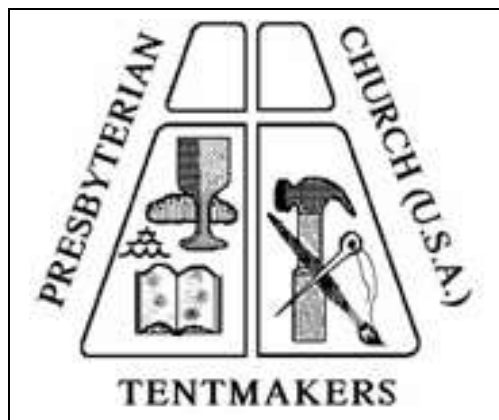


Association of Presbyterian
Tentmakers

Tent Talk

Pre-conference Issue Sept. 2007



(E-mail Edition)

APT MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

Our annual Tentmaker Conference will be here before we know it!

...be sure to *SAVE THE DATE AND COME TO PORTLAND* ... October 26-28...Portland, Oregon. In this issue of Tent Talk check out John Hasenjaeger's preview of the conference and use the brochure to get details and register!

An important addition to this year's conference will be the participation of New Immigrant pastors. Rev. Angel Suarez-Valera, G.A. Associate for New Immigrant Ministries, will be with us. If you know new Immigrant pastors...please bring them with you to the conference!

At the conference we will be discussing how to implement the grants we have received for an APT Web Site and for visits by Tentmakers to seminaries.

BE SURE TO BE AT THE CONFERENCE!

Something to Think About:

As a tentmaker/bivocational minister, I continue to be fascinated by the interface of ministry in my role as pastor and my ministry as a farmer. Each is a ministry and the two are usually in a kind of creative tension...but there is also a kind of energy where the two come together...each informing the other...each correcting the other. The result is that the product is greater than the sum of the two parts. It is a little like the genetic principle of heterosis where the crossing of two inbred lines results in a *hybrid* that is superior to either of the parent lines. Another example is the dialectic *synthesis* that draws forth the essential interdependence of thesis and antithesis.

Occasionally I run across examples of this interface. How about this one...quoted by Martin Marty in his May, 2007 issue of Context:

A great theologian visited a Trappist Monastery and in conversation with the master of novices asked, "What is the novices' biggest complaint?" The master said "they have to be up 2:30 in the morning to attend worship. They aren't too happy about it. They tell me that its so much better to be out in the

field, and they feel ecstasy and love for God and hallelujah and so on. So I said to them, 'I forbid you to come to any services now except for the obligatory Masses.' Well, after a while they came back and said, 'we didn't come here to be farmhands.'"

"What happened to your ecstasies?" the master asked. "They dried up", said the novices. So the master told them, "Of course, now you realize that what you are doing at 2:30 in the morning is what gives you ecstasy in the fields."

Best wishes ... Ross

Tentmakers and New Migrant Ministries Discuss Mutual Concerns

The following material was provided by Ross Blount as he was in correspondence with Angel P. Suárez-Valera concerning the potential for mutual cooperation and the sharing of information. What follows is a letter from Angel to Ross

Dear brother Ross,

Thanks for your call last week. It presents an opportunity to be addressed by this office because of the significant number of new immigrant Presbyterian leaders doing ministry as "tentmakers". But, the nature and motivation to be a "tentmaker" in PC (USA) sharply differs from that among new immigrants. In our situation, it's basically forced by economics.

The intention to provide a decent salary for full time pastors is hindered by:

- most of the new immigrant church membership are low income workers;
- instability of church membership due to mobility of people searching for job opportunities;
- contrast between the minimum salary approved by a Presbytery for an ordained minister and the media income of the membership served;
- limited or no financial resources in most Presbyteries to support new immigrant ministries.

As I also shared with you, our annual convocation is rather a dialogue opportunity among middle governing body representatives and new immigrant pastors/lay leaders. As such, it is an event held by invitation only. Certainly, we can extend an invitation to one representative from your association and even include the topic of tentmakers in PC (USA) as part of the program. To share more common interests, this office can send two representatives to your next conference in Portland, Oregon. Please, send me all the pertinent information.

Here is a preview for this year's activity:

2007 NEW IMMIGRANT MINISTRIES CONVOCATION

1. Who organizes the convocation?

- Annual event sponsored by the G.A.C. office of New Immigrant Groups Ministries in the USA (NIGM).

2. Who the lead contacts are?

- Angel P. Suárez-Valera, Associate. Ext. 5135
- Angela Robards, Administrative assistant. Ext. 5089

3. Purpose statement:

- Provide an intentional dialog experience for new immigrant leaders and middle governing bodies' staff, as equal partners in the denomination, to identify common strategies that effectively implement the PC (USA) Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism and Church Growth Strategy.
- Enhance the participants networking experiences and common knowledge of their ministries.

4. Dates and location?

- Due to the O.G.A. meeting, the original dates of October 11th to 14th, 2007, have been changed to Thursday, November 1st, through Saturday, the 3rd, 2007 at the downtown Hampton Inn Hotel in Louisville, KY.
- Louisville city will provide opportunities for participants to visit the G.A. offices

5. Who is attending so far?

- Pastors and lay leaders of new immigrant Bible study/fellowships related to the denomination. Groups from Africa, South Asian (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh), Portuguese speaking countries, and the French and English Caribbean.
- Presbytery/Synod staff and committee members related to new church development ministry with new immigrants.
- Members of the NIGM Advisory Committee
- G.A.C. staff as presenters.
- An invitation will be extended to the G.A. Vice Moderator

Blessings,

Angel

Rev. Angel P. Suárez-Valera
 New Immigrant Groups Ministries in the USA
 Racial Ethnic, Women Ministries/Presbyterian Women Area
 Presbyterian Church (USA)
 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5135

COVENANT ANNUAL REPORT – 2007

Covenant between the National Ministries Division (NMD)
 Of the General Assembly Council (GAC)
 Presbyterian Church (USA)
 and
 The Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers (APT)

Statement of Purpose

The Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers (APT) is an association of ministers, members, congregations, and governing bodies of the PC (USA) who are either tentmakers or have an interest in tentmaking ministry. Tentmakers are pastors who divide their work between two or more vocations – at least one of which is a ministry validated by presbytery and at least one of which is a secular

vocation. The purpose of APT is to provide support for tentmaker, tentmaking congregations, and advocates of tentmaking in the PC (USA); and to promote tentmaking within the PC (USA).

Officers

Moderator - Ross Blount
Moderator Elect - Jeff Scott
Treasurer - Fred Bunning
Member at Large - Donald West
Newsletter Editor - Steven Hammond
2007 Conference Chair - John Hasenjaeger

Activities for 2006

1. Annual Conference held at Allenspark, Colorado, September 20 – 22, 2006.
2. Publish APT Newsletter: TENT TALK.
3. Clearinghouse for information about tentmaking/bivocational ministry.

Activities for 2007

1. Annual Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon, October 26 – 28, 2007.
2. Publish APT Newsletter: TENT TALK.
3. Clearinghouse for information about tentmaking/bivocational ministry.
4. Set up APT Web Site.
5. Initiate Tentmaker Contacts with Seminaries.

Financial Report – See Attached

FINANCIAL REPORT
Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers
January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

Beginning balance	.....	..5,942.43
Receipts:		
Dues	.. 1,000.00	
2006 Conference Registrations	.. 4,625.00	
Sales of shirts, pins, & DVD's	..... 75.00	
Donation	..... 20.00	

	.....	..5,720.00
	_____

Total monies	.....	11,662.43
Expenses:		
General Assembly display	.....470.72	
Executive expenses	.....0.00	
Newsletters	..2,214.10	
Conference expenses (snack food donated)	..3,821.00	

	.....	..6,505.82
	-----
Ending balance (December 31, 2006)	.....	\$5,156.61
Receipts deposited in 2007:		
Grant for Web Site Project	.....750.00	
Dues	.....300.00	
Grant for Seminary Project	..2,000.00	

	.....	..3,050.00
	-----
Total monies on hand 02/07/07 of which \$2,750 are in reserve.....		\$8,206.61

Fred C. Bunning, treasurer

Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers Directory

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**For 2007 Conference Brochure
Open the email attachment.**