

**GENERAL COUNCIL
Melvin Meares, Chair
January 26, 2019**

The General Council of the Presbytery makes the following recommendations:

- CA 1. THAT permission be granted for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be celebrated at Presbytery sponsored events, mission trips, UKirk Campus Ministry and Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church during 2019.**
- CA 2. THAT permission be granted to the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Pilgrimage events during 2019. (This will be administered by Presbyterian ministers for the Presbytery of WNC and surrounding Presbyteries.)**
- CA 3. THAT Elder Jack Suddreth be re-elected as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for 2019.**
- 4. THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina follow the special arrangements at this meeting of Presbytery for the discussion and actions on the process for voting on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution. (General Council Attachment 1)**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- 5. THAT copies of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), approved by the 223rd General Assembly, can be downloaded from the PCUSA website:**

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga223_proposed_amendments_to_the_constitution2018.pdf

- 6. THAT the Leadership Team of the General Council for 2019 consists of:**

Chair (Moderator of General Council) – Melvin Meares
Vice-Chair (Moderator of Presbytery) – Lauren Vanacore
Vice-Moderator of Presbytery – Dick Larson
Two At-Large Members – Keith Grogg and Dot Descieux
General Presbyter – Bobbi White
Stated Clerk – Cam Murchison

- 7. THAT the General Council approved the following to serve on the 2019 Building HOPE Finance Committee:**

Jim Henderson (Chair of the Committee, Building HOPE Representative)
Melvin Meares (Chair, General Council; Building HOPE Representative)
Lauren Vanacore (Presbytery Moderator)

Dick Larson (Presbytery Vice-Moderator)
 Charles Sellers (Administrative Division Chair)
 Hal Bennett (Member At-Large)
 Jay Crane (Member At-Large)

8. THAT the General Council reports approval of the following Regional and International Nickel-A-Meal Hunger Grants:

REGIONAL GRANTS			
Agency	Location	Sponsor Church	Amount Granted
Open Door	Waynesville	Waynesville, First	\$ 7,500.00
Swannanoa Valley CM Ministry	Swannanoa	Black Mountain Pres.	\$ 5,000.00
Pay It Forward	Lenoir	Fairview	\$ 5,000.00
BeLoved	Asheville	Kenilworth	\$ 5,000.00
Care Net	Franklin	Franklin, First	\$ 8,000.00
		Total	\$30,500.00
INTERNATIONAL GRANTS			
Proyecto de Salud	Guatemala	PWNC	\$ 9,000.00
		Total	\$ 9,000.00

9. THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.

10. THAT the Christian Education Committee will sponsor an overnight spirituality retreat, “Praying with the Celtic Saints,” for all people in the Presbytery, on March 8-9, 2019 at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC. Cost is \$40 for meals and overnight stay. Retreat presenters are Carl McColman and Linda Abel. See flyer in CE section for more details.

11. THAT the following dates have been set for youth events in 2019:
 March 15-16, 2019 – High School Mission Retreat – First Presbyterian, Newton
 (New site location this year!)

April 27, 2019 – Adventure Day – Camp Grier, Old Fort, NC
 (Bring your youth for a day of fun outdoors!)

July 15-20, 2019 – Presbyterian Youth Triennium
 (Join 5,000+ youth at Pardue for a week of worship, play, and music.
 Register now; application is due in January. There is a limit of 47.)

12. Be thinking about high school youth in your church who would be good candidates to serve on Youth Council. More information will be sent out in March, so watch for details!

13. **THAT the Presbyterian Women will be holding their Spring Gathering on:**
Spring Gathering – April 13, 2019 – First Presbyterian Church, Hickory
14. **THAT the Mission Committee will be offering two mission trips to the East Coast help with PDA Relief.**
April 28 – May 4, 2019 Wilmington, NC
May 5 – 11, 2019 Lumberton, NC
15. **THAT thanks was expressed to Rev. Dr. Susan Denne for chairing the General Council during 2018, and for her years of service on the General Council and dedicated service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
16. **THAT thanks was expressed to Fred Van Itallie, Jay Crane, and Joseph Taber, for their years on the General Council and their dedicated service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
17. **THAT thanks was extended for the work of Lisa Pressley, Comptroller, and Jack Suddreth, Treasurer, for their work during 2018 and their continued service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
18. **THAT the General Council will welcome invitations from churches or institutions willing to host Presbytery meetings in 2020 and 2021.**
19. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2019 and 2020 Presbytery Meetings:**
- 2019**
- Saturday, January 26, 2019 – First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia
Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Montreat Conference Center (Co-Host - Montreat Pres. Church)
Tuesday, July 30, 2019 – Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, Brevard
Saturday, October 26, 2019 – Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville
- 2020**
- Saturday, January 25, 2020 – *Need Host Location*
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – Montreat Conference Center
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 – *Need Host Location*
Saturday, October 24, 2020 – Waldensian Presbyterian Church
20. **THAT the following date has been established for Sacred Trust-Relational Boundaries Training for 2019:**
Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Montreat Conf. Ctr. (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, November 2, 2019 – First Presbyterian Church, Morganton

For Pastors and Elders of the Presbytery: According to our presbytery's policy, clergy and elders involved in leadership are required to take sexual misconduct training once every four years.

For leaders of local congregations: The workshop is open for all local leaders who want to educate themselves about healthy boundaries.

Who should attend: All persons designated below are required to have an approved three-hour workshop of sexual misconduct sponsored by the WNC Presbytery or equivalent training approved by the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Team.

All Presbytery professionals and Presbytery volunteers are required to have the three-hour training every four years with the following exceptions:

1. Exempted from training are fully retired Presbytery professionals who have availed themselves of this option, with its associated limitations of not serving on Presbytery Committees, preaching in local churches, leading workshops or retreats, or exercising other pastoral functions such as celebrating the sacraments, or conducting weddings and/or funerals unless a “Single Event” exception has been made to Presbytery.
2. Members on the following committees, their sub-committees, and task forces are **ineligible for exemption** during the term of their membership:

General Council	Youth
Committee on Ministry	Christian Education
Examinations	Joint Outdoor Ministry
Small Membership Church	Campus Mission
Permanent Judicial Commission	
3. Members of all other existing committees are exempt, though changes to committee structures may require review of eligibility.
4. **Interims** who are working within the bounds of the Presbytery who receive comparable hours of training in their judicatory, at least as frequently as required in our Presbytery, may be exempt.

21. **THAT the General Council granted permission to the First Presbyterian Church, Burnsville to sell a house and property located at 124 Church Street, Burnsville, NC.**
22. **THAT the following Synod Grant Applications were approved by the General Council and will be forwarded to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.**
 - Small Church Grant:**
 - New Vision Presbyterian Church - \$5,000**
 - Visionary Grant:**
 - PWNC/COM – Advocate Program - \$5,000**
23. **THAT a Malawi Mission Team will be formed for a trip to Nkhoma, Malawi May 17-31, 2019. Applications are due now.**
24. **THAT Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers, will be in PWNC from February 12-18, 2019.**

GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

PROCESS FOR VOTING ON THE AMENDMENTS

We ask that the members of Presbytery consider “Seeking to be Faithful Together” as they discuss, debate and vote on the amendments. It can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/seeking-be-faithful-together/>

Members are also encouraged prior to the meeting to download copies of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), approved by the 223rd General Assembly, from this link:

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga223_proposed_amendments_to_the_constitution2018.pdf

All ten amendments are before the Presbytery by action of the General Assembly in 2018. The question presented by each amendment is: “Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by Amendment 18-x.” Presbytery votes in either the Affirmative or the Negative (Yes or No) having received the advice of the sub-committee outlined below.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Five of the amendments being voted on at this meeting are listed on the proposed amendments Consent Agenda. The General Council allowed the Stated Clerk to assemble a sub-committee to review and make recommendations regarding the proposed amendments. The sub-committee included the Stated Clerk, the past moderator of General Council (Susan Denne), the chair of the Examinations Committee (Bob Forsythe), one of PWNC’s commissioners to the 2018 GA (Roger Rizk), and a member of General Council (Dot Descieux). Any amendment can be pulled from this Consent Agenda and debated on the floor. The sub-committee’s rationale for placing these items on a Consent Agenda is simply that they are clarifying in nature and/or otherwise unlikely to require extensive deliberation by Presbytery. Following opportunity for members of Presbytery to request that any amendment be removed from this Consent Agenda, those amendments remaining on the Consent Agenda will be voted on together.

Amendment	Subject	Recommendation
18-A.	Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons—On Amending G-2.0401	AFFIRMATIVE
18-D.	Membership of Presbytery—On Amending G-3.0306	AFFIRMATIVE
18-E.	Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor—On Amending G-3.0307	AFFIRMATIVE
18-H.1	Time Limit—On Amending D-10.0401b	AFFIRMATIVE
18-H.2	Time Limit—On Amending D-10.0401c(1)	AFFIRMATIVE

AMENDMENTS THAT ARE PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WILL BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A representative of the sub-committee will briefly explain its rationale. The person who requested the particular amendment to be pulled from the consent agenda may begin debate by sharing the nature of their concerns and offer brief remarks.
2. The floor will be open to debate. There will be time for discussion and debate, alternating pro and con.

GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1
AMENDMENTS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA WILL
BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A representative of the sub-committee will briefly explain its rationale.
2. The floor will be open to debate. There will be time for discussion and debate, alternating pro and con.

Amendment	Subject	Recommendation
18-B.1.	Renunciation of Jurisdiction—On Amending G-2.0509	AFFIRMATIVE
18-B.2.	Renunciation of Jurisdiction—On Amending D-10.0401d	AFFIRMATIVE
18-C.	Officers—On Amending G-3.0104	NONE
18-F.	Welcome to the Table—On Amending W-4.0202	AFFIRMATIVE
18-G.	Disciplinary Offense—On Amending D-2.0203b	NEGATIVE