July 30–August 1, 2015
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Join us at Big Tent; a conference that will inspire and equip Presbyterians to live missionally. Experience that deep sense of community one would expect at a national gathering of Presbyterians—a great big family reunion! Join us for worship, bible study, displays of the PC(USA) agencies, and a wide variety of workshops and other activities.

All are welcome!

There are special Big Tent programs for children and youth. See more information and the schedule for these programs on page 6.

Discover a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that is more exciting, more diverse, and more faithful than you ever imagined. Big Tent will inspire you and make you proud to be Presbyterian.

WHERE AND WHEN

Big Tent will be held July 30–August 1, 2015, on the campus of the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UT). The campus is adjacent to the World’s Fair Park and near downtown Knoxville.

UT’s compact campus offers excellent facilities for the Big Tent worship services and other activities. The availability of economical dormitory housing and the campus meal service are helping to make this Big Tent affordable for all.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

Economical housing is available for all Big Tent participants in dormitories in the Presidential Court on the UT campus, convenient to the venues for the Big Tent worship services, workshops, and other activities.

The accommodations are two-bedroom suites, each equipped with a shower and a toilet. Each bedroom has a sink and two single beds. Bed linen, a blanket, pillow, and two towels are provided. The rooms are not equipped with televisions or telephones, but wifi is complimentary throughout the campus, including the dormitory buildings.

Reservations are made through the Big Tent registration process.

The $395 Big Tent registration fee includes “single” accommodations in a suite, meaning one adult per bedroom (two adults per suite). The GA Meeting Service can provide “suite-mate” matching for those who do not have someone with whom to share.

A $380 fee is available for those who choose to double up in the bedrooms (with two adults per bedroom, and four adults per suite). Those who wish to take advantage of this lower fee will designate the other three roommates.
These Big Tent registration fees include lodging for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. (For those arriving before Thursday for pre-conference events, lodging for Tuesday and/or Wednesday nights is included with the registration for those pre-events.)

A commuter registration fee is available for those who live in the area or who are making their own arrangements for off-campus lodging. This fee includes Big Tent programming, seven meals (see below), and campus parking.

Meals

Big Tent participants will break bread together at seven meals (Thursday dinner; Friday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Saturday breakfast and lunch; and Sunday breakfast). These are included in the Big Tent registration fees, and most are served in the Presidential Court cafeteria.

For those arriving Tuesday or Wednesday for pre-conference events, breakfast in the cafeteria the following morning(s) is included with the pre-event registration. Some of these events include additional meals.

Please indicate any food allergies or other special dietary requests when you register.

For those times you are on your own for meals, there are numerous restaurants and other outlets (with options for all budgets and tastes) located on and near the UT campus.

TRAVEL

Knoxville is easily accessible by road, air, and rail. McGhee Tyson airport (TYS) (http://www.flyknoxville.com/) is located about 12 miles from the UT campus, and served by several major airlines.

Please make your own travel arrangements as early as possible for the best fares and choice of flights. For a discount on Delta Air Lines flights, please use meeting code NML84 when booking on-line, or book through Azumano Travel by calling 800-777-5149. Azumano charges a service fee of $25.

Review the full Big Tent schedule (including pre- and post-conference opportunities) so you are sure of the dates you need to travel before booking your ticket.

Ground transportation – Taxi fare between the airport and the UT campus is about $25 one-way. There is no airport shuttle service.

Parking – On-campus parking is included in the Big Tent registration fees.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have a disability or another health condition relevant to your participation, please indicate this when you register. Contact the G.A. Meeting Service at 888-728-7228, ext. 2417 or at gametingservice@pcusa.org regarding any special needs.

The UT campus is fully accessible, though access to the cafeteria is via a freight elevator in the kitchen. Shuttles and golf carts will be available to provide transportation for those not able to walk the distance between the campus venues.
WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, and INSPIRATION

We will gather for worship and inspiration several times:

- **Opening worship** on Thursday, at 4:00 p.m. The preacher is Jana Childers, professor of Homiletics and Speech-Communication at San Francisco Theological Seminary.
- **Morning worship** on Friday at 8:30 a.m. The preacher is Laurene Chan, director of Youth Ministries, Cameron House, San Francisco.
- **Closing worship** on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The preacher is Paul Roberts, president, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.
- **Bible Study**—On Thursday evening and Saturday morning, Kang Yup Na, associate professor in Religion, History, Philosophy, and Classics at Westminster College will lead us in Bible study on *The Last and Found of Missional Living*, focusing on Luke 15.
- **Featured Workshops**—Friday morning features two sessions of workshops addressing the themes of the conference:
  - Ministries of Advocacy and Renewal—Scott Weimer, pastor, North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta
  - Ministries for Poverty and Hunger—Sister Simone Campbell (Sisters of Social Service), director of NETWORK and author of Nuns on the Bus
  - Ministries Equipping Leaders for Discipleship and Evangelism—Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary
- **Other Workshops**—Seven more sessions of workshops are offered on Friday afternoon and Saturday.

EXHIBITS

Big Tent will include opportunities to learn more about the mission and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) agencies: the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Office of the General Assembly, The PC(USA) Board of Pensions, The PC(USA) Foundation, the PC(USA) Investment and Loan Program, Inc., and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Each will have displays convenient to the Presidential Court (location of the dormitories and the cafeteria where we will gather often for meals). There will be ample time to visit the displays, talk with staff and other representatives of these agencies, and visit the conference bookstore (sponsored by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation).

EVENING ACTIVITIES

The Big Tent schedule will include many opportunities for informal gatherings and spending time with new and old friends, including the three evenings:

**Thursday Hospitality Hour**—Join us in the Presidential Court for a hospitality hour after Bible study! This will be a time to enjoy light refreshments and live music. It will be a great opportunity for relaxation and fellowship that you don’t want to miss!

**Friday Homecoming**—following dinner, participants will be able to choose from a variety of family-friendly activities including music, movies, ice cream, informal gatherings, and fun. (No advance sign-up required.)

**Saturday dinner** is on-your-own; enjoy a free evening and an opportunity to explore Knoxville’s charming downtown or other areas.
OTHER BIG TENT ACTIVITIES

Pre-and Post-Big Tent Conferences and Meetings

There are several pre-and post-Big Tent options for education and networking, listed below. Please review the full Big Tent Schedule of Events for more information, including separate registration fees for most of these events. Dormitory accommodations are available for those arriving early for these meetings and conferences; the cost for these additional night(s) are included in the pre conference fees.

Whom Shall I Send? Pastoral Responses to Trauma and Violence: Trauma Crisis Counseling Consultation
Sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
Begins Tuesday, July 28 with dinner and reception and ends by noon on Thursday.
Open to pastors, leaders, caregivers, and other responders in areas affected by disaster and trauma. Sessions include: the Trajectory of Trauma Response, Being a Less Anxious Presence, Laments and Liturgies, What Do We Tell the Kids, Communities in Trauma and Conflict, the Cost of Caring for Others, and The Importance of Self-Care. For more information, contact Beth Snyder (beth.snyder@pcusa.org).

National Filipino Presbyterian Council Pre-Conference
Theme: Seeking God's Will in the Bible and Making Decisions for the Church
Begins Tuesday, 5:00 p.m., ends at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.
We believe the Bible contains the word of God, necessary for our salvation and authoritative for the church’s mission. How then do we understand, interpret, and appropriate the scriptures accurately to make right decisions for our faith and life as individuals and as a church? When there is a major controversy or crisis, how do we seek and find God’s will through the scriptures to guide us? In this study, we will discuss three challenging issues and reflect on the proper use of the Bible for the decision-making of the church, a task particularly important for leaders of the church in crisis.
Rev. Dr. John Yieh is the keynote speaker. All members of the NFPC, NAPC, and others are welcome to join the study. For more information, contact Emmanuel Orendain at egorendain@sbcglobal.net.

Intercultural Pre-conference
Sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Ministries (RE&WM, PMA) and the Presbyterian Intercultural Network for up to 40 participants.
Begins Wednesday, July 29, 9:00 a.m., ends with lunch on Thursday.
In sharing our stories of race, culture, and identity, we will enter God’s story of a beloved, intercultural community. Shared stories can increase understanding, enrich us all, ignite missional living, empower us for greater advocacy, and equip us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and one another.
For more information, contact Sterling Morse (sterling.morse@pcusa.org).

Mid Council Pre-Big Tent Consultation
Begins Wednesday, July 29, 2:30 p.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday.
Sponsored by the PMA and the OGA for up to two representative (executives [or equivalent], associate executives, and stated clerks) from each mid council. The schedule will include worship, three sessions of breakouts, and opportunities for the whole group to gather. For more information, contact Sue Krummel (susan.krummel@pcusa.org).

National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus Meeting
Begins Wednesday, July 29, 2:00 p.m. and ends by noon on Thursday. This meeting will be held off-campus, and is by invitation only. For more information, contact Raafat Zaki (raafatzaki@aol.com).
National Asian Presbyterian Council Pre-Conference

Begins Wednesday, July 29, 5:00 p.m. and ends before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.
The council will gather to tell the story about the racism from an Asian American perspective. Racism is a systemic problem. All of us have been victims of racism from others, as well as victimizing others through our actions, whether intentional or unintentional. How do we relate with one another among the diversity of Asian groups as well as the others? Wendy Tajima is the guest speaker. Come and share your journey and story with us.
For more information, contact Victor Hamel (eipusa.pastor@gmail.com).

Haiti Mission Network Meeting

Thursday, July 30, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
If your congregation or presbytery is partnering with an organization or institution in Haiti or is considering such a partnership, join us for a meeting of the Haiti Mission Network. In mission, we strive to find ways of improving the lives of the Haitian people, giving precedence to their voices and working with them to achieve shared goals. We envision a Mission Network that allows Presbyterians working in Haiti to share the challenges, accomplishments, obstacles, and joys of accompanying our Haitian brothers and sisters toward a healthy future.
Join us as our mission co-workers in Haiti share what’s going on five years after the earthquake and hear from Presbyterians involved in holistic ministries there. For more information, contact JoElla Holman (joella.holman@gmail.com).

Guatemala Mission Network

Thursday, July 30, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
For everyone who has ever been involved with supporting the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala (IENPG), who has taken a trip to Guatemala, or who would like to know more about the accomplishment, work, and ministry with the IENPG, please join us for this meeting. In mission, we strive to find ways of improving the lives of the Guatemalan people, giving precedence to their voices and working with them to achieve shared goals. We envision a Mission Network that allows Presbyterians working in Guatemala to share the challenges, accomplishments, obstacles, and joys of accompanying our brothers and sisters toward a healthy future. Come and share memories, learn how we can help in this important work, and have your spirit refreshed.
For more information, contact Amanda Craft (amanda.craft@pcusa.org).

CEDEPCA Mission Network Meeting

Thursday, July 30, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
CEDEPCA is the Protestant Center for Pastoral Education in Central America. For everyone who has ever been involved with CEDEPCA, who has taken a trip to Guatemala, or who would like to know more about the work and ministry of CEDEPCA, please join us for this meeting. Members of the CEDEPCA staff will be leading us in Bible study, updating us on the current situation in Guatemala and the ways in which CEDEPCA is providing biblical and theological education, empowering women, strengthening people’s resilience to recover from disasters, and facilitating experiences of intercultural encounters between people of the U. S. and Guatemala. Come and share memories, learn how we can help in this important work, and have your spirit refreshed.
For more information, contact Kathy Carpenter olekack@gmail.com or Leslie Vogel leslie.vogel@pcusa.org.

Presbyterian Intercultural Young Adult Network Post Conference

Begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 1, ends after lunch on Sunday, August 2.
Theme: Living Missionally. Open to all young adults! We are a testifying community who believes in transformative discipleship and the liberating healing of Jesus Christ. As young adults in the PC(USA), we come together to witness God’s good work in our lives both in and outside of the church. We recognize that our unity is enlightened by our different cultures and backgrounds, and from a mosaic of generational traditions and beliefs. We are committed to the work of the Holy Spirit, especially in being disciples and by making disciples of others for the establishment of the Realm of God. For more information, please contact Mei-Hui Lai (mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org).
Other Opportunities

**Pre-Big Tent** - Big Tent attendees have an opportunity to participate in an *Emotional Intelligence and Human Relations Skills Workshop (EQ-HR Workshop)*, sponsored by the Center for Emotional Intelligence and Human Relations Training, and led by Teaching Elders David Harris and Kimberly Secrist-Ashby, trainers from the Center.

This event will be held in Knoxville and begins at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, and concludes Thursday, July 30 at 12:45 p.m. Tuition is $545, plus $199 for a required ESCI 360 Survey. Arrangements have been made concerning off-campus lodging and meals. See the EQ-HR Center website for further details.

Workshop objective: Increase leadership skills of participants by enhancing their emotional intelligence and human relations skills. These are the interpersonal and intra-group skills that are essential for effective leadership skills within a faith-based community. This workshop is a highly experiential one-week intensive event in which small-group life is the learning laboratory. Participants become aware of how they impact each other and lead or are led by others. Each EQ-HR group of ten to twelve participants is facilitated by two experienced facilitators. As group life unfolds, participants exchange feedback, learn both interpersonal and intra-group communication skills, as well as group formation and group dynamics. The content of the workshop focuses on the primary areas of emotional intelligence as defined by experts in the field, such as Reuvan BarOn and Daniel Goleman, as keys to improving leadership effectiveness for faith leaders. Follow-up coaching to assist with integration of newly acquired skills is available for participants. For more information about EQ-HR workshops and to register for this workshop, visit [http://www.eqhrcenter.org/](http://www.eqhrcenter.org/).

**After Big Tent** - The Presbytery of East Tennessee invites you to visit one of its welcoming congregations before you head for home on Sunday morning (or on your way home). A list with links to maps and directions is at [http://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/churches/index.asp](http://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/churches/index.asp).

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Big Tent welcomes families and is planning for the participation of children from six months to entering 12th grade.

Children will be with their parents/guardians in worship and shared meals, and at other times will enjoy on-campus programs and activities. Staff of East Tennessee Presbytery’s John Knox Center (an ACA accredited camp—[www.johnknoxcenter.org](http://www.johnknoxcenter.org)) are organizing activities for children and youth age four and up that will be age appropriate and take advantage of UT’s recreational activities. Infants and toddlers will be cared for in an area in one of the UT dormitories by qualified and experienced staff and volunteers.

**Registration and Fees**

Advance registration is required, by **June 19**.

The fee (per child/youth) for these programs is:
- For the first child from a family:
  - $150, age six and up
  - $100, age five and under
- For each additional child/youth from the same family—$75

These fees cover the full Big Tent conference, beginning Thursday afternoon, and include the seven meals included in the Big Tent program.
Schedule

The children and youth programs will operate during the following Big Tent sessions (with up to 30 minutes for drop off and 15 minutes for pick up before and after these times):

**Thursday, July 30**
- Orientation/Registration: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Session 1 (Bible Study): 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 31**
- Session 2 (Morning workshops): 10:00 a.m.–11:45 a.m.
- Session 3 (Afternoon workshops): 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, August 1**
- Session 4 (Bible Study and morning workshops): 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon
- Session 5 (Afternoon workshops): 1:45 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Parents/guardians may register children for these programs as part of the on-line Big Tent registration process, but there are additional forms to be completed. These will be forwarded to parents/guardians who register children for this program, or contact the G.A. Meeting Service at gameetingservice@pcusa.org, or 888-728-7228, ext. 2417.

Children may share their parents’/guardians’ suite (parents/guardians will pay the regular adult registration fee of $395 each, which includes a two-bedroom suite with two beds in each room).

**HOW TO REGISTER**

Please complete your Big Tent registration soon and **no later than June 19. If space is still available after June 19, the registration fee will increase to $450.**

Register on-line at www.pcusa.org/bigtent. There you can also download a registration form that you may complete by mail or fax, or contact the G.A. Meeting Service at 888-728-7228, ext. 2417 (or gameetingservice@pcusa.org) to request a registration form.

**Creating an Account**

The **Register Now** link at [www.pcusa.org/bigtent](http://www.pcusa.org/bigtent) will take you to a login page. Registrants who do not already have a PC(USA) account will create one by entering your email address and creating a user name and password. You will then receive a verification email with a link to proceed with completing your profile and the Big Tent registration page, so use a computer where you can receive emails when you start this process.

Remember your user name and password so that you can log back in at a later time (if you are unable to complete your registration).

Those who registered for previous Big Tents, General Assembly, or other PC(USA) conferences in the last few years probably already have an account. Contact the G.A. Meeting Service if you do not remember your user name, and use the **Forgot Password** feature if you do not remember your password.
Family Registration

The on-line registration process accommodates registering other family members who are also attending the Big Tent or any of the Children/Youth programs. Checking the “Group” box on the Group/Family page (which appears after you complete your profile information) will then bring up additional pages for providing information about your family members.

Parents/guardians who are registering children for any of the Big Tent children/youth programs will use the family registration procedure. Additional information is requested for these participants as they are full registrants. In addition to first and last name, required information is:

- Mailing address (this will appear as your address, unless you change it)
- Daytime phone
- Email address (this can be your email)
- Date of birth

Please also be sure to indicate special dietary requests and other special needs.

Additional forms and releases are required for those registered in the children/youth programs; these will be forwarded by the registrar.

Payment of fees

We accept major credit cards and e-checks for payment through the on-line registration system. You may use more than one method of payment if you wish some fees to be charged to one card/account, and other fees to a different card/account.

CONFIRMATION

You will receive a confirmation by email after the registrar has processed your registration and payment.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to cancel for any reason prior to the event, your fee(s)—less a cancellation fee of $50 per person—will be refunded provided notification of cancellation is received, via e-mail or phone, by the G.A. Meeting Service (gametingservice@pcusa.org or 888-728-7228 x2417) by 5:00 p.m. EDT on June 19, 2015. Refunds are not available for cancellations after June 19.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND MEDIA USE

The 2015 Big Tent brings together hundreds of participants from across the church. Photographers, reporters, videographers, historians, scrapbookers, and many others will be capturing cherished moments at this gathering of the church. By being a part of this event, you may find your image, voice, or quotes used in reporting or promotion. The Open Meeting Policy of the PC(USA) calls on us to conduct our ministries in this spirit of openness, trust, and public scrutiny. By attending and participating, you give Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, its affiliated institutions, related entities, and ecumenical partners permission to use your image, voice, feedback, and quotes on a perpetual, worldwide, irrevocable basis in any and all media including, but not limited to, websites, print, cable, and
broadcast media without submission or re-submission to you for approval. You understand that third parties accessing web pages can download your image, voice, and quotes, and you release Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, its affiliated institutions, related entities, and ecumenical partners from any liability to you, your heirs, or your assigns in connection with or arising out of such downloading by third parties.

Using a camera, camcorder, or tape recorder is permitted during conference sessions, provided that participants in the meeting are treated with courtesy and respect, the photographer does not obstruct the view of other participants, and camera flashes or other lights do not interfere with participants or proceedings.

During worship or other times of prayer, all participants and members of the press should be respectful of the sacred nature of the event. Photographs made with the use of existing lighting are permitted in these services if taken unobtrusively and without disrupting either the service itself or individual worshipers. Flash photography is not permitted.

We ask that those taking photographs or other images during Big Tent who use children as subjects assure that the child’s identity is protected, or receive permission from the parent/guardian.

**QUESTIONS?**

**General questions or questions related to registration:**

GA Meeting Service  
800-728-7228, ext. 2417  
gameetingservice@pcusa.org