



## PROGRESSIVE PARTNERS EVENTS

### 218<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008) OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA

#### Friday, June 20

**9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Assembly Exhibit Hall Open**

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Orientation for Youth Advisory Delegates (YADs)**

*YADs – please travel to San Jose on Thursday in order to attend this orientation, conducted by the Youth Ministries Office and the YAD advisors. Lunch is included. (Dinner is provided on Thursday evening, courtesy of the Presbyterian seminaries.)*

*Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel.*

**1 - 3 p.m.**

**Witherspoon Society's Semper Reformanda Conversation**

Ticket - \$15

Twelfth biannual Semper Reformanda Conversation; Speakers: Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock on "Saving Paradise"; The Rev. Noelle Damico, Campaign for Fair Food

Location: Ramada Limited, 455 S. Second Street, San Jose (walking distance).

**6:30 - 8:30 p.m**

**Covenant Network of Presbyterians**

**Commissioner Convocation Dinner**

Ticket - \$33

Speaker: Susan Andrews, Moderator of the 215th General Assembly and General Presbyter, Hudson River Presbytery. Hear how the Covenant Network is pursuing "a Church as generous and just as God's grace" — and how you can participate. An opportunity for commissioners, advisory delegates and observers to think together about how to make a difference in the coming week. Candidates for Moderator and Stated Clerk have been invited to introduce themselves.

Location: City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose (walking distance).

#### Saturday, June 21

**7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Witherspoon Society Commissioner Orientation**

Ticket - \$15

Overview of the Assembly — An opportunity to learn about the issues and how to be an effective participant. This program reflects a progressive view.

Location: Ramada Limited, 455 S. Second Street, San Jose (walking distance).

**9:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**General Assembly Exhibit Hall Open**

From 2 - 5 p.m. the hall will be open only to commissioners and advisory delegates as part of the assembly orientation sessions.

**4 - 6:45 p.m.**

**More Light Presbyterians Reception and Dinner**

Ticket - \$55.00

It's About Time: A Church for All God's People! Start your Assembly in good company and with hope. All are invited to the National Welcoming & Affirming Presbyterians' Celebration reception and dinner, hosted by More Light Presbyterians, a national LGBT Equality Network of individual members, families, churches and local chapters working for spiritual, ordination and marriage equality in the PC(USA). A festive celebration of faith, hope and love for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and God-given differences. Speaker: Randall Miller, program officer, Equality & Justice, at the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Foundation. The program includes national awards, legislative priorities at this GA, a Shower of Stoles Project display and Voices of Hope.

Reception with cash bar at 4 p.m.

Ticket required for the dinner beginning at 5 p.m.

Location: Marriott Hotel

**11:30 p.m.**

**That All May Freely Serve Midnight Meditation and Post-Modern Prayer**

Join us each evening in a prayer celebration for the church and for ALL. Watch for signs and [check the Web site](#) on where to gather.

**Sunday, June 22**

**9 – 10 a.m.**

**Witness Event**

Join us to bear witness to God's love and acceptance of ALL God's children as commissioners, advisory delegates and observers gather for worship.

**10 a.m. - Noon \***

**Service of Opening Worship and Communion**

*Joan S. Gray, preaching. Joan is the Moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2007). This simultaneous service in two locations will feature communion, the commissioning of mission personnel and recognition of military chaplains. Thousands of Presbyterians from San Jose and the Bay area will join assembly attendees for this special service.*

*Location: San Jose State Event Center and the SJCC Civic Auditorium (both within walking distance).*

**12:30 - 3 p.m.**

**Witherspoon Society Awards Luncheon**

Ticket - \$45

Speaker: The Rev. Carol Hovis, executive director of Marin Interfaith Council and minister member of Redwoods Presbytery, on "Interfaith Relations and the New Sanctuary Movement." Whole Gospel

Congregation recipient: First Presbyterian, Palo Alto. Andrew Murry award winner: Clifton Kirkpatrick.

Location: Fairmont Hotel

**3 - 4:30 p.m.**

**More Light Presbyterians Worship Celebration**

Sanctuary. Celebration. Community. All are welcome to come just as you are and to experience Sanctuary, Celebration and Community in worship of the God who creates, loves and embraces all. Join other open-hearted Christians in a welcoming and affirming worship encounter that celebrates all persons as God's children and recognizes the gifts of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Presbyterians and their families in the life of our Church and the Body of Christ. Sponsored by More Light Presbyterians, a National LGBT Affirmation & Equality Network of individual members, families, churches and local chapters working for spiritual, ordination and marriage equality in the PC(USA). Annual meeting will follow worship.

Location: Fairmont Hotel

**7:30 - 10 p.m.**

**McCormick Seminary and Chicago Presbytery Joint Reception**

Location: St. Claire Hotel

**11:30 p.m.**

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**Monday, June 23**

**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

**Covenant Network of Presbyterians Luncheon**

Ticket - \$42

Speaker: John M. Buchanan, Moderator of the 208th General Assembly, editor and publisher of the *Christian Century*, pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago and founding co-moderator of the Covenant Network. He will reflect on our continuing vision of a church that celebrates the welcoming gospel.

Location: Fairmont Hotel

**11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options (PARO) Luncheon**

Ticket \$25

Anne Eggebroten, editor of *Abortion: My Choice, God's Grace*, will describe prayerful journeys of Christian women who chose to end unplanned pregnancies in her talk, "Christians and Abortion: Finding a Middle Ground between Extremes."

Location: Fairmont Hotel

**Noon**

**That All May Freely Serve "Something Happening for Love Justice and Jesus"**

Come out to celebrate the ALL of the Church's future. Music? Art? Theater? Something Else? Watch for signs, check [the Web site](#) for where to gather for these daily events.

**5:45 p.m.**

**Witness Event**

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**6:45 - 7:30 p.m. \***

**Evening Worship**

Thomas Richard Daniel, preaching. Thomas is the organizing pastor of Atlantic Station New Church Development in Atlanta, Georgia, Greater Atlanta Presbytery.

Location: Civic Auditorium at the SJCC

**11:30 p.m.**

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**Tuesday, June 24**

**7 - 8:15 a.m.**

**Voices of Sophia (VOS) Breakfast**

Ticket - \$25

Speaker: Mary E. Hunt, feminist theologian and co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, Md. A Roman Catholic, she lectures and writes on theology and ethics with particular attention to liberation issues. Feminist Religious Leadership—The New Agenda Women continue to provide religious leadership that improves the quality of ministry, raises the level of theological discourse and broadens the scope of caring. Challenges abound: how to be Christian in a multi-religious world, why stay in denominations that persist in discriminating when good alternatives are available, what to do about the growing conservative power in both religions and nations? We have learned a lot in shared struggles that will stand us in good stead as we embrace the new agenda. Let the needs of the world not the failings of the churches set our direction.

Location: Fairmont Hotel

**Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**More Light Presbyterians Educational Luncheon**

Ticket - \$33

Impossible Choices: Our Gay Children or the Church? Parents and family members are put in impossible situations when their church, faith tradition or denomination is not accepting of their lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender loved ones. Many parents describe the dilemma of being asked to choose between their child, their faith or place in church. It should not be this way. Join More Light Presbyterians, the national LGBT Equality Network for a panel conversation led by Presbyterian parents with LGBT children. Mitzi Henderson and Sally and Dave McClure will offer inspiration and personal insights. Pastoral care and educational resources for families, pastors, Christian Educators, Stephen's ministers, deacons, campus and youth ministers will be offered.

Location: Fairmont

**Noon**

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Location: TBA

**9 p.m. - 1 a.m.**

**Witherspoon Society Dance**

Ticket - \$20

Time for a break! A great opportunity to relax, catch your breath and enjoy good music, dancing and informal conversation. Also one of the best networking opportunities at the Assembly.

Location: Fairmont

**11:30 p.m.**

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**Wednesday, June 25**

**6:45 - 8:15 a.m.**

**Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Peace Breakfast**

Ticket - \$20

Speaker: Jonathan Kuttub, Palestinian Christian Human Rights Attorney in Israel and Palestine. Topic: "Following Jesus' way to a Just Peace in Israel-Palestine". Peaceseeker Awards to Beth Pyles and Anita David (Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq) and Gary Cozette (Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America). \$10 rebate to commissioners and advisory delegates wearing GA name badge. Full Breakfast.

Location: Fairmont Hotel

**10 - 11 a.m.**

**Using Film to Tell Your Story: Working with Film Makers**

Sponsored by Reach and Teach. Technology has made filmmaking an accessible tool to even the most budget-conscious churches and organizations. Ann Hedreen of White Noise Productions (Seattle, Wa.), will walk us through the steps of choosing and working with a film maker: how to plan a film that reaches and moves your audience; how to work with the filmmaker on the story outline, on the script, in the field, in the digital editing and the DVD design process to get the film that you need and market your film for maximum use. [White Noise Productions](#) has produced several films about Presbyterian churches and programs as well as many other award-winning productions.

Location: Marriott

**Noon**

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**6 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Celebration**

Ticket - \$30

Simple meal will benefit the Green Belt Movement in Kenya; Harry Pickens, Jazz pianist will perform

Location: Trinity Cathedral, 81 North 2nd Street.

**11:30 p.m.**

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**Thursday, June 26**

**Noon**

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**11:30 p.m.**

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**Friday, June 27**

**Noon**

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**11:30 p.m.**

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