

Presbyterian Church Business Administrators

Website Supplement – News of Interest

Kirkpatrick and Valentine Announce creation of new office

Released December 18, 2006

Today the General Assembly Council Executive Committee and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly gave their approval to the creation of an office of vocation, to be supervised jointly between our offices.

These areas have previously had some overlap in function, so combining them makes perfect sense. Leadership is one of the most pressing issues facing the church today. For us to succeed in facing many of the opportunities ahead of us, we will need to focus efforts on creating a culture of vocation within the church. This new office will assist that effort by combining work previously done separately by our offices.

This new endeavor builds upon collaboration between our areas over the past few years. The transition will begin on January 2, 2007, and take a few months to complete. Creating the new office has a neutral effect on current budgets, as it simply combines the funding that was available for our previously separate offices.

We have asked the Reverend Dr. Marcia Clark Myers to provide leadership for this new office. Myers was previously the associate director for Leadership and Vocation within the General Assembly Council's National Ministries Division. She has also served as national staff resource for Committees on Ministry, as well as interim executive presbyter in Transylvania Presbytery, associate presbyter for Small Church Ministry in West Virginia Presbytery, and twenty years as a pastor. She will begin in this new role on January 2, 2007.

The work to be included in this combined office includes:

- . Christian Vocation, Presbyterian Leadership Search Effort (PLSE)
- . Certification of Christian Educators
- . Guidance for vocational discernment through the preparation for ministry process - training, consultation resources for a presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- . Assessment of readiness for ministry - ordination exams
- . Support for ordained ministers - training, consultation resources for a presbytery's Committee on Ministry
- . Orderly Exchange of Ministers (Formula of Agreement)
- . Commissioned Lay Pastors - guidance and resources for presbyteries
- . PC(USA) Call System/Church Leadership Connection
- . Guidance on congregational personnel issues, lay professionals
- . Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel (authorized by the Stated Clerk, currently funded by General Assembly Council's mission dollars)

As a result of this new office, Presbyterians will be able to obtain:

- . One point of contact for presbytery leaders and others to look for guidance and obtain consistent information
- . Better training - coordinated training and resourcing of presbytery leaders through the fall polity and leadership conference, health ministry conferences, and regional training events, with less duplication and more coverage
- . Accurate and consistent polity guidance in advisory handbooks and other resources
- . Consolidated credentialing for church professionals
- . Current information for Committees on Preparation for Ministry, and Committees on Ministry, based on the latest General Assembly actions and judicial rulings, as monitored by the Office of the General Assembly

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. Better data - locating all of our vocational related contacts within one office; providing the opportunity to create an 'inquiry-to-grave' database of persons within church service, which will provide better tracking of calls and the sharing of leadership data

As we wait for the coming of our Savior during this time of Advent, may you experience all the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season.

Cliff Kirkpatrick
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Linda Bryant Valentine
Executive Director of the General Assembly Council