



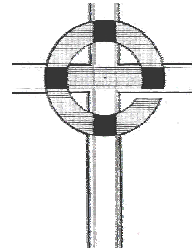
## THE PRESBYTERY OF ELIZABETH

525 EAST FRONT STREET

PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060  
(908) 755-3776; FAX (908) 755-3216

[office@elizabethpresbytery.org](mailto:office@elizabethpresbytery.org)

[www.elizabethpresbytery.org](http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2011

Contact: Rev. Greg Albert, Interim Executive Presbyter  
[gregalbert@elizabethpresbytery.org](mailto:gregalbert@elizabethpresbytery.org)  
908-755-3776

### **ELIZABETH PRESBYTERY ENDORSES REV. DR. NEAL D. PRESA AS FIRST CANDIDATE FOR MODERATOR OF THE 220<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(Plainfield, NJ) – On September 27, The Presbytery of Elizabeth overwhelmingly endorsed the Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa as the first candidate to stand for moderator of the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The assembly will be held June 30 – July 7, 2012 in Pittsburgh.

Presa is a teaching elder/pastor of Middlesex Presbyterian Church, a multi-cultural congregation in Middlesex, NJ. Currently, he serves as Moderator of the Elizabeth Presbytery and Chair for the General Assembly Special Committee on the Heidelberg Catechism. He is on the adjunct faculties of Somerset Christian College and New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

“I am humbled by this affirmation of the presbytery to put my name forward as a candidate for Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I offer myself as a pastor, ecumenist, and liturgical theologian committed to praying and working towards what Jesus Christ prayed, ‘that they may all be one,’” Presa said. “I seek the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace at all levels of the Church, and how our unity as a body impacts ministries in our local congregations, and the Gospel witness. We must reclaim our unity in the God who gathers us in worship and sends us out into our communities and, indeed the whole world to invest and share our lives in others.”

Presa has leadership experiences at all levels of the Church, locally, regionally, nationally and globally. He served on the Board of Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary. Most recently he concluded his second term as Convener of the Caribbean and North American Area Council

(CANAAC) of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) on whose Executive Committee he also served.

Presa's pastoral gifts were formed serving two Filipino American congregations, two Korean American congregations, and a campus ministry in the San Francisco Bay Area. On the national level, Presa served as a Parliamentarian (2001-2003), on the Executive Committee (2001-2004) and as Vice Chair (2003-2004) for the General Assembly Council, and on the Committee on Theological Education (COTE). Among his ecumenical appointments, he represented the World Alliance of Reformed Churches at the Faith and Order Plenary Commission of the World Council of Churches and at the Vatican Symposium on "Harvesting the Fruits." He was also a Henry Luce Foundation Graduate Fellow for the Center for Christianities in Global Contexts at Drew University.

"We are proud to present Dr. Presa as a candidate for Moderator of the General Assembly. He is the first person to be nominated by Elizabeth Presbytery for this office in its nearly 200-year history," said the Rev. Greg Albert, Interim Executive Presbyter. "He is an exceptional pastor, leader, and theologian. I can't imagine anyone better qualified," Albert added.

Presa has an upcoming publication entitled *Here I Am, Lord, Send Me: Ritual Analysis for a Theology of Presbyteral Ordination in the Reformed Tradition* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012). His previous publications include editor of *That They May All Be One: Celebrating the World Communion of Reformed Churches* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2010) and editor and contributing writer to *Insights from the Underside: An Intergenerational Conversation of Ministers* (Elizabeth, NJ: Broadmind Press, 2008) as well as numerous essays, articles, and book reviews in *Ecumenical Review*, *Homiletic*, *Homily Journal*, *Call to Worship*, *Patheos*, and *Ecclesio.com*

Presa received his Ph.D. and M.Phil in Liturgical Theology from Drew University, Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary and M.Div. from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He also studied at Westminster Theological Seminary in Escondido, California. He and his wife live with their two sons in Middlesex, NJ where he is active in the community as a soccer coach and Cub Scouts Den Leader. Information and updates about Rev. Dr. Presa will be available at [www.NealPresa.com](http://www.NealPresa.com).

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If you'd like more information or would like to schedule an interview with Rev. Dr. Neal Presa, please email [ndpresa@gmail.com](mailto:ndpresa@gmail.com) or call 908-433-4527.

Via Twitter: [@nealpresa](https://twitter.com/nealpresa)

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