

June 2011

THE HERALD



You have probably heard that what is known as “Amendment 10-A” has passed. This was the amendment that removes the prohibition of ordaining gay and lesbian people as elders, deacons and pastors in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There are many who are happy that this prohibition has been removed, and there are many who are upset. There is no doubt that this issue has been very controversial and has been an issue that the Presbyterian Church has been discussing since 1978. Other denominations that allow gays to be ordained include the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This amendment to the *Book of Order* was passed at the General Assembly meeting in 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. An amendment requires a majority vote of all of the presbyteries, thus it required an affirmative vote of 87 presbyteries. Our presbytery, Homestead Presbytery, voted at its last meeting on May 19, and it passed by a vote of 49 to 26. Central Nebraska Presbytery, which covers the central part of Nebraska not including the panhandle, and Missouri River Presbytery, which covers the Omaha area and southwest Iowa, also voted for the amendment.

We have enclosed in this newsletter a page entitled “Frequently Asked Questions.” I hope this will answer some of your questions about the change. It is the presbytery that ordains pastors, and it is the local church that ordains elders and deacons. As you can see the change does not mean that presbyteries or local churches are obligated to elect and ordain a pastor, elder or deacon who is gay. Each presbytery and local church will be making that decision. Each presbytery and local church “shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.” Also, no change has been made to the Book of Order definition of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman.

Also at the May 19 meeting of Homestead Presbyter I was elected the stated clerk. I will begin that job on July 1. As I said in last month’s newsletter, I am staying on as pastor. My salary from Heritage will be reduced by about \$2,000. Since this is a change in the terms of call, this salary change will require action by the congregation. Session has called for a congregational meeting for June 12, immediately following the worship. (Don’t forget that starting May 29, our worship will be at **9:30 AM** during the summer months!) We will be acting on the terms of call and also on a few changes to the church’s bylaws. You will be receiving another letter soon that will give you the details of the salary change and the bylaws. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Raymond A. Meester

REMEMBER CHANGE IN SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

*We will be worshipping at 9:30 AM through Sunday, September 4
(Labor Day Weekend).*

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 12, 2011 at 10:30 AM



**June
Birthday
Greetings**

- 02 J. Mitchell Robertson
- 04 Dakota Stansberry
- 04 Jeanne Bonnett
- 05 Norris Sintek
- 07 Jennifer Lynn Burkey
- 11 Jan Crouch
- 12 Jessica Broeder
- 12 Mora McKenzi Singsaas
- 13 Larry Lawson
- 14 Miranda Smith
- 15 Larry Regier
- 15 Terry Werner
- 16 Liam Cosmo Tomas
- 16 Melody Ell
- 16 Robyn Throckmorton
- 17 Richard Gibson
- 18 Ann Gibson
- 19 Breannah Weyers
- 19 Corinne Crouch
- 19 Larry Brage
- 20 Kaitlynn Kay Burianek
- 21 David Crawford
- 22 Nathan Ell
- 22 Scott Wilson
- 24 Dean Jones
- 24 Justin Griffin
- 25 Brylee Faye Haas
- 27 Karie Jones
- 29 Sarah Muehlhausen
- 30 Camden Dallas Gibson



**June
Anniversaries**

- 02 Danny & Tamra Broeder
- 04 Larry & Nancy Regier
- 09 Bruce & Ruth Hunzeker
- 11 Raymond & Ramona Meester
- 12 Dave & Dawn Thompson
- 15 Jim & Barbara Geistlinger
- 21 Bill & Missy Bahr
- 24 Darren & Chanell Carpenter
- 26 Jered & Sarah Muehlhausen
- 28 Larry & Sharon Baker
- 29 James & Ann Watkins

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR
Elly Propp at Madonna;
Eveline Meester, hospice; "Linda" who has cancer;
Barb Kennedy's son, Rocky, with health issues;
Gary Cooper, suffered a fall and light stroke
Margaret Timpone has cancer
"Fred" recuperating from motorcycle accident;
Marilyn Smith, dental surgery on Tuesday (5/31).
Please update prayer requests with Marilyn Smith
or the church office weekly.

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.



CONGRATULATIONS TO Barb Shaeffer on the birth of a new grandson, Andrew, weighing in at 9 lbs. and 12 ozs.



.....Dear Heritage Presbyterian Church,
 Thank you for helping pay for the trip to Purdue College for Presbyterian Youth Triennium. I had a great time. During the week I attended worship, small groups, and other religious activities. I am really happy that I was a part of 2010's trip to Indiana. Thanks again. I couldn't have gone without you!

Sincerely, Lacey Smith



Monte Earl Bellew was baptized May 29, 2011. He was born August 14, 2010 in Lincoln, NE. He is the son of Dawn Stansberry and Mural Bellew.

.....Just wanted to express my thanks to you and the church for all the support that you provided to my grandparents, May & Ross Robinson, and making their passing a peaceful one. In particular, we appreciate the service of Leanne Miller....Also, I want to thank you for the service....

Thanks again, Jeff and Chau Shepard
 (Full contents of their note is on the bulletin board in the back of the church.)

BEST CHOICE



We have received another check for \$30.00 for our Youth Program from saving & redeeming Best Choice UPC labels. To date we have received \$1,407.00.

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The end of Alzheimer's disease starts here.

Mark your calendar for the 2011 Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's™ and unite in a movement to reclaim the future for millions. Join us as we walk to end Alzheimer's, the nation's sixth-leading cause of death and a disease that devastates millions of families across the country.

With your help, we can raise awareness and funds to enhance Alzheimer care and support and advance critical research. Together, we are an unstoppable force in the fight against Alzheimer's.



Walk with us. Start or join a team today at alz.org/walk.

Lincoln
Walk to End
Alzheimer's™

Sunday September 25

1:00 p.m.

Village Gardens

Contact Kris Hall:
(402) 420-2540

<http://walktoendaiz.kintera.org/Lincoln>

Recognized for Sunday School perfect attendance is Preston Pierce



Also recognized for commendable attendance were:

Mora Singaas
Delia Thompson
Clint Lathen
Savanna Newman
Maya Jack
Sebastian Newman
Mason Smith
Adriana Miller
Lariah Smith

Carson Pierce
Isaiah Guillatt
Miley Smith
Leif Tomas
Sydney Miller
Mason Pierce
Zoe Tomas
Nash Jack

The Meester Family will be forming a team to raise money for this walk. Please contact Ramona if you would like to join their team or to make a contribution. Thanks!



Easter 2011

Dear Ray and Members of Heritage,

I hope this note finds everyone well. I send you greetings from Prague. I am so grateful for your support. Even though we are separated by an ocean, I'm still very connected to all of you. I am finally settling in, but still struggling to learn Czech!

Thank you again for all your love and support.

From our PCUSA Mission Worker, Karen Moritz



EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CZECH BRETHREN (ECCB)

Rev. Dr. Karen R. Moritz
Mission Coworker, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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CAMP CALVIN CREST

It is not too late to register for summer camp. Posted on the bulletin board are the various camps that are offered. Camps run from June through July. More information at www.calvincrest.org.

VBS is coming!



Make plans now to participate by completing the enclosed registration form and turning it in to the church office by June 27th. We will be doing something a little

different this year. . . VBS will be held Saturday, August 6th and Sunday, August 7th from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM. Lunch will be provided. See you in August – Register NOW!!! Registration Forms available online (see last page to May 2011 Newsletter online) or in the office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Harvey and Kay Traudt on having celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary May 26, 2011.



CROP Hunger Walk

Take the first step,
Save the date: **Sunday,**
October 9, 2011
Lincoln/Lancaster
County



REMEMBER COOKIE FELLOWSHIP 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH JUNE 5TH

Join us for cookies and coffee and fellowship after worship.



OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS

to the family and friends of Lana Rinke. Lana died April 26, 2011. She is the daughter of Lavonne Salisbury.

to Eveline Meester and her family (Pastor Ray, Ramona, & Gina), on the death of Eveline's sister, Hattie Hulleman of Monroe Iowa. Hattie died Monday, May 9th.



The Heritage Book Club

The book club has selected "A White Bird Flying" by Bess Streeter Aldrich for discussion at the next meeting on June 13 at 7 PM in the Gibson Room. **Everyone is welcome to attend.** Please direct questions about the book club to Audre Nielson.

Heritage Book Club Selection for discussion at the July 11th meeting will be "One Thousand White Women" by Jim Fergus

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

July 15: Articles received after this time may not be included in the Newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

A big THANK YOU to all who have supported the following Mission Projects of our church:



One Great Hour of Sharing: \$633.96 has been donated to OGHS and \$237.00 directed to Japan earthquake/tsunami relief and \$130.00 directed to Alabama tornado relief. Thanks to everyone who helped us exceed our goal of \$1,000. You have touched the lives of people around the world!

On May 8th Giving Table: Over 35 items of food and \$82.00 was donated to the Eastridge Food Pantry as once again "we gave as we received" during communion.

Pentecost: We will be receiving the Pentecost Offering through Pentecost on June 12, 2011. This offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. The Mission Committee will direct our 40 percent of the offering to City Impact in support of their ministry with children at risk in our community. 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 member of God's family.

Your Missions Committee

THANK YOU FROM VOICES OF HOPE

Pastor Meester:

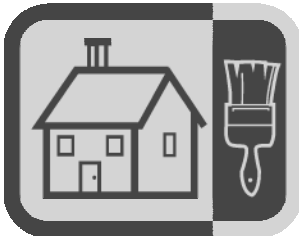
On behalf of everyone at Voices of Hope, I want to thank you and your congregation for generously hosting Malley Keelan's "A Mother's Day Bouquet of Song: concert, which benefited our agency. I was at the event selling tickets as people entered the church, so didn't have the opportunity to introduce myself and thank you in person. You have a lovely church that worked out perfectly as a site for this event.

Thank you also for your kind words about Voices of Hope during the opening prayer.

I know that often, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault will turn to their clergy for support and referral. Please know that Voices of Hope is here to help. If you would like literature about our agency or how a congregation can respond to domestic violence, please let me know.

.....Patsy Martin, Communications Coordinator, Voices of Hope

LINCOLN PAINT-A-THON



Paint-a-thon is now in its 21st year of assisting seniors and disabled persons in getting their homes painted with the help of volunteers at absolutely no cost to the homeowner. To date, 764 homes have been painted.

If you are 60 or over, or are permanently disabled and meet financial guidelines, you could qualify to have your home painted at absolutely no cost, by volunteers from area businesses, congregations, and service clubs.

Pick up an application at any US Bank or call 477-7181.

Application Deadline is June 10, 2011.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Change in Ordination Standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1. What is the change?

Shall G-6.0106b be amended by striking the current text and inserting new text in its place: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

~~"b. Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.~~

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

2. What does the change in ordination standards represent?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has returned the authority for applying its ordination standards from the national level to the local presbytery and session level. This represents a de-centralization of the church and puts more discernment in the hands of people at the local level.

3. Would congregations be able to ordain people who are openly gay?

The present standards were never based on a person's orientation, but on their behavior. The proposed standards no longer list one specific behavior that automatically excludes someone for consideration for ordination, but requires an examination of the candidate's behavior *en toto*. Each examining body is responsible to look at all possible factors to determine if someone is being called into ordained ministry.

4. Would we have to accept a gay or lesbian ordained elsewhere?

No. If pastors, elders, and deacons who are ordained in one area move to another location, they shall be examined by that ordaining body before being able to take up their office. That body may choose to apply ordination standards differently from the officer's previous body. This is the current authority and would not be changed.

5. Is the ordination of sexually active gays and lesbians mandated?

No, it is not required. No congregation or presbytery would be required to accept an active gay or lesbian for ordination.

6. Will a congregation be required to change anything?

No. A congregation cannot be forced to ordain or receive pastors or elders or deacons of whom they do not approve. The congregation would still retain the right to determine who may serve as officers.

7. May a congregation continue to consider sexual activity outside marriage between a man and a woman as impermissible for its officers?

Yes. The authority for ordaining elders and deacons is fully vested in the local congregation. The new language calls the ordaining body to be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying ordination standards to individual candidates.

8. Does the new language give candidates who are sexually active outside the covenant of marriage between a woman and a man the "right" to be ordained?

No. Nobody has a "right" to be ordained. Ordination is based on the determination by the ordaining body.

9. May a presbytery continue to function with the standard of "fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" when examining candidates for ordination?

Yes. The new language calls the ordaining body to be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying ordination standards to each candidate.

10. Is a presbytery required to receive, by transfer of membership, an ordained sexually active gay or lesbian minister?

No. Each presbytery determines which ministers to receive into its membership. This authority of presbytery would not change.

11. May questions about a candidate's sexuality be asked or are such questions forbidden?

All questions are allowed during an examination.

12. Is a congregation required to call a pastor who is openly gay or lesbian?

No.