

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**  
**Mrs. Patricia Clark, Chair**  
**April 30, 2013**

The Administrative Board of the Presbytery makes the following recommendations:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>CA</b> | <p><b>1. THAT the Presbytery elect the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee:</b><br/>                 Rev. Melissa Upchurch (Marshall)                      B                      Class of 2015<br/>                 Mr. Marvin Chambers (Kenilworth)                      B                      Class of 2015</p>  |
| <b>CA</b> | <p><b>2. THAT Rev. Eddie Deas be elected to serve as a commissioner to Synod, for a three year term (2013-2015), beginning in January of 2013. (Martha Rockett is our other commissioner.)</b></p>  |
| <b>CA</b> | <p><b>3. THAT the Presbytery receive with appreciation the final report from the Presbytery’s Montreat Team. (Administrative Board Attachment 1)</b></p>  |
|           | <p><b>4. THAT the Administrative Board recommends that the Presbytery of Western North Carolina endorse Dr. Heath Rada as a candidate to be Moderator of the 221<sup>st</sup> (2014) General Assembly and serving the PCUSA for the next two years. (For Information - Dr. Heath Rada has been endorsed by the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville. Additional information on Dr. Rada can be found on COM Attachment 3.)</b></p> |

**FOR INFORMATION:**

- 5. THAT the Administrative Board reviewed and approved the following grant applications.**
- Visionary Grants (Synod)**
    - Spiritual Renewal
    - Renovations of Office Space
  - Walton Grant (Presbyterian Mission Agency)**
    - New Vision
  - Other Grants (Synod - Small Church Grant Fund)**
    - Dulatown Presbyterian Church
    - First Presbyterian Church, Bryson City
- 6. THAT the Administrative Board endorsed a grant request from Grandfather Home for Children that will be submitted to the Presbyterian Women.**
- 7. THAT the presentation on the Heidelberg Catechism at the February 9, 2013 Presbytery meeting is on the Presbytery website and will be included in the April 30, 2013 packet. (Administrative Board Attachment 2)**
- 8. THAT a copy of the Proposed Amendment of the Heidelberg Catechism to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), approved by the 220th General Assembly, was distributed at the October 2012 Presbytery Meeting, and can also be**

downloaded from the PCUSA website:

**Heidelberg Catechism - Part 1 of 2** *(to be voted on April 30, 2013)*

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga220-proposed-amendments-constitution-part-1-2/>

<http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/heidelberg-compare-2012.pdf>

9. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
  
10. **THAT the following dates have been set for Youth Events in 2013:**  
 July 16-20, 2013 ~ Presbyterian Youth Triennium  
 (The Presbytery has a bus going with approximately 46 youth from 16 churches, many from our smaller membership churches.)
  
11. **THAT a training event for Adults and Youth, "Let's Celebrate," will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church, Morganton. The emphasis of this event will be: Youth, Evangelism, Building Relationships and Partnerships to Strengthen Congregations To Be Faithful and Vital Witnesses to Jesus Christ. Keynote speakers will be Rev. Stephen Wilde, pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, CA, and Rev. Marshall Nord, serving in a validated ministry at Reverence Pictures Media, as a Media Evangelist.**
  
12. **THAT the Administrative Board will welcome invitations from churches or institutions willing to host Presbytery meetings in 2014 and 2015.**
  
13. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2013 and 2014 Presbytery Meetings:**  
**2013**  
 April 30, 2013 ~ Montreat Conference Center  
 July 30, 2013 ~ Grandfather Home for Children  
 October 26, 2013 ~ Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
  
**2014**  
 January 25, 2014~ Columbus Presbyterian Church  
 April 29, 2014 ~ Montreat Conference Center  
 July 29, 2014 ~ TBA  
 October 25, 2014 ~ TBA
  
14. **THAT the Small Membership Church Committee reported on the meetings held with the Presbyterian Foundation for small membership churches. They encouraged all small membership churches to attend one of the next scheduled sessions that will be held on May 14th and May 16th.**  
 May 14, 2013 - New Vision, Conover (8:00 a.m.)  
 May 14, 2013 - West Avenue, Gastonia (12:30 p.m.)  
 May 16, 2013 - Spruce Pine, First (8:30 a.m.)  
 May 16, 2014 - Westminster, Asheville (12:30)

# **ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ATTACHMENT 1**

## **Final Report from Presbytery's Montreat Team April 2, 2013**

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina's Montreat Team would like to report on two items that we have worked on since January of 2013 and that we believe will finalize our work with the Christ Community Church (formerly Montreat Presbyterian EPC Congregation).

First, we received an offer of an early payoff from the Session of Christ Community Church at a \$40,000 discount. That is, they offered to pay us a lump sum now of \$160,000 rather than the remaining \$200,000 as stated in the original negotiated settlement. (Please note: We have already received the first payment of \$100,000 of the \$300,000 total, leaving the remaining \$200,000 to be paid over the next 4 years.) In exchange for our receiving this discounted lump sum, we were asked to release them from the "Restrictive Covenant, Right of First Refusal, and Negative Pledge Agreement" that had been a critical part of our negotiations. After careful consideration and in consultation with our attorneys, the Montreat Team decided to politely decline their offer.

Second, with the assistance of Attorney and Elder Mike Begley of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, we have drawn up a deed transferring title of the property (previously held in trust for the PCUSA) to the Christ Community Church. This deed will be filed with the Clerk of Court of Buncombe County.

It has been an honor for all of us on the Montreat Team to serve our Presbytery and now, with deep gratitude to God, see this matter to its conclusion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Scofield, Chair

# Administrative Board Attachment 2

## Presentation on Heidelberg Catechism January 2013

### Western North Carolina Presbytery

#### Outline:

Introduction - story of need, can we find the same help in a document that is 450 years old?

Wide acceptance, origin, peace

Particular issues with translation

New translation by RCA, CRCNA, PCUSA & it will include Biblical citations following each Ques. linking our theology to Scripture as we study. These citations are from the original 1563 German and Latin editions.

Chief characteristics

Short story pointing to the law as thanksgiving. Encourage to study, preach, use in worship this year and to give serious consideration between now and April Presbytery meeting. Resources – Catechism, Body & Soul, Being Reformed Faith Seeding Understanding

Hansen, Gary Neal, *Being Reformed Faith Seeking Understanding; The Heidelberg Catechism*. CMP 2012

Barnes, M. Craig, *Body and Soul, Reclaiming the Heidelberg Cathism*; Faith Alive /Congregational Ministries Publishing 2012

Book of Confessions

Dowey, Edward A. Jr. *A Commentary on the Confession of 1967 and An InTroduction to the Book of Confessions*. Westminster Press 1968

- I. Recently a successful middle aged couple who seemed to “have it all” was found dead in a motel room. They were educated, respected professionals, with a lovely home, expensive cars and they committed suicide. What kind of anxiety, what fear of life, what emptiness drove them to this sad end?

What is it that we set ourselves and our children up for when we think we hold our lives in our own hands? We have all heard the speeches and to a certain extent all bought the dream about the endless possibilities for our futures. If you or I just work hard enough we can get the life we want, it’s all in our hands. But deep down inside we are anxious about our choices. We have choices about schools, and vocations, we have increasing choices about the church we choose or whether not to choose one at all.

Still, at its best the Christian faith witnesses to “the way, the truth and the life” and invites us into a flawed community that points the way to God who created our lives and who in Jesus Christ who was literally dying to love us.(Body and Soul chap. 1)

# Administrative Board

## Attachment 2

So the question I bring to you today is, one that is 450 years old. It was written to bring a sense of peace between denominations in a palatinate or state, of Germany. It is also very personal and might bring a peace to each of us.

Here is Question #1 of the Heidelberg Catechism:

*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

The answer: *That I am not my own, but belong- body and soul, in life and in death- to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*

*Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

This is the essence of what we find in this catechism, and it is surely a welcome word to a weary world.

It is, that I am not my own, I do not have to make it on my own, achieve it on my own, keep it going on my own. This is my comfort which is a word not meaning soft chairs and teddy bears but strength. Strength to stand strong in the hard times and difficult places that we all face in life.

The second question outlines the remainder of the document for us.

Question 2: *What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?*

answer: *Three things:*

*first, how great my sin and misery are;*

*second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;*

*third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.*

In this brief, simply put answer we find the outline for the remainder of the catechism. Part One- our human sin and misery;

Part Two – how Jesus Christ has redeemed and freed us,

Part Three – how to show our gratefulness to God.

- I. The Catechism was originally published in 1563 in Heidelberg, Germany as a means of bringing greater understanding between the Lutheran and Reformed churches. There was great conflict between these two bodies and Fredrick the Elector hoped that a document produced by two young theologians Zacharius Ursinus and Kaspar Olevianus, would bring an end to the controversy in Germany and beyond.

IT has been very effective and has been adopted by churches in Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Scotland, and the United States. It is in fact the most widely accepted Reformed Theological document in the World.

# Administrative Board

## Attachment 2

In 2008 The Special Committee on the Heidelberg Catechism was appointed by the 218<sup>th</sup> G.A. This was to correct some inaccuracies several scholars found in the 1963 version of the Catechism translation compared with the original German and Latin versions of the Catechism. The 1963 translation is the one currently found in our Book of Confessions.

The members of the translation team found several errors such as addition of English words and phrases as well as inaccurate translation of the German and Latin. Examples of those are found if you look at your side by side comparison in questions 3, 10, 19, 33, 87, 90, and 127.

This Special Committee worked in cooperation with members of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church of America joint translation Committee to find a more accurate, faithful, and ecumenical translation of the Heidelberg Catechism. The proposed new translation for our Book of Confessions will include biblical citations so that it can be easily read in dialogue with scripture.

- II. The hope is that in 2013 the World Wide celebration of the Catechism's 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will spark new interest in this document that is not only reformed and catechetical but beautiful and personal. The hope is that in new ways you and I and the church at large will preach it, teach it, and appreciate it!

It is easy to preach because it is divided into 52 questions and answers for use throughout the year. It is a wonderful teaching tool because its 3 sections take us through the Apostle's Creed, the sacraments, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. We can appreciate it because although the section on our sin and misery is short but it is also first. Next, our salvation in Jesus Christ and belief in the Holy Trinity is carefully explained through questions and answers about the Apostle's Creed and the Sacraments. Third, we are reminded of the means God provides for us to give thanks by receiving and being guided by the Ten Commandments. The wonderful conclusion of the Heidelberg Catechism reminds us that the Lord's Prayer serves as a model for our prayer but it also reminds us "that the point of all prayer is to find ourselves in conversation with our gracious God." (Barnes, loc1062 Body and Soul.)

- VI. A few years ago I received a phone call and basically all I heard was "we need you." I went to the hospital to find a young woman who desperately wanted the twins she was carrying. She was not yet 6 months pregnant and she was in labor. "Tell me something good." She pleaded. I did not have much good news for her. God is with you, we are with you, you are in good hands. With her family we prayed, we talked, and we waited.

The next day when I visited we were alone. "I want to pray" she said, "but I don't know how." And so we began a journey together on learning how to pour out our guts to God. Tell God what is in your heart, I told her, and if you don't know tell God that.

Question 117 of the Heidelberg Catechism asks; *what is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that God listens to?*

And the answer is: *First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for.*

*Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence.*

# Administrative Board

## Attachment 2

*Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord.*

*That is what God promised us in his word.*

This ancient document gives words of comfort that help us pray, even today.

Craig Barnes puts it like this in his book, *Body and Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism*. “The documents in the Book of Confessions act as a third voice showing up between the sacred text of the Bible and the voice of contemporary context. This catechism can help those of us in search of the truth about the Word of God and that through these three; scripture, the community of faith, and confessional statements the Holy Spirit creates a sacred conversation that can reform the church and the people who serve Christ’s mission.” We have an opportunity to return to our tradition to seek new insights about contemporary life.

What can be more comforting in this anxious world than to hear, “I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my Savior, Jesus Christ.”

We will vote on this updated translation of this catechism at the April presbytery meeting. I challenge you between now and then to read the document, study the document, preach on it, teach on it, use it for personal devotions, and consider how your congregation might celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Heidelberg Catechism.

If you have any questions as you compare the texts I’ll try to answer them, but I have been assured the new translation is a more accurate translation of the original German and Latin.