

UPDATE

June 2011

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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Historic Amendment 10-A Passed by Majority of Presbyteries

With the passage of Amendment 10-A, all formal provisions within the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) barring the ordination of lesbian/gay people have been eliminated. The 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church had passed this amendment in 2010 but it needed affirmative votes by 87 of the 173 presbyteries for it to be ratified. The Twin Cities Presbytery cast the deciding "yes" vote on May 10. What has been surprising about the voting in 2011 is that, as of press time, 21 presbyteries which do not usually vote in favor of any gay-positive stance, switched their votes this time around.

The More Light movement, with which LPPC has been involved faithfully for four decades, has worked tirelessly for full acceptance and equal opportunities for ordination of GLBT folks, often in the face of intense opposition and when the cause seemed hopeless.

The early involvement of LPPC was due in part to the influence of one of our former, openly gay members, the late David Sindt. David had previously been ordained as a Presbyterian minister, but due to church judicial actions, he gave up his

ordination and became a lay member of LPPC. Witnessing the struggles of David and others, the LPPC Session and congregation adopted a position paper on the ordination of GLBT members in 1980; interestingly, the language of the newly adopted amendment has many similarities with our 1980 paper. Another interesting connection is that the David had been ordained in St. Paul, MN, so it was fitting that the Twin Cities Presbytery cast the deciding vote on May 10.

What does this mean for our denomination? The new language gives congregations and presbyteries the primary responsibility for determining a person's suitability for ordination as deacon/elder and pastor. However, no church or presbytery will be forced to ordain anyone found unsuitable. And realistically, some people and churches may leave for more conservative denominations.

Although there is still work ahead for equality and civil rights for GLBT people, our denomination has taken a huge step toward welcoming all people, fully *and* joyfully.

- Barry Smith

Our Pastor Reflects on 27 years of Life and Ministry at LPPC

Dear Friends,

I want to frame my reflections as a closing letter this month, following 27 years of life and ministry with you. While my mind is a kaleidoscope of events and people, let me share a number of glimpses of what these years have held.

The theme of “welcoming all the people God gives us” (as one LPPCer has put it) has played out in a number of ways over the years. Our deep concern to invite gifted and committed friends in faith to serve as elders, whatever their sexual orientation, has finally found the affirmation of the broader Presbyterian Church the majority of the Presbyterians across our denomination have ratified Amendment 10-A. This new language leaves the discernment of just who is to be ordained to Sessions or Presbyteries, while setting a high standard for holding ordained office. We remember David Sindt, who started not only LPPC, but our Presbyterian church, done this inclusive path. I am thankful for all the efforts over the years when we were the only “More Light” Presbyterian congregation in the Chicago area. Thankfully, we have numbers of other churches extending their welcome these days.

When I arrived here in 1984, I encountered many people living on the streets in need of assistance. The founding of Lincoln Park Community Shelter was a vital, faithful response of four neighboring churches. Now the shelter with its 35 guests and numerous staff and volunteers are housed

downstairs. I urged the Session at our last meeting together never to take our relationship with the shelter for granted. May this partnership remain a key priority in LPPC’s mission efforts.

When the HIV/AIDS pandemic hit, the welcome of our congregation helped us care for members and friends who lived with the disease. We lost a number of dear friends in faith, including David Sindt. We learned and served as we worked with Chicago House, and our lives and life together were enriched in the process.

As civil unions become legal for same gender couples in Illinois, I am graced by memories of the covenantal ceremonies I’ve been privileged to lead over the years. Yes, we faced controversy at the beginning. Yet the celebratory worship and the deeply faithful lives of these couples express the wondrous love of our welcoming God. These couples are interwoven with the other couples, singles, young families, in the wondrous fabric of our diverse congregational culture.

The involvement of younger adult friends and members has been another opportunity we have enjoyed. First with the support of associate pastor Ann Johnson, (who was back in church in May!), and then with Amy’s creative leadership.

The growing number of children in our midst has been a distinct gift. Thanks to the committed leaders of KidSpace, and to families deciding to remain in the city. One wonderful opportunity was the confirmation process, capped by three of our younger

friends in faith joining Christ's church at LPPC, two of them being baptized.

The opportunities of adult education have been highlights of my ministry with you as well. Whether the enthusiastic discussion of Matthew's gospel during Lent, or the recent forum on the proposed Belhar confession emerging out of South Africa. Small groups are now expanding the possibilities of learning and growth.

My mind starts to include smells and tastes as I recall all the potlucks and the hospitality time each Sunday. Our friendships have been furthered at table time and time again. Whether chili, salads, casseroles or desserts, accompanied by energetic conversation, our sense of community has been enriched.

All the sounds of worship fill my ears too, for that has certainly been the heart of our life together. Choir, organ, piano and other instruments enliven all the spoken words we have shared. The voices of children in the family corner, splashing of water at the baptismal font, the sounds of names being spoken over the bread and the cup, the scriptures speaking to us on their own and interpreted in sermons. As well as moments for mission and witnessing. The joys and concerns being shared each Sunday. All this and the silence too, have allowed God to speak to us, enabling us to sense the moving of the Spirit and the risen Lord in our midst.

There are touches, too, that come to mind. All the handshakes and hugs of the passing of God's peace. And the handshakes at the end of worship, signaling our friendships in faith.

My memory is full of faces of all the people with whom I've been graced to be in ministry. Members, friends, and visitors; in homes, hospitals and at church. Seminary assistants growing with us and sharing their gifts as Amber has this year. Friends in neighboring congregations, supporting the shelter and worshipping with us on special occasions, too. Neighbors on the streets at the doors of the church.

And then there's the wonderful staff with whom I have worked day in and day out. Pastoral care shared with Amy. Caring for the building with Fernando, communicating with one another and preparing materials along with Leticia. Shaping the worship through music in partnership with James. Cooperating with the shelter staff as we share the building (and the parking lot!)

Of course there is much that we did not get done. I've spoken of my "list of laments." May the Spirit yet stir LPPC to grow numerically. And, increase the multicultural character of the congregation, too. May advocacy be strengthened in the search for God's justice and peace. May more of the congregation involve themselves in the activities and the governance of this special place.

I was pleased to have the chance to work with the refocusing the vision working group this year. As you continue to live in faith and care with courage, may you do so lured along by these words: "We seek the call of God to the next big thing and pray mightily that we receive the gifts to heed the invitation." By the grace of God in Christ, at the leading of the Spirit. Know my

heartfelt thanks, and my prayers for your future life and ministry.

Grace and peace,

Jeff

P.S. How could I overlook all the important work we've accomplished on our church building and grounds? Especially the major renovations to accommodate the shelter and improve our sanctuary, also the accessibility efforts on top of all the other work. I will never forget the cold winter and our weekly pilgrims to the gracious hospitality of St. Clements. Our spirits were revitalized during these months, following the struggles of the lawsuit and special use permit. Do maintain these rich assets, I hope and pray.



Our pastor for the last 27 years, Jeff Doane, in a familiar position

Visioning “What’s Next” in the Chicago Presbytery...

I just volunteered for a committee that has no mandate, no parameters for outcomes, and will try to figure out what structure to take. It is VERY un-Presbyterian, to say the least. But frankly, this is one of the first Presbytery committee gatherings I've actually been excited to attend. We will be the steering committee to start the conversation regarding “What’s Next?” for the Chicago Presbytery. Yes it is that work of “visioning.” But it isn't gazing at a crystal ball and forecasting what we will do next. Rather, it looks for the nuggets that will truly spark the next big thing and center how we move forward in this ever-changing world.

The members are “eclectic,” as Cliff Lyda, Pastor of Elmhurst Presbytery, put it best. We are young, old, Hispanic, African-American, Asian, Latino, male, female, progressive and conservative -- reflecting the Presbytery and the wider church in microcosm.

I was struck by how many of us both acknowledged and mourned the encroaching secular/pagan culture on the time commitment that both young and older make to the church. Many including myself can remember a time when stores were closed on Sunday's and school events were never scheduled on Sunday, or the convention that Wednesday evening was always for “family night/catechism.”

We agreed that time, forever the issue, presses so much harder on the church. We, the church, depend on volunteer leadership,

but that leadership has demands placed on it like never before. Classes, second jobs, travel (both business and pleasure), social engagements, family obligations, working overtime... you name it. So many outside forces pull on us, but especially someone wanting to serve in the church. We can hang our heads and mourn this loss, and cry out that we have been wronged. But the reality is that the church is no longer the center in Western society.

Our visioning group talked about how much more our church of 21st Century more resembles the church of the 1st Century than the church of the mid-20th Century. We struggle in a culture that says a walk in the woods is as good as church or that church is an afterthought – as in “after I meet my other commitments first.” One only need look at the Soldier Field parking lot or the many fans streaming to Wrigley field on a Sunday morning (while I head down Irving Park bus to church) to know that we as a society do not value church as we once did in previous generations.

So what does that call us as Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church to do and be in the 21st Century? I do not have a quick answer. But I do know it should give us pause.

I would like to be bold and challenge this congregation. We can no longer expect people to walk through the doors, like us for who we are, and decide to stay. Time is the currency of the day. Our challenge is capturing people of all ages to stay engaged

in the church in both our congregations and our denomination. We need to open our arms wider and let go of some of the barriers.

What we do not change is the essence of Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. At the heart is social justice ministry. Let us strengthen our worship be open for change so that we may grow into something new.

As we celebrate our life in ministry over the past 27 years with Jeff and Gretchen, let us rejoice in all the work that they have done for this church and celebrate where we have been and look forward to building on what we have been given through their ministry with this congregation.

At a young adult ministry conference I attended in 2008, we talked about the changing church. The PCUSA and all the “mainline” churches are getting smaller. We can mourn

this or celebrate the core of who we are. We are called to nurture the church so that we can teach and nurture it for the next generation. May we be open to the newness of the next generation. Let us truly live out the mission of this church with boldness and openness to the “What’s Next.” Let us embrace change at the right time, and stepping into with grace and boldness. This in essence forms the very core of living in faith and caring with courage.

Love, prayers, and always peace,

Amy Carlozo

I would like to be bold and challenge this congregation. We can no longer expect people to walk through the doors, like us for who we are, and decide to stay.

Two Upcoming Worship Services at LPPC Featuring Theological Reflection Through Art!

Art as a way to experience a sermon???

Certainly! We hope you'll join us on Sunday, June 19, as Associate Pastor Amy Carlozo preaches while Rev. Shawna Bowman paints an interpretation of the sermon on a large canvas, offering a new and different way to connect with the text. Not sure how this will work or add meaning to the worship? All the more reason to show up on the 19th and check it out. Shawna has provided this type of graphical interpretation of worship at several area churches, including Lakeview Presbyterian, Wicker Park Grace, and Fourth Presbyterian, as well as at the opening worship service of the 219th General Assembly in 2010.

On Sunday, June 26, Shawna will be with us again for our Pride Sunday worship service—and this time she'll be preaching. The service will start at 10:30 am, so please make a note of the earlier time 'cause you won't want to miss a minute of this "alternative" style service. In addition to starting 30 minutes early, there will be several other notable differences in our Pride Sunday service. Among the changes: the entire service will be held in the Dreyer Room, and Chicago-area artist Matthew Black will be leading the music. You'll have to join us on June 26th to find out what else we've cooked up to enhance the worship experience on Pride Sunday! And of course, immediately following the worship service, folks from LPPC will be heading out to march with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches in the

annual Pride Parade- we'd love for you to come and march with us!

Want a little more information about our guest artists? Shawna is an ordained PC-USA pastor, an artist, a chaplain, and a McCormick Theological Seminary graduate. You can view her web site, "Art for God's Sake," at <http://artforgodsake.com/>.

Matthew Black is a singer-songwriter and McCormick Theological Seminary graduate who leads worship and music for numerous retreats and conferences. You can find out more about him on his website, "Matthew Black, the Official Site," at <http://matthewblackmusic.com/>.

- Jeanne Hale

June Birthdays at LPPC

4	Michael Devlin
8	Edmund Bradfield
9	Karl Stanhibel
9	Abby Van Kempen
10	Delia Howard-Chou
14	Marty Knorre
17	Don Hunter
18	Charles Rich
22	Lucas James Devlin
28	Jack O'Donnell
28	Kate O'Donnell

Earth Sunday Eco Bag Sale Update

Thanks to everyone who purchased Eco bags on Earth Sunday. A total of \$33 was donated to the Alliance for the Great Lakes. For more information on this organization whose mission is to protect the Great Lakes, go to <http://www.greatlakes.org/Page.aspx?pid=309>.

A Statement of Faith

Editor's Note: The following is a statement of faith submitted by Jack O'Donnell as part of his recent Confirmation . It submitted to the Session, and Jack agreed to share it with the congregation through Update.

Like all Christians, I believe in God and the Holy Spirit. But faith is not just about believing. It is about trusting God, having faith in God. You need to not only believe that God exists, but trust that he will help you through any hard times.

I trust in Jesus and his teachings. As God's son, Jesus was the perfect example of a model Christian. Jesus always forgave people. He loved all of God's people, even the shunned sinners. Jesus showed us how to be the model Christian, and I will try to be like him.

One recurring theme in the Old Testament is helping the poor. Jesus and God clearly want us to help those in need. Whether this is donating to charities, helping at the church shelter, or otherwise volunteering for good causes, this is clearly something God wants us to do. So I will try to do such good works.

We are all God's people. We are all more intelligent than all other animals, and we should use this gift of knowledge to help. Humankind should always try to use knowledge for good causes, such as curing disease or conserving environmental resources. I will always try to use my skills to help people.

I have always liked science. I have always had my nose in a science book for as long as

I can remember. I believe in all those laws of physics and other facts. But I also believe in Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit. Though some of the events described in the bible seem impossible to modern science, there is so much we don't know. We may eventually discover the secrets behind God, but those secrets are certainly something we don't understand yet.

Some of the Old Testament, especially the creation, directly contradicts some modern scientific beliefs. This is why Darwin was so controversial. But I believe that many of these stories are metaphors, like Jesus' parables, to make complicated religion easier to swallow for laypeople. These stories made complex statements about God short and simple. So I believe in both science and religion.

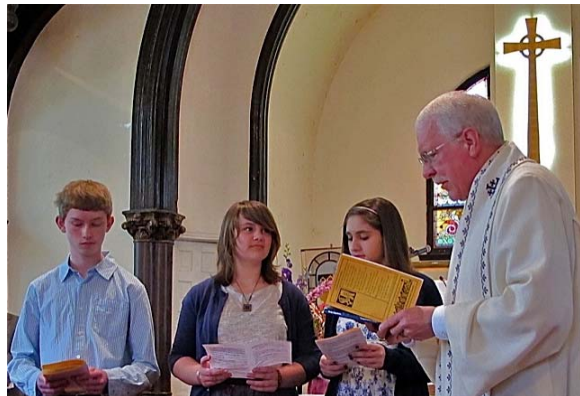
-Jack O'Donnell



Photo by Ann Hunt

Pictured above are the 2011 Confirmation Class for LPPC, with sponsors, (left to right) Zoe Prekop, Monna Ray, Jack O'Donnell, Emily Porter, Bruce Hunt, and Ben Ho.

2011 LPPC Confirmation Class



Pastor Jeff Doane and new members Jack O'Donnell, Zoe Prekop and Emily Porter during their confirmation ceremony.

Women's Book Group

All women are invited to participate in the book group. We read an eclectic selection of fiction and nonfiction and often have widely diverging reactions to the same book making for lively discussions. We have pastries and coffee while we talk. Regulars who cannot attend are asked to let Norma Bennett know so the refreshments can be adjusted.

Logistics: Customarily we meet at the Kenwood, 3121 N. Sheridan Road, Room 703, entrance on Briar Street where you sign in. If you drive, a few guest parking spaces are available and are assigned by the person at the front desk. You may pull directly up to the garage entrance on Barry St. and telephone the front desk at 773-404-9800 and ask to be assigned a parking space.

To find Room 703, our meeting space, take the first floor elevator to the mezzanine (push the M button). Exit at the mezzanine, turn right, and walk down a long corridor that jogs to the right until you find another

elevator. Take that elevator to the seventh floor, turn right, and proceed to Room 703.

Books

June: The June book is “The Zookeepers Wife” by Diana Ackerman. It is non-fiction and tells how a zookeepers wife hid Jews from the Gestapo during World War II. By all accounts it is fascinating and inspirational.

July: The July book is “Abundance” by Sena Jeter Naslund and is fiction. Our July tradition is to meet at Gail Russell’s Wisconsin cabin rather than our customary meeting place of the Kenwood, for a day of discussion, food (potluck), and rural relaxation. Talk to Gail about ridesharing and directions.

August: The book group does not meet in August. We dedicate it to “beach reading.” Make note of your guiltiest pleasure, so you can share it with us in September. Most of us are eager to hear of good escape reading.

September: We are back at the Kenwood and will discuss “The Golden Compass” by Philip Pullman. Mary Russell says it is young adult fiction that is a quest tale, which, like Harry Potter, is disapproved of by some conservatives as being an evil influence on the young people.

October: the book tentatively scheduled for October is “Goodbye and Amen” a novel by Beth Gutcheon. Watch for updates.

-Virginia Braxton

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Liz Kurman for dutifully submitting the Women's Book Group article for many years.

Summer Worship Plans at LPPC

We have exciting plans for worship over the summer months! There is a lot to look forward to, so please plan to be in attendance.

Of course, the first “not-to-be-missed” Sunday will be June 12, Pentecost, when Jeff will lead his last service as our pastor at LPPC. This special service will be followed by a traditional LPPC potluck to honor Jeff’s ministry with us, and to wish Jeff and Gretchen Godspeed in their future endeavors.

For the rest of the summer months, we will welcome a variety of friends old and new to our service. These too will be “not-to-be-missed” services! Working with the Liturgy and Learning Ministry and Transition Teams, associate pastor Amy has spearheaded the identification of guest preachers. At press time, the anticipated guest preacher arrangements are as follows:

June 12, Pentecost – Jeff preaching; farewell potluck to follow.

June 19 – Rev. Amy Carlozo preaching; artist/minister Rev. Shonna Boumann will draw during the service.

June 26 – Pride Sunday – Rev. Shonna Boumann will preach during an “alternative” style worship service to be held in the Dreyer Room (summer worship hours begin; **service will be at 10:30am**).

July 3 – Bruce Hunt

July 10 – Rev. Ginny Smith

July 17 – Rev. Amy Carlozo

July 24 – Zaida Rodriguez

July 31 – Gerri Mead

August 7 – Rev. J.C Cadwallader preaching (JC is the Presbytery’s Committee on ministry representative working with us through the transition to a new pastor).

August 14 – Rev. Joellen Hosler

August 21– Presently open.

August 28 – Rev. Garnett Foster (Garnett led this year’s Women’s Retreat).

August 28 – Hymn Sing Sunday

September 4 – Rev. Christine Vogel (Communion deferred until September 11).

Of special note, we will return to “summer worship hours” this year. Beginning on June 26, Pride Sunday, and running through Labor Day weekend, worship will begin at 10:30am. The Session hopes that this earlier start (and end) time will help everyone enjoy more summer afternoon hours outdoors, and also help families with young children attend worship without disrupting nap times.

Designated “elders of the week” will continue to be available during hospitality to answer your questions and hear your suggestions as we work through the process of identifying LPPC’s pastoral leadership for the coming months and years.

-Gale Morgan-Williams

Summer Shelter Volunteers Needed

LPPC cooks dinner the 3rd Saturday of each month, (a change of date), and overnight volunteers are needed every night. Sign up for meals in the back of the Sanctuary, or call the shelter at 773/549-6111 for an overnight.