

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

July 6, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

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## Follow GA Online

If you aren't able to get the Minneapolis Convention Center during General Assembly, there are many ways for people to follow along online.

If you want to follow the live web stream, you can go to [GA Online](#).

From there, you will also be able to gain access to [PC Biz](#), which contains all the documents and business that will come before General Assembly.

Presbyterian News Service will be covering GA and you will find articles and photos on the General Assembly website.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### SUMMER HOURS

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 - 4:00  
Closed Friday

#### Office Closed

Monday, July 5  
In observance of  
Independence Day

#### General Assembly

July 3 - July 10  
Minneapolis, MN

#### Interim Pator's Group

Wednesday, July 14  
11:30 - 1:30  
PGR

#### CPM

Thursday, July 15  
9:30 - 4:00  
Northminster, Peoria

#### Assembly Papers on

#### Website

Friday, July 16

#### Session Record Review

### General Presbyter's Perspective

Rev. Susan Krummel

Greetings from downtown Minneapolis! This note will have to suffice for now as my report to you. Our plans for a video blog have not yet come to fruition-maybe later in the week.

If you are interested in GA, then by now you know that Elder Cynthia Bolbach from Washington, D C has been elected as moderator. It was an interesting evening. There were six candidates. It took three hours from the time the voting process was described until the voting was well under way. During that time there was a five minute nominating speech for each candidate, a five minute speech by each candidate and then 90 minutes of questions from the commissioners. Whew! The most interesting thing that happened during the voting, on the four times of voting that it took for someone to reach a majority, was that the voting machines had glitches. Shades of voting in Chicago, I guess! They finally worked out the problems and everyone is hoping that there are no more problems when the voting resumes on Wednesday.

Between now and then, the commissioner committees will be meeting to deal with a variety of issues-who can be ordained, who can be married in the church, what will our form of government look like, and should the denomination divest from Caterpillar. All interesting topics, and all very heated discussions ahead. I will report further as the Assembly progresses.

One of our overtures has already gone before a committee. This was the overture recommending that program staff of the General Assembly should be involved in the life of a Presbyterian Church. The overture was

Saturday, July 17  
9:30 - 12:00  
First, Springfield

COM

Tuesday, July 20  
10:00 - 3:00  
Northminster, Peoria

Presbyterian Youth  
Triennium

Tues, July 20 - Sat, July 24  
Purdue University

Supplemental Papers on  
Website

Friday, July 23

Presbytery Assembly Mtg.

Tuesday, July 27  
9:30  
Registration starts at 8:30

defeated in committee, but 10 people voted for it. So, it is likely that it will be discussed again in the floor of the Assembly. We shall see.

The General Assembly is a combination of family reunion, political rally and worship experience; sometimes those three things fit together well, sometimes not. The highlight of today was a very creative opening worship service-beautiful music and even the baptism of a baby. Wonderful.

I hope you have a good week in Central Illinois or wherever you are reading this and that you will remember that no matter what the GA decides, next Sunday the gospel will be preached in your congregation and the world will go on!

**Session Record Review**

There are three Session Record Reviews left this year (one has already been completed!) The reviews will be held on Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon. Clerks of Session, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Julie](#) which date you will attend. **REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COVER SHEET and FORM!**

July 17 - First, Springfield **RSVP by July 8**  
August 14 - First, Macomb **RSVP by August 5**  
September 18 - United, Woodhull **RSVP by September 9**

Be sure to bring your worksheet and fill it out, in pen, prior to the meeting.  
[2010 Session Record Review Cover Sheet](#)  
[2010 Session Record Review Form](#)

**"The Big Questions"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Rivers' Pastors' Retreat**

Featuring Dr. William Greenway  
Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary



Friday, September 24, 2010  
9:30am - 2:30pm  
[WeaverRidge Golf Club](#)  
5100 WeaverRidge Blvd.  
Peoria, IL 61615

Go to [AustinSeminary.edu](#) or click [here](#) for more information regarding Bill Greenway.



**Green Energy**  
**By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant**

A former LeRoy High School exchange student returned to the community recently to give a lecture on how he recycles the "waste" or byproducts from different factory processes and sells them to other businesses. Jens Mueller's family business since 1889 has been selling and transporting coal.

With new laws in Europe on CO2 emissions that business was challenged. Jens came up with the concept to buy organic byproducts after certain factory processes that most looked upon as waste. The material that used to be sent to landfills is often dried, cubed and shipped to nearby countries that burn it along with coal to produce electricity and reduce their CO2 emissions to acceptable levels.

The waste products often come after pressing seeds such as rape or olive to produce oil. The process keeps large volumes of organic waste out of landfills, reduces CO2 emissions, employs people and makes money for Jens' family business. It's a win, win, win.

The business, the O.A.M. group, already had an expertise in European trading and shipping. He

has been bridging the gap between international manufacturers and final users of raw materials and by-products. While their product flow management incorporates the demands of customers, suppliers and efficient logistics, they always keep searching for new ecologic and economic recycling solutions.

They have sold chaff as another secondary, CO2-reducing fuel for coal fired power plants. Another idea was using former fire-extinguisher powder as bio-cover for manure storage tanks and/or fertilizer). He views these challenges not as "change as chance but a chance for change."

While Jens' success is not directly applicable to 100-year-old Presbyterian Church buildings in Illinois it is none the less inspiring. Instead of fearing change we can instead embrace as a chance that something even better will be the end result. We often think being greener is more expensive. Or that the payback time is too long compared with the higher up front cost. As we purchase greener items they will come down in price as demand drives the marketplace in the United States. As you face decisions in your church life and personal life remember to explore newer, more efficient, greener options that are kinder to the environment. Drop me an e-mail and share your experiences.

Learn more about FREE energy audits for all churches in our Presbytery using the hot link below. Click here to contact me, [Laurie](#). Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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