

***Important Update for URCNA Consistories, Councils, and Churches  
From the Psalter Hymnal Committee of the URCNA, June 13, 2011***

On November 9, 2010, some members of the Psalter Hymnal Special Committee of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) met with the Psalter Hymnal Committee of the URCNA which was meeting in Lynwood, Illinois. Among other things, they explained the decision of a past General Assembly of the OPC to produce a new songbook which contained all 150 psalms as well as hymns with solid biblical content. These members informed us that their Committee had already done much work in tentatively selecting psalm-songs to be included in this songbook.

Members of the URCNA Committee informed the OPC members about their mandate given by various synods going back to 1997. The members of the URCNA Committee explained how the Hymn Proposal of 278 hymns was now in the hands of URCNA consistories for evaluation and that our Committee was now in the process of choosing potential songs for the “psalm section” of the new songbook.

In this meeting it became very obvious that each Committee could benefit from the other’s work and to that end we have kept in communication with each other. Such communication is in keeping with the Psalter Hymnal Committee’s mandate to “consult with those churches with whom we have entered into corresponding relations” (Synod 1999 Minutes – Article 41.c.(c).i.).

More recently, the OPC Committee, through the broader “Committee on Christian Education” (CCE) of the OPC, adopted without dissent the following recommendations:

1. That the Seventy-eighth General Assembly approve the working together of the CCE’s Special Committee on the Psalter-Hymnal with the URCNA’s Songbook Committee to produce a Psalter-Hymnal for use in a wide range of confessional Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.
2. That the Seventy-eighth General Assembly extend an official invitation to the URCNA Synod (next meeting in New York in 2012) to work together to produce a Psalter-Hymnal for use in a wide range of confessional Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

***On June 9, 2011, the General Assembly of the OPC, meeting in Sandy Grove, Maryland, overwhelmingly approved these two recommendations.***

Previously, the Psalter Hymnal Committee of the URCNA unanimously agreed with those two recommendations. We will be recommending to Synod 2012 that the URCNA accept the OPC’s invitation. We believe that all of this is according to God’s good providence and His wonderful timing. May Christ, as Lord of the Church, lead us forward in this exciting endeavor.