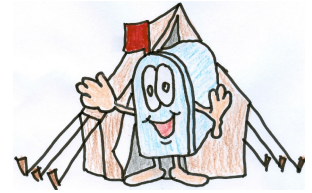




# Tent Talk

Newsletter of the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers  
[www.pcusatentmakers.org](http://www.pcusatentmakers.org)



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Tentmaking: A Ministry of Choice – A Choice for Ministry

Fall of 2010

## THE TIME IS NOW: TENTMAKERS IN THE EMERGING CHURCH

Register today for the 2010 National Tentmaker Conference co-sponsored by APT (The Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers) and NASSAM (The National Association for Self-Supporting Active Ministry, Tentmaking Clergy of the Episcopal Church) which will be held November 12-14 at University of Saint Mary's of the Lake Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Emergence Christianity and where it's taking us, by Christianity's popular speaker, Phyllis Tickle. See more details in the conference brochure!



***“Emergence Christianity is going to look more and more to the tentmaker for its pastoral support, and both tent-makers and the Church at large need to be cognizant of those imminent shifts and prepare for them.”***

Phyllis Tickle

## CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Seminary Students and first time attendees to APT's National Conference may apply for assistance for both registration and travel costs. Scholarships have been made available through a benefit concert that was held in Sante Fe during our 2008 conference and by a generous grant from the General Assembly of PC(U.S.A.) in 2009. For more information and an application contact the registrar, Fred Bunning at 1035 20<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Loveland, Colorado 80537, 970-667-4853, [fcvlbunning@msn.com](mailto:fcvlbunning@msn.com)

## BENEFITS FOR TENTMAKERS

“Benefits for Tentmakers and other Part-Time Ministers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” is the title of a recent booklet published by the Board of Pensions. It is publication number PLN-211, dated June, 2010. It's available on line at [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org) by entering the publication number into the search box. According to Ross Blount, Our (APT) Board of Pensions contact, Phil Gehman, has helped with the publishing of this booklet.

*Churches seeking to employ the services of a tentmaker or other part-time minister may wish to structure the position with an eye toward benefit considerations. A congregation may choose to call the minister to a called and installed position or to employ him or her in a non-called and installed position. This booklet describes the benefit implications of both options, so that individual churches and ministers can make the choice that best meets their needs.*

## REFLECTIONS ON APT DISPLAY AT GA

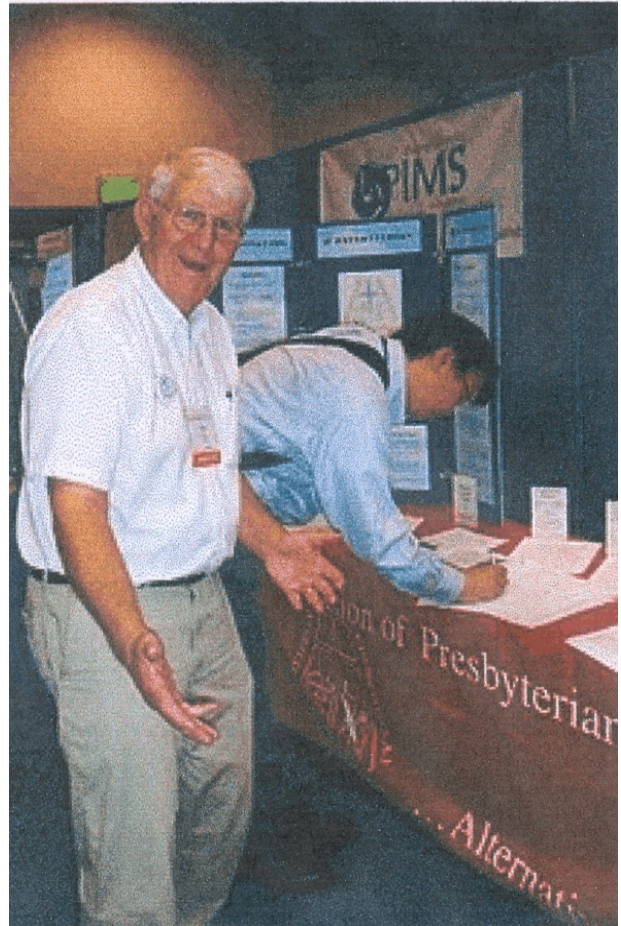
Dear Friends, A big thanks to Sharon, Charlie and Don for helping with the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers (APT) display at the 219th General Assembly! Fred mailed materials for the display to me and our display was open for the whole exhibit from Friday afternoon (July 2) through Wednesday evening (July 7). Don mailed the set-up materials back.

Persons stopping by the display ranged from curiosity seekers to pastors, churches, and administrators with serious questions and requests for help. There were some fascinating stories of tentmakers at work... though most did not call themselves "tentmakers".

Face-to-face workshop on tentmaking was poorly attended, but the one young man that came was very impressive and was helped by the workshop.

Phyllis Tickle was a big hit in her pre-assembly workshops. She made several references to the importance of tentmakers and tentmaking. I met her and she is looking forward to our APT conference this Fall.

I made several important contacts with seminaries... especially Austin, Pittsburgh, and Dubuque.



### My Top Take-Aways:

- There is a large number of pastors out there doing tentmaking (though most do not call themselves "tentmakers"). They are tentmaking because they have been called to it. They (like most of us) are already overloaded and don't much care about getting involved with another organization (like APT). *Who are they? What are their stories and how do we listen? How do we find ways to connect with them and let them help us tell others?*
- There is a growing awareness by seminaries about the importance of tentmaking. We need to work with Marcia in her contacts with placement and other grassroots seminary personnel.
- We have an opportunity in our conversations with Phyllis Tickle in November at the APT Conference. We do, however, need to be familiar with her book so that we can focus on how tentmaking fits in the picture.

Well, I have rambled on enough! Thanks for letting me represent the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers at General Assembly. — The Rev. Ross Blount—United Presbyterian Church of Allerton, Iowa – Presbytery of Des Moines ( Posted on their web).

## EDITORIAL



I had someone at some meeting I was at say they understood there were a lot of CLP's but very few tentmakers. I have since learned stated clerks across the nation have reported to the GA offices a total of 700 CLP's. I do not know how many tentmakers we have but it seems few. The only way we got reported in the GA's reports as tentmaking ministers was to request our stated clerk to so report us. Now this can be a sensitive issue for stated clerks if they desire to make it one. Ross pointed out he talked with several pastors at General Assembly engaged in secular work. Some people working secular jobs do not want to be called tentmakers. However, I think it would be helpful to this denomination to get a handle on just how many ministers there are out there who are also working secular jobs. One way that might happen might be for all of us to talk with our stated clerks about reporting those people as tentmakers. Or maybe at our upcoming meeting we can brainstorm some other ways the denomination might be able to get a handle on what is really going on in the churches across our nation. So how about if we covenant to make this a topic of conversation this year. — Virginia

## Keep Your Dues Current

To be a member of APT, fill out and send in the form below along with your dues of \$50. Dues may also be remitted along with your registration for the Fall conference, so register today and double your pleasure.

Name _____	Address _____
City, State, Zip _____	Phone _____
E-mail _____	Presbytery (other denomination) _____
Ministry Position _____	Tent Position _____
Make check payable to APT and send to Fred Bunning, 1035 20 <sup>th</sup> St SW, Loveland, CO 80537	

## APT Purposes

- To be advocates for alternative models of ministry throughout the church
- To define and affirm tentmaking as a valid expression of Christian ministry
- To nurture and support tentmakers as continuing active members in good standing of presbyteries
- To foster relationships with similar organizations in other denominations and other parts of the world
- To provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, discussion of issues of concern to tentmakers, and for meetings of the association

## APT Activities

- Annual national ecumenical conference
- *Tent Talk* (Newsletter) for APT members and denominational leaders
- Providing interpretive resources for congregations, governing bodies, and other interested groups
- Facilitating communication among tentmakers through various forms of networking
- Providing supportive service and training for governing bodies

## Newsletter Editors

Virginia and Fred Bunning, 1035 20<sup>th</sup> St SW, Loveland, CO 80537, 970-667-4853, fcvlbunning@msn.com