



INTERIM INSIGHT

Friends,

We've attached Jodie Schiernbeck's update memos on the Life Light concert to this E-News. If you have forgotten, it is on Thursday next week. This is a Presbytery mission event, so if you are waffling about going, go. It sounds like they are prepared for a large crowd. From the overwhelming support, there is no question about how we feel about supporting youth finding Christ.

I have found that Presbytery seems to have many faces. We have other mission faces such as the Camp @ Okoboji and the Southeast Asian Ministry in Storm Lake. The Presbytery is all about mission and extending mission opportunities for congregations. As such, the Presbytery develops strategy, commissions and supports mission opportunities, and organizes joint mission activities. This is what we do.

The Presbytery does four other things. It provides support for congregations, is responsible for the ordering of churches (found, dismiss, divide), maintains discipline (judiciary functions), and maintains relationships with governing and ecumenical bodies. With regard to support, the Presbytery acts to maintain records and history, review session records, provide pastoral care of churches (particularly in times of conflict), support churches in the absence of pastor, maintain communications, ensure common and orderly procedures, develop a network of resources, offer financial support and guidance, support education, provide leadership support through the pastor search process, develop leadership through training, examination, and guidance, certify leaders as trained and capable, authorize and designate persons to ministries, and provide contract support. This list is taken from the Book of Order.

Theologically, I summarize the things the Presbytery can do as walk-along-side, teach, gather and disburse, organize, witness and maintain records, offer wisdom and process, provide a marketplace for ideas, provide a venue to seek justice, and act as an intelligent node in a network of resources.

Since we are the sum of ministers and congregations working together in ministry, the presbytery does not have (contrary to an occasional wish) a bishop with top down authority to unilaterally re-order ministers and congregations. Again this last week I heard from a congregation in conflict complaining that "the Presbytery needs to come in and fix this church". The Presbytery can only act unilaterally in cases of illegality, immorality, or gross malfeasance, or when a congregation is unable to govern itself. I will admit that the Presbytery, under certain leaders, has acted as if the Presbytery office has unilateral power, but that does not build strong, healthy congregations with capable leadership. The growth of the church and our capability to engage in effective mission hinges on strong, healthy congregations with capable leadership. It is difficult to build leaders and churches. In the process of building congregations, you see a lot of pain.

Over the next few weeks, the Mission Review Task Force is finishing its proposals for creating a missional presbytery. It's different. It's a better model than I offered them. It makes mission central and removes obstacles. It does require strong, healthy congregations with capable leadership and all of us working together. They feel it is the future – a strong growing future. In my limited understanding of how God works, I think so too.

Grace and peace, *Bill*

Last chance: 2008-2009 Presbyterian Planning Calendar. Available in May.



Call or e-mail Kay at the presbytery office with your order. If we have an order of 50+ we can purchase calendars for \$6.00. Regular price is \$10.50



Our goal was \$5500 and I think we are at \$8000... Can you believe that? It has been unbelievable - we went to a lot of churches and got a lot of responses - we only had 1 corporate sponsor - the rest was either churches or personal checks. It is amazing what the Lord can do. We met our goal and are planning on doing something every year to keep this going. I just pray that we can touch at least one person and bring them closer to the Lord.

The LIFELIGHT concert is scheduled for
Thursday April 10, 2008
7:00 PM
IDA GROVE SKATE PALACE

FOR SALE:

1990 Ford Club Wagon XL, F350, handicap accessible van with 56,000 miles. Has 138-inch wheel base, overdrive transmission, power windows and door locks, AM-FM radio, new tires (LT 235-85-R16), front and rear air conditioning and heating. Back door wheelchair lift, will hold up to three wheelchairs. Side door has an electric fold out stair step. Well maintained. Asking \$3,800 OBO. Contact The Presbyterian Village at 641-847-3531.

Anyone interested should contact:

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We welcome guest contributors to our E-News. If you would like to be taken off our e-news mailing list or know someone who would like to be added, contact the presbytery office. 712-732-2097 or thehill@prospecthillpresby.org