



Mission Presbytery

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mission Presbytery serves God as a unique expression of the body of Christ in South Texas. As faithful stewards of God's gifts, we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by

- Fulfilling the mandates of the Book of Order
- Encouraging and supporting congregations in mission and ministry
- Doing together what we cannot do alone.

Mis Amigos, Friends!

September 3, 2010

As I reflect on my first year as Executive Presbyter of Mission Presbytery, I am so thankful to God for all of you and for God's call bringing me here! I write to encourage your participation and attendance at upcoming events in Mission Presbytery which relate to our common life together. Many of you were in attendance at our last presbytery meeting in June at Trinity University in San Antonio, where you all exhibited such grace and love toward one another. I enjoyed our voices exclaiming, "We are Mission Presbytery!" as we adjourned. Since then our commissioners to the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have returned and have much to share.

Please make every effort to attend the gathering on Saturday, September 11, 2010, broadcasting from John Calvin Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, connecting via video conferencing with Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin, First Presbyterian Church, Weslaco, Parkway Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, and Grace Presbyterian Church, Victoria, beginning with prayer at noon.

At 12:30 p.m. our General Assembly commissioners, led by Elder Paul Gamel and Rev. Bette Burris, will engage with you in substantive conversation, *including Q & A*, about the assembly held in Minneapolis on July 3-10. I am attaching to this letter the agenda they have prepared for this conversation.

Then at approximately 2:00 p.m. we will continue our work together on an "emerging vision" for Mission Presbytery as we seek to follow Jesus Christ and discern God's will for our common lives together in our connectional denomination. You will recall that since early March I have been meeting with an informal advisory group ("sounding board"). In June, during the Executive Presbyter's report, we presented a statement of core values and essential functions: *We are Mission Presbytery...building together healthy congregations and relationships (Eph 2:22), partnering with one another in what we do better together (Phil 1:3, 5), so that we may send disciples in mission and service (Matt 28 & Matt 25).*

I invite you to further dialogue as we think about our next steps to live into these core values and essential functions. First and foremost, we call on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide our steps, we strive to trust God, and we look to Jesus Christ the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2). Our work on the emerging vision, on September 11, will be crucial as a precursor to the focus of the meeting of Mission Presbytery, October 22-23, at the Korean Presbyterian Church in Austin. We will discuss four (4) action concepts: *equipping leadership, partnering in ministry and mission, cultivating growth, and nurturing mutual accountability.* Join me on September 11 at noon as we prayerfully consider and honestly appraise how Mission Presbytery is accomplishing these actions to be the Presbyterian presence and witness to the Good News of the gospel in this time and at this place.

Peace and Blessings,

Hilary

Elder Hilary Shuford
Executive Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Miles H. White
Stated Clerk

Elder Ruben P. Armendariz
Church Development Consultant

Elder Lita Simpson
Youth Ministries

Rev. Sam Riccobene
Camp Director - John Knox Ranch