



## *Committee On Local Arrangements* *221st General Assembly 2014* *Detroit, Michigan*

February 7, 2014

To Pastors, Music Directors, and Youth Leaders:

We trust you are aware that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is meeting in Detroit, Michigan, June 14-21, 2014. On behalf of the Committee on Local Arrangements, we invite youth from your congregation to participate in a Mass Youth Choir for Opening Worship on Saturday, June 14, at 11:00 a.m. You may want to bring your entire Youth Choir or perhaps there are individual youth from your congregation who want to participate. Participants in the choir can be rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders through 2014 graduates.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a Mass Youth Choir has been organized for General Assembly's Opening Worship. So we are excited that Dr. Jerry Blackstone, Director of Choral Activities, University of Michigan, and an experienced church musician, will direct the Mass Youth Choir. Dr. Blackstone has served as guest conductor and workshop presenter in this country and internationally.

The youth will meet for dinner and their first rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, on Thursday evening, June 12. We also have two rehearsals on Friday, June 13, along with some free time in the area. On Saturday morning the youth will go to the convention center in Detroit for their warm-up and then provide music leadership for Opening Worship of General Assembly.

For those youth and chaperones who prefer not to stay in a hotel or motel, churches in Ann Arbor will provide their buildings so that youth and chaperones may sleep on their floors. Showers will be provided at community recreation centers. These church accommodations are available Thursday evening through Sunday morning. We can recommend local motels and hotels for those groups who prefer different accommodations.

There is no fee for participating in the mass youth choir itself. The music packet, refreshments, a couple meals, and a special shirt for opening worship will be provided. A minimal fee will be assessed for those staying in the churches.

The policy for youth volunteers, which includes the youth choir, requires that they be 12 years old, and that you have one adult chaperone for every five youth. So, adult volunteers from your congregation are also needed.

If your congregation has a youth choir or individual youth who are interested in participating, please respond by **February 28, 2014**. Contact Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan:  
[tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org)

Registration materials will be sent to those who are interested.

Sincerely,



Peter J. M. Henry  
Chair, Worship Committee



Mary Beth Jones  
Vice Chair, Worship Committee

*“May The God Of **Hope** Fill You With All Joy And Peace In Believing,  
So That You May Abound In **Hope** By The Power Of The Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 (NRSV)*