

# The Administrator

The Newsletter of the PCBAA

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## 2007 NACBA/PCBAA Conference Update

Christopher Y. Nicholas FPCBA President PCBAA



It was indeed a blessing and an enriching experience once again to have spent time together, worshipped and relaxed with sisters and brothers of the Presbyterian Church Business Administrators Assn., in Grapevine, TX. What a wonderful and comfortable stay in the Gaylord Texan environment and the opportunity to build friendships, learn from each other, as well as from some excellent keynote messages and workshops. My sincere thanks go out to each one of you who attended the conference this past July (2007). Together about 62 PCBAA members including spouses & companions were present. Our thanks also to six "first timers" to the conference this year. The PCBAA welcomes you, and we look forward to seeing you again in Nashville, TN in July



**NACBA/PCBAA Conference—Gaylord Texan  
Grapevine, Texas**

2008. We started our conference schedule with a tour of "The Stewpot", a mission project of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. What a wonderful way to begin, by learning how this excellent operation worked, with providing much needed assistance to hundreds of homeless people in the

community. As part of our business meeting, we had some useful presentations from representatives of some of our PC (USA) agencies and related organizations. Clark Simmons from the Board of Pensions, brought us updates on the benefits system, Ben Blake  
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## Is There a Future for the Presbyterian Church USA?

That was the question addressed by our Guest Speaker, Stated Clerk, Cliff Kirkpatrick, at the Annual Banquet of the PCBAA . Cliff's talk was

a refreshing look at the future of the Presbyterian Church and a glimpse into his hope for the years ahead. Reflecting on his

native roots in Texas, Cliff delighted the gathering with stories of his childhood and even more so with his continued ...Page 3

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## 2007 NACBA/PCBAA Conference Update...continued

from the Investment and Loan Program Inc., presented updates on church loans and developments. Kim Warner explained to us how development funds of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation worked.

The Presbyterian activities at the conference concluded with a wonderful banquet on the third day, when we had the privilege of certifying as Fellow, Delbert VonVolkenburg, from First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Erie, PA. Del was first property manager, then director of operations, and now director of administration, for the same church. Our congratulations! to Del.

Welcome to the new Board of the PCBAA for 2007-2008. We are excited to have Bob Clark from Lewinsville Presbyterian Church of McLean, VA, as our new Communications Chair, and leadership in Conference Planning provided by co-chairs Carol Barnett from Eastminster Presbyterian Church, SC, and Ron Nelson from Second Presbyterian

Church, Louisville, KY (please see website for names of all board members). The finale on the evening of the banquet, was the keynote address by Reverend Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the General Assembly. Amidst the various issues being debated in our church today, Cliff expounded to us in a way that we could understand the wonderful work our church was tirelessly engaged in. He spoke about our work in the mission field, in disaster assistance, hunger, social justice and peace issues, new church development, and providing ecumenical leadership, around our nation as well as internationally. He outlined a path for a hopeful future for our church, and left us feeling proud, to be working for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

If you are working as an administrator for a Presbyterian Church, or related organization, and are inclined to do your work, decently and in order, you are welcome to join the PCBAA. Please visit our website [www.pcbaa.org](http://www.pcbaa.org), and find out

more about your career path to certification as a Fellow. Please stay in touch, read your quarterly newsletter, ask questions and we'll get you answers through shared experiences, and visit the website regularly (check for job opportunities). Please contact me with your suggestions.

Let us learn together, to serve God better.

Christopher Y. Nicholas FPCBA  
President, PCBAA

*“What a wonderful and comfortable stay in the Gaylord Texan environment and the opportunity to build friendships, learn from each other, as well as from some excellent keynote messages and workshops.”*

## First Conference Attendee... Julie Hoopper

As a new attendee to the NACBA conference, it was difficult to know what to expect. Arriving as the only participant from my church, I was eager to network and find a group in which to join. What a joy it was to meet so many warm people willing to include me in their activities and join forces in conquering the workshops and events.

I found it refreshing that so many people could come together with diverse backgrounds and denomination affiliations to celebrate common bonds. I often ate lunch with Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Lutherans. Not only did we have the common bond of serving Christ through our profession, but we had the connection of truly understanding what it means to be a Church Business Adminis-

trator. Unlike secular organizations, church administrators can share ideas, thoughts and suggestions without the threat of competition. We realize we are all working towards the same goal and ultimately working for the same “boss”. This in itself made the convention enjoyable and beneficial.

I have to mention that one of the highlights of the conference was the chance to connect with other Presbyterians through the national PCBAA. Even though I did not grow up Presbyterian, the single factor of working in the same denomination united this group throughout the week. I felt at home. I enjoyed seeing the members re-connect with each other and tell stories of past conferences. How wonderful that an educational based event can

*“Overall I found the NACBA conference to be motivating and uplifting.”*

bring such long standing friendships.

Overall, I found the NACBA conference to be motivating and uplifting. It is a great place to network with good hearted people, to dig deeper into your spiritual gifts, to let go of your daily work responsibilities and to find relative educational opportunities. The experience renewed my purpose and validated my position at Winter Park Presbyterian Church. I hope to have the opportunity to participate in the future.

Julie Hoopper  
Winter Park Presbyterian Church

## Is There a Future for the Presbyterian Church USA?...Continued

entertaining stories about life as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. His travels have taken him to all points of the compass and beyond.

In his address he made reference to those things that are of concern to us all: major structural change, membership declines, being relevant in today's world. However, even with these concerns Cliff is encouraged as he went on to site significant reasons for hope and excitement, which include:

- We are a Church of Vision
- A Church that continues to make a difference for Christ

- A strong network of Theological Institutions
- A Church that honors and is renewed by its heritage
- Leadership in the ecumenical movement
- Vital Congregations
- The Holy Spirit is at work in the PCUSA.

In his closing remarks Cliff observed. "It is not an easy time to be in ministry, but I am convinced it is a time full of promise and hope. I believe God does have a future for PCUSA and we are privileged to be partners with God in bringing that to fruition."



**Guest Speaker, Stated Clerk  
Cliff Kirkpatrick**

*"It is not an easy time to be in ministry, but I am convinced it is a time full of promise and hope."*

### More than a job...

For many of us life as a Church Administrator is so much more than a 9-5 job. At times we are faced with major problems and challenges and then at other times great personal rewards and blessings. Working in the church environment is unique in that Christ is at the center of our purpose. As we face the day to day, we are confronted with

similar tasks that are present in many administrative positions, law firms, hospitals, newspapers, manufacturing companies. All these positions have administrative duties that require administrators to provide due diligence and creative problem solving, but part of the joy of working in the church environment is the knowledge

that we are contributing to a mission that is founded in faith, hope and love.



