February 18, 2013

Bates Russell elected president of PCCCA board

Elise Bates Russell, associate director of Clearwater Forest, a Presbyterian camp and conference center near Deerwood, Minn., has been elected president of the board of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association.

The Association includes more than 120 camps and conference centers and now includes Presbyterian camps in Canada.

Bates Russell has served as secretary of the board for the past two years.

She has worked at four Presbyterian camps, most recently serving as assistant director of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake, a camp owned by Westminster Church of Detroit.

She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from the College of Wooster and a master's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan. She has studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and conducted architectural studies in Copenhagen, Denmark.

She is currently an architectural consultant for Run River Enterprises, a faith-based camp, retreat and conference consulting organization.

Bates Russell noted that she is passionate about "enabling all people to experience God's love in Christian outdoor communities like Clearwater Forest." She added that she "especially loves God's creation, leadership development and providing wilderness experiences for youth to grow in their faith journey."

She is married to Rick Russell and they have three daughters Anna, 11, Elizabeth, 8, and Sophie, 4.