

Last-minute Things You Need to Know About the Gathering

We do hope you are planning to attend the PW 2015 Churchwide Gathering! It is a great way to renew old friendships and make new ones! Never been to a Gathering? Come see what people are talking about!

Registration

Register online through June 1 (www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering). After June 1, register in person at the Gathering, 11 AM–7 PM on Thursday, June 18. Registering on site does not affect the price of registration. If you have registered and have not received a confirmation, please contact Patricia Longfellow at 844.797.2872, ext. 8015, or patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org. Please spread the word to others you know who are attending the Gathering. (This is for Gathering registration only, not hotel registration.)

Workshops update

Full—#25 Friday at 10:30; #28 both sessions; #35 all sessions (Westminster tour; individuals can still go)

Cancelled—#8, #21, #40, #37 (Friday only)

Hotels

The special-rate room blocks at the Gathering hotel, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, are gone, but rooms are available at hotels near the Hyatt—Hilton, Millennium, Doubletree and others. You might even find a rate as good. We suggest searching travel websites like Travelocity, Expedia, Hotels.com, etc. Some attendees are looking for a roommate (or roommates). Some of them have rooms and some don't. Contact Patricia Longfellow (patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org) if you need a roommate. We cannot guarantee that she will be able to find you a roommate, but she does get calls and emails from those willing to share a room.

Getting to the Gathering

A number of transportation options are available to get you from the airport to your hotel.

- Reserve a ride through Supershuttle of Minnesota, Inc. Options range from a ride-share van to a chauffeured sedan or van. For transportation from the airport, costs range from \$18 per person to \$99 flat fee, depending on type of vehicle selected. Call 800.258.3826 and mention discount code BK7BE.
- Take Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains. To get to the Hyatt from the airport, take an LRT train to the stop for Nicollet Mall (the 11-block area of Nicollet Avenue in which the Hyatt Regency is located). Pick up a bus at the Nicollet Mall stop to take you to the Hyatt Regency. Check www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for instructions to get to other hotels.
- Arrange a taxi at the airport or at the hotel.
- For those driving to Minneapolis, parking at the Hyatt is \$17/day (\$4/hour, four hours or less). Guests arriving prior to 8 AM and leaving before 8 PM pay \$6.75 for the day.

Planning your time at the Gathering

- Arrive early and check in at registration as early as possible. Registration is open from 11 AM–7 PM on Thursday, June 18. There, you will receive a program book.
- Attend an orientation session (or two) on Thursday, June 18. They will be held in the Lakeshore room—one at 2:30, one at 3:30 and one at 4:30 PM.
- Look through the program book, deciding what your priorities are. Plenary sessions are scheduled at times that

do not conflict with any other activities. For other options, there will be overlap.

Gathering app

Download the Gathering app for up-to-the-moment schedules, news and information. This app works with Android and iPhone devices. To download on your smart device, visit <http://my.yapp.us/pwgathering>. If you do not already have Yapp installed, you will be directed to download it. After downloading, you will be directed to start using it. Select "I've been invited to a Yapp." If you typed in the [pwgathering](http://www.pwgathering.org) address, Yapp will display the Gathering app as one of your invitations. If you have questions regarding the app, email pwwithelp@pcusa.org or visit the communications office in Grant (Hyatt main floor).

Meals

Breakfasts are on your own. There are a variety of locations to choose from, including at hotels and restaurants nearby. Watch for restaurant lists to be posted on the Gathering website. Thursday dinner, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are provided. Friday lunch and Saturday dinner are on your own. Provided meals will be served in three locations—the Exhibit Hall, Northstar Ballroom and Great Lakes Ballroom. Meal tickets will be color-coded. Check the meal chart in the program book once you get to the Gathering and receive meal tickets. Note that the combined dinner and program scheduled for Friday is no longer combined. Friday dinner will be a plated meal (rather than buffet-style, like the other meals) and will be served in all three meal locations, with program to follow in Plenary Hall at 7:30 PM.

Engage with Presbyterian Women

Be sure to visit Presbyterian Women's exhibit in the Activities Hall. Learn about the ways that PW is involved in leadership development, justice and peacemaking and mission. Celebrate the many ways PW and our partners engage in ministry throughout the U.S. and the world. And put your hands on ways to live out PW's Purpose! While you're there, check on your subscription to *Horizons* (or subscribe!). Look for a daily schedule of events in the PW Speaker's Corner, adjacent to the PW exhibit.

Informational get-togethers

Join one of two informational get-togethers to learn more about what's new with Presbyterian Women and the PC(USA). These will be opportunities for open dialog with PW and PC(USA) leaders. Stop in on your way to dinner! On Friday, from 5–5:45 PM, in Greenway H and I, meet with PW financial leaders and legal advisors to discuss matters related to PW; on Saturday, 5–5:45 PM, in Greenway A and B, meet with guests representing the General Assembly.

Don't miss the Silent Auction!

Location: Activities Hall

Opens: 5 PM on Thursday, June 18

Closes: 5 PM on Friday, June 19 (bidding open just 24 hours!)

Proceeds will benefit PW's Mission Pledge. The names of the highest bidders will be posted in the bidding space. Highest bidders should pay for and pick up items no later than 2 PM on Saturday.

Now accepting donations!

1. Only new items will be accepted (minimum \$25 value). Smaller items can be grouped, as in a basket, to total over \$25.

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- Keep in mind that fragile and large items are not practical for attendees who will be traveling by plane. Handcrafted items are unique and attract many bids.
- Email the auction coordinator, Katie Blume (kdb616@gmail.com), with a completed donor form and, if possible, a photograph of the item. Download the donor form at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.
- Drop off your donation at the PW booth in the Activities Hall on Thursday, June 18 between 1 and 4 PM.

Step out for justice and peace!

Going to the Churchwide Gathering? Gather your pledges and join us for a March for Justice and Peace Saturday, June 20, 2015; 5–6 PM! Be a witness for gender justice, antiracism, inclusion, nonviolence, mission, eco-justice, peacemaking, and more. Bring your placard or make one in the Activities Hall (at the PW exhibit space). Download ideas at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

The march is both a witness and a fundraiser to benefit CARE and Presbyterian Ministry at the UN. Download the pledge form at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering, find sponsors, gather pledges and bring them with you to the Gathering. Marchers will meet in Westminster Presbyterian Church's courtyard a few minutes before 5 (one block from the Gathering hotel), and step out for justice and peace!

Not able to attend the Gathering? Join the march with your pledges! Proceeds will benefit CARE and Presbyterian Ministry at the UN. Download the pledge form [here](#). Questions? Email Sheila Louder, CCT vice moderator for justice and peace.

Mission scrapbook pages

Bring a 12" x 12" scrapbook page highlighting your mission program(s). Please include pictures and text telling us about your projects. On the back of the page, please include:

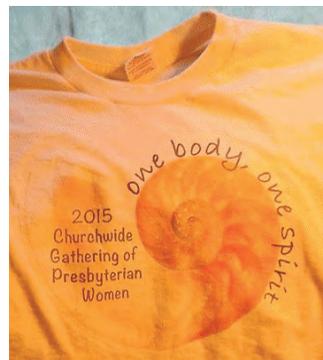
- church, presbytery or synod name
- contact person name, email and phone number
- a signed release for individuals in the photos

We will digitize the pages and share them as an online mission scrapbook. Drop off your scrapbook page at the PW booth in the Activities Hall. Only one page per congregation. Presbyteries and synods may submit up to three pages. Questions? Contact Jane McGookey, mcgookey@gmail.com.

Getting creative with the Churchwide Gathering logo

Looking for inexpensive t-shirts that you can apply the Churchwide Gathering logo to? Look no farther! Order \$5 sweat-free tees from the Presbyterian Hunger Program! Go to www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/enough/sweat-free-t-shirts for the shirts, go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for artwork you can download. Louise Van Poll of Huron, South Dakota, made two t-shirts—one for her, one for her roommate (see photo).

For instructions on making a Minnie or nautilus pin, go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.



Tote bags

If you did not place an order for a bag when you registered, you can still get one! Email carissa.herold@pcusa.org. The bags are \$20 if ordered before the Gathering. We will have some bags available at the Gathering (limited supply) for \$25. The Gathering logo, a beautiful nautilus on orange background, symbolizes the theme of the Gathering, "One Body, One Spirit." These durable bags, made of recycled material, are themselves recyclable. They were made by Scrappy Bags, a woman-owned company in Minneapolis.



A mile of quarters

You'll remember that at the 2012 Gathering, the Synod of Southern California/Hawaii shared their quarter challenge in the Interactive Area. A quarter at a time, women from the synod save their quarters in banks made from PVC pipe. Slightly over a foot in height, each bank holds \$50 in quarters. Money raised purchases midwife-assisted birthing kits through Direct Relief. Since the Gathering, PW from around the country have donated over \$20,000—one quarter at a time. At the 2015 Gathering, the quarter banks will be back in the PW resource area. Synod and presbytery mods may take a kit back to share. Imagine what PW can raise in support of the Mission Pledge, Birthday and Thank Offerings! There are 23,040 rolls of quarters in a mile (921,600 quarters) or \$230,400. PW's legacy of second-mile giving continues—a quarter at a time. Join this activity and lots more in the Activities Hall.

Bring with you (among other things)*

- Scrapbook page(s), reusable water bottle
- Coins for Cents-Ability and the quarter tubes fundraiser
- Target gift cards (\$10 increments)
- Auction items (if you're donating)
- Pledge forms and pledges for Justice and Peace March
- Signs for the JP March (if made ahead; ideas on the web)
- Hijab or other symbol of profiling (for Silent Witness)

Supporting the Gathering (even if you can't attend)

- Donate** to the Silent Auction. See details, previous page.
- Send scrapbook page(s). Details, previous column.
- Send **\$10 Target gift cards** to the PW Business Office, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396.

Volunteer

Contact Shelda Wills, swills@usit.net if you are interested in helping at the Gathering. For the PW activities area, contact Carol Winkler, winksmama@gmail.com.

During and after the Gathering

Watch for complete coverage of the Churchwide Gathering in *Daily Horizons* during the Gathering, on our website during and after the Gathering and in *Horizons* (the September/October 2015 issue) after the Gathering. And, yes, you can take the Churchwide Gathering home! Order the *Take the Gathering Home* DVD in the PW area of the Activities Hall or mail the form found in your program book, to receive a DVD brimming with photos, all issues of *Daily Horizons*, the official Churchwide Gathering song, and highlights from plenary! \$15 each. The DVD will mail in late August.

* See *Daily Horizons 1* for book titles (and more items to bring) (www.pcusa.org/resource/2015-daily-horizons-issue-1/).