

2010
SEPTEMBER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

MOVING MOUNTAINS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BY LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA



The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is held every other year and is composed of an equal number of ministers and elders nominated by our regional governing bodies. These commissioners make decisions on behalf of our national church through a week long process of discernment. The 2010 GA was held July 2–7 in Minneapolis.

This was my third experience at General Assembly (Theological Student Advisory Delegate, 2006 and Racial Ethnic Young Women Together co-moderator and representative, 2008) but my understanding of the Church was deepened nonetheless. I worked with “That All May Freely Serve,” an organization seeking an inclusive Church in which all people are ordained as elders, deacons and ministers regardless of their sexual orientation.

I am continually impressed with the radical inclusivity that TAMFS seeks. Much of the work in the national level of the denomination focuses on identity: women, men, young adults, youth, lgbtq, race/ethnicity, and other such individualized categories. In contrast, TAMFS is actively committed to examining and speaking through the multiple intersections of identity. While they focus on the issue of ordination standards, they recognize that this justice issue cannot be set apart from other forms of oppression

in the Church. They do not push people to choose one issue or another instead encouraging the Church to see the intersections of inequality within, across, and in combination of human-made categories of identity that are still maintained today.

We spent our week calling ourselves, “Welcome (R)evolution” and sought to live into our understanding of an inclusive church. We believe that relationships are invaluable so that meeting someone who is lgbtq or an ally makes the conversation personal and tangible instead of detached. We sought conversations with people from a variety of perspectives, even if they strongly disagreed with our work, to instead base our interactions on what we agreed on, our love and passion for the Church, instead of focusing on our disagreements.

I can’t give you a spreadsheet that shows the numerical difference that we made at General Assembly, but that was never our goal. Instead, it was to do what Shawna Bowman’s artwork during opening worship (inspired by Isaiah 54:1-5) depicts on this page. We sought to move the mountain of well-intentioned ideas of Church, community and ministry to a new place. To stop banging on the doors asking for inclusivity and, instead, open the doors to expose the welcoming Table that Christ has already prepared. TAMFS invites people to engage in the life of radical hospitality to which Christ calls us. I know that the end of our time in Minneapolis was just the beginning of the essential work that needs to continue in our denomination!

For full coverage of the Presbyterian General Assembly, visit ga219.pcusa.org.[†]

REV. SHAWNA BOWMAN, CREATES ART AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING WORSHIP. PHOTO BY VICKI FOGEL MYKLES.



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday service in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Childcare is provided in the Mulford Room. Coffee hour and time for fellowship immediately follow both services.

Sunday school for children at 10:00 a.m. Classes for ages 3-4 and grades K-2, 3-6, and 7-up meet in the Parish House.

Choir practice at 10:15 a.m.

Share your thoughts about faith and life in Faith in Practice class, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Free parking is available in the Recycled Paper Company lot north of the church. Access the lot from the alley. Parking is not available 2 hours before Cubs games.



ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

A Taste of Lake View—See September 12

Parents Group Dinner—See September 15

Young Adults Retreat—See September 24

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

A Taize service features scripture reading, repetitive singing, and meditative silence, combining traditional worship forms in a contemporary way. The goal is to enable participants to remain open to the voice of God and discover the prayer within themselves. Join us tonight at 7:00 for Taize.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Lake View Pantry food donations and Two Cents A Meal offerings will be taken at the morning worship services.

Sue Cox will give blood pressure screenings between worship services.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Church office closed for Labor Day.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Regular exercise is the key to vitality, so join the Seniors in Motion fitness class. An exercise specialist from Advocate Fitness leads the group. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Join the Lawn and Garden Committee for a special beautification day from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

Spend time with long-time LVPC members at a Presbyterian Homes Fellowship from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in Evanston. The gathering offers an opportunity to stay connected with an important part of our church family. Volunteers are welcome. Contact Sue Cox at (773) 281- 2655 for more information.

On Holy Ground Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Cafe Pride provides a safe social space from 8:00 p.m. to midnight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and their allies, ages 16-24.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Join LVPC's men for good food and good conversation at the Men's Breakfast, starting at 9:00 a.m.

After the men clean up, the women have brunch. It starts at 10:30 a.m.

The Book Discussion Group meets at 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Kick off the education year at the Annual

LVPC Rally Day on the churchyard

following the 11:00 a.m. service. This year

it's been dubbed "A Taste of Lake View."

There will be a picnic featuring different

food at each table, games for kids, and

a fair where you can learn about all the

things to do at LVPC.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Eco-Justice Task Force meets at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

Christian Nurture Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

Social Justice Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See September 7.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Enjoy some time talking with other parents at the Parents Group. This month's get-together will be a dinner for the whole family. They meet at 6:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See September 10.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Bring your appetite to church and join the Young Adults Brunch after the 11:00 a.m. service.

If you're still hungry, there will be an Out & About Grill Potluck at 2:00 p.m. at Deanna Boyd's home.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Welcoming Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See September 7.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Young Adults Retreat kicks off today. They'll travel to Lutherdale Retreat Center in Wisconsin for relaxation, camaraderie, and reflection. See Larissa for more details. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See September 3.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

The Young Adults Retreat continues today. See September 24.

No matter what color your thumb is, you can be part of the LVPC Garden Club. They meet in the churchyard from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Bring work gloves, hats, and any garden tools you like to use.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Young Adults Retreat continues today. See September 24.

Today is Lake View Academy Sunday, celebrating the beginning of another school year. Students will lead the worship service.

The Out & About group heads out for brunch after the 11:00 a.m. service.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See September 7.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.†

COMING UP



The date is October 10. The place is wherever you live. The point is to do something that will help deal with global warming in your community.

It's a Global Work Party, with emphasis on both 'work' and 'party'. In Auckland, New Zealand, they're having a giant bike fix-up day, to get every bicycle in the city back on the road. In the Maldives, they're putting up solar panels on the President's office. In Kampala, Uganda, they're going to plant thousands of trees, and in Bolivia they're installing solar stoves for a massive carbon neutral picnic.

LVPC's Eco-Justice Task Force is joining the party by hosting educational events focusing on solar possibilities at the church. Keep tuned for more events in Chicago and at LVPC, and log on to www.350.org.[†]

Submission deadline for the October issue is September 15. Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net.[†]

CHIMES

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