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# Presbyterian World

News about the PC(USA)'s international mission

## Celebrate mission this October

Hundreds of Presbyterians passionate about mission will gather in Cincinnati October 22-24 for the [World Mission Celebration '09](#).

Meeting under the theme "Branches of the Same Vine," the conference will seek to connect Presbyterians with others who have similar mission interests, enable mission learning through presentations and mutual sharing among attendees, and send participants forth to embrace their calling to mission service and support, says Lis Valle, Presbyterian World Mission's associate for equipping the church for mission involvement. [Online registration for the event is available.](#)



Like the John 15 passage on which its theme is based, the conference will center on a common life and mission in Christ, says planning team chair Don Dawson, director of the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Seminary and the New Wilmington Mission Conference. "It's coming together around the One who gives us life and power and enables us to bear fruit. There is diversity, there are many branches, but those branches are powerless without Jesus."

Each of five plenary sessions will focus on Presbyterian mission in a different region of the world. The topics include health and development in Africa; primary, secondary and higher education in Asia; evangelism and theological education in the Americas; partnership in evangelism in Europe; and advocacy and interfaith dialogue in the Middle East. In addition, about [35 workshops](#) will be offered.



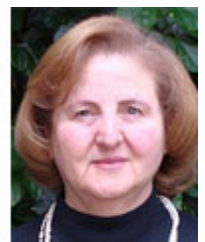
Hunter Farrell

The event's leadoff speaker will be Hunter Farrell, director of [Presbyterian World Mission](#), who will speak on "Going Deeper: The Power of Presbyterian Mission in Jesus' Way."

Other presenters will include mission personnel, global mission partners, World Mission staff, and mission initiators from congregations. Many of the mission workers who will be itinerating in the [World Mission Challenge](#), in September and October will be participating in the Celebration, some leading workshops and/or plenary sessions.

Mary Mikhail, president of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, will preach during the closing worship service.

Several mission groups will meet in Cincinnati in conjunction with the Celebration. They include about 20 mission networks, the Association of Presbyterian Mission Pastors, a newly formed Young Adult Volunteer alumni group, the continuation committee from the Dallas mission consultation, and a group of presbytery executives who want to work more closely with World Mission.



Mary Mikhail

The Celebration's registration fee, which includes six meals, is \$225 prior to Sept. 15 (after Sept. 15 the fee will be \$275).