

MODERATOR'S LETTER

Grace to you and peace. I hope you are staying warm in this cold and snowy February. Trying to follow the example of my predecessor this is my first attempt at a Moderator's letter. I hope you find it useful. *-David*

In this letter are notes about:

- **New Camp Whitman director**
- **Council listening**
- **At the worship service in January. . .**
- **Installation of Russell Duncan as Pastor of the Lyons Church**
- **March Presbytery meeting**
- **Presbytery retreat**
- **West Virginia mission trip**
- **Mission pledges**
- **Help Wanted: Director of Youth and Family Ministries**
- **Older Adult Ministries Certificate Program**
- **Prayers**

New Camp Director

At its February 10 meeting, General Council voted to hire Lea Kone as the new Camp Director for Camp Whitman. She was highly recommended by the Camp Operators Team.

Lea knows our Camp from when she was a camper and then a counselor at Camp Whitman, and she was a member of the old Program Committee for the Camp. Lea has a BA from Nazareth College and an MS from Aurora University. She has professional experience in this field from serving as Director of Development at Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, NY, and associate director at Camp North Star & Cliffside Lodge in Poland Springs, ME.

The Camp Director's position is a half time position. Lea will begin her work on March 1.

Speaking of Camp Whitman, we still need a camp nurse for this summer's season and a coordinator for the Pine camp.

Council Listening

At the January Presbytery meeting, General Council shared a list of times and places when its members would be available for conversations with anybody who wanted to talk about

the Presbytery. That list is on the presbytery website. The intention was to pay attention to any feelings of hurt or neglect, to be open to new relationships, and to listen to suggestions, ideas or hopes that people might have for the Presbytery. These listening sessions run through the month of February. But Council members want to be available and responsive at any time. Attached to this letter is a list of the Council members with their contact information. Please know that you are welcomed to contact any one of us at any time.

At the worship service in January . . .

. . . folks were invited to talk about and to write on cards some of their hopes and aspirations for the future of the Presbytery. General Council looked at those responses in February. Some of the words and phrases that stood out were: vision, mission, structure, connections, community, and training. The last word led to a lengthier discussion about the need for elder training that might be done with clusters or maybe on an academy model. I hope you hear more about this soon. The responses were also shared with Dr. David Olsen, who visited our Presbytery in May and will be returning for a retreat in April.

March Presbytery Meeting

The March meeting will have a full agenda. We will vote on the Amendments to the Book of Order that were approved at last spring's General Assembly. Booklets containing those amendments were distributed at the January Presbytery meeting. Please bring those booklets with you to the March meeting. If you didn't get a booklet a few more will be available at the March meeting. We will also have the second reading and vote on the 2015 budget. And the Synod Administrative Review Committee should have finished its report, which can be shared with the Presbytery. The Presbytery meeting will be at the Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra on March 14.

Presbytery retreat

Dr. David Olsen will be the leader for a one day Presbytery retreat on Saturday, April 25. Thanks to the Presbyterian Church of Geneva for agreeing to host this event. All minister members of Presbytery, committee members, and elder commissioners are invited to come and help us seek to express a new vision for the presbytery and some mission priorities for the future.

West Virginia Mission Trip

Council approved the Mission Trip to West Virginia for April 19-25. For many years a work crew from this presbytery has gone to West Virginia to help with home repair and reconstruction. The team works through the WV Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. For more information contact Paul Salisbury at psalisb1@rochester.rr.com

Mission Pledges

The Budget and Finance Committee has received 36 (out of 60 congregations) mission pledge forms for 2015. If your church has not sent in a mission pledge please get it in. It really helps us in budgeting and planning mission.

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains

www.firstreformedchurch.com

First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, NJ is seeking a **Director of Youth & Family Ministries** who will oversee the work of our children's ministry staff and give leadership to the discipleship development of youth and families in our church. The person we hire will strategize, develop and implement a comprehensive intergenerational approach to discipleship formation. This includes recruiting and equipping adult volunteers for effective student ministry, cultivating authentic relationships, equipping and empowering parents as spiritual role models, creating opportunities for missional engagement with students, and connecting with families in our community area.

We are looking for a leader who is self-motivated, highly relational, organized, and demonstrates a deep commitment in their own faith. This person will be a vital member of our Ministry Team. We are committed to offering the resources and support needed to succeed.

You will find our church to be self-reflective, incarnational, experimental, missional, inclusive and intergenerational. Our campus is strategically located in a family-oriented, suburban community only 20 miles west of NYC and is rated as one of the "Best Places to Live in New Jersey."

We offer a competitive package, including housing. Both ordained and non-ordained qualified individuals are welcome to inquire and/or apply. Contact Search Committee Co-Chairs Judy & Eric Reichenbach at FRCSearchCommittee@gmail.com to let us know you are interested, ask any questions, submit a profile or a resume with letter of interest, and/or request a detailed job description.

Older Adult Ministries Certificate Program

It is time to register for the Older Adult Ministry Certificate Program! All registrations must be in by March 2 so all is ready for you in April. We're excited about this new partnership between POAMN (Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network) and Columbia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning. Please come and join the fun and the lifelong learning, preparing for effective ministry with our older generations!

Follow the link to register:

http://www.ctsnet.edu/files/documents/CLL_Info_Feb15.pdf

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) www.poamn.org

Prayers

Please keep the presbytery in your prayers as we begin to discern our future. Pray for the members of Council, who have heavy responsibility in guiding the presbytery. Rejoice with Russ Duncan and the Lyons church as they begin a new chapter in their relationship.

General Council – 2015

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Also, the Stated Clerk, *pro tem*, attends the Council meetings and records the minutes:
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