

## MISSION STRATEGIES AND RESOURCE BOARD Meeting May 19, 2016

MSRB voted to **recommend Blackhawk Presbytery formally approve the request from Illinois Conference of Churches to support the Charter for Compassion Call for Action.** *See below*

MSRB agreed to invite the following **two missionaries to the June 12, 2016 Presbytery meeting:**

Rev. César G. Carhuachín, DMin, ThD  
PCUSA Mission Co-Worker  
Professor de Bible and Theology  
Barranquilla, Colombia  
[cesarc@unireformada.edu.co](mailto:cesarc@unireformada.edu.co)

Thomas H. Goetz M. Div. M. Ed.  
International Mission Volunteer, PC(USA)  
Professor of English  
School of Social Welfare  
Hokusei Gakuen University Japan  
[Tom.Goetz@pcusa.org](mailto:Tom.Goetz@pcusa.org)

MSRB voted to **recommend Blackhawk Presbytery approve the July 9-16, 2016 Living Waters for the World trip and the January 10-24, 2017 Kenya Partnership trip.** Presbytery's approval will enable them to apply for Death and Dismemberment Insurance supplied through the General Assembly.

MSRB recognizes the service of departing members Ted Mathewson and Jonathan Krogh. We **invite Blackhawk Presbytery members who are interested in furthering our missional focus** to contact Moderator Laurie Walker to discuss their interest or to contact the Nominating Committee for consideration.

MSRB renewed its request for a revised **Renewing Orthodoxy** network application from Rev. Dr. Jim Tilley. At Jim's request the response to a letter from First Presbyterian Church, Rochelle was tabled.

MSRB requests input from Presbytery members regarding interest in the following networks: **Covenant Network, Disaster Response Network, Domestic Violence Awareness Network, and Youth Council.** If no one knows of any interest or activity in these networks, they will be deemed inactive and will be removed from our website.

**Special offerings** at Presbytery meetings have yielded \$1,200 toward the \$4,000 needed for transportation to Triennium. Please be generous with your last chance to donate at the June 14 meeting.

MSRB discussed the **Restructuring Proposal and withheld its support** because of the following concerns:

- The proposed Visioning and Administrative Board of Directors (VAB) has so many responsibilities that the focus on mission will be compromised.
- The proposed twelve-member VAB would drastically reduce representation from the churches of Blackhawk, thus, furthering the trend of disengagement.
- The type of person best suited to serve on VAB may not be the same type of person desirous of serving on MSRB. Each committee of the Presbytery is a distinct and separate calling requiring different spiritual gifts.
- While securing members for Presbytery boards and committees may be difficult it is not a sound reason for restructuring the entire presbytery.

## The Illinois Conference of Churches Interreligious Team

### Charter for Compassion

John 15:12 *This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.*

**VISION** Faiths Against Hate (Parliament of World Religions statement)

“Working with faith communities across Illinois to challenge hate in all its malevolent expressions.”

#### MISSION

Our mission is to encourage a broad community of respect, understanding and love for God and one another across religious traditions. We believe that through deep engagement and sharing of traditions among persons of faith we can transform the current atmosphere of bullying, incivility, and fearmongering. Our goal is to promote peace, understanding and trust that will overcome the divisions that separate us and are used against us.

#### TOOLS

Our ministry is guided by foundational documents of the Parliament of World Religions that include:

*The Golden Rule*

*A Declaration on Hate and Hate Speech, Violence and War*

*Declaration Towards a Global Ethic*

For immediate reading we suggest:

*Toward a True Kinship of Faiths* by The Dalai Lama, Three Rivers Press, New York, 2010

*Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* By Brian McLaren, Jericho Books, New York, 2012

*Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian* by Paul Knitter, One World Publications, 2009

#### ACTION

We ask the ICC Leadership Team to consider signing on to, and promoting, *The Charter for Compassion*.

See <https://www.ted.com/search?q=karen+Armstrong> Also check out the website

[www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org)). The ICC Leadership Team adopted these tenants on Feb. 18, 2016 and now challenges their member judicatories to do the same.

#### ***The Charter for Compassion's Call to Action***

- to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion.
- to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate.
- to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures.
- to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity.
- to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings ~ even those regarded as enemies.