



The Presbytery of Western North Carolina

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TO: THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
FROM: LUKE HARKEY, MODERATOR
DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2009
SUBJECT: HEALTH CARE

As Moderator of our Presbytery, I have been asked what I think about discussing such a volatile issue as health care on Saturday morning at our October Presbytery meeting. The fact is that health care is, and should be, a concern for all of us as Presbyterians. It is a concern on the mission field, as we will hear from Dr. Barbara Nagy (Malawi) and from our Guatemala Partnership Committee. But health is also a concern here at home.

Health care has become the focus of a national debate that has become highly politicized. Regardless of our political views, the underlying issue of how best to address the needs of “the least of these” (Matthew 25) should be a matter of prayer and discernment in our churches.

I am grateful that Dr. Olson Huff, an Elder in the Montreat Presbyterian Church and nationally known pediatrician who has worked with congressional leaders in both the Senate and House to effect the Health Reform legislation, has agreed to make a presentation to us at our October Presbytery meeting to help us, as Presbyterians, become better informed. Our goal at this meeting is not consensus, but better understanding of the issues. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are “to have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus” (Phillippians 2:9). Jesus ministered to body, mind and spirit, and that tradition has long been a part of our mission heritage, both at home and abroad. Whatever the future holds, it is clear that our God is concerned with healing and wholeness of the whole person, and so should we be. I hope that the connection between faith and health will be reinforced through the presentations and worship at this meeting of Presbytery.