



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

August 1, 2007

### Work of Faithful Women in Vietnam



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After southern and northern Vietnam were reunited in 1975, the seeds of a house church movement began in the newly renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Under the close scrutiny of government officials, a young couple gathered secretly with two or three other courageous Christians. From those few seeds, over 116 churches have grown to include about 7,000 believers that are now divided into seven presbyteries. In October 2006 they were officially recognized by the government as the Presbyterian Church of Vietnam. Their presbyteries stretch from Danang, on the central coast of Vietnam, down into the southern Mekong delta.



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Leaders for the women's ministry travel from district to district, village to village, throughout all of the southern provinces fostering faith, praying, and sharing good news of their risen Lord and Savior with all those they meet. By motorbike, bus, or foot they come to gather in homes to experience his presence among them.

The highlight of their ministry comes into focus every year on Women's Day, March 6, when Presbyterian women from all over southern Vietnam travel to Ho Chi Minh City to celebrate. This year, for the first time as an officially recognized Christian church, over 380 women gathered to worship the Lord, sing, eat, socialize, and have fun. The conference was organized around the theme "Why are you crying?"

International guests included students from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and two guest speakers from an African American Episcopal church in the United States. Women from ethnic minority groups in Vietnam were also represented. Cham women from villages ravaged by typhoon Durian attended for the first time. Over two hundred of the women came from the highland and rural provinces of southern Vietnam, most of whom are forbidden to gather as Christians in their home villages.

Amazing God, we pray for the leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Vietnam that they will be strengthened by your empowering Spirit as they boldly proclaim their faith in the risen Lord. Amen.

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*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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