



THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
COALITION

## A New Day with New Challenges

### A Message from Mary Naegeli, Renewal Director



January 5, 2012

I had the privilege of preaching on New Year's Day last weekend, a day that practically preaches itself. Who can resist the graceful gospel that proclaims:

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Cor. 5:17)*

*"... This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained." (Phil. 3:13-16)*

Just as the PCUSA tribe of Christ's Church is undergoing significant changes -- much of them unwelcome to Coalition supporters -- so the Presbyterian Coalition has an opportunity to evaluate its mission and ministry focus. If ever there was a time to think outside the organizational box, this is it. The Coalition has a strong foundation upon which to build and incredible resources accumulated on our [website](#). But because the structure of the church is under strain, and, for many slogging it out in their presbyteries, church work feels a bit like desert homesteading, the Coalition board will be discussing how we can be of most help, to whom, and by what means.

What remains constant is our commitment to prepare and equip presbyters for thoughtful, informed involvement in decision-making at all levels of the PCUSA. We see this as our specialty area, while appreciating deeply the unique and indispensable contributions of our renewal partners. Historically, the Coalition has been the host of church-wide equipping discussions or "Gatherings." Now, the vast reach of social networks and information technology suggests we rethink how we conduct the necessary dialogue. The sharing of ideas, gifts, resources, and encouragement has become more affordable and accessible than ever. Frankly, these developments spark my imagination, and I would welcome feedback as

to how we can best deliver the equipping and encouragement you need going forward.

The equipping effort requires your involvement, which can take many forms: feedback as requested above, sharing of resources you have found helpful, help in identifying those biblically concerned folks in your area who are serving as presbytery and GA commissioners, and financial support. We are indeed in a new day with new challenges, and we simply seek to be faithful to the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Shall we run toward that prize together? All for God's glory!

*The Rev. Dr. Mary Naegeli started January 1st as the Coalition's Renewal Director. She welcomes input and questions from Coalition supporters and can be reached at [mary@presbycoalition.org](mailto:mary@presbycoalition.org).*



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