



Fall, 2005

The Covenant Connection

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Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity Draft Reports Are Now Available

The initial reports of the **Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church** were released in late July; the final report will be released in early September. For the latest in reliable news and analysis please visit the Covenant Network website. The Task Force reports and recommendations are downloadable at www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity. The Covenant Network encourages Presbyterians across the country to organize and participate in dialogues that reach across boundaries. For more information and resources, please visit our website or contact our office.

More Overtures to Overturn Ordination Barriers Are on the Way to GA

Overtures seeking to remove barriers to ordination based simply on sexual orientation have now passed in four presbyteries and are moving forward for consideration in several others. **Cascades** and **Detroit** Presbyteries have joined **Heartland** and **Western Reserve** in petitioning the 217th General Assembly (which will meet in 2006) to remove G-6.0106b and the Authoritative Interpretations that have been held to exclude otherwise qualified gay and lesbian church members from ordination. Text of all four overtures is available on the Covenant Network website (www.covenantnetwork.org/fullyinclusive.htm).

The Four Most Important Things You Can Do This Fall

1. Participate in or set up dialogues in your Presbytery on the Reports and Recommendations of the Theological Task Force.
2. Think about how to expand your congregation's welcoming and inclusion of gay and lesbian Presbyterians and their families.
3. Show the video *Turning Points* as a part of your fall Adult Education Program. Consider inviting a larger community to attend.
4. Ask your session to support the Covenant Network in your congregation's mission giving budget.

New Covenant Network Congregation Web Logo

Is your Church a Covenant Network church? Do you have a web page? Consider adding the new Covenant Congregation logo to your website and a link to the national Covenant Network website. The logo is available at www.covenantnetwork.org/CovNetCong.htm. And if your session hasn't already studied and affirmed the Call to Covenant Community, now is a good time!

Pacific Northwest Regional Conference Returns in October

Covenant Network supporters from all over the Pacific Northwest will be gathering for the second Covenant Network Northwest Regional Conference on October 15, 2005 at Newport Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, Washington. The conference, *A New Way for A New Day: Reframing the dialogue on sexuality in the church*, features **Susan Andrews** and **James Noel**. Please see more information on this conference at www.covenantnetwork.org/Events/nwc05/05nwconf.htm.

We seek the gift of unity among all who confess the name of Jesus Christ as Lord. Unity is Christ's prayer for those who would follow him, "so that the world might believe." We hope to maintain communion fellowship with all whose lives are guided by the Christian creeds and by the confessions of Reformed faith. We pledge to strengthen our ties to those who are at risk of being excluded by recent legislative actions of our church. We also want to live in unity with those whose views are different from ours. From the *Call to Covenant Community*. Please read in its entirety at covenantnetwork.org/call2cc.html.