



**PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY NETWORK (PPAN) SPONSORS  
PRESENTATION BY ETHICIST SPECIALIZING IN ECONOMICS  
Stony Point Conference Center - Thursday, October 16, 7-9 PM**

In a timely response to current events, the Synod's Public Policy Advocacy Network has invited the Rev. E. Richard Knox, who holds a Ph. D in Social Christian Ethics, specializing in economics, to speak about the

new [Social Creed for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century adopted by the Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#), and how its principles confront the challenges of our economic crisis. Knox's presentation will highlight the movement in the social creed as it addresses the social witness of Christian communities in an increasingly complex world. Focusing on emerging circumstances that put our society and world to the test, Knox will challenge participants to consider evolving relationships between technology and economics in a world of shifting values, helping



participants discover how the church might respond faithfully.

Participation by people from throughout the synod is free, the program covered through the synod's Public Policy Advocacy Network budget. If participants care to spend Thursday night at Stony Point, to eat dinner Thursday or breakfast on Friday at the center, they will need to register in advance through Nancy Lomberk at the synod office by [email](#).

Persons who are formally affiliated with the Synod's Public Policy Advocacy Network, as well as persons who are not, are encouraged to attend the network meeting that will precede the program, beginning at 3:00 PM. Network meeting costs for participants are also covered by the synod in order to encourage participation in our common commitment to social witness. Any member of a PCUSA church within the bounds of the Synod of the Northeast, and any minister from one of the synod's twenty-

two presbyteries automatically has voice and vote. If a prospective participant has a suggested agenda item to be discussed, it is recommended that such suggestions be sent to convener, the Rev. Janet Adair Hansen by [email](#) in advance so that papers, proposals and the like may be shared in advance with network members, and the concern itself listed on the network agenda.



Synod commissioners who desire to come a day ahead of the Synod Assembly in order to benefit from the PPAN gathering and Knox's program on economics and the new Social Creed need to contact Nancy Lomberk by [email](#) to secure overnight accommodations and added meals during the time on site.

**STAYING HOPEFUL IN DIFFICULT TIMES  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY GATHERS AT STONY POINT OCTOBER 17-18, 2008**

While reductions in unrestricted mission receipts are being experienced across the church, some exciting things are happening in the Synod because of the unrestricted generosity of Christians over the decades. Through the Faithful Servant Initiative, adopted by the Synod Assembly in October 2007, new church development and church transformation projects have begun with shared funding among presbytery, synod and General Assembly, with significant synod funds designated from its unrestricted reserves. A Pakistani fellowship

in Albany Presbytery was approved



for new church development, a new congregation has been funded in New Jersey through Eastern Korean Presbytery, as has a church transformation project in Waltham, MA, Boston, Presbytery. The Waltham congregation, whose worship attendance has doubled since

they dedicated all of their own reserves to an exciting ministry plan that includes community connections and contemporary worship, has focused on a ministry through the arts in the Boston area which is itself being transformed and revitalized.

Three additional proposals have been forwarded by the Synod Church Development Task Force to the GA Mission Development Resources Committee (MDRC) this fall for consideration, including a

*See Budget on Page 2*

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Presbyteries of: ALBANY \* BOSTON \* CAYUGA-SYRACUSE \* EASTERN KOREAN \* ELIZABETH \* GENESEE VALLEY \* GENEVA \* HUDSON RIVER \* LONG ISLAND \* MONMOUTH \* NEW BRUNSWICK \* NEW YORK CITY \* NEWARK \* NEWTON \* NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND \* NORTHERN NEW YORK \* PALISADES \* SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND \* SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY \* UTICA \* WEST JERSEY \* WESTERN NEW YORK

## MISSION CONSULTATION CONVENES AT STONY POINT OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2008

The Synod of the Northeast will hold a Mission Consultation October 31-November 1 at the Stony Point Conference center as a first step towards reviewing the synod's current design for mission (2006-2009). Presbyteries have been invited to send up to four participants representing several areas of presbytery life including mission, finance, communications, synod representation and staff leadership.



*Photo courtesy of PCUSA*

The Rev. Jill Hudson, Coordinator of Governing Bodies at the General Assembly, will facilitate the consultation. A planning team consisting of Synod Executives Mary Lynne Flowers and Clint McCoy along

with Agnes Blackmon (New York City), Bob

Baum (Long Island), Stu Buisch (Western New York) Alfred Johnson (Newark), Laura Lawson (Susquehanna Valley), Marty Miller (Utica), Kay Shields (Northern New England), James Tse (New York City), Richard Wyatt (Northern New England), and Kevin Yoho (Newark) has fleshed out the plans, which include worshipful moments throughout the event.

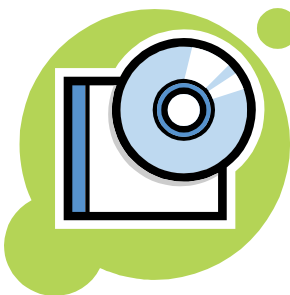
Beyond a review of the current mission design, goals include a review of giving patterns to synod mission over the last decade and a review of work flow during the year including meeting times. Participants will have an opportunity to formulate questions they perceive need to be answered by presbytery leaders towards a discernment of what the future synod mission design will look and feel like. A team that will continue the leadership of the discernment process beyond this first consultation will be elected at the Synod Assembly meeting two weeks before the

consultation occurs.

The consultation will include worship, theological reflection, group reflection using the appreciative questions, specific information about mission funding trends, including general and designated synod mission receipts during the last decade, the history and development of the synod's Basic Grants to five presbyteries, the history of synod mission spending over the last decade, and information about the 2009 budget and 2010 bridge budget that will have been adopted by the Synod Assembly earlier in the month. A slide presentation illustrating the scope of the synod's mission will be offered prior to a process by which small groups will have an opportunity to identify, with an eye to reaching consensus, the highest priorities in mission to which the synod should be giving its attention.

## YOUTH VIDEO *I'LL BE GOOD* AMONG THREE BEST! CONGRATULATIONS ELMWOOD!

As a way to encourage connectionalism among youth within the PCUSA, the Presbyterian Foundation sponsored a Presbyterian Youth Video Challenge in which the youth of the participating churches were challenged



to create a video that interprets selected scripture. Subsequently, young people and others voted online for their favorite video, and the top 15 finalists were presented at General Assembly last June. The Youth Advisory Delegates selected the top three, which financially supports the congregation's youth program in perpetuity,

Youth from Elmwood United Presbyterian Church, East Orange, NJ (Newark Presbytery) was one of the top three winners an-



nounced at the General Assembly. Their video was based on Micah 6:8 and titled *I'll be Good*.

Of the 100 plus videos submitted, 11 were from churches within the Synod.

[Click here](#) to view all the videos submitted.

### *Budget (continued from Page 1)*

novel model for the development of three Hispanic/Latino congregations in a cooperative venture involving New Brunswick, West Jersey and Monmouth Presbyteries. It is proposed that a Hispanic evangelist be called, with a goal to plant three new churches over time in these presbyteries. Additionally the synod approved proposals for a Kenyan NCD in Southern New England Presbytery, as well as support for the Londonderry Presbyterian Church in Northern New England, which had a small continuing congregation following schism. That continuing congregation already has been rebuilt to more than three times its size following the schism, and approached presbytery, synod and General Assembly to partner in rebuilding their total ministry, once the larg-

est congregation in presbytery. The synod's Church Development Task Force supports this effort unequivocally.

Early Ministry Institute (EMI), which is funded from the Synod mission budget, from a custodial account established through the Bicentennial Fund nearly twenty years ago, as well as by contributions from presbyteries and participants, had another successful year in its work with and among pastors new to ministry. Looking ahead to next May, Leonard Sweet has been contracted as keynoter for EMI's 2009 week of professional development that combines education with personal and professional renewal. Similarly, interim ministry training, a shared ministry with the office of continuing education at Princeton Seminary, helps fund Year One and Year Two interim training held at the

seminary each October.

There are some significant challenges ahead for the Synod however. The proposed 2009 budget, ready for presentation by the Synod Council to the Assembly, comes with a significant reduction for the overall synod mission necessitated by falling revenues. Although it is anticipated that mission funding for the overall mission of the synod will fall nearly one hundred thousand dollars below planned mission receipts in the current year, all obligations for 2008 will be met. However, the budget proposal going to the Synod Assembly October 17-18 will include a reduction of nearly 20% on the mission side of the Synod budget, and a reduction of nearly 10% in the whole Synod budget.