



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

# **general information**



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

**June 11–13, 2009**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Join us at the Big Tent! The Big Tent is a first-of-its-kind event combining ten national Presbyterian conferences under one roof and one theme: “And the Word became flesh” (John 1:14).

All are welcome! This event is for those who are new to Presbyterian conferences and organizations, as well as for members and previous attendees of one or more of the ten partner conferences and organizations.

- Evangelism Conference
- Healthy Ministry Conference
- National Elders Conference
- National Multicultural Church Conference
- New Immigrant Ministries Convocation
- Peacemaking Conference
- PHEWA Social Justice Biennial Conference
- Presbyterian Communicators' Network
- Racial Ethnic Convocation
- Stewardship and Investment Conference

Big Tent participants will worship together and break bread together at two meals. They can visit the exhibit hall to learn more about the agencies and organizations of the PC(USA) and to shop at Cokesbury and the Global Marketplace area. A “common workshop” session on Friday morning will provide an opportunity to choose from more than forty concurrent workshops sponsored by the ten conferences. The Big Tent will close on Saturday evening with a celebration in downtown Atlanta.

The ten partner conferences will have most of Friday and Saturday to present plenary sessions, workshops, tours, meals and other activities. Participants may focus on the offerings of just one of the partner conferences, or sample those of two or more, and experience just some of the ways in which the PC(USA) is involved in ministry!

Childcare is available during the three Big Tent worship services. There are also special Big Tent programs for children and youth (see the schedule for these programs on page 7).

Young adults (ages 18–35) are encouraged to register for the Big Tent and participate in one or more of the partner conferences. They also may take part in a special activity designed just for young adults on Saturday.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

Discover a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that is more exciting, more diverse, and more faithful than you ever imagined. The Big Tent has been called “a denominational happening” and “a big Presbyterian family reunion.” The Big Tent will inspire you and make you proud to be Presbyterian. It will be celebratory, diverse, and participatory, with intergenerational activities.

## **TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND MEALS**

Atlanta is easily accessible by road, air, and rail. Most major airlines serve the Atlanta Hartsfield International airport (ATL), and the Amtrak station is located about three miles north of the Hyatt.

Please make your own travel arrangements as early as possible for the best fares and choice of flights. Be sure of the dates you need to travel before making your reservation—airline change fees are expensive and tickets are usually not refundable.

If you use Delta Air Lines, please use SkyBonus number US426223887 when you make your reservation at [www.Delta.com](http://www.Delta.com) or with a Delta agent at 800-221-1212. Though no discounts apply, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) earns credits for these flights that assist with overall denominational travel costs.

### **Ground transportation**

Atlanta's mass transit system, MARTA, provides transportation from the airport to the Peachtree Center adjacent to the Hyatt Regency; the fare is \$1.75 each way. Trains run approximately every ten minutes, and the trip takes about 20 minutes.

Commercial shuttle service is available between the airport and the Hyatt at a fare of \$16.50 one-way and \$29 round trip. Taxi fare from the airport is \$30 plus \$2 for each additional person. Taxi fare from the Amtrak station is approximately \$11.

More detailed information on ground transportation options and arrangements will be sent to all registered attendees.

### **Parking**

Valet parking is available in the Hyatt's indoor garage at \$24 per day with in/out privileges. Less expensive parking lots are located in the area. More information will be sent to registered attendees.

### **Accommodations**

Most of the Big Tent and partner conference events will take place at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta, located at 265 Peachtree Street NE, adjacent to the Peachtree Center. See [hyattregencyatlanta.com](http://hyattregencyatlanta.com) for information about the hotel.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

A limited number of rooms are available at the Hyatt for registered Big Tent participants at a special conference rate of \$99 (plus tax). The Big Tent registration fee does *not* include lodging, and attendees will make their own reservations. Information on reserving lodging at the Hyatt by phone or Internet is available at the end of the registration process. Register and make your reservation soon to be sure of securing lodgings at the Hyatt, and no later than **May 22** to be eligible for the discounted conference rate.

Participants may make their own arrangements for lodging elsewhere; there are numerous hotels in downtown Atlanta within walking distance of the Hyatt, and many more that are easily accessible by MARTA.

### **Meals**

Two meals (Thursday dinner and Friday lunch) and Friday and Saturday breaks are included in the Big Tent registration fee. These will take place at the Hyatt. Thursday dinner is included in the Thursday daily registration fee; Friday lunch is included in the Friday daily fee. Registered participants will receive one ticket for those meals, and may purchase additional tickets for other non-registered guests.

At the Big Tent Celebration on Saturday evening, vendors will offer food for purchase.

The schedule of each of the ten partner conferences includes at least one additional group meal. Unless otherwise indicated, these will take place at the Hyatt. There is an additional fee for most of these meals, but in some cases, the sponsoring conference will cover the fee for those participants who register for that conference as their primary affiliation. The registration booklet schedule and registration form (print and on-line) indicate the fees for each meal, and which of those are waived for registrants of each partner conference.

Those who register for a particular partner conference are *not* automatically registered for additional meals that are sponsored by that conference. You must specifically indicate the conference meals that you plan to take part in when you register. If you register on-line, the automated process will include the charge for each of those meals, and that total will appear on the final confirmation screen. If you are eligible to have some of those fees waived (i.e., if you register for a conference that waives a meal fee for its registrants), that fee will be removed before your credit card is charged.

When you register, please indicate any food allergies or other special dietary requests.

There are numerous restaurants in and near the Hyatt for breakfast and other times when you are not taking part in a planned group meal. These range from inexpensive fast-food outlets in the adjacent Peachtree Center to fine dining establishments; there are options for all budgets and tastes.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

If you have a disability or another health condition relevant to your participation, please indicate this when you register. Contact the G.A. Meeting Service at 888-728-7228, ext. 2417 or at [gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org) regarding any special needs so that we may provide the necessary assistance.

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta is fully accessible, and offers a number of facilities and services for guests who have a disability; see [hyattregencyatlanta.com](http://hyattregencyatlanta.com) for a list. Be sure to indicate any special needs when you reserve your lodgings with the Hyatt.

## **Interpretation in other languages**

The workshops offered by the Racial Ethnic Convocation on Saturday afternoon include one that will be presented in Korean, one that will be bilingual (Spanish and English), and one that will be in Spanish only. All other workshops and plenary sessions will be offered in English. At this time, there are no plans to provide simultaneous interpretation of other workshops, plenary sessions, or worship services.

## **WORSHIP**

We will worship together three times as the Big Tent community:

- Opening worship on Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. The preacher is Anna Carter Florence, the Peter Marshall Associate Professor of Homiletics at Columbia Theological Seminary.
- Morning worship on Friday, at 9:00 a.m. The preacher is Claudio Carvalhaes; he is Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
- Closing worship on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. The preacher for this service will be announced later.

Some of the partner conferences include additional opportunities for worship and Bible study; see the separately downloadable *Big Tent Schedule*.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY, RECORDINGS, AND USE OF PARTICIPANTS' IMAGES, SPEECHES, AND DOCUMENTS**

The 2009 Big Tent brings together ten separate Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) conferences, and hundreds of participants from across the church. While it is not a business meeting, it is of interest to the press and a historical event. Portions of the Big Tent worship services, conference plenary sessions and workshops and other activities may be recorded by official conference photographers and other staff, by secular and church press, and by individual participants.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

As a participant at the 2009 Big Tent or any of its partner conferences, your image, name, and voice, as well as any presentation, speech, or written document submitted by you, may be used, reproduced, distributed and/or modified by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its related entities at any time in a variety of media for a variety of purposes including, but not limited to, print, video, photographic, CD-ROM, television and radio broadcasts, and sound recordings, all of which may be available on the Internet.

Using a camera, camcorder, or tape recorder is permitted during conference sessions, provided that participants in the meeting are treated with courtesy and respect, the photographer does not obstruct the view of other participants, and camera flashes or other lights do not interfere with participants or proceedings.

During worship or other times of prayer, all participants and members of the press should be respectful of the sacred nature of the event. Photographs made with the use of existing lighting are permitted in these services if taken unobtrusively and without disrupting either the service itself or individual worshipers. Flash photography is not permitted.

We ask that those taking photographs or other images during the Big Tent who use children as subjects assure that the child's identity is protected, or receive permission from the parent/guardian.

## **EXHIBIT HALL**

The Big Tent Exhibit Hall (at the Hyatt Regency) will feature ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) agencies: *the General Assembly Council, the Office of the General Assembly, The PC(USA) Board of Pensions, The PC(USA) Foundation, the PC(USA) Investment and Loan Program, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation*. In addition, the Exhibit Hall will include many of those organizations that have established covenants with the six agencies, as well as a conference bookstore (Cokesbury) and a Global Marketplace (coordinated by the Enough for Everyone project). The Exhibit Hall will provide a great opportunity to learn more about the mission and witness of the PC(USA) and how to become more involved!

The Exhibit Hall will be open:

Thursday, June 11	12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, June 12	10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 13	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **SATURDAY NIGHT CELEBRATION**

An outdoor evening celebration will be a highlight of the Big Tent event! Local Presbyterians from the Atlanta area will join conference participants for a celebration of the ministry and



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Music and entertainment will be featured, and participants can purchase food from various vendors in the outdoor setting. Look for more information about this exciting event on the web site at [pcusa.org/bigtent!](http://pcusa.org/bigtent!)

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

As part of the Big Tent community, children and youth will participate in worship, shared meals and the closing celebration at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. Education programs for children and youth will explore the theme of *Loving Your Neighbor*. Through interactive play, song, bible study and neighborhood visits on Friday, June 12, children and youth will tap into their own potential to love and explore creative ways to love one's neighbor.

**Childcare** (children 6-18 months) will be offered during Big Tent worship services:

- Thursday, June 11 from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 12 from 8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 13 from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

-- for children who have registered as part of the infant, toddler, preschool program of the Big Tent.

**Infant, Toddler, Preschool Program** (children 6 months – 4 years) will have a special visit to the Children's Museum of Atlanta for a time of creative fun and play.

**Children's Program** (children 5 years through entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade) will visit the Center for Puppetry Arts for a tour to see "The Little Pirate Mermaid" puppet show\* and attend a puppet workshop, where they will make a puppet to bring home.

**Youth Program** (entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) will visit a number of sites in downtown Atlanta, including the *World of Coke*\*. They will engage in building community, small group discussion and Bible study each day.

*\* -- Please note: destinations may vary depending upon enrollment. Lunch is included on Friday and will be off site for this age group.*

Advance registration is required; the fee (per child) for these programs is \$150 if paid by March 30, and \$195 after March 30. This covers the full Big Tent conference, beginning Thursday evening, and includes Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Unless otherwise noted in the information, parents/guardians are responsible for providing meals for their children.

These programs are intended for those taking part in the activities for all three days. Daily rates are not available. There is a separate registration form for Infant/Toddler/Pre-school, Children and Youth programs. Please download the form and additional information at [pcusa.org/bigtent](http://pcusa.org/bigtent), or contact the G.A. Meeting Service at [gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org), or 888-728-7228, ext. 2417.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Parent/Sponsor orientation for these programs will be held on Thursday afternoon. Plan to attend one of these half-hour sessions, which start at 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

### Schedule for Childcare, Children and Youth

	Childcare (6 mos to 18 mos)	Infant/Toddler/Preschool (6 mos to 4 years)	Children's Program (5 years to entering 6th grade)	Youth Program (entering 7th grade to 12th grade)
THURSDAY	7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m.			8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	8:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
		1:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m.		
		6:45 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	6:45 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	
SATURDAY		8:15 a.m.-12:00 noon	8:15 a.m.-12:00 noon	8:15 a.m.-12:00 noon
	4:45 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	1:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

### WE CAN'T WAIT: A YOUNG ADULT EXPERIENCE

Young adults are an important voice in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They are ready to serve and have demonstrated faith in many ways within the PC(USA). Young Adults can't wait for the church to be ready for them; they are ready NOW! The Big Tent offers a unique opportunity for young adults (ages 18–35) to gather for inspiration, discipleship, and service to the community.

Thursday, June 11, and Friday, June 12: **Young Adult Hospitality Suite** – a gathering space for refreshments, faith-filled discussions, and fellowship. *For young adults attending the Big Tent.*

Saturday, June 13: **Young Adult Mission Experience** – Join other young adults for a morning of service at several mission sites in Atlanta followed by an afternoon of worship and sharing. A light breakfast, lunch, and transportation are included in the \$25 Saturday-only fee! There is no additional cost for those registered for the three-day Big Tent event. Please use either the on-line registration process, or download a form, to register for the event.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

Saturday, June 13: **Big Tent Closing Worship and Celebration** – All young adults, including those who have registered for the Big Tent, those who participated in the Young Adult Mission Experience, and other young adults from the greater Atlanta area, are all invited to attend! Join hundreds of Presbyterians for a phenomenal celebration on Saturday evening in downtown Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Please complete your registration soon—and by March 30 to be eligible for the discounted early bird registration fees. *The registration deadline is April 30.*

Register on-line at [pcusa.org/bigtent](http://pcusa.org/bigtent). There you can also download a registration form that you may complete by mail or fax, or contact the G.A. Meeting Service at 888-728-7228, ext. 2417 (or [gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org)) to request a registration form. If paying by check, please download the printed registration form and return by mail.

The adult registration fee for the full conference is \$285 if paid by March 30, and increases to \$335 after March 30. This includes Thursday dinner and Friday lunch, and breaks on Friday and Saturday. It does *not* include lodging or any transportation. Daily rates for those who can attend only one or two days are \$85 for Thursday (includes Thursday dinner), \$100 for Friday (includes Friday lunch), and \$100 for Saturday. These fees also increase after March 30.

The schedule for the Big Tent and the ten partner conferences is complex. There are multiple options during most sessions, including plenary sessions, multiple workshops, and even meals. Please review this entire schedule **before** you begin to register. Some participants will spend most of their time with the track of one of the ten conferences, but the Big Tent is designed so that you may experience aspects of several programs over the three days. **We suggest that you either use the Big Tent Schedule to assist you during the on-line registration process, or download a printable registration form to guide your selections.**

Three groups are sponsoring optional pre-conference events; these involve an additional fee, and advance registration is required.

You will indicate whether you are attending all three days of the Big Tent (and paying the full registration fee), or select one or two of the daily fees.

**If you are receiving a scholarship or another subsidy** of your registration fee from one of the partner conferences or another PC(USA) group, please **do not register on-line**. Please contact the conference staff person for the conference or group providing the scholarship or subsidy.

You will be asked to indicate which, if any, of the ten partner conferences is your primary affiliation, and there is also an option of "I am not affiliated with any of these conferences." Attendees who are affiliated with more than one of these organizations or conferences will need to select one.



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

You will need to indicate the meals (in addition to Thursday dinner and Friday lunch) that you plan to attend. (You are *not* automatically registered for meals sponsored by the conference that is your primary affiliation.) Most of these involve an additional fee, though the fee is waived for some meals for participants who have selected the sponsoring conference as their primary affiliation. (*If you register on-line and select one of the meals with a fee and are eligible to have the fee waived, the registration process will still include that fee in the total registration fees that appear on the final screen. The registrar will adjust that fee before your credit card is charged.*)

Three conferences are sponsoring tours as part of their schedules, and advance registration is required. Some entail additional fees to help cover transportation costs, and space is limited.

Participants will receive tickets when they register on-site for the meals and tours they select, and these will be required for admission.

The registration process also shows the workshops that are offered in each of the nine workshop sessions, and asks that you indicate your first, second, and third choices in each of those sessions. It is very important to know attendees' workshop preferences, both to determine if there is adequate interest to proceed with a particular offering, and to plan for adequate space and resources for those that will be held.

Friday morning is the special "common workshop" session, with more than 40 workshops, sponsored by each of the ten partner conferences. Most of these will be repeated in one of the other workshop sessions. If you are following a single conference track, this is a special opportunity to participate in a workshop sponsored by one of the other groups.

During most sessions on Friday afternoon and evening and on Saturday, there are numerous choices. Some conferences are offering plenary sessions with speakers or panels, some are offering workshops, and others may offer tours or even a meal. Unless you are closely following the track of one conference, you will need to review the full Big Tent schedule carefully to determine what you will want to do in each session.

It is *not* necessary to indicate in advance if you plan to attend one of the partner conference plenary sessions, but there is advance registration for workshops. Please prioritize your first three choices among the workshops offered during that session if you intend to participate in one of those.

Note: The on-line registration "form" does *not* show the conference plenaries in each session, and it shows only abbreviated workshop names (in bold on the schedule). Please review the registration booklet schedule and determine the meals and workshops you wish to select for each session **BEFORE** you attempt to register on-line. You may want to download and print the schedule so that you will have it as a guide as you register on-line.

**Registration for Children and Youth** - Advance registration is required; the fee (per child) for these programs is \$150 if paid by March 30, and \$195 after March 30. This covers the full Big Tent



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

conference, beginning Thursday evening, and includes Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Unless otherwise noted in the information, parents/guardians are responsible for providing meals for their children.

These programs are intended for those taking part in the activities for all three days. Daily rates are not available. There is a separate registration form for Infant/Toddler/Pre-school, Children and Youth programs. Please download the form and additional information at [pcusa.org/bigtent](http://pcusa.org/bigtent), or contact the G.A. Meeting Service at [gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org), or 888-728-7228, ext. 2417.

### **CANCELLATION FEE**

Registration and other fees, less \$25 per person, are refundable if notice of cancellation is received by May 22, 2009. No refunds after that date.

### **QUESTIONS?**

#### **General questions or questions related to registration:**

General Assembly Meeting Service  
888-728-7228, ext. 2417  
[gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org)

#### **Questions specific to one of the partner conferences or related events:**

- **Evangelism Conference** - [Sherry.Britton@pcusa.org](mailto:Sherry.Britton@pcusa.org), (888) 728-7228 x5247
- **Healthy Ministry Conference** – [Dosie.Powell@pcusa.org](mailto:Dosie.Powell@pcusa.org), (888) 728-7228 x5503
- **National Elders Conference** – [Stephany.Jackson@pcusa.org](mailto:Stephany.Jackson@pcusa.org), (888) 728-7228 x8488
- **National Multicultural Church Conference** – [Raafat.Girgis@pcusa.org](mailto:Raafat.Girgis@pcusa.org), (888) 728-7228 x5233 and [Janeth.Nunez@pcusa.org](mailto:Janeth.Nunez@pcusa.org), x5252
- **New Immigrant Ministries Convocation** – [Angel.Suarez@pcusa.org](mailto:Angel.Suarez@pcusa.org), (888) 728-7228 x5135
- **Peacemaking Conference** – [Nancy.EngMacNeill@pcusa.org](mailto:Nancy.EngMacNeill@pcusa.org), (916) 705-3501 and [Dayna.Oliver@pcusa.org](mailto:Dayna.Oliver@pcusa.org), (888) 728-7228 x8700



June 11-13, 2009 • Atlanta, GA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

---

- **PHEWA Social Justice Biennial Conference** – Nancy.Troy@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5794
- **Presbyterian Communicators' Network** – Susan.Lindsey@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5060
- **Racial Ethnic Convocation** – Hector.Rodriguez@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5700
- **Stewardship and Investment Conference** – Jon.Brown@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5194