

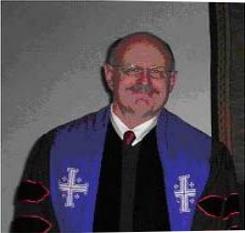


# The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

January 2011

## “Go Therefore and Make Disciples...”



by the Rev. Dr.  
Allen D. Timm,  
Executive  
Presbyter

In a recent book, Craig Van Gelder quoted the “father of the missional church,” Leslie Newbigin. Newbigin was a missionary to India, and when he returned home to England he found that the church had become irrelevant to the culture around it. I remember feeling this too when I lived in Edinburgh for a year of seminary. Walking home from my theological studies at New College in Edinburgh, moving from Princes Garden down the Leith walk to Leith, where I lived in a guest house, I saw at least three boarded up Presbyterian churches. I often wondered if this was a precursor for the American Church. Was the church becoming irrelevant?

Leslie Newbigin returned home in the early 1970s to find a church he felt had disengaged itself with its context. His thoughts focused on the Triune God as a calling and sending God, participating in the Spirit’s work in the world. Thus the church is created by the Spirit

to live as a sign of the redemptive reign of God. This view of the church becomes a foretaste to the world of the Kingdom’s rule and life. As the Spirit leads and guides, the Church becomes an instrument bringing peace and reconciliation to the world. (3, VanGelder, ed., The Missional Church in Context).

Churches that long to follow the spirit into their neighborhood or context will take this seriously. Van Gelder says they will try to understand their neighborhood, they will look for new insights into the gospel, they will anticipate learning from their neighbors, they will respond in unique ways to their context, they will be practical in offering what is needed, they will keep the perspective of the historical confessions, and they will be flexible to meet changes that occur.

Friends, the Presbytery of Detroit seeks to help congregations serve their neighbor. The Presbytery committees assist the finding and training of leadership, and the equipping of leaders. Additionally, the Presbytery supports mission beyond the local church. These missions

are campus ministry, ministry to youth, and collaborative ministry that congregations can do better when they serve together. Collaborative ministries include youth-mix, youth hands on mission, adult hands on mission, and transformation.

Will we make disciples as we show our neighbors and communities the “provisional demonstration of what God intends for all humanity” (G-3.0200)?

Will we be a church that is “a sign in and for the world of the new reality which God has made available to people in Jesus Christ” (G-3.0200a.)?

Will we participate in God’s activity in the world by “healing...ministering to the needs of the poor...engaging in the struggle to free people....giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer...” (G-3.0300)?”

Will we risk undertaking “this mission even at the risk of losing its (our) life, trusting in God alone” (G-3.0400)?

## Highlights from the 2010 Men's Advent Communion Breakfast



Pictured at left top: The Honorable Mr. Dave Bing, Mayor of the City of Detroit, presents the first annual George Irwin Award for Service to Elder Kimo Kim of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit while his pastor the Rev. Dr. Seung Won Yu looks on at the Men's Advent Communion Breakfast on December 11, 2010 at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Pictured at left middle: Presbyterian Women of Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church serving breakfast to the men.

Pictured at left bottom: The group listens to the message at the Men's Advent Communion Breakfast.

Pictured below: The men enjoy the breakfast prepared by the Presbyterian Women of Jefferson Avenue.



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### Clergy Ordination Anniversaries

ORR, ROBERT C.	40
WRZESZCZ, JENNIFER	15

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