



## Presbyterian Communicators' Network

a multi-directional exchange of information, ideas and stories

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### Dear Presbyterian Communicators,

Please join me in celebrating the newly launched denominational website, [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). The new site was unveiled at the General Assembly meeting on Saturday, July 3. Response includes great excitement at the dynamic and flexible content designed for easy navigation of the site.

One of the things I am personally excited about are the new interactive tools incorporated into the website that aid users to share ideas about ministry, creating an ongoing conversation and source for mission.

The home page is designed to serve as a gateway to the church, with stories of Presbyterians and their love for the church, an introduction to the PC(USA) for first-time visitors, helpful links to popular links and new tools for finding events, news and information, resources and products available for purchase in the church store.

The redesign was years in the making, and is now available for use by the whole church for the furthering of the mission of Jesus Christ. And for that, I am deeply grateful.

Blessings,

Karen Schmidt

Deputy Executive Director

Communications and Funds Development

### Learn about all things Presbyterian



*Presbyterians Today's* special issue and guidebook "Welcome to the Presbyterian Church!" is a wonderful introduction and overview of all things Presbyterian. This issue is packed with facts, stories, pictures, charts, links and a lot more valuable information, this inviting, easy-to-read guide gives readers a fast, reliable way to learn all about the Presbyterian Church. [Read "Welcome to the Presbyterian Church!"](#) and learn about Presbyterian beliefs and worship, church organization and governance, the Bible, prayer and the sacraments. Get highlights about social justice, evangelism, stewardship, vocation, ecumenism and mission. Find out what it means to be "connectional" and Reformed.

## Look ahead to upcoming Presbyterian Communicators' Network conferences

The Presbyterian Communicators' Network is offering two communicators' conferences this fall, focused on web-based media for churches and middle governing bodies. The theme is "Plugging In Without Shorting Out."

Each conference will include a variety of plenary speakers and workshops. Workshops will be interactive on a variety of subjects such as: IT Security; Podcasting; Preparing Content for the Web; Church Marketing; Social Networking - Using Facebook & Twitter to Spread the Word; Free and/or Affordable Web Resources; Live Streaming; Church PR on a Shoestring Budget; etc.

Please spread the word and plan on joining us. The conferences will be held at Crestfield Conference Center, Slippery Rock, PA, October 18-20, and at Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe, NV, October 25-27. Online registration will be available on the [Communicators' Network website](#) in mid-July.

## Apply for Student and Parent Loans by July 31



A student works with a financial aid officer at Mary Baldwin College

The PC(USA)'s Student & Parent Loan Programs remain open for application through July 31 for the 2010-11 academic year. Student Loans are offered with interest deferred while the student remains enrolled at least half-time. These loans are recommended for students who need private or PLUS loans in addition to their federal student loans. Parent Loans will be awarded to parents or guardians of students in order to meet the family contribution for a student's educational expenses. In order to apply, students must first apply for financial aid from the college or university they plan to attend. For detailed information on interest rates, eligibility criteria, or to download an application, please visit the [Financial Aid for Studies website](#) or send an [email](#).

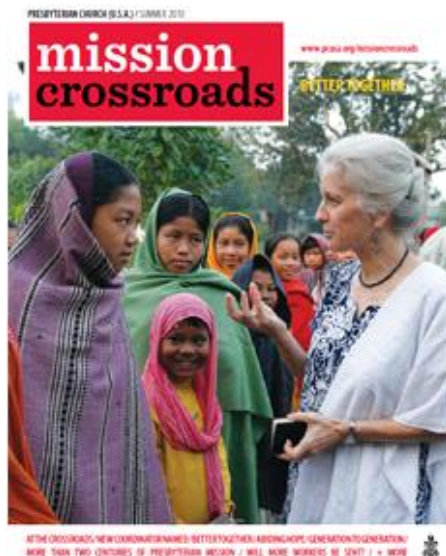
## Get ready for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium



Excitement is building for [Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010](#). Event Organizer Gina Yeager-Buckley had planned on a much smaller event. Statistics generated by the [Religious Conference Management](#)

[Association](#) suggested numbers would be at an all-time low due to the economic downturn. But based on registration number estimates, nearly 5,000 Presbyterian Youth will gather *For Such A Time As This*. Discover why the energy is higher than ever for Triennium on their [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) pages. Find out what is new at Triennium – [Ambassadors](#), a mentor ministry where senior adults and young people will experience and share faith together at Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010.

### Highlights is now Mission Crossroads

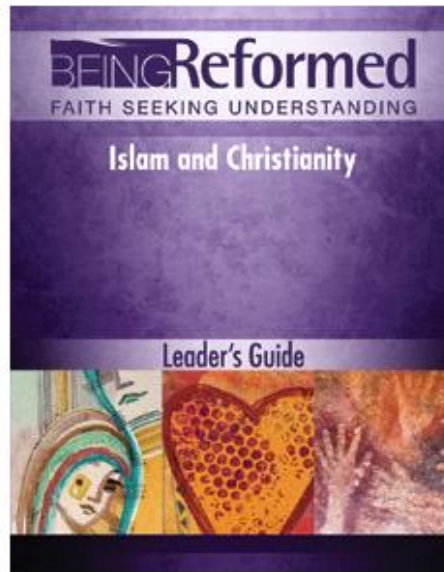


*Mission Crossroads*, formerly *Highlights*, will arrive soon in the mail. The Summer 2010 issue of *Mission Crossroads* introduces the new Africa coordinator, Rev. Debbie Braaksma; features retired mission workers Sam and Eileen Moffett, who still encourage prayer and financial support of overseas workers; gives an overview of two decades of Presbyterian mission; lifts up the mission workers commissioned for international service in 2009 and 2010; and explains a new group subscription plan available at no cost to churches. To subscribe, [visit Presbyterians at Work Around the World](#) or [email your questions](#).

### Become an Earth Care Congregation

[Environmental Ministries](#) has introduced the Earth Care Congregations program to encourage churches to care for God's earth and to honor churches that have committed to this important mission. The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life. *Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches* provides congregations with worksheets, resources, and instructions for becoming an Earth Care Congregation. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that made the commitment to be stewards of God's earth, and encourages others to follow in their lead. To become an Earth Care Congregation churches affirm the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of their church life and complete projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Six PC(USA) churches from around the country have already achieved Earth Care Congregation certification through participation in a pilot program. For more information on the Earth Care program, contact Katie Holmes [by email](#) or at (502) 569-5624.

### Get new resources on interfaith relations



To help the church better understand the new study papers regarding Christian-Jewish and Christian-Muslim relations that are before the General Assembly this year, consider two new resources. The first is a book published by Witherspoon Press, [Let Us Reason Together: Christians and Jews in Conversation](#), edited by Joseph D. Small and Gilbert S. Rosenthal. This book makes available the presentations and responses from four consultations that helped inform the writing of the 2010 study on Christian-Jewish Relations. The second is a new congregational study for adults in the *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding Series: Islam and Christianity*. [A Participant's Book](#) with [Leader's Guide](#) engages heads, hearts and hands in considering the distinctive ideas and practices of Christians and Muslims. To order, visit the [Church Store](#) or call (800) 524-2612.

### Upcoming events

July 23-25, 2010

#### **National Hispanic Latino-a Presbyterian Family Event**

Join us for the National Hispanic Latino-a Presbyterian Family Event, at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. For the first time the National Hispanic/Latina Presbyterian Women Encuentro will join together with Presbyterian Men, youth and young adults, the caucus, and the continuing education seminar for all Hispanic/Latino-a Presbyterians to share their history, legacy, ministry and diversity. Contact Hector Rodriguez at (800) 728-7228, x5700.

July 29-31, 2010.

#### **Theological Training Program for New Immigrants, Commissioned Lay Pastors and new immigrant leaders in the PC(U.S.A.)**

Stony Point, New York

For more information, contact Angel Suarez Valera at (800) 728-7228, x5135.



## General Assembly Mission Council

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