

Let us join in prayer for:

Presbytery Staff

Hugh Anderson, co-executive presbyter
Aleida Jernigan, co-executive presbyter
John Mahon, co-executive presbyter
John Huenink, stated clerk
Janet Alpine, administrative assistant
Dawn Champoux, administrative assistant
Carolee Neighorn, administrative assistant
Marjorie Robinson,
administrative assistant
Cheryl Anderson, business manager
Diane Wells, bookkeeper

PC(USA) General Assembly Staff

Daily Lectionary

☉Ps. 122, 149 ☪Ps. 100, 63
2 Kings 11:1–20a
1 Cor. 7:10–24; Matt. 6:19–24

The Presbytery of the Cascades

Oregon, Washington, California

One challenge to growing Christ's church deep and wide is making the doors wide enough and the entrance level enough so that all may enter—and see, hear, and participate. For a decade, the Opening Doors Task Force of the presbytery has been working to make this vision a reality.

How do we welcome and include people with disabling conditions in the full life of the church? The Opening Doors Task Force encourages, assists, and informs congregations about disabilities issues. They provide expertise and support through inclusion strategies, training workshops, expert consultation, and financial assistance.

The task force has provided funding to fifty churches for more than one hundred projects. Churches have installed elevators, widened doorways, made bathrooms accessible, built ramps, and purchased hearing-assist equipment. And Opening Doors offers on-site consultation to help churches discern what is needed to include everyone in their worshiping community.

The small Bandon, Oregon, First Presbyterian Church used a grant from Opening Doors to make street-level entrances for handicapped access and to install an elevator to connect the two floors of the church building.

In 2006, Opening Doors was honored by PC(USA) with the Nancy Jennings Award for being a disabilities advocacy model for all other presbyteries. John Mahon, co-executive presbyter, describes Opening Doors as “transforming the ministries of congregations in the presbytery.” Member Rick Parfrey describes the task force's mission as providing “an all-inclusive fellowship in which each person, regardless of ability, is of equal worth.”

The Presbytery of the Cascades has 120 congregations and 22,664 members.

Prayer

Gracious God of the whole world, teach us each day that we live in a world of neighbors, all of whom you love equally and fervently. May we invite any and all of them into community and erect no barriers in their way. Amen.



The Rev. Bobbi Neason presses the button to operate the new lift installed at First Presbyterian, Bandon.