



FOCUS ON: Local Church Ministries Grant

Many initiatives are underway since the **Church Development program of the Conference** began 3 years ago. The Conference's work in congregational revitalization and new church starts has been recognized by the national setting of the United Church of Christ. We have been awarded a **grant of \$200,000 from Local Church Ministries** to continue and to expand our Church Development Program. This is good news, as well as a real vote of confidence in our efforts. The grant will be given in quarterly amounts of \$25,000 over the next two years, beginning July 1, 2009.

Here are a few conditions of the grant:

1. We will need to match the grant in order to do all that we want to do in Church Development over the next 3-5 years, doubling it to \$400,000. You will learn more about how we will do this through the Ensuring Our Future initiative of PSEC.
2. All funding from this grant will go to support leadership development in local churches: 2/3 for new church leadership and training, 1/3 for congregational revitalization.
3. No funds are to be used to support staff salaries.
4. A portion of the funding will support on-going clergy/lay leadership development.

Attendees at the Spring Meeting of the Conference signed their names to a giant poster of thanks to express our love and appreciation to Local Church Ministries for this generous grant. It was very moving to watch delegates step forward to sign the poster as a sign of their acceptance of the partnership with Local Church Ministries.

If your church has not been a part of our PSEC program of renewal, ask your leaders to consider participating in 2010. A brochure, which lists two orientation sessions next September, is available on the PSEC website. We serve a powerful God who is able to do things we cannot even imagine! Get involved in the program and be surprised by what God will do in and through your church!

EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit www.psec.org

Mark your calendars now for these fall events and meetings:

Theology with a Twist—Kutztown *for more info visit www.yaya.org*
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, Sept to May
Kutztown Tavern, Main Street, Kutztown
Tues, Sept 8 - Dr. Julia O'Brien, Professor of Old Testament, Lancaster Theological Seminary - *A Good Book or Not? Violence and the Bible* (<http://juliamobrien.net/index.php/blog>)

Spirit on Tap—Reading *for more info visit www.yaya.org*
Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, Sept to May
Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly Sheraton), 1741 Papermill Rd., Reading 19610
Tues, Sept 22, Dr. Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Scholar in Residence at Lancaster's Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity - *What Makes the End of the World So Much Fun?*

Ventures Retreat *for more info email force@menschmill.org*
September 22-24 at the Kline Center at Mensch Mill
This is an opportunity for senior adults to come together for worship, learning, community, and to have a good time. This year attendees will explore the Pennsylvania German culture and traditions.

21st Annual Mensch Mill Golf Tournament *for more info email force@menschmill.org*
September 28 at Bella Vista Golf Course, Gilbertsville
This annual fundraiser supports our summer camp program. The proceeds go to fund opportunities for children to experience the outdoors. This year our sponsor is Phoebe Ministries.



PRAYER PARTNERS - Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown and the Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian request prayers for their Vacation Bible Camp, July 7- 9, as they reach out to Armenian children in the Philadelphia area, as well as to children in the church's neighborhood.