



Year Plan Update

Presbytery of Denver

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Highlands Camp Reaches Out to Denver Presbytery



In the 2010 budget the Presbytery of Denver has committed \$10,000 in support of new programs at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center. These funds will be used to launch new Summer Day Camp partnerships.

Over the last two years Highlands has had the opportunity to offer Day Camp in partnership with two local congregations, one in Denver Presbytery and one in Plains and Peaks Presbytery. In 2009, Highlands has worked with Jorge and Julie Barbaran and the congregation at Iglesia Presbiteriana de Valverde to offer a Bilingual Day Camp opportunity in an effort to reach out to the children, youth, and families of the local community. Kirsten Achatz, a bilingual school teacher for Denver Public Schools and summer staff member at Highlands, played an integral role in the success of Day Camp at Valverde. A second staff member fluent in Spanish also worked with this Day Camp.

In the summer of 2010, Highlands will offer Day Camp every week at seven different churches throughout the Front Range. Four of these partnerships will occur at congregations in Denver Presbytery:

- First Presbyterian Church of Aurora
- Iglesia Presbiteriana de Valverde
- Strasburg Presbyterian Church (in Partnership with Bennett Presbyterian and Byers Community Churches)
- Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Northglenn

When we asked people at these churches how Day Camp would be advantageous to their community and ministry, the following responses were received:

It will give children an understanding and excitement to grow in their faith and be excited about their journey with Christ.

Day Camp has the ability to promote growth of our cross-cultural relationships by connecting with

Highlands, the churches of our covenant community, and social agencies who have supported us in the past.

A Day Camp partnership with Highlands has the possibility to “display the relevance and excitement of the ministry at the church” by advertising and “bringing in the level of diversity that is present in the neighborhoods.

Highlands is committed to finding the best ways to be faithful partners with congregations, and to join in meeting the needs of our congregations. As our two presbyteries and Highlands Camp live out these partnerships this summer, we hope to reach over 300 children and youth in new ways.



Mountain States Employers Council

The Presbytery of Denver joined the Mountain States Employers Council in December. MSEC is a company which provides expertise in human resources, employment law, training, and surveys. We have access to lawyers and human resource experts to answer questions and assist with employment law issues. For example, they are helping the Presbytery Personnel Committee by giving assistance and feedback on our employee handbook.

Through our membership, MSEC is offering small churches (under 10 employees) a special price on their own membership. If any church chooses to join MSEC on its own, it will then be able to take advantage of all of its services without waiting for the Presbytery to organize a class or provide the answer to a church's concern.

For more information about membership in or services of MSEC, contact Meg Butcher, Presbytery Business and Property Manager, at 303-777-2453.



Every year the Council takes time to celebrate the good work and exciting happenings in the Presbytery of Denver. In 2009 there were many reasons to celebrate, but find here the “top reasons” the Council identified. Alphabetically arranged, they are:

Assemblies offered wide range of involvement and education.

Special speakers, Julia Thorne of the Office of the General Assembly, Rick Young of the Board of Pensions, and Anne Bond, Presbytery Stated Clerk, all offered new perspectives on the work of the church here and across the world.

Communication was a priority.

The Relations and Communications Work Group carried out two surveys on communication in the presbytery and have begun to implement plans to address challenges.

Connections across the church were supported.

Anne Bond was designated the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s delegate to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Ten people serve on committees and entities of the General Assembly. Wesley Jones completed his term as moderator of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains.

Mission was advanced and ministries in churches were deepened.

Two new task forces and one new covenant community were formed. “Walking with Africans” offered a week-long celebration of our congregations and the presbytery’s work in Africa. The presbytery supported

mission partnerships, covenant communities and task forces with grants totaling more than \$275,000. The Presbytery hosted Pix Mahler, mission co-worker to Haiti, as part of Mission Challenge '09.

New churches were launched.

Hanmi Presbyterian Church was organized. The Aurora Southlands New Church Development was approved. Nine new church developments, fellowships and initiatives were supported.

New staff design took shape.

Meg Butcher began her work as our first Business and Property Manager. Amy Mendez was named Racial/Ethnic Ministries Coordinator.

Partnerships were formed with churches to meet emerging needs.

Long Term Initiatives provided funds for many churches for new initiatives, pastoral support and emergency needs. The building of the church at Valverde was upgraded.

Racial ethnic ministries moved forward.

Mario Rodriguez and Tu Mihn Bui received support for their ministries at Iglesia Emanuel at Thornton and the Vietnamese Fellowship, respectively. Music at three Hispanic/Latino congregations received professional leadership from Grace Echauri, who was supported by the New Church Development Committee.

Relationship with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe was strengthened.

Pastor-in-Partnership, Paul Neshangwe, continued his work throughout the presbytery. Delegations travelled both to and from Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Summit brought representatives of five governing bodies together to coordinate efforts to support the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. A Long Leave program was instituted that welcomed Lackery and Tinashe Chemvumi for a two-month sabbatical in the presbytery.

Three Year Plan continued to give shape and direction to work of the whole presbytery.



Your financial support makes things happen!

The Mission Budget of the Presbytery of Denver is funded entirely by the mission giving of our congregations. Thank you.