



Spring, 2006

The Covenant Connection

A Newsletter of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (Vol 9, #1)

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May 2006 SE Regional Covenant Network Conference Features Jack Rogers

Daring to Hope: Preparing for the Church of Tomorrow is the theme for the May, 2006 Southeast Regional Covenant Network Conference hosted by the Presbytery of the James Covenant Network Chapter. The conference will take place over two days beginning with **registration at noon on Friday, May 12th** and ending with worship at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 13th. **Jack Rogers** will speak on his new book, *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality*. Frances Taylor Gench of Union Seminary-PCSCE will present the Theological Task Force report. **The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson** of Liberation Community Church, Memphis, TN; and **The Rev. Carrie Rhoads Tuttle**, First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, NC will preach. Please visit www.covenantnetwork.org/confse06/confse-home.htm or call the Covenant Network office to request a brochure and registration form.

The 217th General Assembly will be a Turning Point for the PC(USA)

The 217th General Assembly holds the promise for significant progress in the PC(USA). The Report of the Task Force on the Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church, if adopted in its entirety, would return authority to discern essential qualifications for ordained leadership to presbyteries and sessions. The Task Force Report along with overtures from 22 Presbyteries calling for the removal of G6.0106b will be debated and put to vote June 15-22 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Covenant Network booth, resource or assist committees, and help with event logistics or offer hospitality at CovNet events at the General Assembly. If you are interested and able to attend, please contact National Organizer Tricia Dykers Koenig by phone at (216) 658-1770 or by email at triciadk@covenantnetwork.org. If you are unable to attend, please consider supporting our work at General Assembly with a dedicated and extraordinary contribution of \$50 or more.

New Resource for Biblical Interpretation

In the "season of discernment" to which the Task Force invites the church, the Covenant Network is offering a new collection of essays designed to open conversations, not just win arguments. Twenty-six scholars from nineteen seminaries and colleges have provided short, accessible responses to *Frequently Asked Questions about Sexuality, the Bible, and the Church*. Intended for lay readers, the essays address the biblical and confessional passages most often discussed in debates about sexuality, and also suggest other helpful biblical and theological resources. Copies will be available in April from the Covenant Network office.

Comprehensive New Powerpoint Presentation on the Science of Sexual Orientation Now Available

Hard Wired provides an overview of the science of sexual orientation. It was presented by Doug Nave at the 2005 Covenant Conference in Memphis. Well documented, the presentation is a comprehensive overview of what we know and don't know, about the origins of sexual orientation - including genetic, hormonal, birth order, and other influences.

While *Hard Wired* is available for download or online viewing at www.covenantnetwork.org/hardwired.htm, viewers may wish to request a CD containing the large file either through the E-store at our website or by contacting the Covenant Network office.

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.