

85th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

July 27, 2010

**First Presbyterian Church
Cherryville, North Carolina**

ADDENDUM PACKET

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ADDENDUM



PRESBYTERY MEETING

EIGHTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING

July 27, 2010

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Addendum A-2

OMNIBUS MOTION

For the purpose of expediting some of Presbytery's decisions which are routine and non-controversial, an Omnibus Motion will be used. These motions are included throughout the packet.

PLEASE READ THESE MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY!

Matters may be removed from the Omnibus Motion when:

- A. Any member of the governing body requests removal of an item included in the OM whereupon that item shall be removed and presented to the governing body as part of the report from which it originated.*
- B. When the Omnibus Motion is presented on the floor, opportunity shall be given for members of the governing body to request, without comment or debate, for removal of specific items from the OM.*

A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE OM SHALL BE RECORDED AS A FAVORABLE VOTE ON ALL MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE MOTION. THEREFORE, PLEASE READ AND PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ALL MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY.

**THAT THE OMNIBUS MOTION, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATIONS, BE ADOPTED:**

**RECOMMENDATIONS 18, & 19 FROM THE
STATED CLERK'S REPORT.**

(See Stated Clerk's Report (B) for contents of recommendations.)

**RECOMMENDATION 7 FROM THE COORDINATING COUNCIL REPORT.
(See Coordinating Council Report (C) for contents of recommendation.)**

**RECOMMENDATION I. (B, C, and D) FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
REPORT, FIRST SECTION.**

(See Committee on Ministry's Report (D) for contents of recommendation.)

ADDENDUM B-3

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA STATED CLERK'S REPORT

William A. (Bert) Sigmon, Stated Clerk
July 27, 2010

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

- | | | |
|----|-----|---|
| OM | 18. | THAT the Presbytery, pursuant to BO: G-9.0503, G-9.0504 and G-9.0505, approve the appointment the <i>Rev. Mark Watson (Newton, First)</i> and <i>elder Greg Smith (Hickory, First)</i> as members of the Administrative Commission for the New Vision, Conover NCD to re-place members who are unable to continue to serve. |
| OM | 19. | THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:
<div style="text-align: center;">Mark Burnham</div> |

FOR INFORMATION:

20. THAT the following Session Records for 2009 were submitted and approved on July 17, 2010 at a Session Records Review, held at the First Presbyterian Church, Morganton.

Green Mountain
Ironton

Jack's Creek
Mills River

Oakwood
Union Mills

21. THAT the following Session Records for 2009 have not been reviewed and are delinquent in meeting the requirements of the *Book of Order* (G-9.0407.d).

Bridgewater

Brittains Cove (2006 - 2009)

Ellenboro (2006-2009)

Estatoa (2006-2009)

Hayesville

Korean Presbyterian (2006-2009)

Marshall (2008-2009)

Old Fort (2006-2009)

Pine Street (2006-2009)

Ridgeview (2006-2009)

Shiloh

Spindale

Vians Valley

ADDENDUM C-3

COORDINATING COUNCIL

Luke Harkey, Chair

July 27, 2010

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- | | |
|----|---|
| OM | 6. THAT the Council be authorized, on behalf of Presbytery, to approve congregations' applications for grants from Synod, the General Assembly or other agencies provided that such approvals are reported to the next meeting of Presbytery. <i>(This is needed in order to meet application deadlines.)</i> |
| | 7. THAT the Presbytery approve an application from New Vision Church, Conover New Church Development, for a Grant from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic for \$2,500. (Coordinating Council Attachment 3) |
| | 8. THAT the Presbytery receive a preliminary report on the process for dealing with Overtures from the 219 th (2010) General Assembly. (Coordinating Council Attachment 4) |

FOR INFORMATION:

9. THAT the Council reports approval of an information form to be distributed by the Campus Missions Committee at the July 27, 2010 Presbytery meeting.
10. THAT Council approved distribution, at the Presbytery meeting, of material from the recent General Assembly, reporting on its recent meeting. (Coordinating Council Attachment 4)
11. THAT the Presbyterian Women will hold two Fall Gatherings, one at Highlands, First on September 18, 2010 and another at Lowell Presbyterian Church on September 25, 2010.

SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
New Church/Small Church GRANT APPLICATION
2010 - 2011

COORDINATING COUNCIL
ATTACHMENT 3

I GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: June 14, 2010
Ministry/Organization: New Vision Presbyterian Church / Conover NCD
Name of person(s) completing this application Rev. Ann & Rev. Dr. Frank Aichinger
Title/Office Co-Organizing Pastors
Address 502 Thornburg Dr. NE; Conover, NC; 28613
Contact Number 828-464-1330 (FAX 828-464-1331)

Specific Purpose of Grant to help our NCD/ small church / multi-ethnic congregation pay the mortgage as we continue to reach out and grow.

Explanation of (choose A or B)

A. X Explain how this grant will move your ministries toward fulfillment of your vision/mission.

We are an NCD/small church/ multi-ethnic congregation (30% Hispanic and African American) that launched on Easter 2009. In 2004, Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC) took over a building from a failing non-denominational church with the intention of using it as a base for a NCD.

When the co-Pastors came in June 2008, they found that many of the church systems that had caused the former congregation to fail had not been dealt with. Our first nine months were preparing this congregation to launch. We have a vision to reach the de-churched in the Sothern Baptist / Missouri Synod area. Many people had been hurt or bored by the church. Our vision is expressed as "Changing your Idea of Church".

Of those who have joined us on the journey of being a new church, only two came from a Presbyterian background and none from neighboring congregations. We were delightfully surprised that many of these were Hispanics. We currently have 25% Hispanics and 5% African Americans in our worshipping congregation.

We currently have a GA grant and a generous grant from PWNC. However these and the congregational giving are not enough to meet the mortgage on our building (\$3070/month). Our congregational giving is up 22% in 2010 over 2009.

As we continue our outreach, we need to be a responsible partner with PWNC in paying our expenses; however the income expected by the NCD grant was not realistic. We have been able to drop our budget by 14% over the expected amount, and this grant will help to make up the deficit.

We have two community outreach activities. We have partnered with a neighboring elementary school to feed 80+ students weekend meals (at about \$600/week – much of it as community as well as congregation funding) and a nursing home ministry providing worship and communion. We also are partners with Corner Table (soup kitchen), ECCCM (community ministry), ministerial fellowships and Habitat for Humanity.

II FUNDING

Amount Requested: \$2500 (Attach Budget)

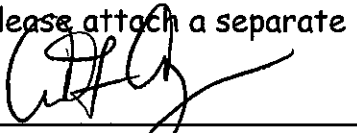
If need is for a ministry or mission cause, what do you hope to accomplish, when and how? Please use the following table to identify your most important goals/objectives (up to 3). Attach additional sheets if necessary.

<u>Goal/Objective</u>	<u>Expected Outcome</u>	<u>How will it be measured?</u>
Continue outreach to de-churched in our community	Growth in the congregation and in giving	Worship attendance and congregational giving
Nurture a healthy multi-ethnic community	Continued outreach and openness	percentage of multi-ethnic in congregation
To be a responsible partner with PWNC	pay our share of expenses	fiancial

If other Synod funding has been provided, please indicate the amount and ministry. So that we might evaluate your application completely, please attach an overall budget, which specifically details what funding you receive each year from other sources including specific presbyteries of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic or from other funds of the Synod such as the, Jubilee Fund, Speer Fund, etc.

None

By signing below, I certify that the funds sent by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic as described above will be spent according to the grant's intention. If there is any additional information, please attach a separate page.


Rev. Ann Aichinger


Dr. Frank Aichinger

6/14/10
Date

PRESBYTERY APPROVAL

PRESBYTERY NAME: Presbytery of Western North Carolina

PRESBYTERY ENDORSEMENT

1. Presbytery's funds were considered and in partnership with the Synod, the Presbytery will provide _____ towards the grant request. (PWNC is already providing a \$45,000 grant this year)
2. This grant information was reviewed and approved by the mission strategy body of this presbytery with the following comments: _____

3. I hereby certify that this application was reviewed and approved for compliance with the mission goals and strategy of the church and the presbytery.

Presbytery Executive or Designee

Date

III. BUDGET

Income	2010 BUDGET	2009 ACTUAL	
General Assembly Grant	19,350.00	23,250.00	
Presbytery Grant	45,429.00	53,514.00	
Other Churches	0.00	0.00	
Congregational Giving	108,004.00	54,023.00	
TOTAL INCOME		172,783.00	130,787.00 ****

Expenses

CO-PASTOR'S COMPENSATION

Co-Pastors' Salary and Housing	69,756.00	69,756.00
Pension and Insurance **	15,871.00	15,871.00
Professional Expenses	6,350.00	0.00 *
NCD Coach	1,000.00	750.00

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Music Director (\$100/week)	5,200.00	7,150.00
Program – Music	500.00	313.94
Nursery Worker (\$30/wk)	1,560.00	1,752.00

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM (15% of total congregation giving)

LOCAL MISSION (Pack a Bag)	5,400.00	2,701.15
PRESBYTERY	5,400.00	2,701.15
INTERNATIONAL (PCUSA)	5,400.00	0.00

RELATIONSHIPS MINISTRY TEAM

Supplies	1,000.00	658.88
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DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Christian Education	1,500.00	1095.41
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ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAM

Cleaner (\$233/month)	2,796.00	3,151.15
Mortgage (3,070.87/mo ***)	36,850.44	38,614.94
Insurance	2,680.00	2,170.25
Utilities – Telephone & DSL (\$240/mo)	3,000.00	3,406.24
Utilities – Electric (\$500/mo)	6,000.00	7,587.49
Utilities – Water & Sewer (\$60/mo)	720.00	745.47
Maintenance & Supplies	3,000.00	1,944.99
Office and Postage	1,500.00	1,168.12
Replace Sanctuary HVAC		3,050.00
IRS Fine from Community Chapel		1,835.82

TOTAL EXPENSES	172,783.00	168,176.00
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* Pastors requested none of the professional expenses in 2009

** This is for two ¾ time co-pastors who are a clergy couple, paying pension for both but only insurance for one.

*** The interest rate was adjusted this year and this is reflected in the lower budget number this year.

**** Reserves were used to balance this budget this year, but are not depleted.

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Income	Expenses	Balance
PUBLICITY	15,671.10	25,180.31	2,990.28
PACK A BAG	22,350.21	17,523.02	4,827.19
FEED THE HUNGRY OFFERING	1,466.47	1,466.47	0.00
SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN SPORTS	1,834.00	1,834.00	0.00
CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES	1,490.00	1,490.00	0.00
PUMPKIN PATCH	3,102.50	2,925.84	176.66

IV. EVALUATION (To be completed within 12 months of the date of the grant award)

Please complete the following table identifying up to three programmatic objectives (which should be part of your original application), expected outcomes, and actual results. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Objective	Expected Outcome	Actual Result/Outcome

Attach a summary of expenditures detailing how the grant was used and forward to the Synod Office no later than year ending of receipt of funds.

By signing below, I certify that the funds sent by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic as described above were spent according to the grant's intention. If there is any additional information, please attach a separate page.

Applicant Signature and Date

Presbytery Signature and Date

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
Attn: Grants Evaluation Committee
3218 Chamberlayne Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23227
Fax: (877) 259-4441
(804) 355-8535

COORDINATING COUNCIL ADDENDUM

ATTACHMENT 4

Preliminary Report of the COORDINATING COUNCIL concerning Overtures from the 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has now completed its work. Among its over 300 actions are a number of adopted overtures that require the consent of a majority (2/3s for the proposed Confession) of our Church's 173 Presbyteries. Attached is an explanatory letter with four information sheets from the leaders of the General Assembly.

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina tentatively suggests the following course of action.

Discussion meetings (hopefully with the General Assembly Commissioners) will be scheduled across the Presbytery in September. In addition, at the "*Let's Celebrate*" event in Morganton on August 21 there will be courses on the proposed Revised Form of Government (FOG) and the Middle East, as well as an opportunity to meet most of the General Assembly Commissioners. Some congregations may also schedule information meetings in the near future.

Sometime prior to the October 2010 Presbytery Meeting, the Council will assign various overtures (not necessarily all) to the appropriate Presbytery committees asking them to study them and be prepared to give a brief report and recommendation to Presbytery for approval or non-approval.

Two special task forces will be appointed by Council to do the same for the Belhar Confession and the Revised Form of Government in the Book of Order. This last special task force will also be asked to recommend to Presbytery what actions it should take should the Revised Form of Government be adopted by our denomination.

The Council will also recommend to Presbytery suitable action on any study materials that do not require a vote which were sent down from the General Assembly.

October 22-23, 2010 Presbytery Meeting (Lake Junaluska)

- The Council will give its final report concerning our Presbytery's handling of items from the General Assembly. After any debate and amendments, it will be voted on.
- There will also be some time docketed for some group discussions of the major overtures – but without any vote whatever.

January 29, 2011 Presbytery Meeting (Asheville)

- A reasonable amount of time will be docketed for brief presentations, debate, and a written ballot on the overture concerning *Ordination Standards*.
- A number of other overtures will also be voted on at this meeting.

April 26, 2011 Presbytery Meeting (Montreat)

- A reasonable amount of time will be docketed for brief presentations, debate, and written ballots on the overtures concerning the *Belhar Confession*, and the *Revised Form of Government*.
- Any remaining overtures will also be voted on at this meeting.

Note: The above is only a preliminary report. As further information becomes available about the actions of the 2010 General Assembly, the Presbytery Council may make suitable revisions for its final report on this matter.



COORDINATING COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 4

July 10, 2010

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38) ...

Just one week ago, the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened with Scripture and music and prayer. Commissioners and advisory delegates from every presbytery across the church gathered around the baptismal font with hopeful expectation of what God’s Spirit would do in and through them as they sought to discern together the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

As the week progressed, prayer was a foundational part of each day’s deliberations and decisions, and the presence of the Spirit was palpable!

“Out of the believer’s heart...”

While all assemblies are significant, this one holds particular significance in the life of the PC(USA). Among the assembly’s decisions – to be ratified by presbyteries – are the addition of the Belhar Confession to *The Book of Confessions* and a revised Form of Government. Both of these items give a clear signal that we are a church that is not afraid to change – an important perspective to have in these days of great change in the church and the world.

The assembly celebrated and was greatly encouraged by the commissioning of 122 young adult volunteers and 17 new mission workers for service around the globe. Commissioners voted unanimously to renew the call to “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide” and were inspired by the stories (<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/evangelism>) of congregations that are growing in evangelism, discipleship, diversity, and servanthood. They celebrated the generosity of Presbyterians who have contributed more than \$10.5 million to relief and redevelopment work in Haiti in the wake of January’s devastating earthquake.

The assembly also engaged in discussion about significant matters of faith and life – ordination standards, justice and peace in the Middle East, and civil union and marriage, to name just a few.

Information on the more than 300 assembly actions is available at <http://pc-biz.org>. Answers to frequently asked questions about the items that have already garnered media attention are attached to this letter and available online (www.pcusa.org/ga219). We commend these resources to you for their accurate and straightforward information.

While the content of the assembly’s decisions is important, what may be of equal or greater importance is the *manner* in which commissioners and advisory delegates did their work. They debated, but did not fight. They tackled tough issues while refraining from tackling each other. They placed great value on finding common ground as they displayed gracious, mutual forbearance toward one another. They sought the will of God within their actions, rather than regarding their decisions as the will of God. One commissioner called the experience of seeking – and finding – common ground truly “miraculous.”

In short, this assembly exhibited to the whole church and, indeed, to our society and the world a way to engage in difficult issues while maintaining respect for one another. To put it another way, they exhibited well what it means for the church to “a provisional demonstration of what God intends for the world” (Book of Order, G-3.0200).

...shall flow rivers of living water.”

Just a few short hours ago, the 219th General Assembly ended in the same worshipful manner with which it began, as well as with a similar same sense of hopeful expectation that the hard work done in Minneapolis will continue forward across the church.

Michael East and Caroline Sherard, elected by their peers as co-moderators of the young adult advisory delegates to this assembly, shared their thoughts in a blog entry (www.pcusa.org/ga219):

If all our commissioners and advisory delegates returned to their places of community and encouraged others to continue similar stories, what great things could be next for the PC(USA)? These narratives have the ability to inspire discussions on new, creative, and innovative ways of being the Church. At the heart of being Presbyterian is the principle belief that our discernment is best done when we gather together. Being able to gather in one place, as one people, for the one Church is a powerful and transformative experience--one which dramatically shapes future generations.

The assembly has commended to the church a number of items for further study, out of which is hoped will come, as Michael and Caroline write, “new, creative, and innovative ways of being the Church.”

May the good and faithful work begun in Minneapolis truly be just the beginning of a season of respectful, earnest, and gracious engagement – both in our words and in our deeds – all for the sake of the gospel.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,



Elder Cynthia Bolbach
Moderator, 219th General Assembly



The Rev. Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly



The Rev. Landon Whitsitt
Vice Moderator, 219th General Assembly



Elder Linda Bryant Valentine
Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council



COORDINATING COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 4

New Form of Government Questions and Answers

What happened? What changed?

The General Assembly voted to recommend a revised Form of Government to the presbyteries with a vote of 468 in favor, 204 against, and 6 abstentions – a 70%-30% margin. The new Form of Government includes:

- Foundations of Presbyterian Polity -- the principles that are foundational to government, worship, and discipline for the PC(USA). Preserves the vast majority of the material in the first four chapters of the current Form of Government.
- Form of Government -- in six chapters, which spells out the constitutional framework for government of the PC(USA) as it seeks to respond to God's call to life in mission.
- Advisory Handbook for Councils for the Development of Policies and Procedures Required by the Form of Government -- an aid to councils (governing bodies) of the church for developing the policies and procedures to carry out their mission.

Nothing has changed until a majority of presbyteries vote to approve this new Form of Government. Voting must be completed by July 10, 2011, and if affirmative, the new Book of Order would take effect the next day.

What does it mean?

The current Form of Government has served the church ably over the past quarter century. The bedrock historic principles of Presbyterian governance will continue to order our lives together today and into the future, just as they have guided those who witnessed before us. At the same time, the world in which we as 21st-century Presbyterians proclaim the gospel is not the world of the 1950s, or even the 1980s. The proposed Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government are intended to help the church better meet the needs of mission in the 21st century.

The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity gathers together in three succinct chapters the historical and theological provisions that have defined, and continue to define, our church life together. Placing this bedrock material into a separate section of the Book of Order provides an excellent teaching tool to explain who and what we are.

The current Form of Government has evolved over the years from a Constitution into a regulatory manual that attempts to provide a "one size fits all" answer to every situation faced by congregations and presbyteries. The problem with this regulatory approach is that the diverse, multicultural environment in which we do mission no longer permits a "one size fits all" approach if we are to do mission effectively. The proposed new Form of Government lifts up the constitutional standards that are essential to our life together, while at the same time empowering councils (governing bodies) at all levels to respond more effectively to the ministry and mission needs that each faces.

What's next?

The revised Form of Government must now be considered, and approved by a majority of presbyteries, before July 10, 2011, in order to replace the existing Form of Government.

Where can I learn more?

The document, as amended by the Assembly, is available now at <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2263&promoID=99>.

A formatted version will be developed and made available online and in hard copy.



COORDINATING COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 4

Ordination Standards Questions and Answers

What did the Assembly do? What has changed?

The 219th General Assembly (2010) proposed a change to the PC(USA) Constitution regarding ordination standards by a vote of 373-323-4. This action does not change the Constitution. It is a first step in the process. A majority of the 173 presbyteries would have to vote in the affirmative to approve the replacement by July 2010.

What does it mean?

G-6.0106b is a provision in the PC(USA) Book of Order (Constitution) that provides the following standards for persons ordained as church leaders (deacon, elder or minister). The current version reads:

“Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.”

The 219th General Assembly (2010) recommends deleting the above provision and replacing it with the following language:

“Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”

This proposed change would focus ordination examinations on the individual calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability of candidates for the responsibilities of the office, in joyful submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life.

What’s next?

Presbyteries will study this recommendation and vote over the course of the next year. If a majority of the 173 presbyteries approve the change, it will replace the previous provision in the Book of Order. The deadline for presbyteries to vote is July 10, 2011.

Where can I get more information?

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2309>



COORDINATING COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 4

Civil Union and Marriage Issues Questions and Answers

What did the General Assembly do? What has changed?

The General Assembly approved both the Final Report and the Minority Report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage and ordered they be sent out for study by the wider church. The vote was 439 in favor, 208 against, with 6 abstentions.

By this action (sending both reports for study) the Assembly maintained the definition of marriage as "a man and a woman." With the action to send the reports for study, no change has occurred, or is pending.

What does it mean?

The Special Committee Report provides descriptive material on the historical and theological aspects of marriage, as well as a look at current laws on same-gender partnerships and their children, and the place of same-gender covenanted relationships in the Christian community. They commend to the church their covenant, "Those Whom God Has Joined, Let No One Separate" as a guide for Presbyterians to come together to discuss difficult issues when there is disagreement. The Minority Report, also approved for study by the Assembly, concludes that Scripture is clear that marriage is between a man and a woman only and does not support any kind of sexual behavior outside marriage. The minority report also contains a covenant for the wider church to use.

What next?

The Special Committee Report and the Minority Report will be prepared for distribution as one document to the wider church.

By sending both reports to the wider church, it is the hope of the Assembly that Presbyterians will find helpful background information on civil unions and marriage, as well as material to help individuals and groups remain together as they work through these difficult issues.

Where can you learn more?

Majority report: <http://www.pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=3333&promoID=168>

Minority report: <http://www.pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=3335&promoID=169>



The Middle Governing Body Commission Questions and Answers

What did the Assembly do? What has changed?

The 219th General Assembly (2010) has created a Middle Governing Body Commission with the power to act as the General Assembly, upon request of presbyteries and synods. The commission has the power “to organize new synods and to divide, unite, or otherwise combine synods or portions of synods previously existing” (G-13.0103m) and “to approve the organization, division, uniting or combining of presbyteries or portions of presbyteries by synods” (G-13.0103n) — upon the request, by a majority vote, of the affected presbyteries and/or synod.

What does it mean?

Presbyteries and synods wishing to realign their structures or boundaries may request such actions from the commission and make those changes without having to wait until the 220th General Assembly (2012) for approval. The commission will also supervise the work of the Special Committee on Administrative Review of the Synod of Boriquen in Puerto Rico and its constituent presbyteries. That special committee has been seeking reconciliation among the governing bodies in Puerto Rico, which have experienced struggles that threaten the effectiveness of the PC(USA)’s mission and ministry in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The 219th General Assembly voted to continue the special committee for two more years.

What’s next?

The moderators of the 218th General Assembly (the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow) and the 219th General Assembly (Elder Cynthia Bolbach) will appoint the 21-member commission. The commission will serve until at least the 220th General Assembly (2012). It must include at least one representative from each of the 16 synods.

Where can I learn more?

The Office of the General Assembly will provide information about the membership, meetings and activities of the commission at www.pcusa.org/oga.

Actions regarding the Middle East Questions and Answers

What did the Assembly do?

The General Assembly approved a comprehensive report on the Middle East – its first since 1997. The paper calls for:

- An immediate cessation of all violence, whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians;
- The reaffirmation of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders;
- The end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories;
- An immediate freeze on the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and on the Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land and buildings in East Jerusalem;
- And many other steps toward peace in the region.

The General Assembly also approved the report of the Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI) committee, which:

- Provides an update on all corporations that MRTI has engaged as a result of the 2004, 2006 and 2008 General Assemblies;
- Acknowledges that "Caterpillar has in many ways provided positive leadership to its community, its state, and the nation. It has donated considerable resources and equipment in support of local development and disaster relief at home and overseas. It has significantly improved workplace safety, acted aggressively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and pursued environmental conservation within its production processes. In recognition of these accomplishments, Caterpillar has been listed for seven consecutive years in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index";
- Strongly denounces Caterpillar's continued profit-making from non-peaceful uses of a number of its products on the basis of Christian principles and as a matter of social witness;
- Calls upon Caterpillar to carefully review its involvement in obstacles to a just and lasting peace in Israel-Palestine, and to take affirmative steps to end its complicity in the violation of human rights.

What does this mean?

Coming into the 219th General Assembly (2010), few thought that agreement on issues relating to the Middle East would be possible. Diverse perspectives divided Presbyterians from each other, and from the Jewish community. However, during the committee deliberations and again in the plenary session, through God's grace, a place of broad consensus was found -- common ground for continued peacemaking work in Israel/Palestine.

The General Assembly rejected immediate divestment from Caterpillar in favor of continued corporate engagement with Caterpillar and other companies profiting from the sale and use of their products for non-peaceful purposes and/or the violation of human rights.

What's next?

A Monitoring Group for the Middle East will be formed to assist the appropriate General Assembly Mission Council offices and the Middle East staff team in monitoring progress and guiding actions to ensure adequate implementation of policy directions approved by this General Assembly. MRTI will continue to engage Caterpillar, and other companies, in relation to particular actions whereby the company profits from "non-peaceful action" of their products.

Where can I find out more?

<http://www.pcusa.org/middleeastpeace>

<http://www.pcusa.org/mrti>

Addendum D-5

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Chair: Rev. John L. Frye, Jr., Chair
July 27, 2010

FIRST SECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, OR A TASK FORCE THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY PRESBYTERY.

- OM I. RECOMMEND FOR RE-COMMISSIONING AS LAY PASTOR (continued. . .):
- B. DENNIS STAMPER
To: Chaplain, Blue Ridge Health Care
The re-commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments and officiate at weddings.
Effective: July 27, 2010
 - C. JOE GERNOSKE
To: Trinity Presbyterian Church
The re-commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session and officiate at weddings.
Effective: July 27, 2010
 - D. ROBERT GARRISON
To: The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
The re-commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, officiate at weddings, and moderate the Sessions in congregations under his care and/or placed under his care by the General Presbyter, as well as at other Presbytery leadership functions.
Effective: July 27, 2010

SECOND SECTION

The Book of Order provides that the Committee on Ministry may be given authority by the Presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for service of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other Presbyteries required by G-11.0402 and G11.0502g, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor concur, and to dismiss ministers to other Presbyteries, with the provision that such actions be reported at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery. (G-11.0502h) This permission was granted to our Committee on Ministry; therefore, the following actions are to be simply admitted to the record.

- V. APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FOR (continued. . .):
- B. James R. Shroyer
To: Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
As: Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Durant, Oklahoma

Addendum D-6

VI. APPROVED DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP (continued. . .):

- C. James R. Shroyer and Forest City First Presbyterian Church
Effective: July 31, 2010

XI. APPROVED THE REQUEST FOR HONORABLE RETIREMENT:

- A. Robert M. Abel
Effective: October 1, 2010

XII. APPROVED CONTINUATION OF COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:

- A. Dwayne Durham and Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church
Extended: June 15, 2010 - June 14, 2011
- B. Robert Simes and Vians Valley Presbyterian Church
Extended: July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

ADDENDUM K

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
THE REVEREND DR. RICHARD N. BOYCE, CHAIR
JULY 27, 2010**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Katherine D. Blankenship was enrolled as an inquirer on May 19, 2010. Katherine is a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and will enter Columbia Presbyterian Seminary in the fall.
- Shelby Ethridge was enrolled as an inquirer on July 21, 2010. Shelby is a member of Burnsville First Presbyterian Church and will enter Union Presbyterian Seminary in the fall.
- As they have been given the authority, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, on behalf of Presbytery, has elected the following persons as readers for ordination examination in Raleigh, NC on October 4-6, 2010. They will grade papers from early morning until late at night. Content guidelines are provided.

Dick Graham (Elder from Asheville First Presbyterian Church)

J. D. Waldrop (Elder from Unity Presbyterian Church)

Of our Inquirers/Candidates:

- As of July, there are a total of 9 inquirers and 7 candidates.
- 1 is from a small (under 100) church: Shiloh.
- 2 are from medium (under 200) churches: Dulatown and Burnsville First.
- The other 13 are from larger churches: Asheville First (3), Black Mountain (2), Grace Covenant (2), Hendersonville First, Kings Mountain First, Lenoir First, Morganton First, Southminster and Unity.
- Of the 7 candidates, 4 are authorized to circulate their Personal Information Form.
- The following seminaries have recently graduated students or have students currently attending: Columbia, Duke Divinity School, Gordon-Conwell, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte and Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is proud of persons who have received a call and/or been ordained:

- Mary Anne Welch, a member of the Lowell Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Pastor with the Great Falls Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, SC. Mary Anne was ordained at the Lowell Presbyterian Church on June 20, 2010.

ADDENDUM - V

CAMPUS MISSION COMMITTEE STUDENT INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

In an effort to better facilitate ministry to our young adults as they leave home in order to attend college, the Campus Mission Committee is offering to help connect your students with churches/ministry groups in their area. If you would provide the information below and return this form to the Presbytery Office, we will forward the information to the appropriate people.

NAME:

HOME CHURCH:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:

E-MAIL:

CELL PHONE:

NAME:

HOME CHURCH:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:

E-MAIL:

CELL PHONE:

NAME:

HOME CHURCH:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:

E-MAIL:

CELL PHONE:

NAME:

HOME CHURCH:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:

E-MAIL:

CELL PHONE:

ADDENDUM BB-1

Budget & Finance Committee
Charles Sellers - Chair
July 27, 2010

For information only the Budget and Finance Committee presents:

- ◆ The 'Operating Budget Summary' of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of June 30, 2010, BB-2.
- ◆ A portion of the 2009 audited financial statements, BB-3 thru BB-6.

For the complete financial statements contact the Presbytery office
at 828/438-4217 or lpresley@presbyterywnc.org.

ADDENDUM BB-2

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 30, 2010

ACCOUNT	2010 ANNUAL BUDGET	2010 YTD BUDGET	2010 YTD ACTUAL	% OF Annual Budget	2009 YTD ACTUAL	2008 YTD ACTUAL	2007 YTD ACTUAL	2006 YTD ACTUAL	2005 YTD ACTUAL
INCOME:									
Operating Receipts	\$786,417	\$362,962	\$317,113	40.3%	\$297,017	\$334,734	\$350,386	\$372,574	\$361,508
Program receipts	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	0	0	0	0.0%	0	1,071	3,216	1,626	1,768
Designated NCD Income	25,429	12,715	26,895	105.8%	32,300	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Income from Investment	49,625	24,813	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Fund	50,000	25,000	0	0.0%	8,158	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$911,471</u>	<u>\$425,489</u>	<u>\$344,007</u>	<u>37.7%</u>	<u>\$337,475</u>	<u>\$335,805</u>	<u>\$353,603</u>	<u>\$374,200</u>	<u>\$363,276</u>
EXPENSES:									
Evangelism/Church Dev	\$81,979	\$40,990	\$63,743	77.8%	\$67,101	\$34,818	\$43,985	\$45,444	\$49,406
Peace and Justice	5,300	2,650	754	14.2%	390	146	189	1,084	352
Hunger	750	375	119	15.8%	268	488	892	502	263
National/Global Missions	23,300	11,650	4,314	18.5%	7,757	4,721	(2,001)	6,674	(4,225)
Campus Mission	12,500	6,250	5,000	40.0%	5,750	6,144	7,227	15,249	18,964
Self Development of People	500	250	0	0.0%	172	110	166	142	116
Small Church	42,350	21,175	18,109	42.8%	13,721	13,292	15,392	24,043	14,310
Stewardship	300	150	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Christian Education	7,800	3,900	2,565	32.9%	1,842	1,092	1,735	1,516	564
Youth Ministries	21,513	10,757	11,570	53.8%	554	2,162	8,765	4,358	4,470
School for the Laity	2,100	1,050	(466)	-22.2%	(536)	34	666	828	2,314
Institutions & Agencies	0	0	0	0.0%	0	500	0	12,341	12,262
Budget & Finance	100	50	0	0.0%	0	0	0	69	0
Personnel	481,365	240,683	222,378	46.2%	236,196	234,204	227,098	242,542	239,198
Communications	7,900	3,950	3,236	41.0%	3,680	4,844	2,439	1,082	492
Strategic Goals	800	400	0	0.0%	472	464	293	0	0
Property & Equipment	29,000	14,500	6,813	23.5%	5,429	8,238	5,492	4,757	11,234
Search	0	0	0	0.0%	0	4,361	950	1,319	0
Joint Outdoor Ministries	43,525	21,763	21,763	50.0%	21,763	21,753	21,753	21,753	21,753
Nominating	750	375	230	30.7%	295	390	259	159	220
Permanent Judicial	400	200	0	0.0%	0	0	33	0	53
Coordinating Council	10,014	5,007	2,309	23.1%	2,885	3,461	4,557	3,538	2,305
Representation	1,250	625	0	0.0%	648	313	877	334	409
Committee on Ministry	8,775	4,388	1,688	19.2%	3,183	4,413	3,937	2,098	3,079
Preparation for Ministry	6,500	3,250	1,679	25.8%	1,689	4,006	3,744	4,737	3,853
Care of Church Professionals	2,150	1,075	374	17.4%	606	(5,342)	(1,351)	12,822	10,376
Supplies, Equip & Service	53,650	26,825	24,293	45.3%	26,260	28,294	29,301	32,097	34,236
Stated Clerk	16,900	8,450	2,086	12.3%	1,662	11,289	7,121	10,223	23,292
Legal Fees	50,000	25,000	4,284	8.6%	7,158	13,898	0	0	0
Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$911,471</u>	<u>\$455,736</u>	<u>\$396,840</u>	<u>43.5%</u>	<u>\$408,944</u>	<u>\$398,092</u>	<u>\$383,520</u>	<u>\$449,710</u>	<u>\$449,296</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)		<u>(\$30,247)</u>	<u>(\$52,833)</u>		<u>(\$71,469)</u>	<u>(\$62,287)</u>	<u>(\$29,917)</u>	<u>(\$75,511)</u>	<u>(\$86,020)</u>

121 N. Sterling Street
Morganton, North Carolina 28655
Phone: (828) 433-1226
Fax: (828) 433-1230

Independent Auditors' Report

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Morganton, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the changes its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules listed in the foregoing table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Lowdermilk Church & Co.

June 3, 2010

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

ADDENDUM BB-4

Schedule of Financial Position
December 31, 2009

		Unrestricted					Permanently	Total
		General	Restricted	Loan	Plant	Camp Grier	Restricted	
<u>Assets</u>		<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>& Grant</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Equity</u>	<u>Conley</u>	<u>All Funds</u>
				<u>Fund</u>		<u>Fund</u>	<u>And Reid</u>	
Cash	(Note 1)	\$ 390,326	\$ (408,836)	\$ 237,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,088	\$ 224,078
Receivables		257	-	-	-	-	-	257
Equity-Camp Grier	(Note 7)	-	-	-	-	68,730	-	68,730
Investments	(Note 4)	-	1,581,009	-	-	-	-	1,581,009
Property, plant and equipment at cost-net	(Note 5)	-	-	-	722,510	-	-	722,510
Total assets		<u>\$ 390,583</u>	<u>\$ 1,172,173</u>	<u>\$ 237,500</u>	<u>\$ 722,510</u>	<u>\$ 68,730</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>	<u>\$ 2,596,584</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>								
Benevolences payable	(Note 9)	\$ -	\$ 487,753	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 487,753
Long-term debt	(Note 6)	-	-	-	393,227	-	-	393,227
Accounts payable and payroll withholdings		2,500	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
Deferred revenue	(Note 8)	22,048	-	-	-	-	-	22,048
Total liabilities		<u>24,548</u>	<u>487,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>393,227</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>905,528</u>
Net assets								
Unrestricted:								
Undesignated		354,235	627,894	-	329,283	68,730	-	1,380,142
Board designated	(Page 33)	11,800	56,526	237,500	-	-	-	305,826
Permanently restricted	(Note 2)	-	-	-	-	-	5,088	5,088
Total net assets		<u>366,035</u>	<u>684,420</u>	<u>237,500</u>	<u>329,283</u>	<u>68,730</u>	<u>5,088</u>	<u>1,691,056</u>
Total liabilities and net assets		<u>\$ 390,583</u>	<u>\$ 1,172,173</u>	<u>\$ 237,500</u>	<u>\$ 722,510</u>	<u>\$ 68,730</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>	<u>\$ 2,596,584</u>

~~ADDENDUM BB-5~~

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Schedule of Revenue and Expenses Compared to Budget - General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009
(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2008)

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2009</u>		<u>Over (Under) Budget</u>	<u>2008 Total</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>		
Presbytery support:				
Unified giving	\$ -	\$ 675,717	\$ -	\$ 760,547
Selected giving	-	31,778	-	31,635
Total (page 15)	746,569	707,495	(39,074)	792,182
Program receipts and other income:				
Receipts to support legal fund	55,000	65,500	10,500	17,573
Synod support for HAE	2,500	2,500	-	5,000
Designated proceeds	43,454	73,702	30,248	-
Church receipts PWNC only	40,400	31,778	(8,622)	40,735
PWNC only individuals	25,000	20,500	(4,500)	-
Transfer from other funds	30,000	51,280	21,280	39,367
Total	196,354	245,260	48,906	102,675
Interest income	600	-	(600)	1,137
Total	196,954	245,260	48,306	103,812
Total revenue	<u>\$ 943,523</u>	<u>952,755</u>	<u>\$ 9,232</u>	<u>895,994</u>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Evangelism division	\$ 90,714	117,627	\$ 26,913	43,016
Outreach division	50,575	42,112	(8,463)	49,288
Support division	40,900	39,500	(1,400)	29,098
Discipleship division	21,100	15,894	(5,206)	23,804
Administrative division	543,720	515,636	(28,084)	508,504
Special division	44,825	44,024	(801)	44,406

Schedule of Revenue and Expenses Compared to Budget-
General Fund (continued)

ADDENDUM BB-6

	2009			
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Over (Under) <u>Budget</u>	2008 <u>Total</u>
Book of order division	\$ 6,689	\$ 5,471	\$ (1,218)	\$ 2,669
Representation division	1,600	1,014	(586)	1,107
Ministry division	21,950	11,963	(9,987)	12,313
Office support division	<u>121,450</u>	<u>159,514</u>	<u>38,064</u>	<u>181,789</u>
Total expenses (page 26)	<u>\$ 943,523</u>	<u>952,755</u>	<u>\$ 9,232</u>	<u>895,994</u>
Excess revenue over (under) expenses per budget		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>

ADDENDUM GP-3

General Presbyter's Report July 27, 2010

"Out of the believer's hearts flowed streams of living water" was scripture we heard at General Assembly during worship, and often during the day, as a call to prayer. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that "he could give living water."

Our theology says that we believe that the Holy Spirit works through our General Assembly. It is for that reason that we ask delegates to go with an open mind and heart to listen for God's voice. Most delegates did try to listen to God's voice. For me, there were times when I saw the work of the Holy Spirit in powerful and surprising ways. The Spirit's power was manifested in the ways that people listened to each other and worked with each other across all kinds of artificial boundaries. I think the Spirit used times of worship and prayer as ways to help that happen. There were other times where I looked through a glass dimly. However, I believe that God is working through our General Assembly and in our denomination. Yet, in this Assembly that dealt with so many large issues, few, if any, will agree with all that was done. Some will be happy and others will be sad. It is then our responsibility to try to listen to God and weigh the issues carefully. Often, we only see God's hand at work fully when we look back after several years.

Our polity is such that the General Assembly is usually but one step in our discernment of God's direction. Unfortunately, we do not have the concentrated times of worship, prayer, listening to each other and to God. We come from our busy lives and our established positions and understandings and do not have the time or opportunities to listen, pray and worship together over a period of time. This means that we need to work hard and differently. Because some of the decisions the presbyteries make are important for our life together and for how people feel about being part of this body we call PCUSA, our discernment is very important.

As a Presbytery, we are going to try to find times to talk about what General Assembly did and about the issues on which we will vote. However, we all need to look for more creative ways to dialogue and listen, if we are going to be open to listening to God and to each other. I ask you to help us look for those ways and to take advantage of opportunities to do this in your area. Some of your ideas and our ideas may not work perfectly, but let us try to risk with the Spirit.

After a controversial vote at Presbytery, one pastor in this Presbytery called another pastor he respected who had voted opposite on a critical vote. They talked and listened to one other. Their understanding of each others position and pain grew. They may not have changed their mind on where they stood, but they had a greater appreciation and understanding of the other's perspective.

I am also hoping that our October two-day Presbytery meeting will give us an opportunity to informally talk and listen. We have asked John McCall to preach and be a keynote speaker/ workshop leader on the topic of making disciples and growing spiritually. I hope that as we worship, pray and do Bible study together, we will sense the working of the Spirit. In addition, Becca Young will be home to share her ministry of teaching at a seminary in the Muslim country of Indonesia.

I look forward to our dialogues about General Assembly and also our discussions of how God is active in our midst, helping us reach out to our community and the world in the name of Jesus. I remain confident that the Holy Spirit is working among us and with us.

ADDENDUM JJ-1

Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minister Commissioner Dr. James Bernhardt

The experience of a meeting of the General Assembly is both exhilarating and exhausting. When all the ministries of the denomination, and the many varied interest groups gather, energy is created. This energy finds its expression in several outlets: worship, business meetings, common interest gatherings, conversation, and fellowship. Commissioners to the assembly may become exhausted from paying such close attention to many details for a week. Still, there is a benefit that comes with the blessing of serving the church in this way. I am grateful to have been a commissioner from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

It was my responsibility to serve on Committee 10, Social Justice A: “The promotion of social righteousness”. Our committee responded to overtures dealing with: “protesting the blatant disregard for the use of our Lord’s name in broadcast and film”; caps on consumer interest rates and usury; against violence and discrimination against women; in support of equity and quality in public education; an effort to seek equity of pay among church workers in the General Assembly and across the church; and a renewal of emphasis on inclusive and expansive language in worship and the life of the church. Led ably by Teresa Cho, a minister from San Francisco (and Maggie’s vice moderator running mate), our committee listened and learned from many people who spoke to the issues; we amended items before us, and brought our report to the floor where everything we submitted was passed.

It was also my responsibility along with the other commissioners to attend all the meetings of the assembly plenary, to read and digest reports and actions coming to the floor, and to cast a vote on each item. I did my best to be guided by God’s Word and Spirit. I am particularly grateful for the Moderator of the 219th General Assembly, elder Cindy Bolbach, who, despite my support of our own Maggie Lauterer, won the election on the fourth ballot and went on to lead the meetings very well. Most of the committees presenting, and the many people who provide information and support, did an excellent job. For the most part commissioners who spoke, asking questions and proposing amendments and motions, did a wonderful job.

The General Assembly is sending back to the presbyteries some work to do. Next year we will consider a new Form of Government, new wording for G-6.0106b, and the inclusion of the Belhar Confession in our Book of Confessions. We will possibly see changes to some presbyteries and synods through consultation and action by a General Assembly Commission on Middle Governing Bodies. We will study Marriage and Civil Unions, a concern for all Presbyterians, but more urgent for ministers and churches in the 5 states and the District of Columbia where same-sex marriage is lawful. Finally, we will watch how a new study group carefully guides the church’s response to the ongoing strife in Israel and Palestine.

A couple of pleasures for me came in gatherings to celebrate the new name of my seminary, Union Presbyterian Seminary. I heard the very hopeful vision of the school and met with some great leaders from Union in Richmond and Charlotte. Union will soon celebrate its 200th anniversary. Another facet of the assembly was reunion with ministers and elders from across our denomination whom I have known for years but have not seen in a long time. It was also great to meet new friends with whom I served in this assembly. A real unexpected benefit in this assembly was the positive and thoughtful contribution of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates and Theological Student Advisory Delegates. I am inspired by their statements and their deep personal faith in Christ and their commitment to the church.

ADDENDUM JJ-2

The theme for the week was from John 7:38, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” Certainly, when so many believers gather in worship and service this is a profound truth in Scripture that is expressed in many ways. As the actions of this assembly begin to take shape in the church, I pray that God may grant the same spirit of honesty, mutual forbearance, compassion, patience and joy that was present among us in Minneapolis to guide us with Christ’s help to know the truth and to act with wisdom. Thanks be to God for all the commissioners to the 219th General Assembly, and especially for Annie Franklin our Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Maggie Lauterer, Carolyn Poteet, Heath Rada, Jackie Scott and Paula Wallace, our other commissioners. It was a joy and a privilege to serve with them.

ADDENDUM JJ-3

Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minister Commissioner Maggie Lauterer

July 27, 2010

My experience at General Assembly had a totally different angle from all but five other Commissioners at GA - that is, with your endorsement, I was one of six candidates for Moderator. That included months of preparation. That included a world of questions sent by four different publications, orientation in Louisville, preparation of the candidate booth and all the paraphernalia to be designed and ordered - what an undertaking!

In the end, however, I am still convinced that my standing for Moderator along with the other five was by design of the Holy Spirit - that all of our voices needed to be heard. In the end, Elder Cindy Bolbach of National Presbytery, the only Elder standing, was elected. She has proven she will be a fine Moderator, along with the Vice Moderator, Rev. Landon Whitsitt, a pastor from Missouri.

I must say thank you to the presbytery staff and commissioners who could not have been more helpful in the campaign. You would have been proud to see our presbytery represented so well. Your GP, Rev. Bobbi White, was a blessing from beginning to end, along with Rev. Charles and Betty Davenport, Stated Clerk Bert Sigmon, and Paula and Guy Wallace who made the booth come alive and welcoming.

I am thankful that I came in second after the first ballot, and thankful for the warm camaraderie the five candidates enjoyed, though we covered the theological spectrum. As conservative and liberal candidates agreed, "Why can't the church enjoy what we have together?"

My committee work in Ecumenical Relations' most watched work were the Christian-Jewish paper and the Christian-Muslim Relations paper. These took hours and hours of work. In the end, we discerned the papers should go back for more work since the voice of the 75 million Presbyterians in the Middle East were not a part of their writing.

As far as the experience of General Assembly, with hours and hours in our committees and then endless hours in Assembly, I am proud to be a member of the Presbyterian Church USA. We lived out our belief that the Holy Spirit's voice is splintered into a thousand voices and can only be heard if all are heard. There was great respect shown to every viewpoint and in the end, decisions were made in prayer and concern for the people in the pew back home.

Did I agree with every decision made? No. Do I believe we strove to hear the voice of Christ? Yes.

There are possibilities of changes for our denomination before us. Only the presbyteries can make that decision. I trust we will keep our ears and eyes open to the Holy Spirit as I watched the General Assembly do.

Thank you again to Rev. Riley Covin whoso graciously gave me the opportunity to serve as a candidate for Moderator - and to all of you who trusted me to serve as your voice on the floor of General Assembly. I have been mightily blessed.

ADDENDUM JJ-4

Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minister Commissioner Carolyn Poteet

July 27, 2010

I want to offer my sincere gratitude to the members of the presbytery of Western North Carolina for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your commissioner to the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA). I feel like I have now said “Carolyn-Poteet-Minister-Commissioner-from-Western-North-Carolina” so many times, it has become my new full name! It was an incredible experience to see God’s Church at work, in all of its diversity, complexity, passion, and dedication. And I can honestly say, I now know more about Robert’s Rules of Order than any of you would ever like to hear.

Two challenges you gave me during my commissioning stayed with me all during my time in Minneapolis – to go with an open mind and to vote my conscience as the Holy Spirit led. I went to Minneapolis thinking I had my mind made up about a lot of issues. On some of them, I saw consensus rise out of division and was able to change my vote. On others, I saw scriptural standards remain firm, and my conscience had to stay aligned with scripture.

I served on the Mission Coordination Committee, which oversees the General Assembly Mission Council and the GA Mission Budget. When we arrived, we had before us requests for well over \$2.5 million of new funds from the Mission Budget – a budget that is now *half* of what it had been ten years ago. Our whole committee was painfully aware that we were going to have to make very tough decisions about who got funded and who didn’t. Through three days of committee meetings, I watched opposite sides argue their passions. And then something special happened. Because they actually had to listen to each other – often for the first time ever – they began to talk to each other, and time and again, they came up with a consensus solution that undoubtedly cost far less than the original proposal. Several cost nothing at all. By the end of the week, our committee’s approved items had dropped from \$2.5 million to about \$350,000 over the next two years. This does include reinstating the Office of Collegiate Ministries and the headquarters support for Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association.

While we were finding consensus in our committee, the same thing was happening in many other committees. As our other commissioners can tell you, both the new Form of Government and Ecumenical committees dealt with most of their disputed issues. The most incredible evidence of consensus, though, goes to the Middle East Peace committee. By the end of the committee meetings, this group voted *unanimously* to approve the amended report. Even Former Vice President Walter Mondale blessed the report! During the Assembly, it passed 558/119.

The issues of ordination, marriage, and pensions were difficult for the WNC delegation, because we were divided. On Tuesday night, our delegation went to dinner together, and several of us were able to share the tears we brought with us from our congregations. My congregation weeps over these issues because we have already lost members over them, and because our church has split three times in the last few decades. We are doing all we can to be faithful and loyal to the PCUSA, but we find it harder and harder when we see the distance growing between our confessional standards and our actual practices. As I shared these tears, another commissioner shared with me the tears from his church, where his congregants came to him weeping over not feeling welcome and accepted in this denomination. I had the sense that in these tears, we are far closer to answers than we are in the midst of debates.

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The Assembly did vote to remove the fidelity and chastity language from our Book of Order, again. And once again, this will go back to our presbyteries for a vote – brace yourselves. One striking thing about this vote was that it was actually much closer than last time. Only 50 votes separated the two sides. I testified about how my vow as a single pastor to live in chastity had been an unexpected blessing in the life of my congregation, especially for women living in abusive situations, for widows, and for teenagers struggling with temptations.

The Civil Unions & Marriage committee had a fascinating outcome. The Special Committee on this issue had prayed for consensus for two years, but in the end, they had a majority report and a minority report. The majority report said there were many different opinions that needed to be considered, and the minority report said there were many different opinions, but the scriptural and confessional standards needed to be held in the highest authority. As the Assembly debated the two reports, they essentially got merged together, so now all churches will receive *both reports*. The consensus that the committee itself could not achieve, we discovered in the Assembly.

Following that vote by the Assembly, we prepared to vote on all the other overtures about changing the Book of Order standards about the definition of marriage, plus two authoritative interpretations about whether or not pastors could marry people with civil marriage licenses. But then a commissioner made a motion to answer all remaining business with the report itself. The report had called for two years of study on this issue, and he urged the assembly to spend those years studying, rather than taking action now which would eliminate time to study. Much discussion followed that motion, but it did pass – by a total of 24 votes. The vote came up for reconsideration the next morning, but assembly voted 60%-40% to let the decision stand and study the report for two years.

The final big issue of the Assembly concerned extending benefits to same-sex domestic partners through the Board of Pensions. The call for justice was the argument that won the day, but my conscience was more in line with the commissioner who pointed out that it is important to live out the standards we have agreed to in our constitution, even through our benefits package. Unfortunately, though, this is no longer the case. To offer these benefits will increase the BOP budget by 1%, or \$7million per year. This will be particularly hard on small churches who are already having a hard time paying a full-time pastor's salary. In my testimony to the assembly, I encouraged them to find a middle way. Churches wishing to provide insurance for non-ordained staff with domestic partners do already have alternative means, but small churches who already struggle to afford full-time pastors do not have alternative means. The possibility of a "relief of conscience" option was mentioned, but in private, a BOP official said that it was impossible to absolutely guarantee that funds would not be co-mingled. I did sign a formal protest about this decision, continuing to urge the BOP to find a middle way.

Another thing I learned during my time at GA was that we Presbyterians are very good at speaking for the voiceless, but we are not as good at listening to them. Several Hispanic, African-American, and Korean commissioners shared deep convictions from their own communities and said they were disappointed that these concerns were not being heard by the larger body. Two ecumenical delegates also spoke prophetically to us. The first, a representative of the African delegation, stood and prayed after we had voted in favor of changing G-6.0106b. Three times, he repeated the phrase, "Lord, forgive us for the ways we have offended you."

The most powerful ecumenical speaker was the Archpriest Siarhei Hardun, from the Orthodox Church of Belarus. He rose in black robes and a long beard, and we all laughed with delight when he said, "I bring greetings to the Reformed church, from the unreformed church." He offered a brief critique about

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our changing the Nicene creed 1000 years ago, but suddenly he began commenting on our debate on ordination:

I was really struck while listening to your discussion about homosexuality, same-sex marriage, civil unions and other moral issues. Christian morality is as old as Christianity itself. It doesn't need to be invented now. Those attempts to invent new morality look for me like attempts to invent a new religion – a sort of modern paganism. When people say that they are led and guided by the Holy Spirit to do it, I wonder if it is the same Spirit that inspired the Bible... My advice as an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate is the following: 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'" (Romans 12:2).

He spoke as a prophet to all of us. It is easy to confuse our own conscience, our own passions, with the heart of God and with the Spirit of God. May we all learn to discern better between the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God.

After all of you had commissioned us that day in February, I gave you a final challenge – "Pray for us!" I am forever grateful to all of you for your prayers, your support and the way we are bound together under one Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Elder Commissioner Heath Rada

July 27, 2010

Attending the 219th General Assembly of the PCUSA as an elder representative of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina was both a privilege and joy. This was my fifteenth General Assembly, but my first as a commissioner with voting privileges. Therefore, being allowed “on the floor,” especially with our seats on the first row, made the proceedings feel personal and somewhat intense.

The many options which were available to commissioners and others, outside of the plenary and committee meetings, were enlightening and uplifting. As always the worship experiences were meaningful, and in many ways exhilarating. From the opening strains of “ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING” to the final benediction of closing worship, we sang, we swayed to the music, we prayed, we valued scripture readings as interpreted through dance and art, and we worshiped with a sense of wholeness and unity as a denomination. The opening worship was remarkable in its use of art in the worship service. As we sang the opening hymn it was impressive to see the streamers, the paper animals which were twenty feet tall, and the people representing all parts of our culture and the world process into the worship hall. Of course having many thousand people singing together always moves me, and this time was no exception.

Speaking of worship, one of the meaningful parts of the assembly as a whole, was that each session was begun with worship which included time for prayers in small groups. Our delegation from WNC prayed together usually as a group. It was a time when we felt unity and shared love for Christ, and also for the Presbyterian Church.

Of course the election of the moderator was an exciting time. It always is, but this year, with our own Maggie Lauterer as one of the six candidates, it was especially so. Maggie represented our Presbytery well as her pastoral nature, and sincere interest and concern was evident in her speech as well as in her answers to difficult and somewhat unexpected questions. Her position as sixth person to answer questions was a definite handicap, but she handled herself with her usual grace. It was my privilege to nominate her, and to hear the many affirmations of Maggie throughout the rest of the week.

Our business was broad based and varied. This year there were nineteen committees, which was more than in past years. The reason for this was to decrease the numbers of people serving on committees since the large committees provide difficulty with logistics and participation. Even this year, many committees had 45 to 55 members, and the consensus seemed to be that that was too many people. However, I am not sure how the General Assembly Office will be able to add many more committees due to the time needed to report out in plenary sessions.

My job at the assembly was to moderate the Bills and Overtures Committees. It is a unique committee, as we did not deal with the issues before the assembly, but instead with those matters that make the assembly flow smoothly. New commissioner resolutions, protests and dissents, requests for circulation of literature to the commissioners, reviewing the minutes of the Assembly, visioning for future assemblies, and possibly most importantly, the development of the docket and the responsibility to keep it operating in a timely fashion, comprised the bulk of our work. In addition, our members were assigned to the various committees of the assembly in order to ascertain which items would require the most time

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on the docket, and to make sure the committees were flowing smoothly. In many ways, this committee has a “bird’s eye” view of the overall happenings. It is a hard working committee, but one that is rewarding and even at times exciting.

Issues coming before the assembly this year were expected to bring about fireworks, which was appropriate since we met over the Fourth of July. However, I found this to be the most congenial and non divisive assembly that I have ever attended. There was a spirit of cooperation, while at the same time there seemed to be informed and passionate callings for certain positions to be upheld or defeated. There were a number of issues which I believed to be the most provocative, though many others were also important and dealt with accordingly. The matters which seemed to bring about the greatest interest were:

Rewriting the Form of Government section of the Book of Order –

Middle Governing Bodies restructure

The Middle East Study report

Ordination of homosexuals

Same sex marriage or holy unions

The Belhar Confession

Various Social Justice Statements including:

gun violence, the economic crisis, environmental concerns, compensation justice, etc.

There were 124 overtures for consideration, and 13 commissioner resolutions in addition.

Among the many highlights of the Assembly was the commissioning of our new missionaries to go out into the world on our behalf in order to spread the “GOOD NEWS”. Announcements of major gifts to our world mission efforts were made at that gathering, and a sense of under girding our international mission work seemed prevalent.

Another new and interesting addition to this years assembly was the increased use of technology. We voted by electronic means, which minimized our voting time considerably. Each of us had a computer at our desk which was wired to a main circuit and enabled us to follow all the proceedings on line. This decreased a great deal of paperwork for commissioners. And committee moderators, like me, were provided with Blackberries (and were taught how to use them). Mine enabled me to be in constant contact with the stated clerk and the moderator, along with our committee assistants. This enabled me to be on top of matters when a change in the docket was needed, or some other matter was coming to the fore which needed direction by Bills and Overtures.

A protest on Friday was disruptive to the assembly. A group of gay and lesbian supporters (not related to our denomination) trespassed into the assembly hall, and marched up to the stage. Their point was that not enough support had been given to the issues on homosexuality, especially in the area of same sex marriages and holy unions. Because they were trespassing, and would not leave when asked, they were arrested and taken out of the assembly hall (which they did peacefully). Even those commissioners who sympathized with the demonstrator's position seemed frustrated and disappointed that this effort had extended the time for us to do the business at hand.

Finally, I would like to thank the Presbytery for this privilege. It was a joy to be with my fellow commissioners from the presbytery, as well as to participate in this important facet of our denomination's work.

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**219th General Assembly
Presbyterian Church USA
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 3 – July 10, 2010
Elder Commissioner Jackie Scott**

So many Presbyterians so little time! My very first glance at thousands of people being decent and in order was the 219th General Assembly. Truly we went to reflect the will of the people but first and foremost to seek and represent the will of Christ.

I arrived late Friday night and there was still someone waiting alone at the hotel to welcome me and give me guidance. I felt like I had arrived at home after a long business trip and was told to get good rest because I would surely need it. And so my duties were about to begin.

Early Saturday morning was registration day for me then off to the Riverside Conversations, which were pre-assembly workshops for Commissioners and Advisory Delegates. These were question and answer sessions directly with the task force committees. There was time to visit the exhibit hall where we were treated to a group dinner for orientation to the GA agencies before moving on to the first business meeting of the General Assembly. The election process of the Moderator was an interesting process. Our own Maggie Lauterer represented us well. Cynthia Bolbach promised jokingly, when she was asked by a YAAD what would happen if she did not win, she said, “Total chaos”. She held her own during the entire week of rivers of flowing water in the form of many tears by all attending the assembly.

The late nights of committee meetings were refreshed by each mornings worship services. This was the most organized event that I have ever attended anywhere. The hospitality will be hard to match anywhere. I am most grateful for the experience. My sincere gratitude goes to the Western North Carolina Presbytery for covering us with the whole Armour and chocolates too.

Truly Blessed,

Jackie Scott
Elder Commissioner
Green Street.

ADDENDUM JJ-10

Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Stated Clerk Bert Sigmon

July 27, 2010

The 219th General Assembly was my first General Assembly. It would be most accurate to say that this was an enlightening and, at the same time, mildly frustrating learning opportunity for me. Enlightening in that it covered the whole gamut of issues and challenges facing the church today; frustrating in that the stated clerks have neither voice nor vote at these meetings. Still, I enjoyed observing the process while silently imagining being in the position to form conclusions and make recommendations.

I was proud to serve in a small way by working at Maggie Lauterer's moderator candidate booth for several hours on Saturday. Many people from around the country accepted our invitation to introduce Maggie and to hear for themselves what she had to offer as the prospective Moderator. It was encouraging to see folks go very purposefully from one booth to the next, taking the time to find out more about each of the six candidates. While the process did not lead to the conclusion we had hoped for, it was a respectful and collegial campaign that ultimately led to the election of a fine moderator and vice moderator who navigated the complexities of the plenary meetings with considerable grace, humor and efficiency.

I spent significant time each day through Wednesday morning observing committee meetings, including the Middle Governing Bodies Issues, New Form of Government, Church Polity, and Civil Union and Marriage Issues committees. Then, beginning after lunch on Wednesday, I attended the bulk of the plenary sessions through Friday night.

Of the major issues before the commissioners, the one I had been most informed about prior to the assembly was the Form of Government Task Force Report ("new Form of Government" aka "nFOG"). To say the least, a proposal to rewrite the portion of the Book of Order that contains most of the "rules" that govern how we do things as a denomination was certainly daunting. Many people questioned the wisdom of such a sweeping matter. I compare it to proposals in the past to simplify the federal tax code – a very desirable goal that seems impossible to attain. Nevertheless, a substantial majority (more than 2/3) voted to accept and implement the task force's recommendations. From my own study and my observation of the committee discussions, I share the perception that this is a salutary proposal for change that in the years to come will speak to us more about what we can do in the furtherance of our ministries, and less about mandatory ways of accomplishing the goals of our ministries. Assuming that the proposal is ultimately adopted by the presbyteries, adjustments and accommodations will be necessary and it will take time to iron out the kinks, but in the long run I believe it will help us more than hurt us and I would urge the presbytery to support it.

There were, of course, some painfully difficult issues that were dealt with in committees and on the assembly floor. Unfortunately many of these have been reduced to inaccurate sound bites by the media that serve only to misinform and enflame members of the denomination. There are very helpful materials available from the General Assembly office that can assist in clarifying the information. At the same time, there are multiple sources of analysis and opinion (including, I suppose, the General Assembly office itself) that will impart a subtle or not so subtle slant on the information. I highly recommend reading from multiple sources for the sake of discerning a balance.

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I was surprised to see that despite the vast differences of opinion between individuals attending the assembly, everyone conducted themselves graciously and with obvious respect and forbearance. Ok, there was one moment of protest in the plenary hall when a band of disgruntled people marched through the hall with TV camera teams in tow. The commissioners and observers simply stood or sat silently while the procession made its way through the room, and then they returned to the business at hand. No fireworks, no shouting, no harm done. The protesters defeated their purpose.

The thing I most enjoyed about the assembly was the wonderful string of worship opportunities offered throughout the week. The variety of music, the blend of traditional and modern elements in the services, the integrity of the manner in which the word was shared, all led me to moments of deep reflection and closeness to the throng of believers who surrounded me. This was a very rich and encouraging experience and I am deeply grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend. I look forward to future assemblies.

Bert Sigmon

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Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Elder Commissioner Paula H. Wallace

July 27, 2010

The privilege to serve as a commissioner to the 219th General Assembly has been one of the most exciting and humbling experiences of my life and I would like to thank the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for this awesome opportunity and responsibility. Sharing some of my experiences while serving at General Assembly on your behalf will be a pleasure.

As I made preparations to attend General Assembly I received from my own church, across my cluster D, around our presbytery, and from over the country many cards, letters, and words of prayers and support. This reminded me that commissioners all over our General Assembly were being lifted up in prayers by Presbyterian churches everywhere—what a wonderful feeling to be a part of this church. The theme for our assembly was John 7:38 - *Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.* As the week progressed we truly felt and lived this theme in our hearts.

Since I was on the committee for the Form of Government Revision and it had such a huge agenda, we began our work with an eight-hour session on Friday, July 2, prior to the assembly convening on Saturday. It was at this first meeting that we prayed from The Book of Common Worship: *"Be with us, members of the General Assembly. Help us to welcome new things you are doing in the world, and to respect old things you keep and use. Save us from empty slogans or senseless controversy. In our deciding, determine what is good for us and for all people. As this General Assembly meets, let your Spirit rule, so that our church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ..."* With this prayer our committee began over three days of prayerfully studying issues, considering overtures, intently listening to concerns, referencing the Task Force and the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, amending words and/or sections of the proposed new Form of Government for our church. Finally on Tuesday afternoon, with a vote of 37-5, our committee sent the proposed Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Revised Form of Government to the full Assembly. What a feeling of accomplishment! I, along with many of my fellow committee members, had come to this work open to the will of the Holy Spirit, with minds not made up, willing to listen and discern.

Saturday morning dawned early with Riverside Conversations where commissioners had an opportunity to choose two 90-minute topics from the General Assembly smorgasbord in order to become better acquainted with the issues. I chose The Middle East Study Commission and the Civil Union and Christian Marriage Task Force Report. I learned from both presentations.

Saturday was exciting to officially open General Assembly and go through the process of electing a new moderator. Our own Maggie Lauterer from Burnsville First did an excellent job in her stand for moderator and we had fun meeting fellow commissioners while campaigning for Maggie. Cindy Bolbach, an elder and attorney, from National Capital Presbytery was elected from the six candidates on the fourth ballot late Saturday night.

The inspiring Sunday worship with thousands of people attending was a joy to behold! Music, dance, art, the first ever GA baptism and inspiring words of former moderator, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, preaching from Isaiah 64 gave added emphasis to the words we sang, *"All creatures of our God and King...lift up your voice and with us sing... 'Alleluia! Alleluia!'"*

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Wednesday was the very inspiring Ecumenical Service of Worship and Communion led by the Rev. Peg Chamberlin, Pres. of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. The songs of the Minnesota Boy Choir were very moving and spirit filled. The service was held in the beautiful Westminster Presbyterian Church. Wednesday was also the beginning of the plenary sessions of the General Assembly and the Belhar Confession passed its next step on the journey to becoming a part of the eleven creeds and confessions in our Book of Confessions, which has not had an addition in nearly thirty years. It now must receive a two-thirds vote of our presbyteries to be included. The work of correcting the translation problems of the Heidelberg Catechism was voted to continue and be completed by the 220th (2012) General Assembly. Linda Valentine was also unanimously accepted for a second four-year term to serve as executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council.

After dinner the event my committee had been waiting for was scheduled. When discussion ended, the General Assembly voted 468 to 204 to send the proposed Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and revised Form of Government to our 173 presbyteries, which will require a majority vote to replace our Book of Order. Moderator Bolbach called this a “monumental day for the church...to not just survive, but thrive.”

Thursday proved to be another soul searching day for the General Assembly. A 566-104 vote was taken to approve a 21-member middle governing body commission with authority to act on the Assembly's behalf in responding to realignment requests from presbyteries and synods. However, this commission can only act upon a majority affirmative vote of the affected presbyteries and/or synods. The assembly rejected overtures to eliminate synods or to create new synods based on theological affinity rather than geography.

By a narrow 50 vote margin (373-323-4) the fidelity-chastity ordination standard was sent back to the presbyteries for another season of debates and votes where a majority must approve it for a change in the Book of Order. Again there are local options where the installing governing bodies have the responsibility of determining if candidates meet the standards for office.

The afternoon session saw the report “Christians and Jews: People of God” referred back to the Office of Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship to rewrite after broader consultation. The report “Toward an Understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations” was approved as amended to be sent to the churches for study and guidance.

That evening the Assembly readied itself for another momentous debate on the definition of marriage. The Report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage was approved. Then an amendment was made to combine both the majority and minority reports from the special committee and this passed with a 70% majority. Next a motion was made from the floor that the action just taken would be the response to all overtures pending from Committee 12 on Civil Union and Marriage Issues. That motion passed 348 to 324. So our Book of Order definition of marriage does not change at this time.

Friday morning the GA approved the amended Middle East report “Breaking Down the Walls,” which spotlights the Israeli-Palestine conflict. A number of amendments the committee made aided the acceptability of the report. The Report of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment which called for all corporations doing business in Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank to confine their business activity solely to peaceful pursuits, etc. was passed by the assembly after debate and information on the investments of Caterpillar were discussed.

The assembly also called for the US to end direct combat operations in Afghanistan and increase humanitarian and economic development there; to end its use of seven military bases in Colombia;

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restoration of sustainable agriculture in Haiti; and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula and the reunification of North and South Korea.

The great hymns and songs of the church will forever ring in my heart as they were sung each day as we assembled in Minneapolis. I will forever remember the people doing the work of a church that is reformed and always reforming, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you again for this great opportunity to serve,

Paula Wallace, Elder Commissioner

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Report on the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

July 3-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Young Adult Advisory Delegate Annie Franklin

July 27, 2010

I served as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate for our wonderful Presbytery at this year's General Assembly. When I was first asked if I would like to attend General Assembly, I thought, "Cool, a trip to Minneapolis!" I never thought it would be one of the most moving and difficult experiences of my life. The worship services were amazing and the YAAD gatherings were phenomenal. I met so many new friends and even saw some familiar faces. It really is a small Presbyterian world.

As soon as I arrived at the hotel, I met four other YAADs. I was amazed at how easy it was to tell who were YAADs and who were just normal kids at the hotel. Once I arrived, I could tell that Minneapolis had been overrun with Presbyterians. All of us had on our classy nametag purses, and we looked good. It wasn't long before we figured out that you couldn't go anywhere in the convention center without our handy dandy nametags.

Before plenary, everyone met with their respective committees. My committee, church orders and ministry, decided to meet in a different way. Instead of sitting with all of us in rows facing the front, we sat at 6 different round tables. Because of this set up, I felt like I was really able to get to know the people sitting at my table and I was also comfortable talking with them about the touchy subjects we were asked to deal with. During committee meetings, I was challenged, reassured, and questioned on where I stood with the different issues. There were many times when we would be given a small break and I just wanted to leave the room and cry because I could see and understand all perspectives but I was not sure which perspective made the most sense to me. I heard some 70 people talk and each one of those people was just as passionate about the issue as the person before and after them. This made making a decision hard because I could see either way being successful at first. I had to do a lot of praying and listening before I was ready to make a decision.

After each day, all of the YAADs would get together and debrief about the day. We had an opportunity to talk with one another about some of the things that bothered us throughout the day, and some of the things that made us smile too. During these gatherings, we decided that it would not be a bad idea to do a few energizers before we got too deep because it was always late and we were tired. To my astonishment, most people in the room did not know what an energizer was. I was shocked. I was also amazed to learn that there were so many more than the ones that I knew. I think my favorite memory from GA is when 10 other YAADs and I stayed up later than we should have learning and doing energizers with people from all over the country. It was great to bond over silly dance moves and funny faces.

While I was in Minneapolis, I came across many different accents and was even complimented on my own. I say this because it was amazing to see Presbyterians from all across the country come together in order to make our church more like the church that God wants it to be. The people that I met are people that I hope to keep in touch with now that we have all gone our own separate ways and paths. I learned to always have an open mind and to be ready to listen to everyone's viewpoint before coming to any conclusions. I am glad I was able to go to General Assembly as the YAAD from our presbytery. I would strongly recommend this experience.

ADDENDUM - BOARD OF PENSIONS

Western North Carolina Presbytery Meeting

Board of Pensions Updates

July 27, 2010

I'm Helen Locklear, Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions and clergy member of Coastal Carolina. Thank you for allowing a few moments to share a sampling of updates and highlights from the Board of Pensions.

The Benefits Plan remains secure

Despite the economic challenges over the past two years, our Board of Pension's Balanced Investment Portfolio is on the rebound. In a recent report, Rob Maggs, (CEO) reported that "that our financial conditions remain strong, and we were very fortunate not to have suffered the duress encountered by many organizations during the serious recession of 2008-09. Returns for the year end were 26.2% with a market value of \$6.5B. **Experienced Apportionments-** However, although reserves for the Pension Plan improved significantly in 2009, they have not reached the Funding Adequacy Level of 125% (year end - 118%) as specified by the experience apportionment policy. Therefore the BoP Directors determined that it was prudent to continue to strengthen those reserves before granting another experience apportionment.

The 2009 Investment Report is available on the www.pensions.org

Healthcare Reform

In March President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R.3590) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (H.R. 4872) into law. The core objectives of these programs are to provide coverage to millions of uninsured individuals while taking steps to control soaring healthcare costs. Detailed provisions included such things as eliminating pre-existing condition provisions, dependent coverage to adult children, expanding Medicare, and eliminating annual and lifetime benefit maximums.

Working through the Church Alliance (a coalition of church pension board executives), our consultants, and other industry groups, the Board of Pensions is closely assessing the potential impact on the Medical Plan, our members, and all employing organizations our plan serves. Employer-based coverage such as church plans may have later effective dates than insured plans. As changes are implemented, they will be communicated to all our Plan members. The Board will be posting on Pensions.org summaries and FAQ's as they are developed by our internal and external experts.

ADDENDUM - BOARD OF PENSIONS

PowerPoint Presentation

Slide 1 - Board of Pensions introduces Active Health

As you will recall beginning January of 2010 the Board introduced ActiveHealth Management, our new health management partner. ActiveHealth provides a full spectrum for ACTIVE MEMBERS of the medical plan. These include pre-certification, the 24 hour nurse line, disease management, complex medical case management, and the Personal Health Record. We're thrilled to be working with ActiveHealth. This integrated system provides all your health information to the right person at the right time; and it's shaped by the decisions that we make and the behaviors that we chose every day...

Slide 2 - \$100 Health Stewardship Incentive

To demonstrate our commitment to preventive care, the Board has recently launched a \$100 Health Stewardship Incentive to encourage you to get started. The \$100 incentive will be in the form of a prepaid debit MasterCard card that can be used for IRS tax-qualified healthcare expenses. The debit card enables the Board to give you this benefit on a tax-free basis. Please note, the \$100 incentive is only available to the primary active member of the medical plan; the incentive is not available to spouses, children or to retirees on the Medicare Supplement program.

Slide 3 - \$100 Health Stewardship Incentive

You can achieve the \$100 Health Stewardship Incentive by following 3 easy steps before July 31, 2010:

1. Log in to MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa
2. Complete the Health Assessment
3. Sign in an additional 2 times on different days.

It's that easy! You can expect to receive your card within 3 weeks of completing these 3 steps.

Slide 4 - My ActiveHealth Sign-In Page

To get started, just go to www.MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa

The first time you visit this page, you will need to "Create an Account."

- You will be asked to provide some basic information that will establish your identity.
- Enter your name exactly as it appears on your Highmark ID card.

Even before you log in, please know this site is a *private, secure and totally confidential site*; you control access to the site. No one can see this information unless you give them access. The Board can't see it; your employer can't see it.

ADDENDUM - BOARD OF PENSIONS

Slide 5 - My ActiveHealth Home Page

This is where you will see your personal information as well as information about any of your dependent children under age 18. For instance, this sample member has a daughter, Alexandra, using the two taps located on the upper left hand side, the member can view see all of Alexandra's personal health information as well as her own. In addition, on the home page you can:

- Determine your personal goals,
- view your suggested Health Actions,
- access important Health Links,
- review and update the Health Assessment, and
- Access your Personal Health Record.
-

Slide 6 - Personal Health Record Screen

The Personal Health Record is where you can see all your medical history for the last 3 years. The Personal Health Record displays and organizes your medications, tests and procedures, immunizations, hospital visits, conditions, and allergies. You can also add information about over-the counter medications or vitamins/supplements you may be taking.

Slide 7 -Longitudinal Medical Records

Each time you login, the Personal Health Record is automatically pre-populated with the latest medical claims from Highmark, pharmacy claims from Express Scripts, and any out-patient lab results that were conducted at Quest Labs....

Slide 8 - Integrated Care System

...thus, creating an Integrated Care System containing all your health information in one location. What's more, doctors and nurses will be continuously reviewing your data to identify potential health risk issues. Physician will provide feedback, while a nurse will be assigned to provide follow-up with you, if necessary. Although it isn't mandated that you work with the assigned nurse, be assured they are very helpful and will work around your schedule.

Slide 9 - Health Assessement

The Health Assessment is also integrated into your Personal Health Record; it is found on the homepage. As a reminder in order to qualify for the \$100 incentive, you need to complete the Health Assessment by July 31st. It only takes about 15 minutes. Once you've

ADDENDUM - BOARD OF PENSIONS

completed the Health Assessment, it will generate your health report and offer suggested health actions.

Slide 10 - Health Actions

From the claims data in the system and from the information you provide during the health assessment, certain actions which you can take to help yourself, called Health Actions, will be recommended. Once you complete a health action, you will see an increase in your score. This sample Member's score is 65%.

Health actions are designed to identify health improvements suggestions, and to provide reasonable steps to make those improvements.

Slide 11 - Conditions - Specific Page

In the Conditions Center, there is also helpful information about your specific health conditions. This sample page shows the member information about how to manage her asthma condition and gives her links to some additional resources about asthma.

Slide 12 - It Starts with you

In Closing,

All of us at the Board urge you to get started on the path to better health! We hope you will take advantage of all that the MyActiveHealth site has to offer and that each of us makes a real commitment to better manage our health and the health of our families.

Slide 13 - Get Started Today

To get started on your path, please visit: www.MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa

If you have any questions about any of the information shared, please see me, I will be available during the lunch break; please call the Board at 800-773-7752; or visit www.pensions.org/healthmanagement

2010 ASSEMBLY IN BRIEF

Writer/Editor: Jerry L.
Van Marter

Designer: Sue Poss
Publisher: Office of the
General Assembly

With special thanks
to the reporting and
photography staff of
the General Assembly
Communications
Center

*More General Assembly
news and photos
available at
pcusa.org/ga219*

Thanks to host
presbyteries Twin
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Waters.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Office of the General Assembly
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

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Photo by Danny Bolin

The plenary hall at the 219th General Assembly (2010)
at the Minneapolis Convention Center



Photo by Tony Oltmann

Elder Jay Bender
of Coastal Carolina
Presbytery spoke
at Thursday's press
conference on social
justice issues.



ASSEMBLY in brief 2010

July 3-10 • Minneapolis, Minnesota • PC(USA)

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.

With an unusually large number of contentious issues on the agenda, the 219th General Assembly (2010)—with the theme “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38)—could have been a stormy crossing. That it wasn’t is a tribute to the spirit of civility and unity that predominated among the 712 commissioners and 200 advisory delegates who diligently adhered to their commissions “to discern the mind of Christ.”

They were also well-served by two calm and competent leaders—Moderator Cynthia Bolbach and Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons. While no Assembly produces consensus on many issues, the 219th General Assembly demonstrated Presbyterian governance at its best—elders, ministers and advisers worshipping, laughing, praying, singing, studying, debating and navigating potentially treacherous waters together to seek the best way forward for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Bolbach, an elder from National Capital Presbytery, was elected moderator opening night (July 3) on the fourth ballot. She was the only elder in the field of six candidates. Bolbach employed brief answers and a winsome sense of humor to steadily gain ground, rising from 149 votes (30%) of the votes on the first ballot to 325 votes (53%) on the decisive fourth ballot. None of the other five candidates—the Rev. Julia Leeth of Santa Barbara Presbytery, the Rev. James Belle of Philadelphia Presbytery, the Rev. Maggie Lauterer of Western North Carolina Presbytery, the Rev. Eric Nielsen of Northern Waters Presbytery,

and the Rev. Jin S. Kim of host Twin Cities Area Presbytery—exceeded 23% of the vote on any ballot.

Bolbach’s running mate for vice-moderator, the Rev. Landon Whitsitt, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Liberty, MO (Heartland Presbytery) was installed later in the week.



Moderator
Cynthia
Bolbach

Middle East peace



Photo by Danny Bolin

The Rev. Karen Dimon was moderator of the Assembly Committee on Middle East Peacemaking Issues.

2

The Assembly voted 558–119 (82%–17%) to approve “Breaking Down the Walls,” the report from the Assembly’s Middle East Study Committee. The amended report, which was hotly debated in the days leading up to the Assembly, affirms Israel’s right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders and commends for study “A Moment of Truth”—a statement by Palestinian Christian leaders that emphasizes hope for liberation, nonviolence, love of enemy and reconciliation. It also calls for the Israeli and Egyptian governments to limit their blockade of Gaza solely to military equipment and authorizes a seven-member Monitoring Group on the Middle East to assist with implementation of the church’s policy in the region. The Assembly deleted two historical analysis sections—by Palestinian Christians and a “Liberal Zionist”—from the 172-page report and ordered their replacement with “a series of eight narratives” arising from the range of “authentically” Palestinian Christian, Muslim and Israeli perspectives.

The Assembly voted 529–135 to refer a theological paper on the relationship between Christians and Jews back to the offices of Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship for revision. Opponents of the paper—“Christians and Jews: People of God”—argued that the paper is flawed because Palestinian Christians were not included in its development. A paper on Christian-Muslim relations that calls for greater dialogue, understanding and cooperation between Christians and Muslims was adopted 548–29.



Photo by Danny Bolin

The auditorium was filled with joyful noise during the opening worship on Sunday morning.



Photo by Tony Oltmann

Minister Commissioner Calvin Gittner using his iPhone during the Church and Social Media gathering on Wednesday.

Elder Cynthia (Cindy) Bolbach, Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at the Moderator’s Reception.



Photo by Danny Bolin



Photo by Tony Oltmann

Ally Poole, a Young Adult Advisory Delegate, leads the plenary session in an energizer.



YAAD Beatrix Weil asks a question from the plenary floor.

Photo by Danny Bolin

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Andrew Murray Award (Presbyterian Voices for Justice): Ann and Manley Olson of Falcon Heights, MN, for their longtime justice advocacy work.

Community Transformation Award (Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation): Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO), a ministry of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Breaking the Silence Award (Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network): LACASA, a domestic violence ministry related to First Presbyterian Church, Brighton, MI.

Faith in Action Award (Presbyterian AIDS Network): Red Ribbon Fellowship, a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, NJ.

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John R. Thomas Award (Presbyterian Association of Specialized Pastoral Ministries): San Francisco Theological Seminary, home to the Shaw Family Chair for Clinical Pastoral Education, the only endowed CPE chair in the world.

Whole Gospel Congregation Award (Presbyterian Voices for Justice): Kwanzaa Community Church in Minneapolis, for its commitment to justice in church and society.

Nancy Jennings Award (Presbyterians for Disability Concerns): The Rev. David E. Young, for his work with The Arc of Midland, which promotes the welfare of and participation in church and society by persons with developmental disabilities in Midland, MI. C. Lynn Cox, from Presbyterians for Disability Concerns, presented the award.



The Rev. Yena Hwang, Chair of Korean American Presbyterian Clergy Women, was a co-celebrant for Communion during Sunday worship.

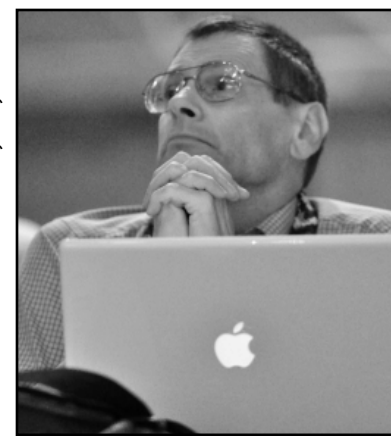
Ordination standards

The Assembly voted 373–323 (53%–46%) to delete the current G-6.0106b from the *Book of Order* that requires “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness,” and replace it with language reading: “*Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*”

The 2008 Assembly sent a similar measure to the 173 presbyteries. It was narrowly defeated. This will be the fourth time proposed amendments to G-6.0106b have been submitted to the presbyteries since the provision was placed in the PC(USA)’s *Book of Order* following the 208th General Assembly (1996).



The General Assembly Mission Council’s display “Mission Experience, Experience Mission” was a big attraction in the exhibit hall.



David Hampton, a Minister Commissioner from the Cascades, watches the business of the plenary session on Thursday.

Civil unions and Christian marriage

The Assembly voted to maintain the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s current definition of marriage as "between a man and a woman." In voting 439–208 to approve the report of its Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage, the Assembly turned back several overtures seeking to change the constitutional definition of marriage in the Directory for Worship to "two people."

The report calls for further discussion of issues around the church's understanding of marriage and same-sex unions and the development of resources that will help guide presbyteries, sessions and ministers, particularly in states that have legalized gay marriage. The Assembly also voted to send to the churches a minority report that defends what its supporters call a more "traditionalist" stance against any sexual relations outside heterosexual marriage.

The Assembly voted 366–287 to urge the Board of Pensions to extend the same spousal and dependent benefits to same-gender domestic partners as it does to married plan members. It also approved an increase in BOP pension dues of up to 1 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2012, to cover the cost of the additional benefits. To address concerns that the added benefit would create a moral dilemma for some church employers, the resolution includes a provision urging the BOP to create a "relief of conscience" fund to segregate dues of employers who are conscientiously opposed to same-gender benefits. The Board has a similar provision for employers who object to their dues being used to pay for abortion procedures.

Photo by Danny Bolin



The Rev. Rick Nutt, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Civil Union and Marriage Issues, confers with committee assistant the Rev. Carol McDonald and resource coordinator the Rev. Vernon Broyles.

An oversized Bible was a fun part of the GAMC "Mission Experience, Experience Mission," display in the exhibit hall.

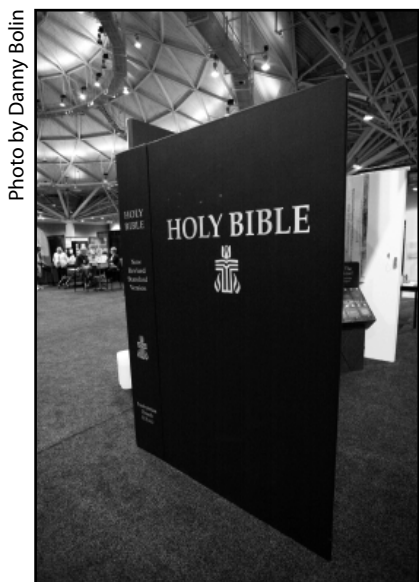


Photo by Danny Bolin

Peace-Seeker Award (Presbyterian Peace Fellowship): Bill Galvin and Mel Duncan (pictured together at right).

William Gibson Award (Presbyterians for Earth Care): The Rev. Robert L. Stivers of Tacoma, WA, a pioneer in Christian environmental ethics; and the Rev. Kristina Peterson, pastor of Bayou Blue First Presbyterian Church in Gray, LA.



Photo by Danny Bolin

Outstanding More Light Church (More Light Presbyterians): St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Wayzata, MN.

David Sindt Leadership Award (More Light Presbyterians): The Rev. Jean Southard, Mansfield, Mass. (pictured at right).



Photo by Danny Bolin

Ernest Trice Thompson Award (Presbyterian Outlook Foundation): The Rev. Syngman Rhee, a native of North Korea, who has worked tirelessly for ecumenical understanding, Presbyterian world mission and the peaceful reunification of North and South Korea.



Photo by Tony Oltmann

Restoring Creation Award (Presbyterians for Earth Care): North Como Presbyterian Church, Roseville, MN.



Photo by Danny Bolin

David Hancock Award (Presbyterians for Addiction Action): Susan Koll, chairwoman of Faith Partners in St. Paul, MN, a network of more than 300 faith groups addressing addiction prevention and treatment around the country. The Rev. Nancy K. Troy, above left, presented the award at the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA) luncheon.

Awards

Women of Faith Awards: Elder Joyce Uyeda, Parkview Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA, and moderator of Ethnic Concerns Consultation; the Rev. Elizabeth Knott, retired executive of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest and founder of Pal Craftaid, which helps Palestinians find markets for their olive wood and needlework crafts; Elder Elona Street-Stewart, associate executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and a leading advocate for racial justice, peace and equal opportunity; and the Rev. Margaret Howland, the 12th woman ordained to the ministry in the Presbyterian Church and pastor emeritus of South Presbyterian Church in Yonkers, NY.



Elder Elona Street-Stewart



The Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) B. Knott



The Rev. Margaret (Peggy) Howland



The Rev. Joyce Uyeda

Photos by Danny Bolin

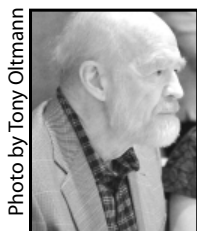


Photo by Tony Oltmann

David Steele Distinguished Writer Award (Presbyterian Writers Guild): The Rev. Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message* version of the Bible and other works

Lifetime Achievement Award (Presbyterian Writers Guild): Presbyterian poet Ann Weems.

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Jim Angell Award (Presbyterian Writers Guild): Rebecca Barnes-Davies for her book, *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Church Can Help Make a Difference*, chosen 2009's best first book by a Presbyterian writer



Photo by Tony Oltmann

Excellence in Theological Education Award (Committee on Theological Education): Elder Barbara Wheeler, recently retired president of Auburn Theological Seminary and founder of the Center for the Study of Theological Education

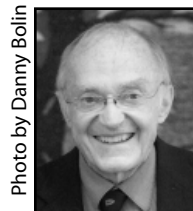


Photo by Danny Bolin

God and Service Award (National Association of Presbyterian Scouters): Dave Moore, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis.

Governance

The Assembly voted 468–204 to approve a massive revision of the Form of Government that has been worked and reworked over the last four years. The Form of Government has been amended more than 300 times since it was adopted in 1983 at Presbyterian reunion. The revisions are intended to make it less regulatory and more missional. Assembly Committee on Form of Government Revision moderator Tim Beal of Baltimore Presbytery said the new Form of Government is “clear about standards but allows flexibility for councils (governing bodies) to best determine how to express those standards.” The revision now goes to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes.

The Assembly voted 566–104 to create a 21-member middle governing body commission with authority to act on the Assembly's behalf in responding to realignment requests from synods and presbyteries. In response to concerns that the commission might be able to act unilaterally to change synod and presbytery structures, the Assembly adopted an amendment that makes explicit that the commission can only act “upon a majority affirmative vote of the affected presbytery or presbyteries or a majority affirmative vote of the presbyteries in the affected synod or synods.” The Assembly's action also requires that all decisions of the commission be approved by a two-thirds majority.

Also assigned to the new commission is supervision of the work of the Assembly's Special Committee on Administrative Review of the Synod of Boriquen in Puerto Rico and Its Constituent Presbyteries. The special committee, appointed by the 2008 Assembly, reported that the synod “is rife with power struggles among individuals, groups, and the middle governing bodies of the synod . . . that undermine the ability of the church in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to focus on Christ's Great Commission.”



Photo by Dennis Sanders

Phyllis Tickle, founding editor of the religion department at Publishers Weekly and author of *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, was the guest speaker at several special events during the Assembly.

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Photo by Kim Coulter

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Debby Applegate was on hand to sign her books sold at the Cokesbury booth in the GA Exhibit Hall on Tuesday afternoon. She was the guest speaker earlier in the day for the Presbyterian Historical Society's Luncheon.



Attendees
at the World
Mission
Commissioning
Service
Thursday at the
2010 General
Assembly

Photo by Danny Bolin

Doctrinal statements

By a voice vote, the Assembly voted to continue work on correcting “incomplete and insufficient” translation of the Heidelberg Catechism from the original German into English in cooperation with the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America. Those denominations are working on similar corrective translations of five questions in the catechism.

The Assembly voted 525—150 to send the Belhar Confession to the presbyteries for their votes to include it as the 12th doctrinal statement in the denomination’s *Book of Confessions*. The Belhar Confession was developed in the mid-1980s by the South African churches as their theological response to the racism of apartheid. The confession is valuable, proponents say, because it seeks to address issues of racial justice and reconciliation that are still relevant today.

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Photo by Danny Bolin

Linda Valentine, Executive
Director of the General Assembly
Mission Council

Leaders

The Assembly confirmed the General Assembly Mission Council’s election of elder Linda Valentine to a second four-year term as executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council; the Rev. Tom Taylor as president of the Presbyterian Foundation; the Rev. Stephen A. Hayner as president of Columbia Theological Seminary; the Rev. Michael Jenkins as president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and the Rev. Paul T. Roberts as president and dean of Johnson C. Smith Seminary in Atlanta.



Photo by Danny Bolin

“Having just crossed the Red Sea, the Israelites must have wondered, ‘What has God planned?’ Then Miriam stands up with a tambourine in hand and begins to sing. Her song reminds the people of their God, who delivered them from slavery. It creates a path into that unknown wilderness ahead.”

—2010 seminary graduate Taylor Lewis Guthrie

Many of the women of
the Kenyan Fellowship
Choir, St. Paul, MN.,
wore traditional African
clothing as part of
worship on Thursday.



Photo by Danny Bolin



Photo by Danny Bolin

“If you have been baptized in the waters of baptism, then you are part of one body, and we are family. It’s not anything we do or do not do. We associate with each other not because we like each other, although sometimes we do. We come together because we are related.”

—The Rev. Peg Chamberlin, president of the
National Council of Churches



Photo by Danny Bolin

“Storms are scariest in the middle. Often in the middle is when that question ‘Where is your faith?’ is asked. It’s in the middle when we are not where we used to be and don’t know where we’re going that it’s really very scary. Jesus’ words? ‘Get in the boat, go across the lake, there will be a storm, you will not die.’”

—General Assembly Stated Clerk
the Rev. Gradye Parsons

Worship

Photo by Danny Bolin



Participants at Tuesday morning worship

“We say to a generation of people every day, by the ways that we engage in church and community, ‘I don’t care about your needs or yearnings. I sort of like this mountain I’m living on.’”

—The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008)

Photo by Danny Bolin



10

Photo by Danny Bolin



“All water comes from the same source: God. The church now is made up of small bodies of water separated by theological beliefs. If we are able to become one body of water, we will be able to nourish the world. If that water is contaminated by dividing agendas and judgments, then we are not able to give life to the world.”

—The Rev. Ruth-Aimee Belonni-Rosario, associate director of admissions at Princeton Theological Seminary

“Imagine how many souls could be won if we praised God both in season and out. Imagine if our demeanor matched our doctrine. Imagine bringing the whole world to the living water poured out for them.”

—College student Hakeem Jerome Jefferson of Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Mayesville, SC

Photo by Danny Bolin



‘Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide’

The Assembly voted to renew for two more years a denomination-wide church growth emphasis titled “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide.” The emphasis was first adopted by the 2008 General Assembly and encourages congregations to grow in four areas: evangelism, discipleship, servanthood and diversity.

The Assembly honored eight retiring overseas missionaries who have served the PC(USA) for more than 20 years: the Revs. Dan and Carol Chou Adams, 36 years in Taiwan and the Republic of Korea; Scott Smith (32 years) and Melanie Smith (30 years) in Bangladesh, Nepal and India; Virginia Gartrell, 28 years in Brazil; the Rev. Thomas and Carol Hastings, 20 years in Japan; and Kathryn Hoffman, 20 years in India.



Photo by Danny Bolin

The World Mission Commissioning Service included recognition of PC(USA) mission co-workers who have 20 or more years of mission service.

Minister Commissioner Beth Braxton and Festus Gitonga, an Ecumenical Representative from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, have a heartfelt conversation during the Simple Meal on Monday.



Photo by Tony Oltnann



Photo by Tony Oltmann

Steve Hayner, President of Columbia Seminary, was the guest speaker at the Evangelism Breakfast on Thursday.

Julia Glasgow, 9, of Junction City, KS, and her sister Hannah, 11, at the Assembly.



Photo by Danny Bolin

Social justice

The Assembly voted 420–205 to “refrain from holding national meetings in states where travel by immigrant Presbyterians or Presbyterians of color might subject them to harassment or racial profiling.” The action came in light of a recently enacted Arizona law that many feel unfairly targets Hispanic Americans.

The Assembly also approved recommendations calling for:

- An immediate moratorium on all executions in the United States;
- Establishing a theological wetlands education center in the Presbytery of South Louisiana;

• The church at every level to become informed and active in preventing gun violence;

• Increased attention to human rights, particularly in the areas of human trafficking, detention of immigrants and the continuing problem of torture;

• The PC(USA) to become “an HIV and AIDS competent church,” including encouraging all Presbyterians, especially ministers, to be tested to help eliminate the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS testing;

• Reaffirmation of the PC(USA)’s longstanding commitment to public education and equal educational opportunity for all children;

• Renewed efforts to combat violence against women and children along the U.S.-Mexico border;

• A General Assembly Mission Council-led review of compensation policies in the agencies of the church in light of the 14 compensation principles adopted by the 2001 General Assembly; and a study that assesses the long-term implications of current economic trends in the United States and their impacts on the church.



Judy Maul and Carole Killpatrick were two of hundreds of local volunteers who worked with the Committee on Local Arrangements to host the 219th Assembly.

Vice Moderator the Rev. Landon Whitsitt



Photo by Danny Bolin



Photo by Danny Bolin

Assembly assistant Laura Cheifetz takes a break from a hectic round of activity Monday afternoon.

International peacemaking

The Assembly called for the U.S. government to end direct combat operations in Afghanistan, the first time since the war began in 2001 that the Assembly has issued such a call. The action also calls for the United States to increase humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan.

On a broader front, the Assembly authorized a denominational study to consider new thinking and approaches to peacemaking and nonviolence, building on the PC(USA)’s 1980 statement “Peacemaking: The Believers’ Calling.”

In other action related to peacemaking the Assembly called for:

- The United States to end use of seven military bases in Colombia;
- The peaceful reunification of North and South Korea;
- Prayers and advocacy to end violence and warfare in Sudan;
- Restoration of sustainable agriculture in Haiti;
- Restoration of democracy in Madagascar; and
- The protection of religious minorities around the world.



Photo by Rachel Van Marter



Photo by Danny Bolin

Caroline Sherard and Michael East were elected co-moderators of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the 219th General Assembly.