

Equipping Laity and Pastors and Helping Congregations to Discover, Define and Do Mission

The Presbytery Council has planned a series of presentations and workshops (4-5 hours) in key areas for congregational formation and development with each workshop being followed by gatherings of churches and pastors for further discussion, study, support, and reflection on the practice of ministry.

- November 2010 “A Door Set Open” with Dr. Peter Steinke (author of book with the same title and creator of Healthy Congregations Workshops)
- March 2011 “Strategic Leadership for a Change (Facing Our Losses, Finding Our Future)” with Dr. Ken McFayden (author of the book with the same title and professor at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond)
- September 2011 “Becoming a Blessed Church” with Rev. Graham Standish (author of a book with the same title and Pastor of Calvin Church in Zelienople, PA)

November 20, 2010 Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke “A Door Set Open”

Peter Steinke is the author of *Healthy Congregations*, *Being Calm No Matter What*, *A Door Set Open* (forthcoming in 2010) and numerous other books; an ordained minister in the Lutheran Evangelical Church, a Therapist, and a Church Consultant.

This workshop will benefit: Lay leaders, Pastors, and anyone interested in a systems perspective on bringing vitality to the present day church. It will focus on Vision and Mission in the local congregations during these times of on-going change.

Workshop Objective: Lay a foundation for ministry in a changing and diverse context. Provide a foundation for grounded leaders (clergy and lay) to be poised to manage distress and conflict which usually accompanies change of any kind. Gain clarity about the need to celebrate diversity while maintaining individuality and interdependence (versus dependence or independence).

We resist change less when we associate it with mission and fortify it with hope. So argues longtime congregational consultant Peter Steinke in his fourth book, *A Door Set Open*, as he explores the relationship between the challenges of change and our own responses to new ideas and experiences. The key, Steinke says, is not the number or strength of the stressors in the system — anxiety, poor conditions, deteriorating values — but the response of the individual or organization to what stressors are there.

The Council is kicking off this initiative to further equip congregations by focusing on their vision and mission at the November 2010 Assembly meeting. **Free of charge for all members of Susquehanna Valley and \$20 per person for all others.**

Timing: A 5-hour workshop on Saturday as part of the Assembly meeting (10-12 and 1-4). Assembly time frame 9 am – 4 pm.