

**ITEM B.205
FOR INFORMATION**

Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA) Update

- 1) Following up on their Jan. 24-25 gathering, “Place-Making: Creating Community After Incarceration,” members of PHEWA’s Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network (PCJN) are initiating contact with more ecumenical and interfaith partners, in response to the action of the 220th General Assembly (2012) to “Develop a working group to work with our ecumenical partners in creating coalitions or networks to support strategies to aid reentry of former prisoners into our communities.” See: <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=3923&promoID=227>

PCJN is compiling a list of PC(USA) congregations and worshiping communities engaged in prison or jail ministry and in re-entry programs for returning citizens, in order to share best practices, models of ministry, and networking opportunities.

- 2) Final editing is in process for PHEWA’s Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) network’s annual resources for observing Disability Inclusion Sunday, June 22 on the Presbyterian Planning Calendar. This year’s theme is “The Seasons of Life in the Family of Faith: Inclusion of People of All Abilities,” providing worship resources to address this emphasis throughout the year, not solely on Disability Inclusion Sunday. Worship, awareness, and advocacy materials are projected to be online before the end of March: <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pdc> and <http://www.phewacomunity.org>

PDC leaders are in process of finalizing a training curriculum in response to action of the 220th G.A. (2012), “On Instructing the General Assembly to Take Action to Implement the PC(USA)’s Policy on Inclusion of People with Disabilities—From the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area,” <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=3771>. This curriculum will be shared for input from Human Resources staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc., the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and the Board of Pensions at a meeting scheduled for April 28, 2014.

- 3) The Rev. Emily Rose Proctor was featured, on behalf of PHEWA’s Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN), on the Feb. 28th podcast of “Liturgy and Leadership; Worship Leadership in the 21st Century,” discussing how to address HIV and AIDS in worship, effectively. The podcast and links to resources are available at: <http://liturgyandleadership.com/3/>

- 4) PHEWA secured writers for two articles in the *Unbound* series on “Christian Perspectives on the Healthcare Process”:
<http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/seeking-justice-through-the-power-of-relationship-hiv-aids-and-healthcare/>

<http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/how-i-became-an-advocate-for-people-living-with-hiv-aids/>

- 5) Promotional materials are being developed now for PHEWA’s Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options (PARO) G.A. Luncheon to be held Tuesday, June 17 at the Marriott Hotel in Detroit. Keynote speaker will be Julia Burkhart, Executive Director of South Wind Women’s Center in Wichita, Kansas, “founded to reestablish access to full-spectrum reproductive healthcare.” This was

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the clinic served by the late George Tiller. Julia worked with Dr. Tiller for seven years. Her address will be, "Report from the Front Lines: Dr. Tiller's Legacy." Watch our PARO web pages for material to assist in promoting this event, please: <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/paro> and <http://phewacommunity.org>

PARO assistance was sought by leaders in two presbyteries, leading up to their votes on whether to concur with Overture 15 to the 221st General Assembly (2014), "*On Entering a Two-Year Season of Reflection on the Plight of Unwanted Children, and Appointing a Special Committee on Abortion Review—From the Presbytery of South Alabama*" In consultation with entities of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly, PARO developed and shared talking points to assist in their deliberations.

- 6) Volunteers from PHEWA's Presbyterian Association of Specialized Pastoral Ministries (PASPM) network have raised \$3,500 to continue for one more year gatherings of Presbyterians at the annual meetings of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) and the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). These gatherings have, over decades, historically been funded by the denomination, but have not been budgeted in recent years. PASPM is committed to do what is possible to continue these gatherings, convened by all denominations present at the annual meetings of these cognate groups. Clergy serving in specialized ministries often feel not as recognized by the Church and very much need these opportunities for mutual support and networking.
- 7) Deborah Blades, Ph.D., a volunteer leader with PHEWA's Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) led a workshop at the March 21st CPJ Training Day, "Confronting Intimate Partner Violence Through the Lens of Justice" and shared her expertise through participation in Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC.

PADVN is awaiting the soon to be finished final copy-editing and web promotion by Presbyterian Women of the 13-session curriculum study for men, "Men In the Mirror; Orienting our Lives Towards A Christ-Centered Masculinity," written by

PADVN Co-Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick. The finished resource will be available on PADVN websites: <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn> and <http://phewacommunity.org> It received extensive field testing in PC(USA) congregations in the U.S., in Guatemala, and in Argentina.

- 8) PHEWA's Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network (PCAN) volunteers are in the final editing stages of updating the denominational resource, "We Won't Let It Happen Here! Preventing Child Abuse in the Church." PCAN was able to secure significant in-kind expertise from the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) in this process. Finished resource will appear on PCAN web pages: <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pcan> and <http://phewacommunity.org>