

## **Application Information**

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)  
Tuesday, February 22 – Friday, March 4, 2011  
Orientation Programs will be held February 20 and 21, 2011 prior to the meeting of the UNCSW  
by Ecumenical Women (EW) and  
the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women, New York  
**Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations**

Welcome to the application process for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presence at the meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York City.

## **General Information**

### **Attendance Expectations**

An individual who attends the UNCSW as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) delegation for the first time is expected to attend for a minimum of one week. Individuals with prior attendance are expected to attend as much of the UNCSW as possible, optimally the entire meeting. More detailed information on programming and scheduling will be provided when it becomes available.

All participants are expected to attend the orientation provided by Ecumenical Women (an international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organizations). Ecumenical Women has no paid staff; its work is done by volunteers from staff and representatives of its member organizations. Participants may attend the orientation provided by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York. Both sessions are valuable strategy and networking opportunities, allowing participants to gain important perspectives on the issues to be discussed as well as talking points to help impact conversations throughout the UNCSW.

### **Ecumenical Women Orientation**

The Ecumenical Women orientation on February 20, 2011 will focus especially on how and why we advocate *as people of faith*. The day will involve an introduction to the UN system, worship and Bible study, and a discussion of key talking points for Ecumenical Women and its constituent organizations. This event is an excellent networking opportunity—all those taking part in the orientation will be associated with a denomination or organization that is part of Ecumenical Women. The cost is likely to be \$30 and includes two meals. Accepted participants will be provided information on how to register individually for the Ecumenical Women orientation as well as information on programming and scheduling when it is available.

### **NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York Orientation**

The orientation presented by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York will preview key issues that will be discussed in the UNCSW. Participants will come from faith-based groups and other civil society organizations. This year the consultation is expected to focus on advocacy themes and techniques. Accepted participants will be provided information on how to register individually for this orientation as well as information on programming and scheduling when it is available.

## **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Advocacy, Education, and Worship Teams**

In order to help facilitate discussion and advance preparation for the UNCSW, the Presbyterian delegation will include advocacy and education teams with responsibilities before and during the event. In addition, a worship team will work together to plan opportunities for spiritual reflection and fellowship. Participation in a team is encouraged, but not required.

*Advocacy team members* will coordinate with Ecumenical Women in advance by reading informational communications, drafting statements for submission to the UN, and contributing to discussions preceding the UNCSW. At the UNCSW, advocacy team members will help develop language proposals for the General Assembly Agreed Conclusions, follow NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York and United States Caucus conversations, and meet with UN Missions to submit Ecumenical Women language proposals. The approximate time commitment for Advocacy team membership is five to ten hours per month, beginning in late November. Those new to advocacy in the United Nations context are welcome to participate—you need not be an expert!

*Education team members* will coordinate with Ecumenical Women in advance by circulating and discussing information related to the theme of the UNCSW and by creating connections between the larger church and the work of the delegation. They will help plan a parallel event being organized by Presbyterian Women. At the UNCSW, education team members may engage in advocacy, but they will primarily attend parallel events. Education team members are also encouraged to submit short reflections on the events they attend in order to provide other delegates with informative briefings.

*Worship team members* will coordinate with Ecumenical Women in advance to plan and create worship opportunities for delegation members. Delegates coordinating worship are free to participate in additional team areas as they wish.

### **Application process**

*If you are a member of Presbyterian Women*, obtain an application form from Louise Davidson, PW Delegation Coordinator at [l.davidson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.davidson@sbcglobal.net). Complete the application and email it to [l.davidson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.davidson@sbcglobal.net). For more information, contact Louise Davidson at [l.davidson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.davidson@sbcglobal.net), or Meagan Manas, PW Staff for Justice and Peace, [meaganmanas@gmail.com](mailto:meaganmanas@gmail.com). Deadline for applications is November 26, 2010.

*If you are a Presbyterian who is not a member of Presbyterian Women*, obtain an application form at [gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/un/](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/un/). Complete the application form and email it to Ricky Velez-Negron, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations: [ricky.velez-negron@pcusa.org](mailto:ricky.velez-negron@pcusa.org).

Contact Mark Koenig, director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, at [mark.koenig@pcusa.org](mailto:mark.koenig@pcusa.org) or 212-697-4568 for more information. Deadline for applications is November 26, 2010.

### **Delegation Members will receive:**

- 1) A United Nations Grounds Pass which entitles you to attend all events held in the main UN building. Because of construction, the plenary sessions will be held in the North Lawn building. Passes to the plenary sessions will be limited and shared by Presbyterian delegation members. Plenary sessions may be viewed via streaming video in the office of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations which is located in the Church Center for the United Nations at 777 United Nations Plaza, directly across the street from the UN buildings.
- 2) Credentials to attend NGO events, often held in the Church Center.
- 3) United Nations and NGO materials relative to the UNCSW.
- 4) A delegate information packet.
- 5) An invitation to a Presbyterian delegation dinner. The cost will be between \$25 and \$35. Presbyterian Women will pay for the dinner for PW members. Others will pay for the dinner individually. Accepted participants will receive information about when the dinner will be and how to register.
- 6) Invitations to dinners sponsored by Ecumenical Women (typical cost is \$20 and there are likely to be two dinners). Accepted participants will receive information about when the dinners will be and how to register.
- 7) As the UNCSW draws nearer and, as soon as it is available, information on how to access the online calendar of NGO parallel events.
- 8) Any number of organizations may plan partial or all day events off site. As we become aware of these opportunities, information will be forwarded to you. Some may require advance registration. It is up to you whether or not you attend these events. Since the UNCSW represents a vast opportunity for learning about issues affecting women, you alone can make decisions about what will enhance your understanding of these concerns.

### **Travel and Housing**

All delegates are responsible for their own expenses and for making their own travel and hotel arrangements. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations does not arrange for housing but can suggest accommodations. We will provide a list of delegates; feel free to contact others to share hotel expenses.

*Presbyterian Women* may contact Louise Davidson, Delegation Coordinator, [l.davidson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.davidson@sbcglobal.net), or Meagan Manas, PW staff for Justice and Peace, [meaganmanas@gmail.com](mailto:meaganmanas@gmail.com), for more information.

*All Presbyterians* may contact Mark Koenig, director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations at [mark.koenig@pcusa.org](mailto:mark.koenig@pcusa.org) or 212-697-4568 for more information.