses us even amid the difficulties of life. He blesses us and expects us to serve as conduits of His blessings to others by fulfilling needs we see around us every day. Many of these cries for help come to us through a phone call, a knock on the door, the mail, and on television. The media inform us that food and clothing pantries are low or empty; children are in need of school supplies; tutors and mentors are



Robert W. James, Moderator, National Presbyterian Men's Ministry

needed; and that the Thanksgiving or Christmas meal continues to serve its purpose. Regarding the meals, I am familiar with the old adage about teaching a person to fish rather than providing a fish, and I accept its premise. However, there are times when providing the meal is appropriate. We should pray for discernment in each situation and respond appropriately.

Take every opportunity to do good. You have been blessed.

DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE

Articles for the Summer issue of PMIA are due in by September 1, 2011. Please send them to charlesstanford@bellsouth.net in Microsoft word with Times New Roman Font, size 12 is preferred. Photographs are most welcome! Please offer photos in JPEG format, if possible.

**DR. YOUNGIL CHO, 77, PASSED AWAY
PEACEFULLY,
INTO THE PRESENCE OF HIS LORD, ON
MAY 22, 2011.**



Dr. Cho earned his BA in Accounting from Korea University in 1955, MBA from NYU in 1967, culminating with a PHD from NYU in 1974. Dr. Cho found his passion in teaching and guiding students as evidenced by his 29 years of service at North Carolina Central University; with 22 of those years serving as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the School of Business. Dr. Cho was a devout Christian and an impactful elder at DuRaleigh Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its Office of the General Assembly. His love and devotion for his God and his family has been an example to many. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Dr. Cho was preceded in death by his dear wife, Insook Cho, and his parents, Tu Om Cho and Soonye Lee Cho. He is lovingly remembered by his children--sons Thomas Cho of South Korea, Edward Cho and his wife Badriah of Charlotte, his daughters Debra Ko and her husband Doyoon of Virginia Beach, Victoria Bishop and her husband Robert and Anna Munro and her husband Michael all of Clearwater, FL. He will be deeply missed by his 11 grandchildren: Elizabeth, Alex, Christina, Yohann, Jeremy, Yudi, Sharon, Steven, Derek, Devin and Austin; and by his brother, Che Kwang Cho and his wife, Hee Jeung.

The funeral service was on May 28 at DuRaleigh Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. Dr. Cho was buried at Raleigh Memorial Park.

Remembrances and Comments:

Don Travis, NCPM PP 1998-2001: *Young-il was a mentor to me. He is the only one of us past presidents of the National Council of Presbyterian Men to have now passed away. He took me on when I was new to the organization. moved me forward when he brought me in as secretary during his term of office, worked in bringing the 24 title PM Bible Study series to reality, and ultimately for me, my own term as national president. I often thought of bringing him out here to be a guest speaker at one of our annual PMLR breakfasts. He will be missed. -*

Dale Vandiver: *Youngil Cho was a great man, a strong Christian, and a fine leader. He will be missed.*

Doug Thomas: *What a shock! He was a true man of God, in my opinion.*

From the Announcement of Youngil Cho's Death by Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council: *A memorial fund has been established by the National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches (NCKPC) Foundation. The fund will be used for Korean-American ministries, especially for the second and third generations. Gifts in Youngil's memory may be directed to:*

*Memorial Fund for the Late Elder Youngil
Cho*

*c/o Rev. Moongil Cho
DuRaleigh Presbyterian Church
5408 DuRaleigh Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27612*

*Adapted from the
Presbyterian News Service
Used by permission*

**HOW TO HELP IN ALABAMA AND
MISSISSIPPI**

**Several Items To Update You on the Tornado
Response:**

1. A PDA team is on the ground in Tuscaloosa, or will be very shortly. They have provided a number of very helpful resources and a great team to help.

2. **"How can we help?"** The most comprehensive list of immediate opportunities is available and updated regularly here: <http://alabamapossible.org/2011/04/tornado-relief-how-you-can-help/> The needs will continue to evolve over time.
3. **"Where can we send money?"** If your church wants to send donations, you can send them to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and mark them for "Alabama/Mississippi Tornado Response" .
4. **"How are their churches and members?"** So far, they are very thankful that they have not heard of any deaths among their members, although everyone grieves along with all those who have lost loved ones. They have heard of many members whose homes were damaged, and they have heard of at least one church, Covenant in Tuscaloosa, that was heavily damaged. PDA is working with Covenant and the pastor, Rick Olson, to help that church meet immediate needs and move forward. PDA is also making contact with a number of churches to get a better picture of the effects on their members and communities.

**National Presbyterian Men:
Making Life-Long Friends
By Donald E. Travis, PP 1998-2001**

Recently, I received a call from Tom Watson, Roseville, CA, who as an area representative of the Billy Graham Evangelistic organization, indicated he would be at a hotel nearby for several days. Would I be interested in breaking bread together? Would I!

For some reason I grabbed a camera and took it along. When I met up with him, I had them take a picture of the two of us. As



Tom Watson and Don Travis

we sat and talked about the good times we have had

at past national gatherings, I began to think about an article like this. I first met him and his friend, Joe Nogy, at one of our NCPM gatherings. We struck a good relationship and have kept that up over the years. Several years ago, Sammy Rake and I traveled to Lake Tahoe to join Tom and his men at their annual weekend retreat. What a great weekend!

Thinking back to a time when Charles Easley, Sr. was president of the NCPM, he held a Board meeting in Pacific Palisades, CA. As a person new to Presbyterian Men, I believe I arrived in a full dress suit, a report of our Presbyterian Men in hand, and copies for everyone. He asked me to present it. I think he was impressed by my effort and took me under his wing. We have been friends ever since. He has been a mentor to me in many ways. At my request, while he was our General Assembly Vice-Moderator, he came to southern California and spoke at our Annual Presbyterian Men breakfast and to our congregation. I have had the pleasure of visiting his church in the Atlanta area, Radcliffe, and meeting some of his friends and worshipping with them.

With Charles as my mentor, I found that Young-il Cho, took an interest in me. He invited me to be our national secretary during his two years as President, NCPM. Young-il showed such interest that I really wanted to do well to justify his faith in me. He became a mentor too.

Along the path, at many of the meetings we shared, Bob Metke, past president, also took me under his wings and gave counsel where he felt it was needed but never pressed me to do his bidding. I found that approach invigorating and, again, I wanted to fulfill my responsibilities.

Now, you can see the benefit of Presbyterian Men and the friendships made along the way. That point was further enhanced when Dale Vandiver thought he saw something in me and chose me not only to be his successor but to lead Sammy Rake and the Reverend Lester Kim in carte blanc in the re-writing of the Presbyterian Men organization! He has continued to mentor me.

It is interesting that all of the above have served in leadership capacity and still do to a certain extent. However, in addition to them, my son-in-law,

Sammy Rake, and I became closer to each other with all of our travels for PM and in the many ways he assisted in all of our projects.

Attending national with Marc Draper and Dave Swidrak of my church has made us close friends, too. So you see how important NCPM has been. I have not even listed the many others with whom I have entered a life time of friendship. As I have always told my daughters, if you want friends in life, you have to make an effort at strengthening those, reach out, and they will respond likewise. Try it; you will receive a life time of benefits.

Men in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii

**Hosted by the Presbyterian Men of Los Ranchos
Gather for the 23rd consecutive year
By Donald E. Travis, Moderator**

We started these annual breakfasts, both at the Synod level and at the Presbytery level back around 1988. In the past, they were separate events and have been combined in recent years. We have averaged around 125 each year with a high of 175 when GA Moderator candidate and local minister, the Rev. Jerry

Tankersley, was guest speaker. Jerry is the only person to have addressed us twice, one of those being last year. He continues to serve at all church levels.



We were fortunate this year to have the Rev. Dr. Harold Eugene Kidd (we have the same middle name!). His topic, “A Gathering Place for Men”, was taken from scripture readings from Luke 5:17-26 and Psalm 133. Dr. Kidd is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Inglewood, CA and has just completed a three-year term in service to Presbytery of the Pacific, having served as Vice-Moderator, Moderator, and Chair of General Mission Council. Dr. Kidd and I first became friends when we shared a room at an annual Synod Assembly.

Referring to the four men who brought their paralytic friend to see Jesus for healing and when the ways were blocked, they did not let that stop them and they climbed to the roof and lowered him down in front of Jesus, so sure they were in their faith. Dr. Kidd read to the assembled guests from the mission statement of the National Council of Presbyterian Men reminding all of what that statement says is what NPMM believes in.

When talking about the need for active men in the church, he reminded us that a boy cannot be what he cannot see and that men need to see other men, not just ladies, in order to believe and want to be Christ-like. If we are not there for either the child or the man, how can we expect them to become and act as good men? Something is seriously wrong when there appears to be more women than men that these folks see as examples. Together we need the Lord to lift us up.

The men who brought their friend to see Christ is exactly what

others need to see and we need to share our faith. In the many examples that Dr. Kidd offered as suggestions to get men to



come to church, some of those were just inviting men to come and help in some way, build a fence, paint a room, clear the garden, go to a sporting event, and as many ideas as you can think of, will work. Eventually, they will see a reason to attend church. I told him afterwards that he perfectly described what “Man in the Mirror” has to offer at one of their training weekend events.

With a dozen pastors in attendance with their men, it was good to see our Los Ranchos Presbytery Pastor and Assistant Presbytery Pastor, the Revs. Dr. Steve Yamaguchi and Tom Cramer. The Rev. Dr. “Rob” Langworthy showed a documentary and told about what they are accomplishing in mission within the city of Long Beach, CA at Covenant Presbyterian, to those to whom God has sent their way. If you would like to learn more: RLangworthy@covenantlb.org



Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men's Conference

Theme: "The Greatest of These is Love", 1st Cor. 13:13



July 15, 16, 17, 2011



Massanetta Springs

CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Speakers & Conference Leaders:

- Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Union Presbyterian Seminary-Charlotte, author "Can a Cushite Change his Skin? An Examination of Race in the Hebrew Bible"
- Bobby Jones, Motivational Speaker, former NBA Philadelphia 76ers All Star Player
- Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, Pastor Davie Street Presbyterian Church Raleigh NC, Vice Moderator of 218th (2008) PC(USA) General Assembly
- Rev. Jeff Ritchie, Assoc. Director for Mission Outreach Foundation, former Coordinator Office of International Evangelism PC(USA)
- Jocelyn Thompson, Conference Music Leader, Dir. Of Music Memorial PC Charlotte, NC
- Rev. Dr. David McKee, Sunday Morning Silent Communion Leader, Executive/Stated Clerk Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
- Rev. George Goodman, Sunday Morning Worship Preacher, Past Minister Adviser Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men
- Wendell Hill, 2011 Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men's Conference Leader, Chairman Board of Trustees Memorial PC Charlotte NC

Special Rates-- "Early-Bird Discount", "Each One Bring One Rate", Golf Tournament, Appalachian Trail Hike, Praise and Worship, Spirit-filled Music, Fellowship, Small Group Discussions, Time to Center on the Lord...

Visit www.faithwebsites.com/midatlanticmen for more information and registration form. Scholarships available. Contact Wendell Hill 704-533-3235 or wendell.hill@bankofamerica.com.

MISSION REPORT
Respectfully submitted by
Kyung-il Ghymn
April 7, 2011

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.
This is my brief report to NPMM for my work in 2009 and 2010 in Korea as a PC(USA) mission associate.

2009 Ministries

After 36 years of teaching in America, I took my voluntary retirement in December 2008 and left for South Korea as a PCUSA Mission Associate. (I am still trying to figure out what "mission associates" do). As you all may know, my passion for evangelism was to reach international young men and women for Christ. When there was an opportunity for an international evangelism, in order not to lose it, I jumped, took it and left the country even before my term of office (as the National President of NPMM) expired. I am so grateful to Dr. Robert James and Brother Floyd Gilbert for graciously accepting duties and responsibilities I left behind. So in February 2009, I, with my wife Sook, went to Hannam University as an educator. Hannam University is a Christian university founded in 1953 by Rev. Dr. William Linton, a PCUSA Missionary. Hannam now educates more than 17,000 students. My job was to teach two courses of marketing subjects each semester in English. Most universities in Korea these days try to globalize their educational programs by introducing some English lectures to students in some selected areas and eventually, in the near future, they plan to teach most college courses in English.

In addition to my teaching duties, I assisted the University's English Chapel hours once a week as the worship moderator and as an occasional sermon preacher. One of my mission goals was to reach out international students and scholars and introduce Jesus to them. There are about 360 students and scholars from all over the world. I initiated and, with support from the Chaplain Office, implemented a successful Thanksgiving Dinner Party (Choo Seok) for them in September. As in the U.S., the Thanksgiving Day is the day the

relatives and friends get together to share food and friendship in memory of their ancestors. In the past, most foreigners were left out from this national holiday party. For the first time in 2009, however, all Hannam international students and scholars were invited to this banquet. Traditional Korean dishes were served. Dr. Kim Seung Tae, the president of the university came to bless the event. I believe that this event will become an annual event for them at Hannam.

Also, as a part of my international outreach programs, I offered a voluntary Business English Course every Thursday evening for those who wanted to study English but failed to do so due to their financial stress. I also had an unexpected blessing in the second semester at Hannam. I served as the Sunday (English) Worship Preacher at the Yong Jeon Presbyterian Church located near the campus.

2010 Ministries.

My one year service at Hannam University came to an end at the end of February, 2010 and I moved to Kyung Hee University in Seoul in March, 2010 as an International Visiting Scholar. Kyung Hee is one of the largest and one of the top ten universities (Ranked #7 in the nation academically) in Korea. Unlike Hannam, it's a secular university. Upon my arrival to Kyung Hee, however, I came to realize that God planned for me a much bigger field to harvest. Kyung Hee has the largest number of foreign students in Korea with 3500 students, out of which 2500 are Chinese students.

In addition to my teaching classes, I have been active in reaching out to foreign students as well as Korean students. Unlike Hannam, a Christian school, Kyung Hee is a secular university but I found the Holy Spirit was working with believers in the school. There are two Christian churches on the campus, one with the Kyung Hee Hospital which is mainly for patients and their families, and the other is the Kyung Hee Open Campus Church for students, faculty and staff members with Sunday and Wednesday worships, Saturday Bible study meetings and daily early Morning Prayer meetings. I was indeed amazed to find that all its church staffs, preacher and administrators are all full time faculty members at Kyung Hee. They also have Sunday English worships and special worship

services for Chinese students. I was involved with the English worship services, preaching once a month and helping the Chinese Church, teaching them “Business English”. There were several foreign students in my marketing classes. Charmant, a student from Rwanda in Africa, is one of the students I met in my class and I am still helping him financially to finish his education in Korea and hopefully, go back to Rwanda for evangelism for his country.

Also, every Thursday during the lunch time period throughout the semester, some 30-40 Christian faculty members gather for worship. They invite well known local pastors for sermons and we were blessed once to have Rev. Lee Pill-Jae of Calvary Church deliver a Spirit-filled sermon.

Now I pray God for my next mission and wait to be sent to the United African University of Tanzania in Africa soon

SYNOD OF THE TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN MEN MISSION NETWORK

CAMP HILL, Pa. — The Rev. Bill Reinhold, associate for mission partnerships and urban ministry for [Philadelphia Presbytery](#), addressed ways mission networking can become a vital part of both Presbyterian Men and the life of the church at the first semi-annual meeting of the Presbyterian Men Mission Network of the [Synod of the Trinity](#). The event was held April 30 in Bedford, Pa.

Representatives from [Beaver-Butler](#), [Carlisle](#), [Northumberland](#), [Pittsburgh](#), and [Philadelphia](#) Presbyteries also reported on how the Mission Network plan is making a difference in their presbyteries.

Message from the Vice-Moderator/Moderator-elect C. Arlin Talley

Just over 4 years ago, a Special Task Force reported to the Executive Board of NCPMI with several recommendations. Here’s my paraphrased list:

1. Change our “working” name to National Presbyterian Men’s Ministry (NPM) –

2. Adopt a tag line: “Real men. Real issues. Real faith.” and/or “Men in Mission Together” –

3. State clearly & simply what we are about: Mission Outreach – Education – Discipleship –

(Mission priorities remain disaster relief, Bible study, combating racism, and mentoring/tutoring)

4. Three means of delivering our services: communication, national conferences biennially, synod/presbytery conference support –

5. Products and services: national conference biennially in conjunction with a specific mission project; training trainers to equip men; develop a referral service; prepare to assist presbyteries or local churches –

6. Develop connections with agencies to assist in referral service –

There’s more in the report, but these six recommendations point to a reality that we have not fully embraced as a national organization, i.e. men’s ministry continues without the help of NPM in hundreds of churches, and in many presbyteries and synods. There are fewer formal men’s groups than there were in past generations, but those that exist are better connected to more and better resources than we have offered in recent years. Bluntly put, they don’t need us for them to be in ministry as and for men, unless there are compelling reasons to be connected to one another as members of the PC (USA). The recent cancellation of our national conference suggests that most men’s groups are not convinced. Even with a well-planned event and excellent conference leaders and speakers, we could not make the case that time and money would be well spent by attending the conference.

In the midst of a changing church, it would be easy to sit and wait to see what happens in the next year as new initiatives arise from several groups, such as the Middle Governing Body Commission, Fellowship PC(USA), and others. We could be bystanders, but we could be of great service to the church by taking an active role in the current reformation of the PCUSA. We can help articulate the things that are most important in order to facilitate the mission of the church.

The Executive Board accepted the recommendations, and I think that the Council adopted them in April 2007. It’s time to get to

work, either to set aside the Special Task Force recommendations and do business as usual, or to honor the work of respected leaders and implement the recommendations as fully as possible. In all honesty, I think that I abstained when the vote was taken to adopt the recommendations. I didn't catch the vision of the Special Task Force, and I wasn't sure that the church needed a national men's organization any longer. It seemed that we were an anachronism trying to look good. It's time to test the vision.

Considering the ease of creating and joining networks, ours must be both winsome and useful. There are other very good resources for Bible study, and many local churches and presbyteries are already engaged in disaster relief. Mentoring and tutoring young men is a perpetual challenge that can be assisted by referral to churches and groups that do that well. Using the internet we can offer suggestions for resources and links to other groups that can offer assistance.

We should focus our work on the things not being done as well, and in partnership with those whose cause is less popular, in particular, combatting racism and working with others to expose and eliminate human trafficking and gender inequities. And, it would also be helpful to the church at-large if we were to support the Pentecost Offering. Here's the short version from the PC(USA) website:

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost (June 12, 2011). It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities. The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

These three things – combatting racism, human trafficking and gender equity issues, and the Pentecost Offering – are a good fit with the

NPMM's emphases on Mission Outreach, Education, and Discipleship.

Will you help in this work? Can we revise and clarify our organizational documents to reflect our vision and mission? Should we continue to invest time, energy, and money in this ministry? Yes! There's a place and a purpose for NPMM in the church. Let's stake it out!

BLACKS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEN'S COUNCIL

By Elder Dwayne Brown, President

Blacks Memorial Presbyterian Church Men's Council hosts every year a pancake breakfast, fish fry, Biker Sunday Mission Project and a winter concert.

These events fund several mission projects such as Habitat for



Humanity, The Boys and Girls Club, The homeless shelter and The Blacks Memorial Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund. The Men's Council has also done outings with the youth, such as basketball games, Penske Car Racing, and fishing, as part of our outreach ministries with the youth. The Men's Council participates in Bible studies on a regular basis to help our men grow in faith. We here at Blacks consider ourselves as Men in Action for Jesus. Blacks Memorial Presbyterian Church is in Monroe, NC.



A Few Good Men Tom Allen

**Director of Missions, Synod of
the Mid-Atlantic Men's
Council**

804-740-8624, Jta-sma@att.net



The Synod Men's Council (SMC) has asked that we form a Mission Committee. We need to find two good mission-minded men for the committee which will be comprised of 3 persons, one of which shall

be the Director of Mission who shall chair the Mission Committee and two shall be at-large members of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Men or members of the SMC. The term of office on the committee shall not exceed two years. Committee members may be appointed for succeeding terms of office.

Our first task will be to develop 3 or 4 mission priorities for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men's Council. Think of a Mission Priority as a ministry category of a religious organization meriting attention before competing alternatives. Some examples follow:

PC(USA) Missions:

- World Mission: Health; Evangelism; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Self Development of People; Interfaith Relations; Education; Leader Development.
- USA Missions: New Church Development; Church Re-development; Multicultural; New Immigrant; Racial Ethnic; Self Development of People; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Presbyterian Border Ministry.
- Community: Youth Ministry; Women's Ministry; Men's Ministry; Older Adult Ministry; Hunger Program; Urban ministry; Rural Ministry; Health Ministry.
- Advocacy: Peacemaking; Social Justice; Criminal Justice; Environmental Justice; Social Witness; Responsible Investment; Presbyterian Health-Education-Welfare Assoc.; Presbyterian UN office; Presbyterian Washington Office; Women's' Advocacy.
- Education: Global Education & International Leadership Development; Higher Education (USA); Theological Education; Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges; National Network of Presbyterian College women; Christian Education and Leadership Development.

National Council of Presbyterian Men Inc.(NCPMI) Mission Priorities:

- Bible Study; Anti-Racism; Disaster Relief; Mentoring/Tutoring.

SMC Mission Handbook: "Things Men Are Doing Right Now"

- Fellowship Groups; Bible Study; Prayer/Covenant/Accountability Groups; Service Groups; Youth Group Support; Annual Conference; Weekend Retreats; Recreation; Parenting Support, Habitat for Humanity Ministry; Kenya Ministry, Prison Ministry;

This will help us to focus our resources, accomplish our mission objectives, provide continuity to mission efforts, and diminish the effects of interference with our mission priorities.

Our plan of action will be prayerfully to:

1. Select 3 or 4 mission priorities.
2. Recommend selected mission priorities to the SMC for approval.
3. Be guided by the Holy Spirit in discerning and recommending new mission projects to the SMC which point to SMC mission priorities.
4. Advocate SMC mission priorities and SMC mission projects.

We should meet frequently at first to select the mission priorities, and then quarterly or as needed.

If interested, or have any questions, or have any nominations, then please let me know.

**PM MODERATOR ON LOCAL
PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE
By Robert W. James**

Dr. Robert W. (Bob) James, a member of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, recently volunteered to serve as vice chairman of the Committee for African American Ministries (CAAM) for that presbytery. The early business of this committee included developing its mission, goals, objectives, and action plans. Among its many responsibilities are: building a closer relationship between the African American congregations; making the presbytery aware of the needs and resources of these congregations; plan and promote programs of training, education and fellowship designed to affirm African Americans in ministry as an integral part of the presbytery; encourage participation in the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NPBC); to

coordinate work with the NPBC and other ethnic groups and communities of presbytery in a common advocacy for racial justice and inclusiveness; and to develop and provide scholarship grants to prepare African Americans for vocations and for ministry.

The CAAM members received an unexpected assignment recently. A cemetery, associated with an African American Presbyterian church that closed several years ago, needed attention to keep it from becoming an eyesore in the community of Aberdeen, NC. The Presbytery Executive asked CAAM to take responsibility for the upkeep of the cemetery or it could be sold to the city for minimal amount of money. Bob, Mrs. Earnestine Wall, who chairs the committee, her husband Ward, and Rev. Garfield Warren, Bob's pastor, made the hour-long trip from Fayetteville, NC to investigate the matter. They will report their findings to the committee at its next meeting.

24 FORMER GA MODERATORS CALL FOR UNITY AFTER 10-A PASSES

Twenty-four former moderators of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly have written a letter to the church pleading to "move forward as a unified and missional expression of the Body of Christ." The letter comes in the wake of the ratification of Amendment 10-A to the PC(USA) constitution, which relaxes the church's prohibition against the ordination of sexually active gays and lesbians as church officers. Only former moderator the Rev. David Dobler (205th GA – 1993) declined to sign the letter.

The full text:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

We write to you as former Moderators of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and as disciples of Jesus Christ who love the church.

Now that Amendment 10-A has been passed in a majority of our presbyteries, we are aware of the mixture of feelings and fears that this decision has created. As those who have been privileged to serve as elected leaders of our denomination, we represent a spectrum of opinion about the wisdom and faithfulness of this change in our ordination standards. Some of us have worked and prayed for

this change to happen, and some of us have worked and prayed that the current wording in the Book of Order would hold firm. But all of us fervently hope that the church will move forward as a unified and missional expression of the Body of Christ.

We affirm that Jesus Christ is Head of the Church, and continues to guide and direct it. The decision to adopt Amendment 10-A does not bind the conscience of any Presbyterian, nor does it create a mandate for ordaining particular individuals. Instead it directs each congregation and presbytery to prayerfully discern the gifts and call of each candidate for ordination, guided by Scripture and the confessions. And it calls all ordained officers to "submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

We believe that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) needs the voices and gifts of all of us, whether we agree with Amendment 10-A or not. Our unity is strengthened by our diversity, and vigorous debate as well as mutual forbearance is essential to the body. After thirty years of struggle related to the call and ordination of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, it is now time to move forward. We pray that God will bless all of us with a fresh commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a world hungry for the grace, justice, and truth of the Gospel.

Relying upon the wisdom of the Apostle Paul, we "beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-2).

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel
214th GA-PCUSA (2002)

Elder Thelma Adair
188GA-UPCUSA (1976)

The Rev. Susan R. Andrews
215th GA-PCUSA (2003)

The Rev. Robert W. Bohl
206th GA-PCUSA (1994)

Elder Patricia Brown
209th GA-PCUSA (1997)

The Rev. John M. Buchanan
208th GA-PCUSA (1996)

Elder Marj Carpenter

Church Man Of The Year

Father's Day of each year is a wonderful opportunity for the Presbyterian Men of every church in the Presbyterian Church (USA) to honor their Church Man of the Year. By honoring this individual, he will be authorized to wear a specially designed pin for the rest of his life. It is a very simple procedure to make this happen. Visit the Presbyterian Men's website at www.pcusa.org/men and download the necessary forms for accomplishing this meager task. Once the form is filled out, obtain the Session approval and follow the instruction on "Making It Happen". At the same time it is suggested you fill out the paperwork to join the National Presbyterian Men's organization, forms and instructions are also available to "Make This Happen Too". Now that this has been accomplished, again visit the website and download the information for the Lay Men of your church to present the Sunday Morning Worship Service, give your pastor a rest.

207th GA-PCUSA (1995)

The Rev. John M. Fife

204th GA-PCUSA (1992)

Elder Freda A. Gardner

211th GA-PCUSA (1999)

The Rev. Joan A. Gray

217th GA-PCUSA (2006-07)

Elder Price H. Gwynn, III

202nd GA-PCUSA (1990)

The Rev. Charles A. Hammond

192nd GA-UPCUSA (1980)

The Rev. Robert C. Lamar

186th GA-UPCUSA (1974)

The Rev. William P. Lytle

190th GA-UPCUSA (1978)

Elder Sara Bernice Moseley

118th GA-PCUS (1978)

The Rev. Harriet Nelson

196th GA-PCUSA (1984)

The Rev. Douglas W. Oldenburg

210th GA-PCUSA (1998)

The Rev. Syngman Rhee

212th GA-PCUSA (2000)

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

218th GA-PCUSA (2008-09)

The Rev. Jack Rogers

213th GA-PCUSA (2001)

Elder Rick Ufford-Chase

216th GA-PCUSA (2004-05)

The Rev. Herbert D. Valentine

203rd GA-PCUSA (1991)

The Rev. Benjamin Weir

198th GA-PCUSA (1986)

The Rev. Albert C. Winn

119th GA-PCUS (1979)

Elder William H. Wilson

197th GA-PCUSA (1985)

To reach the website address for Presbyterian Men, first try www.pcusa.org/men

If for some reason, this does not work, try <http://gamec.pcusa.org/ministries/men/>

Presbyterian Men In Action is a quarterly publication of the National Council of Presbyterian Men Inc., a covenant organization of the Presbyterian Church (USA), 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1396.

Please submit articles for publication to the Editor (Email preferred).

Acting Editor, Charles Stanford, 101 Witherspoon St.#4608, Louisville, KY 40202 charlesstanford@bellsouth.net

Layout Editor: Bill Mallett, 2449 Wood St. Sarasota, FL 34237, bill@mallett-web.com