

One in the Spirit

A monthly email from Linda Valentine strengthening community between the General Assembly Mission Council and Middle Governing Bodies

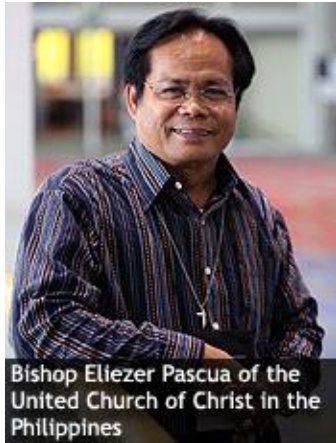
What's coming up?



Go deeper into mission with monthly Webinars from [Presbyterian World Mission](#)! How can my next mission trip be more meaningful? What can I do to build stronger relationships with my Christian sisters and brothers in other parts of the world? What should a partnership between my church and our sister congregation in Honduras look like? Explore these and other mission questions in the monthly Webinar offered by [Presbyterian World Mission](#). The webinars are live conversations with missionaries, church partners, and mission initiators. You can participate from your home, office, neighborhood Starbucks, or wherever you like to access the Internet. Recordings of past webinars and additional information are also available [online](#). A monthly [podcast](#) provides background stories on the same topic.



The [11th National Multicultural Church Conference, May 26-30 in Chicago](#), will explore “growing Christ’s church deep and wide” in an increasingly diverse world. Through the workshops, multicultural worship services and fellowship opportunities, you can learn to be part of leading and building a multicultural church community. [Register now.](#)



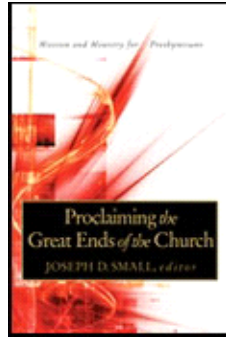
Bishop Elezer Pascua of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Seek peace by advocating for human rights in the Philippines. Our sisters and brothers in Christ in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines have requested prayer and letters to President Arroyo's government following the arrest of 43 health workers, including a lay leader in the church's health ministry. [Find a prayer](#) for the people of the Philippines, [a sample letter and addresses for government officials](#) in the Philippines. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the World Council of Churches, and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches are among those who have sent letters on this issue. The [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#) and [Presbyterian World Mission Office](#) will send two individuals to the Philippines to serve as observers with the People's International Observers Mission during the [May presidential election](#). This is also in response to a request from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.



McCormick student
Michael Plank

Attention Committees on Preparation for Ministry and interested others! Applications for the [Presbyterian Study Grant](#) are due by June 1 for the 2010-2011 academic year. Today's seminarians face a host of formidable challenges as they faithfully seek to respond to God's call, not the least of which is the cost of their seminary education. By relieving these future church leaders of the burden of excessive seminary debt, the [Presbyterian Study Grant](#) program allows them to freely pursue their education and spiritual formation to the glory of God and for the up-building of the church. Full-time M.Div. or M.A.C.E. students attending a PC(USA)-related seminary can qualify for up to \$4,000 in need-based financial aid, with supplemental grants available in several restricted categories. Visit the [Financial Aid for Studies Web site](#) to learn more or to download an application.



News from Theology Worship and Education - [Two new books](#) from [Presbyterian Publishing Corporation](#) are valuable resources for pastors. [Proclaiming the Great Ends of the Church: Mission and Ministry for Presbyterians](#) – edited by the director of [Theology, Worship, and Education](#) in the PC(USA), [Joseph D. Small](#) – is comprised of sermons from prominent church leaders that will help Presbyterians understand our church’s purpose and inspire us do the church’s work in the world. Another new resource, [Preaching in an Age of Globalization](#) by [Eunjoo Mary Kim](#), focuses on contextual preaching promoting solidarity across differences in culture, race, gender, or economic status, in a congregation. These new resources are available for purchase now by telephone order only through The Thoughtful Christian, (800) 554-4694. They will be available for online purchase at [The Thoughtful Christian](#) this summer.



The Evangelism and Church Growth ministry area is pleased to announce that [Phil Tom](#), associate for [Small Church and Community Ministry](#), has accepted a White House appointment to serve as the Director for the [Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives](#) for the Department of Labor. Tom will work at building partnerships with faith based and community groups to improve working conditions and livable wages for workers. Tom has served the [General Assembly Mission Council](#) since 2000, working with small, rural and urban congregations for the [Evangelism and Church Growth](#) ministry area. Tom began his work in the White House on Monday, April 5. Pray for him as he begins his new call of service to Christ.



A boy looks out from his tent home following the earthquake. Many survivors are living in tents in this park in Petionville, Haiti. Photo by Paul Jeffrey. ACT Alliance.

[Haiti Relief and Recovery](#) - We continue to be amazed and inspired by Presbyterians' outpouring of care and generosity for the people of Haiti.

As of April 12th, total gifts to [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) for [Haiti Relief](#) reached \$8.57 million. Two new recovery initiatives by PDA relate to the opportunity to feed thousands of displaced Haitians by means of providing seeds and tools for 30,000 Haitian farmers. This work is being done in cooperation with the [Presbyterian Hunger Program's](#) existing partners in Haiti.

Lives Transformed

Stories of how an individual's life has been impacted by the programs, initiatives and activities of the General Assembly Mission Council

Ted Sharp – People with passion called for a purpose



Louisville, KY (April 22, 2010) - Although fewer than ten miles down the road from [Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#) (LPTS), the Presbyterian Center – home of the national offices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – was for Ted Sharp, a world away.

All of that changed this past January when Sharp, a first year Master of Divinity student at LPTS, enrolled in Leaders for a Connectional Church, a weeklong, for-credit course designed not only to give students an intensive introduction to the PC(USA)'s mission and ministry but also to bring to life the reality of the connectional church.

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General Assembly Mission Council

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) | 100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, Kentucky | 40202-1396
(888) 728-7228 | (502) 569-5000 | [Website](#) | [Email](#)

