

Let's Celebrate

Task Force

Presbytery of Western North
Carolina
114 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, NC 28655

January, 2009

Dear Session and Committee Chairs,

It's time to begin planning the *Let's Celebrate* event for 2010! Each year we find that this event is well attended. Those who participate enjoy the event, finding it very helpful as they walk away better equipped as teachers, preachers, officers, and the many other capacities they serve within their home congregations.

We are the *Let's Celebrate* Task Force. As such, our job is to assess past events and work to improve the upcoming event. While assessing the 2009 event, we realized that even though *Let's Celebrate* is well attended and is successful at better developing church leaders, the event seems to draw the same crowd year after year. Of course, there is nothing wrong with that. However, if we are to be the best stewards of Presbytery resources, both financial and gifted leadership, then we must work to reach churches that have been unable to benefit from this event thus far.

The key component to opening this door is communication with you and your congregation. If we as a Presbytery; if you as a Session or a committee; if church leaders do not get behind the event, it will continue benefitting only the faithful core who seem to come back each year. How does one "get behind" this event? Well, there are numerous ways. The most effective is to help people discover why this event is relevant to them and where they currently minister in their congregations.

This brings me to the purpose of this letter. The *Let's Celebrate* Task Force would like for congregations to be the "force" in helping make *Let's Celebrate* a relevant event in the lives of church members. To do this is simple.

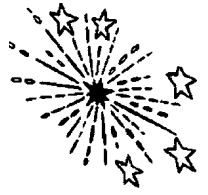
1. Carve out some time in both a Session meeting and committee meetings to consider *Let's Celebrate*.
2. Develop a simple way to assess the CRUCIAL needs of the members of your church, especially those in leadership capacities. The purpose here is to find that point where your congregation's need and the fellowship of PWNC congregations and resources meet to better each other in our Christ-given mission (G-3.0200-G-3.0401).
3. Get feedback to Presbytery ASAP so that the Task Force can begin gathering resources for implementing this information as creatively and effectively as possible. The next meeting of Task Force will be February 11, 2010.

Presbytery wants to partner with your church in this endeavor so that she can carry out her designated responsibilities (G-11.0103) faithfully. We are only as strong as we are together in Christ's mission and fellowship. The *Let's Celebrate* Task Force anticipates your feedback and looks forward to creating a wonderful event that will enrich the lives of churches in our Presbytery, the PCUSA, and the church universal by equipping its saints.

Sincerely,
Mike Sears
Let's Celebrate Task Force



Let's Celebrate...



A Presbytery of Western North Carolina Educational Event for Adults and Youth

August 21, 2010

9:00 AM—3:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Morganton

Worship Leader:

Dr. Fernando A. Cascante Gómez



Dr. Fernando A. Cascante Gómez was born and raised in Costa Rica, where he studied at the University of Costa Rica and at the Latin American Biblical Seminary. Son of a pastor, he also served churches in San José and other parts of the country for more than ten years while, at the same time, working as a seminary and university professor. Dr. Cascante served at the faculty of Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia for almost ten years, between 1999 and 2009. Presently he works as an independent educational consultant and scholar.

Dr. Cascante is a professional educator who has a broad cross-cultural experience. He has taught and served as an educational consultant in different parts of the world (Mexico, Central America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, United States, England). He has taught in a variety of educational settings: high school, university, seminary. He has worked effectively with people of all ages and many backgrounds: Mayan women in the highlands of Guatemala, peasants of the lowlands of El Salvador and Nicaragua, pastors and lay people from many denominations, seminary students of all ages, and with deans and presidents of theological institutions. In addition, Dr. Cascante has experience with distance theological education and the use of the Internet for teaching in asynchronous and synchronous formats.

