

## Orthodox Presbyterian Church Holds 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

From June 8-14, 2011 the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, in conjunction with its 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East, Maryland. We share with you the following highlights of the assembly:

- The OPC grew by 1.51% in 2010 so that there are now 29,842 members.
- The online journal for office-bearers *Ordained Servant* is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of publication.
- The Assembly approved the recommendation of the Psalter-Hymnal Special Committee to work with the URCNA Songbook Committee to produce a join Psalter-Hymnal. The URCNA Songbook Committee had made this request of the OPC and it will be making the same request to their upcoming Synod.
- The Home Mission Committee reported that while only four new churches were started in 2010 ten new works have already begun in 2011.
- The Foreign Missions Committee brought an update to the work the OPC is undertaking in the following countries: China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Japan, Uganda, Ukraine and Uruguay. The work in Eritrea remains on hold after the missionaries were expelled from that country. Missionary work is also beginning to develop in North Korea. The Committee also supports the work of Rev. Ben Westerveld in the ERQ.
- The Committee on Diaconal Ministries brought an update on the diaconal disaster relief for the earthquake/tsunami disaster in Japan which brought new opportunities to advance the gospel. This committee reported that it has begun providing summits for the deacons of the OPC. It also hired its first Short-Term Missions Co-ordinator.
- The Committee for Ecumenicity and Inter-church Relations reported on the state of relations it has with other churches through ecumenical contact, corresponding relationship or ecclesiastical fellowship. The Canadian Reformed Churches are among 15 churches with which the OPC has ecclesiastical fellowship. Rev. Jack Sawyer spoke fondly of our relationship of the past decade as one marked by ‘great rejoicing’ over the progress we have made together. The OPC was saddened to hear that the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated) have withdrawn their standing offer of ecclesiastical fellowship after the 78<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the OPC decided not to accept that standing offer. The OPC remains committed to working towards EF with the RCN.
- The Report on the Committee of Appeals and Complaints was able to report with thankfulness that there were no appeals or complaints to the 78<sup>th</sup> GA.
- The Report of the Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel reported that in the context of the repeal of ‘Don’t Ask – Don’t Tell’ the OPC chaplains and personnel need prayer that they might humbly fear God rather than man.
- There was one overture before the assembly in which a presbytery asked for the assembly to send a special committee to help them work through a serious division. The assembly appointed such a committee.
- The 79<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will be held, the Lord willing, at Wheaton College from June 6-12, 2012.

The above are but a few highlights of the 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We are thankful for the opportunity to share in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, to have been present at this assembly,

and to have brought greetings on behalf of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches.  
Please continue to keep the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

On behalf of the CCCNA  
Riemer Faber, convenor  
Doug Vandeburgt, secretary