



***Do justice, love kindness,
walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)***

Needed: Stewardship of Creation Enablers!

The Outreach Ministry Team is seeking volunteers to serve on a team of Stewardship of Creation Enablers (SCE). We seek persons who are committed to eco-justice issues, persons who are gifted as educators, persons who are willing to resource and facilitate the engagement of eco-justice issues by our congregations and Presbytery. SCE's will interpret concern for God's creation and seek to empower others. SCE's are active in their congregation and able to connect the mission and ministry of congregations, the Presbytery, the Synod of the Covenant and the PCUSA.

The Office of Environmental Ministries provides support for Stewardship of Creation Enablers that includes initial training, on-going renewal and skill-building, print and video resources for their congregational work, and a network of colleagues who share ideas, models and examples. SCE's will report to and receive support from our Presbytery's Outreach Ministry Team.

You will find further information by visiting the following website:

www.pcusa.org/environment

If you are interested in serving as an SCE, please contact Laurie Tupper, Moderator, the Outreach Ministry Team, c/o Presbytery of Lake Michigan, 1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002, 289.381.6337, FAX 269.381.6125 or by email: **office@lakemichiganpresbytery.org**

Information for Your Congregation

Link2Lead is a web based information service for your congregation. The Synod of Covenant makes possible our Presbytery's subscription at a significant savings in cost. Your congregation may already be using this service. If not: type **www.link2lead.com** into your web browser. To register for the first time, select the REGISTER button on the left menu.

Up to 20 persons from your congregation can have access to the information available through link2lead, a service of the Percept Group. The Percept database is updated yearly. Information about our communities and area can be a helpful component as we seek to discern how God is guiding us to be faithful in our own time and place.

When you have registered, do explore the variety of reports available to you. Among other reports, be sure to check out "MemberView", "ChurchLink", "Ministry Match", "FirstView" and "FirstView" maker. Most of these reports are available to you without charge, through the Presbytery subscription.

Should you like more information or would like to arrange a tutorial, please contact Diane Christy at Percept, 800.442.6277, Ext. 15.

Transformation and Redevelopment

Coaching on congregational transformation is available. To learn more, contact Rich Lichti at the presbytery office or John Sterner at 517-629-9157, **pastorjs@sbcglobal.net**.

Be sure to visit: **www.lakemichiganpresbytery.org/transformation** for more information.



*Want to keep up-to-date on Presbytery happenings?
Sign up at **www.lakemichiganpresbytery.org**
for the e-bulletin, a bi-monthly email newsletter.*

This bulletin insert is published quarterly for congregational distribution by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.
To contribute content please email **news@lakemichiganpresbytery.org**

Congregational Connection

www.LakeMichiganPresbytery.org

(269)381.637

Portage MI 49002

1511 Helen Ave, Presbytery of Lake Michigan,

Ghana Partnership

Partnerships between congregations in our presbytery and congregations in the Ho-East Presbytery, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, began in 1980. A formal partnership agreement between the two presbyteries was signed in April 2005. Through the years there have been six mission trips from our presbytery to visit partners in Ghana and on eight occasions our presbytery invited individuals and groups from Ghana to visit us. The next of these visits will happen in June 2010. We have invited five Ho-East Presbytery partners to come to Michigan to attend the Uniting General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, held in Grand Rapids, and to attend 9th Ghana Mission Network Meeting held immediately thereafter in Kalamazoo. Our presbytery is sponsoring this 9th Ghana Mission Network meeting, which will include 15 Ghanaians and 25 Americans who are in partnership with each other. A mission trip is planned for summer 2011 to visit Ho-East partners and attend the 10th Ghana Mission Network meeting in Ghana.



The photo accompanying this article is of the Rev. Dorothy Akoto. Dorothy Akoto is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana or-

dained minister who is currently a Ph.D. student at the Chicago Theological Seminary. She has recently been a guest preacher at both Kalamazoo First and Benton Harbor First. She is helping with the planning for the 9th Ghana Mission Network meeting being held in Kalamazoo, 28-30 June 2010.

Emerging Ministry Grants

Emerging Ministry Grants provide seed money for churches wanting to try new outreach initiatives in their communities.

The annual deadlines to apply for a grant are March 1, June 1, and September 1 and the form to complete is on the Lake Michigan Presbytery website.

You can learn more about Emerging Ministry Grants at:
www.lakemichiganpresbytery.org/applications

Self-Development of People Committee Training

Every two years our Self-Development of People (SDOP) committee is re-certified through training by the PCUSA national committee staff. The training will be held in June at the Presbytery office. Our SDOP committee members are: Sallie Campbell, Moderator; Jacqueline Baker, Bette Hawkins, Zo Kunga, Charlotte Smith, and Rich Lichti. This is a ministry that affirms God's concern for all people. Composed of the PCUSA and ecumenical partners, SDOP participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. In SDOP projects, low-income people determine the problem, organize themselves to do something about their condition and are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Lake Michigan SDOP 2010 grant requests will be received until September 1, 2010. Forms are available from the Presbytery office and website. Be sure to review the criteria for applications at:

www.pcusa.org/sdop

Nicaraguan Mission Partnership Patio Projects

The Lake Michigan Presbytery's Mission Partnership with the Council for Evangelical Churches (CEPAD) in Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua will use 2 cents a meal (Cents-ability) money as revolving grants given to women in families for Patio Projects. Patio Projects are small backyard gardens and farms that allow a woman and her family to raise pigs, chickens, and food to feed the family and have a small source of income. CEPAD works through means of self-empowerment to develop processes of social promotion, communal organization, and the preservation of people, environment, and also provides opportunity for spiritual development. A person is given training and education needed to develop and manage her project. Each complete project costs \$200.00, and because CEPAD believes in providing systems that can be sustainable and are truly owned by its beneficiaries, the money is paid back at a very low interest rate so that as their project becomes sustainable, the money can be used to benefit another family in the community.

