



The Presbytery of Long Island

The Presbytery of Long Island Welcomes **The Reverend Mark Tammen** as Candidate for General Presbyter



Statement By Search Committee

April 5, 2011. After more than a year of searching, we believe God has led us to the person who best meets the criteria we were looking for in a General Presbyter for The Presbytery of Long Island. Based on our Mission Design for Transformation (2009) and subsequent visioning retreats, we desired a person who is, among others things:

- spiritually alive and deeply caring
- passionate for the Word of God and the worship, ministry, and mission of the presbytery
- an encourager who challenges, empowers and motivates leaders and congregations
- prepared to learn, influence and help implement our emerging presbytery design and goals.

We are confident Mark is that person, and we enthusiastically and unanimously present him to the presbytery as our candidate.

BIO

Mark Tammen grew up in a Presbyterian Minister's home, which gives him an innate understanding of the ethos of the Presbyterian Church.

Mark graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University, Loyola University School of Law, and McCormick Theological Seminary, with dual degrees as a pastor/attorney. This gives him a pastoral approach to the church, honed by years in the parish and in governing body work. It also gives him an attorney's ability to analyze conflicts and difficulties.

After graduating he served as an assistant pastor at River Forest Presbyterian church in River Forest Illinois. During that time he was active in the creation of a Christian law center on the west side of Chicago that recruited and matched volunteer attorneys with low-income clients.

Later, in Blackhawk Presbytery, Mark held the office of Stated Clerk. He also served on the Blackhawk Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission as the President of its Board of Trustees, and on the Presbytery's Foundation. In addition, during that period Mark served as pastor of Waterman Presbyterian Church and was a partner in a law firm in Waterman, Illinois.

Mark joined the Office of the General Assembly in April of 1994 as Manager of Polity, Guidance and Training and in May 2001 he became the Director of Constitutional Services.

Mark married his high school sweetheart, **Anita**, who is a graduate of Illinois State University and is a Medical Technologist. They have three daughters: **Elizabeth**, a psychologist/therapist in Frankfort Kentucky, who will be married in May 2011; **Katie**, a newspaper reporter in Fort Walton Beach, Florida; and **Christina**, who graduates from Centre College in May 2011, and soon will be a Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mark is an enthusiastic bicyclist. He is also an avid model railroader.





STATEMENT OF FAITH

Rev. Mark Tammen

I believe in the Triune God.

God the Creator, the light, guides us, is our all powerful, all knowing, lawgiver, ultimate love and protector of humanity.

God the Son, savior, teacher, our Word who calls on us to evangelize the world, sharing his teaching, grace and salvation.

God the Spirit, our steadfast guide, in the present, past, and future, always and forever enlightening us and shedding light on the Scriptures and opportunities to every new age.

I believe sin has entered and engulfs our world

Humanity brought sin into the world

Humanity's soul is soiled with sin, no matter how completely society tries to rename it

Baptism cleanses us, welcomes us, and brings us anew into God's perfect family

The Lord's table reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins

I believe in Divine Revelation

In Scriptures, God's unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and God's word shared with God's people throughout the ages, yet timeless

In prayer, corporate and individual, always continual to our Lord.

In Confessions, Biblical truth to each age, though written ages ago, still continuously interpreting and applying to our lives.

In Sermons, Scripture interpreted and shared, God's Word for each of us

In the other lives God sends to touch our own lives, meaning for new existence

I believe we are called to live a Christian life

By showing our salvation through our words and action

By demonstrating a strong, steadfast, faith in every aspect of our lives

By allowing Christianity's uniqueness to shine through to all cultures

By changing the world as we have been changed

I believe this is the basis for Christian existence: In Life, in Death, We Belong to God.
