

**PART I:**

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTIONS**



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### ABORTION

(See also MISCARRIAGE; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Abortion, pp. 15-36)

#### CONCERN OVER:

1976, p. 65, 4-57, 3a. The General Assembly answered Overture 4 in the affirmative and expressed its grave concern over the murder of hundreds of thousands of the unborn through widespread practice of abortion and that the Assembly appoint a committee to study and bring back to the 1977 General Assembly a biblical, theological statement on abortion with practical application.

Overture 4. From Calvary Presbytery

Fathers and Brethren:

Calvary Presbytery respectfully overtures the General Assembly as follows:

Whereas, the Word of God clearly states, indicates and implies in repeated references that children are a gift from the Lord, and

Whereas, the Scripture clearly teaches that God ordains life in the womb with perfect intent and definite foreknowledge of the meaning and purpose of that life, and

Whereas, it is stated in the Scripture that God, on occasion even named the baby in the womb and declared beforehand His intention for that life, and

Whereas, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States declared that the fetus is not a "person" in the legal sense and that states are forbidden to outlaw abortions anytime prior to birth if in the opinion of one licensed physician an abortion is necessary to preserve the "life or health" of the mother, and

Whereas, the "Health" of the mother means, by the court's own definition, "the medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors-physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age-relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health." and

Whereas, there are now about one million abortions per year performed in the United States, Therefore, be it resolved that the Presbyterian Church in America protest, decry, and abhor this mass slaughter of unborn babies who are "persons" by every right of the just laws of God and man.

And that the Presbyterian Church in America call upon every responsible citizen to support the enactment of moral legislation that will protect the life of the unborn child.

#### POSITION PAPER

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Abortion, pp. 15-34)

#### Position on, Amended

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Abortion, p. 34)

#### Position Clarified

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Abortion, pp. 34-35)

#### PRO-LIFE MOVEMENTS

1980, p. 99, 8-69, III, 6. That the General Assembly adopt personal resolution No. 1 made by Teaching Elder John Ragland and Ruling Elder G. O. Runnells, as edited and amended. In subparagraph 5 after the words "concerted effort" add the clause "to support pro-life movements in their opposition to abortion and". The edited and amended resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, the Sixth and Seventh General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in America affirmed in faithful obedience to our Lord and Sovereign Saviour Jesus Christ, the prohibition of the Sixth Commandment against abortion on demand, which, as presently practiced in this country, has resulted in the loss of more than 6,000,000 human lives in the past decade; and

## PCA DIGEST

### ABORTION

Whereas, our Constitutional Standards clearly state that God's commandments specify what God's people are to do as well as not to do; and

Whereas, the Larger Catechism question 135 ("What are the duties required in the Sixth Commandment?") states, among other things, "The duties required in the Sixth Commandment are, all careful studies and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves and others by...comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent."

Whereas, the Report of the Ad-Interim Committee on Abortion to the Sixth General Assembly recommends that all Christians be reminded of their duty to show compassionate love and understanding to families in distress as a result of pregnancies, and to offer to those families sympathetic counsel and help for physical needs where required such duty being especially incumbent upon us as we minister to the person contemplating abortion.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Eighth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America recommends its churches to make a concerted effort in their opposition to abortion and to develop positive ministries to those considering abortions such as evangelism, Christian nurturing, Christian counseling, and provision of financial and material needs to the mother and her baby, aid with obtaining medical service, aid with adoption when indicated, and Christian homes (homes for unwed mothers and homes of Christian families who are willing to share their homes with a pregnant woman in need of a place to live away from her immediate family).

And That It Be Further Resolved, that this resolution be placed in the *PCA Messenger*, and sent in a letter to the churches of the PCA.

1983, p. 115, 11-50, II, 1. With reference to Communication 2: That the General Assembly approve in principle the idea of a public witness against abortion on demand and refer this communication to the permanent committee on Christian Education and Publication for implementation, and that a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Laukhuff.

1983, p. 35, 11-9, A. COMMUNICATION 2: From Perry Laukhuff

Christianity needs a focus for its opposition to abortion on demand. It needs a way in which its voice can be raised massively and simultaneously against this killing of the innocents. Abortion on demand, the indiscriminate killing of unwanted babies in the womb, is one of the greatest moral and sociological problems of our age. It is a grave sin against God. It is a grave sin against values and beliefs which our Christian faith teaches us to hold most dear, the love, mercy and creativity of God, the sanctity of human life, the protection of the helpless and the innocent.

It seems to me that Christian opposition to abortion on demand has been, thus far, on the sporadic side and largely uncoordinated. Surely, it should not be beyond our ability to organize a united witness and I therefore have a suggestion to lay before you and the other Christian leaders listed on the enclosure.

I urge you most prayerfully to consider joining with other Christians in the United States of America and - hopefully - throughout the world, in designating something like "A Christian Crusade For Life," to be observed annually on an agreed-upon date. I suggest that there could not be a more suitable Christian date than the Sunday falling nearest to Holy Innocents Day, December 28th. Each year this Sunday could be observed in the Christian churches of the world, as a day of Christian mourning, protest and witness, for life and against the modern-day Slaughter of the Innocents.

Herod's wanton and monstrous act is being repeated in quite unthinkable magnitude by 20th century society. What more striking or appropriate contrast could there be than the joyous celebration of the Birth of our Lord to be followed a few days later by mourning for the babies never allowed to reach the birth for which God intended them?



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### ABSTINENCE

I ask you most prayerfully to please consider this suggestion from a humble Christian and to consult with other Christian leaders about its suitability and feasibility. Approved in principle, referred to the Committee for Christian Education and Publications for implementation.

1984, p. 105, 12-36, III, 10. That the assignment regarding abortion be handled in the following manner:

- a. That local churches continue to use the slide/tape program on abortion and distribute the assembly's position (in booklet form) and that members be encouraged to make our views known to the elected officials.
- b. That MNA develop a means of assisting CE/P in keeping this issue ( and the General Assembly's position) before the church and world.

### ABSTINENCE

1980, p. 98, 8-69, III, 4a. That Overture 11 be answered in the negative.

Overture 11: From the Presbytery of Eastern Carolina

Whereas, an overture brought before the 1979 General Assembly on the subject of alcoholic beverages was not received by the Assembly; (Minutes, p. 92); and

Whereas, the General Assembly of 1979 rejected the ruling of the Sub-committee on Judicial Business that the overture was in order; (Minutes, p. 181); and

Whereas, *The Book of Church Order* 15-6 authorizes the General Assembly to "recommend measures for the promotion of charity, truth, and holiness through all the churches under its care"; and

Whereas, the consumption of alcoholic beverages is one of the greatest hindrances to holiness in our land; and

Whereas, the Scripture view of Christian liberty is clearly stated in Romans 14:21, 1 Corinthians 8:13, and especially in 1 Peter 2:16; and

Whereas, the consumption of alcoholic beverages continues to be one of the most serious stumbling blocks in our country today;

Be It Resolved, by the General Assembly in an *in thesi* deliverance that total abstinence from alcoholic beverages, except in medicinal use, be the approved position of our denomination in this matter.

Grounds: The grounds for answering this Overture in the negative are that to adopt position of total abstinence would go beyond the requirements of scripture, (Deut. 5:32,33; Col. 2:20-23) and is contrary to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, (Chapter 20, subparagraph 2), which forbid the binding of the conscience by the commands of men.

1980, p. 98, 8-69, III, 4b. That the General Assembly adopt the following statement with regard to the issue of temperance:

In answering Overture No. 11 in the negative the General Assembly recognizes the problem of the abuse of alcoholic beverages in our society. For this reason the General Assembly encourages local churches to:

- (1) Teach and counsel as to the sin involved in the intemperate or escapist use of any part of creation;
- (2) Teach and counsel the kind of love and wisdom which may lead to individual decisions to curb or to refrain from the use of a particular aspect of the creation; and
- (3) Proclaim and embody the reality of the work of the Holy Spirit in the bond of vital fellowship within the body of Christ which is the biblical antidote to the intemperance and escapism of our day. (cf. Ephesians 5:18 in context.)

## PCA DIGEST

### ADMINISTRATION, COMMITTEE ON

#### COORDINATOR

1983, p. 79, 11-30, III, 3. That the General Assembly redesignate the executive officer of the COA as Coordinator instead of Business Administrator, with the title Business Administrator-Treasurer being retained for use in civil or business matters and that Article III, Section I of the Bylaws of the PCA be amended to read "The officers of the corporation shall be the Moderator, the Clerk, the Business Administrator-Treasurer (also known as Coordinator)..." with appropriate editorial changes in bylaws where necessary, 4-3, 3-4.

#### DUTIES

1974, p. 72, 2-98.

1. To nominate to the General Assembly a Stated Clerk and a Business Administrator.
2. The Stated Clerk may serve part time or full time as needed, to reside where he desires. The General Assembly shall provide office help for him. His duties are: a) handle records; b) maintain history; c) serve as parliamentarian; d) handle all correspondence; e) the Committee shall serve as a clearing house for vacant churches and available ministers.
3. The Business Administrator shall be a full time employee, preferably not a teaching elder. He shall maintain the denominational business office, administer all the business affairs of the Assembly, act as treasurer of this committee, handle annuity and insurance. He is to be answerable to the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly.
4. To review the budget requests of the three other committees; to consider the requests of each committee as it relates to the budget requests of other committees, to needs and to opportunities, and to recommend a budget for each of the three committees to the General Assembly. Each committee shall be responsible to raise the financial support for its work and distribute its funds through its own treasurers elected by each committee. It shall be clearly understood that churches and individual donors shall be free to designate their gifts to the causes they desire to support and that there shall be no equalization of gifts so designated.
5. The suggested budget of the Committee on Administration shall be presented to the General Assembly. Upon adoption by the General Assembly, funds for the operation of the Committee on Administration shall be raised by this Committee and distributed through its own treasurer.
6. To operate the insurance and annuity program. It shall recommend salaries of personnel to the General assembly. It shall supervise the work of the Business Administrator.
7. The office of Stated Clerk and of Business Administrator may not be held by the same individual.
8. Judicial Business Sub-Committee.
  - a. To advise the General Assembly on judicial matters.
  - b. To assist the Stated Clerk on such matters between Assemblies.
  - c. To be elected by the General Assembly.

[cf 1973, pp. 51-52, 1-67 which is essentially a first draft of 2-98 (1974)]

1983, p. 80, 11-30, III, 9. That the Committee on Administration's statement of purpose as presented in the permanent committee's report be approved.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

## ARCHIVES

1983, p. 170, Appendix A, II.

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America has mandated the Committee on Administration to administer its corporate and business affairs in full compliance with the *Book of Church Order* and By-laws. The General Assembly has assigned responsibility to its Committee on Administration on its own behalf to act in civil matters as a duly elected Board of Directors of the Corporation.
2. COA purposes to provide suitable facilities for General Assembly meetings. COA will assist in providing personnel, technology, and facilities to reach the long range goals set by the General Assembly. COA shall acquire the staff and expertise required to manage the duties assigned to it.
3. The purpose of the Committee shall be to keep accurate records for the General Assembly: to implement the GA policy decision regarding the collection and distribution of monies to committees and agencies which may reduce their individual cost of operations. COA is charged to analyze and make recommendations for prudent methods of using General Assembly's resources.
4. In addition to the above, a purpose of the COA is to supervise the work of its coordinator and also the work of the Stated Clerk between meetings of the General Assembly.

## ADMONITION

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 30-2)

## AGENCIES

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY, REORGANIZATION PLAN; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

## TRUSTEES UNEXPIRED TERM

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 14-1-12, 1985, 13-27)

## AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, NAPARC's Agreement on Transfer of Members, pp. 437-438)

## AIDS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, AIDS, pp. 37-50)

## ALCOHOL, BEVERAGE USE OF

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Alcohol, Beverage Use of, p. 51)

## APOSTASY

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Apostasy and Ecclesiastical Separation, pp. 52-72)

## ARCHIVES

(See HISTORICAL CENTER; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Archives, pp. 73-77)

## PCA DIGEST

### ASKINGS

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FINANCIAL POLICIES)

### ASSEMBLY THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE

1975, p. 93, 3-85. The Committee met and conducted a thorough theological examination for Jim Alinder (Committee on Mission to the U.S.), Mike Quarles (Committee on Mission to the World), Harris Langford (Committee for Christian Education and Publications), and Milton Howland (Stewardship). The Committee voted unanimously to sustain as a whole the examination of each man and recommend them to the court.

1976, p. 86, 4-82. The Committee met and conducted a thorough theological examination for Rev. Thomas Hughes as Assistant Coordinator of the Mission to the United States. The Committee voted unanimously to sustain as a whole the examination and recommend him to the Court.

1977, p. 107, 5-106. Recommendation: the Assembly adopted the following recommendation:

That the examinations of the Rev. Kennedy Smartt, the Rev. Morton Smith, the Rev. Paul McKaughan, and the Rev. Charles Dunahoo be approved.

The Assembly adopted a motion that the Minutes of the Theological Examining Committee be submitted to the Committee of Commissioners on Administration as a matter of course, beginning with the Sixth General Assembly.

The Assembly adopted a motion that the Assembly should instruct the Permanent Committees in writing that in the future Coordinators, Associate Coordinators, and Assistant Coordinators are not to begin their work without prior examination and approval by the Assembly's Theological Examining Committee.

The Assembly adopted a motion that all persons who should have been examined by the Theological Examining Committee, and have not been, be examined within 30 days, and that, if they fail, their employment be terminated.

1978, p. 69, 6-33. Recommendations:

1. That the examination of Rev. Donald Graham be approved. *Adopted*
2. That the examination of Mr. Roy Gamble be approved. *Adopted*
3. That the examination of Rev. Gordon Reed be approved. *Adopted*
4. That the following amendment to paragraph 15-1-14 of *The Book of Church Order* be approved:

"The Assembly shall elect a six-man Theological Examining Committee, (three Teaching Elders and three Ruling Elders of three classes of two men each). This Committee shall examine all Coordinators, Associate Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators, and those acting temporarily in these positions who are being recommended for first time employment by Assembly committees to the Assembly. They are to be examined in the areas of Christian Experience, Theology, the Sacraments, Church Government, and English Bible. No person will begin work or move on the field without prior examination and approval by the General Assembly's Theological Examining Committee. No person will be presented to the Assembly for election who has not met the approval of this Committee. Nominations for this Committee will be presented by the Assembly's Nominating Committee."

*Referred to the Permanent Sub-Committee on Judicial Business*

1979, p. 72, 7-15. Recommendations:

1. That the examination of the Rev. J. Philip Clark be approved for the position as Coordinator of our Committee on Mission to the United States. *Adopted*
2. That the Assembly direct its Permanent Committees to have the Committee on Theological Examinations examine candidates for all positions prior to issuing them a call. *Adopted*

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### ASSEMBLY THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE

1979, p. 104, 7-41, III, 20. Concerning the fourth recommendation of the General Assembly Theological Examining Committee found in paragraph 6-33 of the *Minutes of the Sixth General Assembly*:

That the following amendment to paragraph 15-1-14 of the *Book of Church Order* be approved: [See 1978, p. 69, 6-33 above]

...which was referred to the Permanent Committee on Judicial Business be answered in the affirmative, and passed down to the Presbyteries for their advice and consent. *Adopted*

1980, p. 67, 8-20. The Committee presented the following recommendations:

1. That RE Edward Robeson, his examination having been sustained, be approved for the position of administrator of Ridge Haven. *Adopted*
2. That TE Dwight Linton, his examination having been sustained, be approved for the position of assistant coordinator of the Committee on Mission to the United States. *Adopted*

1982, p. 121, 10-95. The Committee reported that, in accordance with the director of the Assembly (see 10-33, III, 17. p. 69), it has examined and approved James Hughes to serve as Director of the Insurance and Annuities Office.

1984, p. 189, 12-90, III, 37. That Overture 38 be answered in the affirmative.

1984, p. 55, 12-10. Overture 38

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in America has wisely directed through its *Book of Church Order* that candidates for the office of ruling elder be examined and approved by the Session of their respective churches BEFORE they are presented to their congregations for election, and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in America has wisely directed through its *Book of Church Order* that candidates for the office of Teaching Elder be examined and licensed BEFORE they are presented to a congregation for election as their pastor, and

Whereas, the General Assembly, as the highest court of the church, should model and exemplify for the lower courts of the church the best in procedures for nomination, examining and then electing its coordinators, associate and assistant coordinators and others who require examination by the Theological Examining Committee of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, the presentation of any candidate to this committee for examination and approval AFTER that individual has been elected by the General Assembly puts undue and unwise pressure upon this committee as it seeks to faithfully carry out its tasks, and

Whereas, for this and other reasons, the *Book of Church Order* does wisely require (14-1, 14) that:

No person will begin work or move on the field without prior examination and approval by the General Assembly Theological Examining Committee.

No person will be presented to the Assembly for election who has not met the approval of this committee...and

Whereas, in accordance with this constitutional requirement no election of any person requiring this examination may be made "pending" this examination, but only after this committee's examination and approval, and

Whereas, in at least one instance, a man was presented to the General Assembly by a committee of Commissioners "pending" this approval by the Theological Examining Committee (see Report of the Committee of Commissioners on the PCA Foundation, 1983, 11-48, III, 10),

Therefore, be it resolved, that this Twelfth General Assembly does instruct and require that no person requiring this examination and approval by the Theological Examining Committee of the General Assembly shall be presented to any committee of commissioners prior to this required examination and approval, and

## PCA DIGEST

### ASSEMBLY THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Be it further resolved, that no committee of commissioners may present in its report to the General Assembly any person for election who requires this examination and approval without an accompanying report of the Theological Examining Committee which gives its approval, and

Be it further resolved, that this requirement shall be made a part of the Rules for Assembly Operation and numbered as determined by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

1986, p. 134, 14-55. The report was approved, with an amendment that in the future the Committee report on the areas of examination. *Adopted*

#### I. Business Referred to the Committee

- A. Examination of Mr. Robert Sweet of Insurance, Annuities, and Relief, appointee as Coordinator of Ministerial Relief.
- B. Examination of Mr. Don Gahagen of Mission to the World, appointee as Coordinator of Latin American Missions.
- C. Examination of Mr. John Rollo of Mission to the World, appointee as Coordinator of Personnel.
- D. Examination of Mr. Dan Porter of Mission to the World, appointee as Coordinator of SIMA.

#### II. Committee Action

The Committee examined the four above mentioned appointees and sustained the examination of each.

1988, p. 464, Appendix P. The Committee met for the purpose of examining Mr. Frank A. Brock, President-appointee of Covenant College.

Mr. Brock was examined and his examination was sustained. (See report at 16-34, III, 7, p. 125)

#### Supplemental Report

The Committee met on June 6, 7 and 8 for the purpose of examining the following nominees for the Office of Stated Clerk of the PCA: TE Don K. Clements, TE Paul R. Gilchrist, TE Vaughn E. Hathaway, Jr., TE D. Steven Meyerhoff, and TE Frank D. Moser. The examination of each was sustained. (See action at 16-81, p. 186)

1989, p. 152, 17-82, III, 11. That BCO 14-1.14 be amended to read as follows:

"14-1.14 The Assembly shall elect a six-man Theological Examining Committee (three Teaching Elders and three Ruling Elders of three classes of two men each). Nominations for this Committee will be presented by the Assembly's Nominating Committee.

"This Committee shall examine all first and second level administrative officers of committees, boards and agencies, and those acting temporarily in these positions who are being recommended for first time employment. They are to be examined in the areas of Christian experience, Theology, the Sacraments, Church Government, Bible Content, Church History and the history of the Presbyterian Church in America.

"No person will begin work or move on the field without prior examination and approval by the General Assembly's Theological Examining Committee. No first level administrative officer will be presented to the Assembly for election who has not met the approval of this committee." *Adopted and sent down to presbyteries for advice and consent*

1990, p. 170, 18-77. The Theological Examining Committee met ... for the purpose of examining Dr. Richard Allen, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement of Covenant College.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that this examination of Dr. Richard Allen in its separate parts and in the whole be sustained.

1991, p. 62, 19-11. The Committee met for the purpose of examining Dr. James R. Poteet, Director-appointee of Ridge Haven, and The Reverend Paul G. Settle, Director of Ministries-appointee of Ridge Haven.

The examination for each was sustained.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

1992, p. 88, 20-40. Assembly Theological Examining Committee

During the report on Covenant College, TE Laird Harris presented a report for the Committee that it had examined and approved Robert Harbert, Covenant College's Vice-President for Business Affairs. This report was adopted as a whole.

1993, p. 171, 21-63. The examinations were all sustained:

TE Fred T. Marsh, Coordinator of Development, MNA

TE Ronald L. Shaw, Missionary Pastor at Large, MTW

Mr. Charles W. Phillips, Vice President of Advancement, Covenant College.

1. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly instruct its Permanent Committees to identify the second level positions whose office holders should be examined. *Adopted*

### BAPTISM

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Baptism, pp. 78-97)

### BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

1983, p. 124, 11-61, III, 12. That the Assembly approve Bethany Christian Services and recommend its services to our presbyteries, churches and members.

1985, p. 113, 13-49, III, 13. That the General Assembly review the expansion of the excellent ministries of Bethany Christian Services, noting the movement into areas of PCA strength at PCA invitation, and therefore encourage our members and courts to support the ministries of Bethany even more sacrificially. (See Appendix J, Attachment D, p. 270)

### BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

(The *Book of Church Order* is updated periodically. These amendments may be ordered from the Christian Education and Publications Bookstore.)

#### ADOPTED

1973, p. 32, 1-32. Preface adopted.

1973, p. 32, 1-35. Chapters I-X adopted.

1973, p. 33, 1-39. Chapters XI-XX adopted.

1973, p. 35, 1-46. Chapters XX-XVII adopted.

1973, p. 35, 1-48. Part II, The Rules of Discipline, adopted.

1973, p. 35, 1-49. Part III, The Directory for the Worship of God, adopted.

1975, p. 55, 3-15. Recommendation #3--The Committee recommends the adoption of the proposed Directory For Worship and that upon its adoption the Assembly declare the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America to be fully adopted, and that the suspension of paragraph 26-2 approved by the First General Assembly now be ended.

[Clerk's Note: Recommendation #3 was adopted in general as a procedure, and then the Directory for Worship was considered by Chapter and paragraph.]

### KOREAN

(See PRESBYTERY, KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES, 1987, 15-96, 19)

## PCA DIGEST

### BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

#### REVISION

1973, p. 35, 1-47. The Constitutional Documents and the Standing Committee on Editorial Corrections were constituted an Ad Interim Committee charged with the responsibility of making editorial changes in the *Book of Church Order*. Such editorial changes shall be subject to review and ratification by the Second General Assembly. A copy of the *Book of Church Order*, including these editorial changes, is to be mailed to all churches by March 1, 1974. (See page 8 for Editorial Committee.)

The Constitutional Documents Committee is to continue to study further changes in content in the *Book of Church Order*, and to submit their recommendations to the Second General Assembly. Suggestions of such changes are to be submitted to this Committee prior to June 1, 1974.

1975, p. 51, 3-13.

1. That the Assembly hereby declares that Part 1, the Form of Government and Part 2, the Rules of Discipline, having been adopted by the previous Assemblies are open to minor changes by this Assembly under the suspension of Rule 27-2.
3. That any changes of major content being recommended either by the Constitutional Documents Committee, or from any other source, must be handled under the regular constitutional process provided in 27-2.

#### BYLAWS

(See INCORPORATION; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### CANDIDATES

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY)

#### CENSORSHIP

#### TEXTBOOKS

1987, p. 187, 15-92, III, 4. That the 15th General Assembly adopt the following resolution on textbook censorship.

Resolution on Textbook Censorship

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in America recognizes our debt of gratitude to our forebearers who came to America seeking religious freedom; and

Whereas, Judeo-Christian values had a vital role in the founding of America, the formation of its institutions, and the making of its national character; and

Whereas, Judeo-Christian values are the source and support of our rights and freedoms as evidenced in the words of our Declaration of Independence that "all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" and

Whereas, the U. S. Supreme Court requires neutrality of religion in the public schools, not forbidding the teachings of religion's role in history but forbidding the teaching of tenets of faith; and

Whereas, the Vitz Study completed for the U. S. Department of Education, which examined 90 textbooks used in 72 percent of the classes of our public schools (and corroborated by other researchers), found the virtual total censorship of the existence, history, contributions, and current role of the Judeo-Christian heritage from our textbooks; and



## PCA DIGEST

### CHAPLAINS

1993, p. 92, 21-41, III, 8. That the General Assembly continue to encourage congregations to *adopt a chaplain* for prayer and encouragement. *Adopted*

### ENCOURAGEMENT

1975, p. 122, 3-93, III, A, 6. That we take note of those men serving as PCA chaplains in the various branches of our Armed Forces and that we encourage them through prayerful interest in their ministry. Further, the Presbyterian Church in America expects each chaplain to maintain and teach the Reformed Faith.

1976, p. 59, 4-41, III, A, 8. That we take note of the growing number of men serving as chaplains in the various branches of our Armed Forces, both on active duty and in the Reserves, and that we encourage them through prayerful interest in their ministry and by practical support at the presbytery level.

### EVANGELIST, POWER OF

1987, p. 167, 15-83, III, 1. That with regard to the matter assigned to the Permanent Committee concerning chaplains, the Sacraments, and membership (*MI4GA*, 14-43, III, 11, p. 116; 15-3, p. 66) the following be adopted as the policy for chaplains:

"When a Teaching Elder is endorsed by the Presbyterian Church in America and receives a Commission from the U.S. government to minister as military chaplain, he may be granted the powers of an Evangelist to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper by the Presbytery of which he is a member. These powers of an Evangelist are limited to the Sacraments and will continue in effect until: 1) the chaplain resigns his Commission; 2) he loses his Commission as a result of administrative action by the government; 3) withdrawal of ecclesiastical endorsement by the Presbyterian Church in America; or 4) retirement.

In cases of baptism the chaplain shall take responsibility that the newly baptized member is enrolled as a member of a particular church. The chaplain may arrange for such enrollment in advance of the administration of Baptism by consulting a session, or the Presbytery having jurisdiction over the chaplain may provide that all such newly baptized members shall be enrolled in absentia as a member of a particular church designated by the Presbytery and with the approval of the Session of that particular church.

Churches may receive in absentia as members baptized personnel and their children who are unable to be present to be received into membership due to military duty, when personally examined by a chaplain endorsed by our commission on chaplains. It is expected that when circumstances permit, such military personnel will become members of a local church.

When there is no local church available, chaplains shall seek authorization to receive members in one of two ways: The chaplain may be authorized by the Session of a congregation of the P.C.A. to receive members into their congregation, or the chaplain may be authorized by his presbytery to receive members into a congregation which has been designated by that Presbytery with the consent of that church's session.

In any case, the chaplain shall follow the prescribed teachings of the *BCO* concerning the reception of members (especially *BCO* chapter 6 and 57). Also, the particular church in which these members are placed shall exercise appropriate oversight and discipline through the chaplain, the Session, and the Pastor. Special care should be taken both to make these members feel a part of the particular church and to enable these members to grow in their commitment to the particular church, as well as in the Christian life."

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS (NAE)

1973, p. 39, 1-57, 5. That the Committee on the Mission to the World be cleared to affiliate with the National Association of Evangelicals in order to benefit from their services and expertise of the Chaplains Commission, the World Relief Commission and the Evangelical Foreign Mission Association.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHAPLAINS

Whereas, the omission of references in textbooks to the existence, contributions, and current role of the Judeo-Christian heritage in our society represents, according to the Vitz Study, "a systematic denial of the history, heritage, beliefs, and values of a very large segment of the American People" having the Judeo-Christian heritage; and, the elimination of these references from textbooks may contribute to the hardening of fertile young minds to the receipt of the Gospel and may minimize to them their nation's religious heritage and their own religious commitment.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Presbyterian Church in America pray diligently for those who seek the correction of the censored history of America's development as presented in textbooks; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge all our members and other Christians to oppose censorship of the Judeo-Christian heritage as a historical fact from our public school textbooks; and

Be it finally resolved, that we urge all our members and other Christians to encourage textbook selection committees working with city, county, and state boards of education not to accept textbooks that have censored the Judeo-Christian heritage.

### CHAIM

1992, p. 76, 20-23, II, B, 6. "Regarding Endorsement of CHAIM"

Whereas, the church has a responsibility to bring the gospel to all peoples, and this certainly includes the Jewish people;

Whereas, the PCA embraces the Westminster Standards as expressing the doctrinal system revealed in the Holy Scriptures;

Whereas, an ordained PCA evangelist to the Jewish people has been engaged full time in Jewish ministry by directing a mission called CHAIM, which conducts ministry in several presbyteries, has been endorsed in several presbyteries and has been granted tax-exempt status;

Whereas, CHAIM also embraces the Westminster Standards as its doctrinal basis, is Reformed and Covenantal in theology, has another PCA minister as the chairman of its board and, according to its by-laws, requires 3/4 of its board members to be PCA or OPC elders;

Therefore, the 20th General Assembly, through its Mission to North America, based upon the endorsement of Philadelphia Presbytery, recognizes the spiritual ties between ourselves and CHAIM and commends CHAIM to the churches of the PCA as a valid and reformed ministry worthy of the prayers, participation, and support of churches in the Presbyterian Church in America.

### CHAPLAINS

#### CONFIDENTIALITY

(See CONFIDENTIALITY)

#### CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS TO

1992, p. 77, 20-23, II, C, 8. That the General Assembly encourage U.S. congregations to "adopt" a chaplain for prayer and encouragement. (Rationale: At present we have an unusually effective, competent, and godly group of chaplains ministering to our armed forces for the PCA. However, these men often feel that the denomination is unaware of them and they do not receive much tangible support from PCA members. Therefore, in much the same way that many congregations "adopt" foreign missionaries whom they do not financially support, for correspondence, encouragement, and prayer, we recommend a similar practice with respect to chaplains. This would not ordinarily include financial support.)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHAPLAINS

#### ORDINATION

1993, p. 97, 21-41, III, 15. That Overture 18, "Chaplain Candidates Being Ordained Without Call," from Rocky Mountain Presbytery be answered in the negative with the following rationale:

*Adopted*

The 21st General Assembly reaffirms its conviction that ordination is "the authoritative admission of one duly called to an office in the Church of God" (*BCO 17-2*), and that "Before a candidate, or licentiate, can be ordained to the office of the ministry, he must receive a call to a definite work." (*BCO 20-1*)

As well, the Assembly affirms the right of the US Military to require ordination prior to the issuing of orders to the chaplaincy. The Assembly further notes that ordinarily, the military also requires two years' ministry experience prior to calling a man as chaplain. Thus, ordinarily, a situation seeming to require ordination prior to a call to the chaplaincy would not occur. However, the need for more so-called "liturgical" chaplains has led the military to seek PCA chaplains at a more rapid rate, sometimes without requiring ministry experience, leading to the "need" to ordain so that a man can be called as chaplain. The situation then has arisen because of the need in the military for PCA chaplains.

The Assembly rejoices in the number of PCA teaching elders that are being called into the military chaplaincy leading to the situation before us.

Therefore, no changes are needed in the *BCO* as contemplated by the overture. However, the Assembly urges the Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel to endorse a candidate for Active or Reserve duty when he 1) has met all the requirements of the Commission for endorsement, and 2) has successfully completed all the requirements of his presbytery for ordination, including his ordination examinations. The presbytery would then "appoint a day for his ordination" (*BCO 21-4*), which would be contingent upon orders from the military. Immediately upon receipt of orders for active or reserve duty, the presbytery would conduct the service of ordination.

#### PRESBYTERY MEMBERSHIP

1990, p. 129, 18-56. III, 10. That the General Assembly recommend that active duty chaplains affiliate with their denominational presbytery in their geographic area of permanent assignment unless that assignment is overseas or temporary duty of less than one year.

#### PUBLIC PRAYERS TO BE EXPLICITLY CHRISTIAN

1989, pp. 93-4, 17-56, III, 12. That the General Assembly approve Attachment F (below) passed unanimously by the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel as an appropriate response for MNA to Resolution #2 (Minutes, 16th GA, p. 84) with the amendment that we adopt the statement as our own with the following change:

That the paragraph "Fourth - We believe it is important that the Assembly remember who our chaplains are, and those to whom they minister. Chaplains are not pastors of churches, or professors in seminary, but evangelists in an institutional setting. Their witness is sometimes like Paul's approach to the Athenians at the Areopagus in proclaiming the changeless gospel appropriate to a specific context" be replaced by the following: Fourth - We encourage our chaplains, and all other ministers, to be explicitly Christian in all their public prayers.

#### ATTACHMENT F

#### RESPONSE OF THE CHAPLAINS' COMMISSION to Resolution #2

We appreciate the concern expressed in Resolution #2, directed to the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel, which was referred by the 16th (PCA) General Assembly to the MNA Permanent Committee for study and reply to the 17th (PCA) General Assembly. We respectfully reply as follows:

## PCA DIGEST

### CHAPLAINS

First - There are at this time no laws or regulations forbidding chaplains to pray "in Jesus' Name". Chaplains are still being accepted on the basis of, and are expected to minister according to, the confessional standards of the denominations they represent.

Second - There are, however, at times, and not equally in all branches of the military services, subtle and sometimes overt pressures upon chaplains to avoid the specific phrase "in Jesus' Name" when praying at non-sectarian, civil ceremonies. There are no pressures whatever as to the content of their prayers otherwise.

Third - We agree with the sense of paragraph 9 of the resolution that adding the words "in Jesus' Name" to a prayer that is out of harmony with God's will and fails to appropriately recognize Him as the Lord of all, does not suddenly transform that prayer into one that honors Him. Nor does leaving off that specific phrase void our ability to reach out to God in prayer, or necessarily imply a rejection or denial of who He is. The issue has to do more with the focal point of prayer, and the content of prayer.

Fourth - We encourage our chaplains, and all other ministers, to be explicitly Christian in all their public prayers.

Fifth - Please be assured that your Chaplains' Commission will continue to monitor and to protest any encroachment upon our religious liberties in the name of pluralism, or inclusivism. We will also provide support and counsel to individual chaplains who experience undue pressure to violate confessional standards.

### **PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED JOINT COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL**

1976, p. 65, 4-57, 3, c. We recommend that the General Assembly answer Overture 7 from Pacific Presbytery in the affirmative; and that the Moderator appoint a committee of 8 with 2 alternatives, at least 2 members of the committee being in the Military Chaplaincy, 1 from the Committee on Mission to the World of the General Assembly, and 1 from the Committee on Mission to the United States of the General Assembly.

...To order a study which will consider at least these two possible answers to the question:

1. A separate Commission on Chaplains be established as a part of the Mission to the U. S. Committee,
2. A joint commission be proposed to our sister Presbyterian denominations with whom we are in fellowship.

1977, p. 65, 5-36.

1. The Committee on Interchurch Relations study the possibility of a joint commission with the Orthodox and Reformed Presbyterian (CES) denominations;
2. That at least two active duty military chaplains be appointed by the Moderator to serve as ex-officio members of the Committee on Interchurch Relations, to serve during study and discussions concerning the possibility of a joint commission.  
The Moderator appointed Chaplain Don K. Clements, and Chaplain Ingram Phillips.
3. That the matters of denominational examinations of candidates, endorsement through a recognized Commission and oversight be eventually handled by the MUS Committee; and that
4. In the meantime, the MTW Committee continue to examine and endorse chaplains to the Armed Services through the administrative offices of the NAE.

1978, p. 165, App. D.

1. Be it resolved that the Presbyterian Church in America, in conjunction with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, establish the "PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL" for the purpose of providing a joint endorsing agency for military and institutional chaplains of the three denominations, and to provide a ministry to our church members and their families serving in the military.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHAPLAINS

2. That the Assembly adopt the following working agreement:
  - I. The structure of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel shall be as follows:
    - A. It shall be made up of 3 members from each denomination, elected in equal classes, with a term of 3 years.
    - B. Requirements for membership on the Commission shall be set by the individual denominations.
    - C. A quorum for the Commission shall be 5, including at least one member from each denomination.
  - II. Financial support of the Commission shall be as follows:
    - A. Travel and meeting expenses for the Commission members shall be paid by their sending churches.
    - B. Funds for the work of the Commission shall be collected as follows:
      1. Each denomination shall be asked to contribute \$150.00 per year per active duty chaplain.
      2. Each active duty chaplain endorsed shall be asked to contribute \$5.00 per month if able.
      3. Each reserve chaplain endorsed shall be asked to contribute \$2.50 per month if able.
      4. It is estimated that this scale would produce approximately \$4,000.00 per year for expenses based on the current status of chaplains.
  - III. Responsibilities of the Commission shall be as follows:
    - A. Act as the endorsing agency for men entering the chaplaincy.
    - B. Hire an executive secretary and define his responsibilities and duties.
    - C. Be given the power to receive and disburse funds.
    - D. Set forth recommended procedures to be followed by men seeking to become chaplains.
    - E. Provide support and liaison for the chaplain and his family, while encouraging the sending presbytery to provide pastoral oversight.
    - F. Set procedures for regular reporting by chaplains.
    - G. Provide coordination of ministry to church members and their families in the military.
    - H. Report annually to each denomination.
    - I. Promote the testimony of the Reformed faith to and through the chaplaincy.
    - J. Promote the ministry of the chaplaincy to the member churches.
  - IV. Any changes in the denomination makeup of this Commission or any change in the elements of the working agreement must be approved by all three churches.
3. That the membership of this Commission shall be at least two active, reserve or retired, chaplains, and the third a ruling elder who preferably has had some military service.
4. That in accord with the action of the Fifth General Assembly (Minutes, page 192) the matter of denominational examination of candidates, endorsement through a recognized commission, and oversight be handled by the Mission to the United States Committee, commencing with the establishment of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel.
5. That all ordained ministers of the PCA serving in the active duty and reserve military chaplaincy must serve under the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel upon its establishment. Transfers from other endorsing agencies to the PRCCMP should be completed within one year of the establishment of this Commission.

## PCA DIGEST

### CHAPLAINS

1987, p. 126, 15-60, III, 24. That the General Assembly approve the recommendation from the chaplains' commission that the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) be received as a member of the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel, and that the three representatives to which the by-laws entitle them be seated on the commission.

25. That the General Assembly urge our churches to "adopt a chaplain" and his family, for prayer support and correspondence and that this be coordinated through the MNA office.
26. That the General Assembly encourage sessions, missions committees, and presbyteries to invite chaplains to speak in their worship services, missions conferences, and before their presbytery meetings.

### Constitution

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA)

### Resolution on Deviant Sexual Behavior

1993, p. 94, 21-41, III 10. That the General Assembly adopt the following:

Whereas, the Bible is our infallible rule of faith and practice, and

Whereas, the Bible establishes that by creation ordinance the heterosexual, monogamous, and faithful marriage relationship is both God's ordained basis for an orderly society and God's chosen vehicle to teach about His relationship with his people, and

Whereas, human sexuality has both procreation and mutual love and affection between husband and wife as its true expressions, and

Whereas, the Bible condemns the inappropriate use of human sexuality including adultery, fornication, bestiality, pedophilia, incest, homosexuality and any other perversion of God's gift of sexuality, and

Whereas, it is conceivable that chaplains endorsed by the Joint Commission could well be asked in the future to compromise their convictions in these matters in carrying out their ministries,

Therefore, the 21st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America makes the following declaration:

The Bible, which is our infallible rule of faith and practice, commands us to express redemptive love and compassion to all persons. It further commands us to condemn sexual behavior which deviates from God's revealed standard as sinful and destructive. The Bible calls all who engage in these behaviors to repentance by turning to God and proving their repentance by their deeds. The chaplains of the Presbyterian Church in America are committed to providing a compassionate, redemptive, and caring ministry to military service members, their families, and other groups among whom they are called to minister regardless of sexual behavior or the diseases with which their constituents may be afflicted. Therefore, Presbyterian Church in America chaplains endorsed by the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel will continue to preach and minister in light of the whole counsel of God on these matters. \*

*Adopted*

\* Gen. 1:27, 28; Gen. 2:18-25; Gen. 19:1-29; Lev. 18:6-24, 20:13; Prov. 18:22; Mt. 19:4-6; John 2:1-11; Acts 26:20; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 7:2-4; Eph. 5:22-23; Rev. 19:6-9

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS (CE&P)

#### BIBLICAL BASIS

1978, p. 87, 6-75, III, 15. That all Presbyteries, sessions, and members of the PCA be encouraged to make full use of the programs, materials, and counsel of the Committee and staff of CE/P and that the General Assembly recognize.

- a. The Church of Jesus Christ is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23) numbering all of the elect (1 Cor. 1:2, 12:12) who are the "called out" (1 Pet. 2:9) for the purpose of gathering (Mt. 28: 16-20) and perfecting of the saints (Eph. 4:11-13).
- b. Christian Education is based in the Covenant of Grace wherein God has revealed Himself (Gen. 1:1) and progressively reveals Himself with the commandment to teach others (Gen. 17:17, Deut. 4:5,9,10,14, Deut. 6:6ff, Lev. 10:9-11, Mt. 28:16-20, Acts 1:6-8); so that men may know God (Jn. 14:6,7); so that men may know why they live (Deut 6:1-9, 20-25, 1 Sam. 3:7-9); and so that men may spread the truth (2 Tim. 2:2, Mt. 24:35, 1 Pet. 1:24,25) to all the nations (Mt. 28:19f).
- c. The Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is to make disciples, which includes:
  1. Going to them,
  2. Baptizing them, and
  3. Teaching them to observe all that He has commanded (Mt. 28:20).

#### BOOK STORE

1977, p. 124, 5-75, III, 12. That the sessions and members of all PCA churches be encouraged to make full use of the large stock of books and supplies available from the CE/P bookstore in Montgomery, Alabama.

1986, p. 146, 14-67, III, 18. That the Assembly take this opportunity to express encouragement in the development of CE/P's alternative training programs via video and urge local churches to take advantage of their availability from the CE/P office.

#### BOOKS, SUGGESTED

1973, p. 56, 1-77. (This paragraph contains a list of approved books to be used as training materials in absence of our own literature.)

#### BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

1987, p. 148, 15-66, III, 11. That churches not presently using the Bulletin Supplement from CE/P be urged to contact the CE/P office about using the supplement.

#### CHILD'S CATECHISM

1992, p. 82, 20-36, III, 5. That the 20th General Assembly join with the CE&P Committee in encouraging the use of either the *Catechism For Young Children* developed by GCP and authored by Paul Settle and G. I. Williamson or the original version, and that churches be encouraged to send the names of children reciting the catechism to CE&P and the PCA *Messenger* for recognition.

#### COLLEGES

(See also CE&P, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; COVENANT COLLEGE; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, pp. 390-397)

1975, 3-81, 30, p. 91. That the General Assembly approve the Permanent Committee's gathering of information on colleges and commend this information to the sessions; and, further, that the Committee of Commissioners on Christian Education and Publications review the contents of this file at the next General Assembly.

[Note: This does not appear to have been done.]

## PCA DIGEST

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

#### CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

1973, p. 58, 1-77.

18. That all Presbyteries be encouraged to sponsor Youth rallies, camps, or conferences in the summer of 1974.
19. That the Assembly's Christian Education Committee sponsor an Assembly-wide Youth Conference in 1974.
20. That the Assembly's Christian Education Committee acknowledge the suitability of the following conferences for youth of the denomination: Pensacola Youth Crusade, Tampa Youth Conference, Reformed Youth Conferences, Inc.
30. That the Committee participate in and co-sponsor the annual conference for Reformed Christian Education jointly with Reformed Theological Seminary, Belhaven College, and FORCE, if the way be clear.

1978, p. 80, 6-63, II, C. In response to Resolution 10 (Fifth General Assembly) the Assembly adopted the following statement:

That the Permanent Committees charged with the responsibility of Conferences and Seminars be urged to seek and use speakers whose theological views are consistent with the basic Biblical views of our doctrinal system.

1979, p. 95, 7-34, 4. That the Assembly commend the summer National Presbyterian and Reformed Congress meetings to all its churches, and urge attendance at these meetings.

1983, p. 131, 11-75, III, 5. That pastors, sessions, other church leaders, and individuals be strongly encouraged to take advantage of the variety of conferences and seminars relating to pastoral skills and other areas of the church's educational and training ministries, such as, church growth and revitalization, teacher training, officer training, leadership seminars, music training and family ministries.

1985, p. 87, 13-30, III, 6. That in light of recent surveys and studies surfacing the need for encouragement for our pastors and wives, local presbyteries work with CE/P Committee in sponsoring seminars to address those areas through training, counseling and consultations. (Contact can be made with the CE/P office.)

"CONTINUING..."

(See MESSENGER)

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

(See MINISTER)

#### CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING

(See also MNA, ETHNIC MINISTRIES)

1986, p. 147, 14-67, III, 22. That the General Assembly urge CE/P as it develops its cross cultural training and curriculum programs that CE/P work closely with MNA's Special Ministries personnel in coordinating a strategic plan and making itself available to the MNA staff for implementation.

#### CURRICULUM

(See also GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS; MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Candidacy, *Uniform Curriculum*)

1973, p. 58, 1-77.

21. That it be understood the Committee recognizes that no book or curriculum material can be perfect, but seeks to recommend materials basically in accord with the standards of the church. Each Session must make the final decision in the suitability of materials used in the congregation's educational program.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

23. That Sessions be encouraged to make a systematic study of the Church's doctrinal standards as a necessary step toward fulfilling their responsibility to oversee the Christian Education Program of the local church and the General Assembly instruct the Committee for Christian Education to continue to examine and recommend study materials for church officers.
24. That Sessions be encouraged to devise a curriculum to fit the particular needs and opportunities of their local congregations, giving particular attention to the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger, the Shorter, and the Child's Catechism, in all studies.
25. That sessions examine curricula such as those developed by Briarwood and Granada with the aim of possibly developing similar programs.
26. That sessions be advised of the suitability of CE materials published by firms other than Great Commission Publications for use in certain areas of study, being careful to avoid uncritical use of materials which present theology contrary to our standards such as Arminian or Dispensational Teaching.

### DIRECTORS AND STAFF MEMBERS INFORMATION

1981, p. 91, 9-36, III, 11. That CE/P be designated by the Assembly as a clearing house for information about directors of Christian Education and ministers of education, and that this resource file be made available to churches requesting help in finding such staff members.

### DUTIES

1974, p. 73, 2-98.

1. To nominate a Coordinator to each General Assembly and recommend his salary to the Committee on Administration.
2. To publish official publications of the denomination.
3. To study and recommend Christian Education curricula programs to the denomination.
4. To study the possibility of developing curricula by the denomination itself.
5. To recommend plans for promoting: Sunday School, Christian Education Work, youth work, men's work, women's work, camp and conference programs, etc.
6. To maintain a liaison with other Christian publishers.
7. To continue to study and make recommendations to the denomination regarding our needs in schools, colleges, seminaries, and similar institutions.

(See also 1973, 1-77, pp. 56-57)

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(See also CE&P, COLLEGES; THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES; COVENANT COLLEGE; COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, pp. 390-397)

1976, p. 53, 4-17.

1. That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America approve in principle the establishment of educational institutions associated with the Presbyterian Church in America, and controlled by the Church through its Courts.
2. That the Fourth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, meeting this fourteenth day of September, 1976, at Greenville, South Carolina, establishes a special Steering Committee to study the feasibility of establishing such an institution(s), and report their recommendations to the General Assembly through its Christian Education Committee.
3. That the Permanent Committee on Christian Education be named the special Steering Committee to study this matter.

## PCA DIGEST

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

1976, p. 86, 4-80, 18. Overture 10 as amended be answered in the affirmative.

Whereas, the First General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church chose to place itself in the historic tradition of Old School Presbyterianism by its adoption of a Message To All The Churches of Jesus Christ and in that document specifically set forth its intention to be the agent rather than merely the superintendent of every aspect of the Lord's work; and

Whereas, the subsequent development of the Church shows the consistent application of that principal to foreign missions, home missions, and Sunday schools;

Therefore, Covenant Presbytery respectfully overtures the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to appoint the Christian Education Committee to make recommendations to the next Assembly concerning the following;

1. That the General Assembly study the propriety of training men for the ministry in institutions which are not under the discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America.
4. That the General Assembly study the establishment of a seminary under its discipline or provide an auxiliary faculty to be attached to some recognized seminary so that ministerial students could be trained by men primarily responsible to the Presbyterian Church in America rather than other denominations.

Points 2 and 3 answered in the negative. Points 1 and 4 answered in the affirmative.

### FAMILY CONFERENCES

1974, p. 78, 2-102, IV, 10. That Presbyteries or combinations of Presbyteries be encouraged to conduct family conferences during the year 1975.

1975, p. 89, 3-75, II, B, 7. That the General Assembly authorize and encourage the Committee for Christian Education and Publications to conduct a Family Conference on the General Assembly level in 1976.

1975, p. 90, 3-77, 13. That the General Assembly urge presbyteries to conduct conferences for teaching Reformed theology and its implications for the life and work of the churches and members of the PCA. (Unanimous)

1975, p. 91, 3-81, 23. That the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, In a day when many forces are at work, consciously and unconsciously, to fragment the family unit, Presbyterians must return again and again to our historic Biblical Covenant theology which underlines the oneness of the family, And

Whereas, This theology will best be implemented in a practical way by placing primary emphasis upon activities that include entire families at the local and Presbytery level. (During such activities, separate meetings may be held for men, women, youth, and children, but the overall effect must be to bring families together rather than separating them. Assembly-wide family conferences may be scheduled during vacation periods that would enable whole families to spend more time together in a leisurely atmosphere.)

Therefore, We do not feel that the Presbyterian Church in America should encourage separate Assembly-wide rallies for men and women.

1976, p. 84, 4-80, 9. That local churches and presbyteries be encouraged to conduct conferences for teaching the Faith, as expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Larger and Shorter Catechism*.

1976, p. 85, 4-80, 13. The approval of the continuation of denominational Family Conferences to be planned and conducted by the Committee for Christian Education and Publications.

[Note: This has been continued in succeeding years.]

### FEDERAL AID, EDUCATION

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, Part II, pp. 394-395)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

#### FRESH START PROGRAM

1990, p. 99, 18-34, III, 7. That in our attempt to minister to the needs of people in the church, especially the singles, divorced and widowed, the Assembly take note of the ministry of the Fresh Start Program.

#### FINANCIAL POLICIES

##### Giving

1976, p. 30, 4-10. Overture 11 ...[That] the General Assembly fulfill the needs of the Christian Education and Publications Committee and increase this Committee's priority in the fulfillment of the Great Commission by:

2. Encouraging the church membership through "Continuing..." and "Commitment" to realize that designated benevolence giving to Christian Education is just as essential to carrying out the Great Commission as designated benevolence giving to Home and World Missions.

#### GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

1973, p. 58, 1-77, 22. That, in following the mandate of the Advisory Convention (Page 26 of Minutes), the General Assembly concur in the action of the Provisional Committee of Christian Education in appointing a sub-committee of the permanent committee on Christian Education to join with the Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for the purpose of studying and recommending a joint-administrative structure by means of which the two bodies may join resources and/or personnel for the development of curriculum materials suitable for use in the respective churches and in Reformed and Presbyterian Churches at large.

1973, p. 58, 1-77, 29. That the General Assembly commend the materials of Great Commission Publications to the National Presbyterian Church for use in Sunday School and Youth Work.

1974, p. 78, 2-102, IV, 11. That the Committee for Christian Education and Publications of the Presbyterian Church in America enter upon a Joint Venture in Publications with the Christian Education Committee of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, such venture to be based upon the principles of equal control of editorial policy and a share of financial support, with a view to making the Joint Venture the publishing arm of the two denominations.

1975, p. 89, 3-75, III, B, 8. That the Third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America directs this Committee for Christian Education and Publications to proceed, forthwith, to accomplish and perfect, in conjunction with the Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, a corporation, under the Laws of the State of Delaware, which corporation shall be formed for the following purposes:

"To serve as agent for the Presbyterian Church in America and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in their work of propagating the Reformed Faith as it is set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms through the preparation and distribution of educational materials consistent with said standards, and by engaging in such other educational activities, consistent with said standards, as may be related to the churches' ministry of education. It shall also provide service to other churches insofar as such service is consistent with the doctrinal commitments of the Presbyterian Church in America and Orthodox Presbyterian Church."

Be it further resolved that said corporation shall continue for a period of at least five (5) years under equal policy and program control by the Presbyterian Church in America and by the Christian Education and Publications Committee of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church:

## PCA DIGEST

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

That the present members of the Christian Education and Publications Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America now serving as Provisional Trustees for the Great Commission Publications be authorized, and directed to execute any application for charter, lease agreement, contract, or any other document necessary for this purpose.

1975, p. 89, 3-75, III, B, 9. That the General Assembly encourage sessions to review samples of Great Commission Publications Sunday School curriculum materials and consider the use of these materials in their educational programs.

1975, p. 91, 3-81, 25. ...That subsequent members to the Board of Directors of said corporation to be formed, be elected from the members of the Christian Education and Publications Committee in office at the time such election becomes appropriate.

1976, p. 84, 4-80, 6. That the session of each PCA Church not already utilizing Great Commission Publications Sunday School materials be encouraged to give serious consideration to using these materials.

1977, p. 76, 5-72, III, 6. That the session of each PCA Church not already utilizing Great Commission Publications Sunday School materials (grades 1-12) be encouraged to give serious consideration to using these materials.

(See also 1976, 4-80, 6)

1978, p. 87, 6-75, III, 15. That all Presbyteries, sessions, and members of the PCA be encouraged to make full use of the programs, materials, and counsel of the Committee and staff of CE/P and that the General Assembly recognize:

- a. The Church of Jesus Christ is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23) numbering all of the elect (1 Cor. 1:2, 12:12) who are the "called out" (1 Pet. 2:9) for the purpose of gathering (Mt. 28:16-20) and perfecting of the saints (Eph. 4:11-13).
- b. Christian Education is based in the Covenant of Grace wherein God has revealed Himself (Gen. 1:1) and progressively reveals Himself with the commandment to teach others (Gen. 17:17, Deut. 4:5,9,10,14, Deut. 6:6ff, Lev. 10:9-11, Mt. 28:16-20, Acts. 1:6-8); so that men may know God (Jn. 14:6, 7); so that men may know why they live (Deut. 6:1-9, 20-25, 1 Sam. 3:7-9); and so that men may spread the truth (2 Tim. 2:2, Mt. 24:35, 1 Pet. 1:24,25) to all the nations (Mt. 28:19f.).
- c. The Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ is to make disciples, which includes:
  1. Going to them,
  2. Baptizing them, and
  3. Teaching them to observe all that He has commanded (Mt. 28:20).
- e. That the General Assembly, through the Stewardship Committee and Administration Committee report to the next General Assembly in the most specific and statistical terms the response of the churches, to the exhortation of paragraph "d" above.

1981, p. 90, 9-36, III, 10. That those churches now using Great Commission Publications be commended for their support and encouragement, and that each presbytery CE Chairman urge those churches not using GCP material to make every conscious effort to utilize these valuable tools.

1987, p. 149, 15-66, III, 22. That the Fifteenth PCA General Assembly take note of the recent action of the Board of GCP in stating that the "contribution inequities" between PCA and OPC for GCP "involves an in house corporate liability and places no legal obligation on either denomination." (GCP Board minutes, 9-19-1986, p. 2); that we commend CE/P for its continuing support of the joint venture; and that we encourage CE/P to set a program priority on reaching the goal of equal cash contributions with the OPC toward the joint venture with Great Commission Publications.

1989, p. 81, 17-47, III, 4. That the General Assembly express its thanks to the local churches using the Great Commission Sunday School material, that the Assembly encourage the use of the materials by our churches, and that the GCP staff be thanked and encouraged (by the Assembly) for their labors on behalf of our church.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

1993, p. 74, 21-24, III, 9. That a special prayer of thanks be offered at the end of this report for the Great Commission Publications' joint venture between the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in America and that all our churches be encouraged to use GCP materials. *Adopted*

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

(See also CE&P, COLLEGES; EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES; COVENANT COLLEGE; COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, pp. 390-397)

1978, p. 88, 6-75, III, 16. That the General Assembly approve the statement on the relationship of the Church to higher education contained in III Part One of the CE/P report, assigned by the Fifth General Assembly.

#### LOCAL CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION STAFF QUALIFICATION

1990, p. 99, 18-34, III, 9. That in response to the assignment from the 16th Assembly regarding the general qualifications for local church *staff level* Christian education personnel, the following *suggested* guidelines be approved.

- a. Understanding and commitment to the Reformed faith.
- b. Ability to apply a Christian world and life view to educational theory and practice.
- c. Demonstration of maturity in personal relationships
- d. Vision for Christian education which is shared by the church employing the person
- e. Demonstration of leadership ability
- f. Demonstration of communication skills

#### MESSENGER

(See MESSENGER)

#### NATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1990, p. 99, 18-34, 8. That the Assembly approve the concept of a National Congress on Christian education and training for church, home and school sponsored by CE/P (date to be announced). *Adopted*

#### NEW AGE CRITIQUE

1993, p. 78, 21-30. ...that the 21st General Assembly request Christian Education and Publications:

1. prepare materials which will give a concise portrayal of the major tenets of the New Age for use by our churches;
2. provide a plan of action our churches can use in exposing and confronting the heresies of the New Age movement;
3. give energetic and continuing encouragement to our churches to be active in warning our nation of the constant menace of the New Age religion; and
4. be prepared to present to the 22nd General Assembly the results of their work.

#### PIONEER CLUBS

1984, p. 105, 12-36, III, 12. That we continue to recommend Pioneer Clubs to our churches (as was done by the RPCES), and that churches interested in this program for young people contact the CE/P office for more details.

## PCA DIGEST

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

#### PSALM SINGING

1992, p. 102, 20-51, 6. That General Assembly answer Overture #8 as amended in the affirmative. *Adopted*

"Study Committee to Encourage Psalm Singing"

Now Therefore be it resolved, that the 20th General Assembly hereby appoints a sub-committee of the Christian Education and Publications Committee to formulate practical ways in which Psalm singing can be encouraged in the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America and other Reformed churches and to make report regarding this at next General Assembly; that this sub-committee have a budget of \$3,000, to be raised through donations; . . .

1993, p. 75, 21-25.

1. That the General Assembly reaffirm that Psalm-singing in the worship of God is a Gospel ordinance, is commended by the Westminster Confession, and is an historic practice of Reformed churches. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the revival of the use of Psalms and Psalm portions in contemporary worship settings. We recognize the need for the Church to continuously encourage the singing of Psalms in ways that both honor God and communicate to the culture of the day. *Adopted*
3. That congregations be encouraged to sing at least one Psalm at each of their services. *Adopted*
4. That congregations be encouraged to identify Psalm-settings as Psalms, when they are sung. *Adopted*
5. That hymnal-using congregations be encouraged to use the Psalm-rich *Trinity Hymnal* (since it averages 10 times the number of Psalms as the comparable Evangelical hymnals). *Adopted*
6. That a program of re-education be undertaken by the CE&P Committee including:
  - a. Articles in the *Messenger* that explore such things as the history and value of Psalm singing.
  - b. Providing instruction in its educational material on the Scriptural mandate and historic precedent for Psalm-singing in the worship of God, and the many ways in which the person, sufferings, resurrection, and ongoing Messianic work of Christ are set forth in the Psalms.
  - c. Produce worship bulletin inserts which feature two Psalm settings as found in the *Trinity Hymnal*, thereby promoting both the hymnal and Psalm-singing. *Adopted*
7. Form an ad hoc committee of the CE&P to complete the discussion with the RPCNA to the end that a simplified edition of *The Book of Psalms for Singing* might be produced with this format:
  - a complete Psalter
  - words only (normally one tune and version per Psalm)
  - a slender, inexpensive hymnal supplement *Adopted*
8. The funding be private, details to be worked out by the CE&P Committee in discussions with the RPCNA's Crown and Covenant Publications. *Adopted*
9. That Christian Education and Publication contact other Reformed denominations informing them of the above recommendations and of the availability in the near future of the adapted edition of *The Book of Psalms for Singing* with a view to encouraging the use of this metrical version of the Psalms in those Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in America which do not currently use a denominational Psalter. *Adopted*

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

#### PUBLICATION STYLE

1973, p. 57, 1-77, 7. That in all printed materials by all committees a common stylistic image be presented.

#### PURPOSE

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 2. That the Assembly approve both the purpose statement of the Permanent Committee, which says, "Our defined purpose is to serve as a resource to the courts and congregations of the PCA by providing the training, curricula and publication necessary to develop skills needed in their work of evangelism and the equipping of the saints to serve God and each other in all of life throughout the world", and the manner which we have applied that purpose as reflected in I-V of our report.

#### REGIONAL TRAINERS

1993, p. 73, 21-24, III, 3. That the CE/P Committee and staff give diligence to expanding their core of regional trainers to assist presbyteries and local churches in their Christian education and leadership training programs and working under the concept of the PCA School of Christian Education by Extension. *Adopted*

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

1974, p. 84, 2-107. The General Assembly approved the establishment of a student scholarship fund, to be designated as the recipient of any memorial funds given for scholarships.

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 14. That the General Assembly continue to support the development of a Christian Education and Publications scholarship fund for ministerial candidates.

#### SERVICES

1986, p. 147, 14-67, III, 19. That the Assembly continue to offer the services of the CE/P to presbyteries in their role of encouraging, equipping and ministering to their pastors, wives and other leaders.

1987, p. 149, 15-66, III, 16. That clerks of sessions and presbyteries be asked to cooperate with CE/P in distributing promotional materials to their respective members informing them of the various conferences and training programs conducted by CE/P during the coming year.

#### STEWARDSHIP

(See STEWARDSHIP; STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE)

#### THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

(See also CE&P, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY)

1973, p. 24, 1-10. Overture 8

That an ad-interim committee be appointed to study the needs of theological education within our denomination; to examine those that exist, and if none be found, to recommend the establishment of a theological seminary true to our standards and government.

1973, p. 57, 1-77, 4. That presbyteries, in view of the fact that the denomination has no official connection with any seminary at this time, be diligent in counseling candidates for the ministry to attend seminaries that are committed to that view of Scripture set forth in the Westminster Standards and of the Reformed Faith, examples of which are Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS; Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA; and Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

## PCA DIGEST

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

1974, p. 51, 2-61. This Committee determines that the Committee for Christian Education and Publications has responsibility for seminaries as set forth in the Minutes of the First General Assembly on page 57.

However, this Committee takes note of recommendation number 11 of the Report of the Committee on Mission to the United States concerning the shortage of ministers in the Presbyterian Church in America and recommends that the General Assembly charge the Committee for Christian Education and Publications, in consultation with the Committee on Mission to the United States, to formulate plans and programs for extension seminaries.

1977, p. 76, 5-72, III, 3. That the Assembly approved an amendment to the Permanent Committee for Christian Education and Publications Report that paragraph 4, item 2, page 152, be deleted. The Assembly adopted a motion that paragraph 4, item 2, be amended by adding "Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," immediately following "St. Louis, Missouri;"

1977, p. 152, Appendix F. The proposal is that presbyteries, in view of the fact that the denomination has no official connection with any seminary at this time, be diligent in counseling candidates for the ministry to attend seminaries that are committed to that view of Scripture set forth in the Westminster Standards and of the Reformed Faith, examples of which are Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, and Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and/or attend any regional seminaries that may develop co-operative agreement with such seminaries in the training of our men academically and establish a plan which would involve direct training in the pastoral ministry by the presbyteries of the PCA.

1981, p. 99, 9-43, III, 5. That Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary shall be received as denominational institutions under their present Articles of Incorporation and By-laws...

[Note: Adopted in 1982, p. 19, 10-2.]

1986, p. 147, 14-67, III, 27. That the Assembly answer Overture #55, p. 46 in the negative, on the grounds that the reference to "approved or recognized seminaries" is not appropriate. There are none, with exception of Covenant Seminary which is the denominational seminary.

1987, p. 98, 15-29, III, 6. That seminaries at which PCA candidates study, presbyteries and churches be urged to publish the need for ordained teaching elders to serve on Mission to the World's church-planting teams.

1988, p. 122, 16-33, III, 13. That in light of the Assembly assignment to CE/P in 1986, the Assembly receive as information Attachment A, p. 343, to this report as the response of the Certification Committee regarding seminaries. *Adopted*

1988, p. 343, Appendix D, Attachment A.

#### REPORT ON SEMINARY'S CURRICULUM AND CONFORMITY TO THE PCA'S UNIFORM CURRICULUM

Preamble: This committee's findings are simply a comparison of the stated curriculum of the seminary with the uniform curriculum of the PCA. These findings are not an evaluation of the quality of the course offerings and should not be interpreted as PCA approval, endorsement, or accreditation.

The following seminaries meet the criteria of the uniform curriculum, with the following notations:

#### PCA RELATED SEMINARIES:

G.A. related

Covenant Theological Seminary (no notation)

Presbytery related

Birmingham Theological Seminary (no notation)

Session related

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (no notation)



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

#### INDEPENDENT SEMINARIES COMMITTED TO THE WCF:

Westminster Theological Seminary (no instruction in the BCO)

Westminster Theological Seminary, West (All courses of U.C. are either required or available.)

Reformed Theological Seminary (no notation)

Biblical Theological Seminary (Biblical qualifies its commitment to the WCF: "Although Biblical Theological Seminary is committed to the doctrinal position of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, we are also committed to a respect for diversity in what are, by consent, deemed to be essentials. In this determination the non-denominational posture of the Seminary is reflected, although our conservative evangelicalism in its Reformed expression yields less diversity in doctrine than might be found at some other seminaries." Statement of Educational Philosophy, Missions and Goals, p. 14)

#### INDEPENDENT AND NOT COMMITTED TO WCF:

Columbia Biblical Seminary (All courses of U.C. are either required or available. CBS does inform PCA students concerning their need to choose electives which are designed to meet the U.C.)

#### Footnotes:

1. The criterion for a seminary to be PCA related is that they be under the jurisdiction of a church court.

2. For those seminaries that offer elective courses that are required by the uniform curriculum, students and presbyteries need to be careful that the requirements of the uniform curriculum are met.

#### UNIFORM CURRICULUM

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Candidacy)

#### WEEK OF PRAYER

1988, p. 210, 16-91, III, 29. That CE/P undertake the Stewardship and Week of Prayer responsibilities for 1989.

#### YOUTH MINISTRIES

(See also PIONEER CLUBS; EDUCATION, CONFERENCES & SEMINARS; MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA, COLLEGE CAMPUS WORK)

1975, p. 88, 3-75, 5. That the General Assembly approve the establishment of a Youth Ministries Advisory Subcommittee of the Committee for Christian Education and Publications, whose members shall be appointed by the committee for Christian Education and Publications.

1975, p. 90, 3-78, 17. That the General Assembly approve the development by the Committee for Christian Education and Publications of summer church service opportunities for PCA youth. (See 3-81)

#### CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

(See ABSTINENCE)

## CHURCH

### THE AGENT OF MISSIONS

1992, p. 77, 20-23, II, C, 4. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to the church, the Body of Christ, as that primary vehicle through which God seeks to receive and to display his Glory and by which He extends His kingdom; and that the Assembly call on the churches and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to seek to insure that their prayer, energy, manpower, and financial resources actually serve to enhance the building of the Church of our God and Savior.

### ARCHITECTURE

1975, p. 112, 3-89. The following was received as information, and ordered to be printed:

Recommendation 10: The Committee recommends that item 5 be answered as follows:

To item 5 asking for a definition of what constitutes proper architecture "to exhibit the Reformed Christian Faith truly, accurately and majestically," the Assembly responds: "The Bible does not describe buildings for use of congregations in worship, and thus the Church has no right to legislate regarding architecture. There are some basic principles that should govern our thoughts in this area.

First, there should be nothing that directly contradicts any clear Scriptural teaching, such as, the erecting of images or idols as forbidden by the Second Commandment.

Second, the Reformed principle of worship should be observed, namely, that we are to include in our worship only that which is either expressly set down in Scripture, or may by good and necessary consequence be deducted from it. Nothing should be built into the sanctuary that would cause the congregation to break this principle. For example, the Bible does not authorize the use of any visible representations of God or any part of His creation as a center of worship. The sanctuary should not include such, either as stained glass windows, crosses, or other symbols. Christ gave us only one thing by which to remember Him - the Lord's Supper. The use of other things for this purpose has no Biblical basis, and should be discouraged.

Third, the Reformed view of worship emphasizes the centrality of the reading and proclamation of the Word. Thus, the preferred arrangement of the sanctuary is one that preserves the centrality of the pulpit.

Fourth, since the Reformed Faith views the Sacraments as an extension of the pulpit in that they are "sensible signs" by which "Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed and applied," the placement of the baptismal font and communion table in relation to the pulpit so as to symbolize this concept is most desirable.

Fifth, since the Lord's Supper portrays the communion of the congregation with her Lord, it is most suitable that the congregation be seated around the table of communion, or at least, that the table be placed on the level of the congregation and not elevated above it.

Finally, it should be remembered that the true beauty of worship is found in the presence of the Holy Spirit with the congregation. Thus elaborate places of worship are not necessary for proper worship of the Living God. Care should be taken, on the other hand, to provide a place of suitable dignity for the Spiritual worship of God. The exact form of the sanctuary is thus unimportant, so long as the congregation has a suitable place in which to worship God in an orderly fashion. Since church buildings, as such, have no place in the life of the Church in the New Testament, it is incumbent upon modern congregations to consider carefully the matter of how much should be invested in such properties, lest they become an end in themselves, diverting the efforts of God's people from their primary task.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHURCH

#### BUDGETS

1983, p. 158, 11-87, 3. That the General Assembly strongly encourage all PCA churches to use calendar year budgeting for salaries and employee benefits.

1986, p. 132, 14-53, III, 3. That the General Assembly strongly encourage all PCA churches to complete their annual budgeting by December 15 so as to expedite the handling of annual billing for IAR plans to the churches.

#### BUILDING

(See MNA, BUILDING CLUB; FIVE IN FIVE; REVOLVING BUILDING FUND; INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS and GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 24-6, 1986, 14-52, 44; BCO 25-2, 1983, 11-36, #34)

#### Not Subject to Complaint

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 42, 1986, 14-52, 16, #1)

#### DAUGHTER CHURCHES

1992, p. 77, 20-23, II, C, 9. That the General Assembly urge every congregation to consider the possibility of participating in starting a daughter church. *Adopted*

#### DISCIPLINE

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #65)

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### Course of Instruction

1973, p. 64, 1-80, 4. That the First General Assembly recommend to all sessions that a course of instruction in Presbyterian doctrine and polity be given to all prospective members prior to their reception. The Christian Education Committee is asked to prepare materials to assist Sessions in this.

##### Date of

1987, p. 169, 15-83, III, 7. That the Assembly answer Constitutional Inquiry #1 as follows: Constitutional Inquiry #1. From the All Saints Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, regarding the time of membership.

"We would like to know what date to use for a person's 'Date of Admission' in the church roll book: the date they are examined and received by the Session or the date they take their vows of membership before the congregation?"

##### ANSWER:

"The date of admission to communicant membership is that of the reception by the session, except when there are any pending or contingent actions stated in the sessional action of reception or required by the BCO, then the date of admission will be the date these matters have been completed."

Grounds: This is more precise language than that proposed.

##### Reaffirmation of Faith

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 58-6, 1978, 6-111, #17)

## PCA DIGEST

### CHURCH

#### Resign

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 46-5, 1986, 14-52, 12)

#### Transferred Within NAPARC

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, NAPARC's Agreement on Transfer of Members, pp. 437-438)

#### Willful Neglect

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 46-5, 1986, 14-52, 12)

### PROPERTY

(See also QUIT CLAIM DEED)

1973, p. 55, 1-73. ...That this General Assembly instruct its Judicial Committee to assist and aid such churches in every way possible [in regard to church property matters], and be it Further Resolved, that the General Assembly be led in an appropriate prayer for a clear and speedy resolution of His will in these cases immediately following the adoption of this resolution.

1974, p. 72, 2-98. It was moved and carried that the Commissioners Committee on Judicial Business recommend to General Assembly that it take action to establish a fund to assist needy churches involved in litigation over their property, as recommended by the presbytery in whose boundaries they are located; all subject to approval of the Committee on Administration. This fund is to be a voluntary fund, which is to be publicized.

1975, p. 67, 3-49, A. That the consulting arrangement and provision for maintaining "Clearing House" files be continued with Attorney Owen Page of 305-307 Realty Building, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

### ROLL

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #9)

#### Non-Communing

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 38-2, 1986, 14-52, 16, #6)

#### Removal from

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 38-4, 1986, 14-52, 11; *BCO* 46, 1986, 14-52, 14; 1988, 16-77, 29; *BCO* 46-5, 1986, 14-52, 16, #5; 1988, 16-77, 28)

### TAXATION

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, III, pp. 123-128; Taxation, p. 552)

### TREASURER

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 9-4, 1987, 15-83, #9)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS

#### TRUSTEES

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 26-6, 1979, 7-41, #3)

1982, p. 102, 10-75, III, 20. That Overture 17, (10-12, p. 45) be answered in the negative.  
Grounds: The office of Trustee is not introduced into our form of government as an ecclesiastical office since it is not provided for in Scripture, although the civil magistrate may require Trustees (Directors). In this the Church is acting in obedience to the head of the Church. In situations envisioned in the Overture, the Board of Deacons has complete liberty under our form of government to enlist supplementary assistance, for which purposes they may draw upon the entire particular church membership.

1982, p. 106, 10-75, III, 40. That the General Assembly declare that congregations received into the PCA this year through the reception of the RPCES be given until December 31, 1983, to make adjustments needed, if any, in their local church structures as they relate to trustees. The Clerk is to inform the former RPCES Churches of this fact.

#### UNION

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church Union, pp. 146-149)

#### VOTER

##### Minimum Age

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 24-3, 1982, 10-75, #10; 1984, 12-53, #60)

### CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS

#### BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL & CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Biblical, Historical & Contemporary Concepts, pp. 103-117)

#### CIVIL AUTHORITY

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

#### INCORPORATION

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, II, pp. 118-122)

1984, p. 187, 12-90, III, 23. ...That the General Assembly instruct it [COA] to prepare and publish information on such questions as: Should a church be incorporated, and if so, under what circumstances? What are the rules governing the parsonage allowance? What changes were made in 1983 in the social security tax law? What ethical rules should a church follow in handling contributions and other financial responsibilities? The General Assembly directs the Committee on Administration to convey to members of Congress and the administration its conclusion that the Social Security Act Amendments of 1983 do not adequately consider "church-state-entanglement" aspects of the legislation, and to seek redress.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, Part II, pp. 394-395)

1983, p. 116, 11-50, II, 5. KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Presbyterian Church in America in seeking to fulfill the Great Commission of spreading the Gospel to all peoples, sees the freedom of expression as a vital element of our society; Whereas, there is a widespread attack against religious freedoms and religious expression, particularly in the public schools of the United States;

## PCA DIGEST

### CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that students cannot, of their own initiative, offer verbal prayer in the lunch room; that Christian groups cannot have equal access to classrooms before or after school; that Christians cannot read and discuss prayers from the Congressional Record on school property before school; and imposed other unconscionable restrictions upon Christians and Christian groups; are consistently taught as fact in the public schools of the United States;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States has previously declared humanism to be a religion, yet has applied restrictions only upon the expression of Christian ideals and values;

Whereas, there is presently pending a suit which arose in Mobile, Alabama styled Ishamel Jeffree vs. the School Board, et al. in which an agnostic parent is seeking to remove from the public schools all material and teaching which would encourage or foster a belief in religion;

Whereas, the plaintiff has sought to remove from the public school system any mention of God's name, but has not sought to remove the teachings of the ideals and values of humanism and other non-theistic religions;

Whereas, here at issue is whether humanism and non-theistic religions will have exclusive access to the minds of students or whether we will allow toleration of divergent ideas;

Whereas, Judge Brevard Hand, Chief Judge, Second Federal District Court of the State of Alabama, has ruled that the United States Supreme Court has erred in its interpretation of the Constitution of the United States in the area of First Amendment freedoms.

Whereas, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered Judge Hand enter an order enjoining religious activities in Mobile County Public Schools;

Whereas, this matter is now on appeal to the United States Supreme Court;

Whereas, there is a general lack of awareness of the status of law, its interpretation and application by the United States Supreme Court, and the extent of the restrictions presently enforced in the public school system against Christians and Christian groups; and

Whereas, the Religious Freedoms Defense Fund, which is being incorporated as a fund of Ridgewood Presbyterian Church, P.C.A., exists for the purpose of certain legal expenses in this case.

Be it Therefore Resolved, that the General Assembly of the PCA shall recommend prayer, the dissemination of information, and financial encouragement for this stand against the continuing encroachment and denial of the God-given rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

1984, p. 139, 12-53, II, 57. That the Assembly ratify the answer to the following Constitutional inquiry:

Constitutional Inquiry 7: From the Session of Salem Presbyterian Church of Gaffney, South Carolina.

In light of our responsibilities to God and to the state, what constitutional advice can be given to help us know how to approach church/state relations in these difficult matters?

ANSWER:

This matter is being referred to the General Assembly for study and advice. Recognizing that the Lord alone is Lord of the conscience, we recommend that if a church is under pressure of appearing to violate a law of any civil government and has scruples of conscience against compliance with said laws that the church, if it complies, consider doing so under protest with reference to any requirements for applications and payment of any taxes with reference to these laws.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### COMMITTEES, PERMANENT

#### SUMMARY POSITIONS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, Summary, pp. 98-102)

1988, p. 204, 16-91, III, 3. That the summary positions of the Church-State subcommittee's report be adopted as amended by the 16th GA.

#### TAXATION

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, III, pp. 123-128; Taxation, p. 552)

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, V, pp. 140-145)

#### COLLEGES

(See CE&P, COLLEGES; EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; COVENANT COLLEGE; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, pp. 390-397)

#### COMITY AGREEMENT (GOLDEN RULE)

(See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS, COMITY AGREEMENT)

#### COMMISSIONS

##### MATTERS ASSIGNED TO

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 15-2, 1985, 13-45, #55)

##### POWERS

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 15-1, 1985, 13-45, #47)

1978, p. 40, 6-11, B. Reference 2: From Texas Presbytery

The Presbytery of Texas, in hearing the report of the Committee on Ministerial Relations and Candidates, approved a motion to refer Item H of the report to the General Assembly for a ruling. Item H is as follows:

This committee has the authority to act as a commission of Presbytery in dissolving pastoral relationships in cases where the pastor and congregation formally concur or where no congregations are concerned to dismiss other ministers, licentiates, or candidates at their request. The committee chairman shall inform the stated clerk of this action and the clerk may then dismiss the minister.

1978, p. 113, 6-111, III, 21. Reference 2

That the Sixth General Assembly advise Texas Presbytery that item H is constitutional. However, this Assembly cautions the Courts of this Church against granting blanket commission powers to its Permanent Committees. Ordinarily, commissions are established to act on behalf of a Court in a particular matter within a limited time frame (ref. BCO 16-2).

### COMMITTEES, PERMANENT

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY, COMMITTEES; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

## PCA DIGEST

### COMMITTEES OF COMMISSIONERS (See GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

#### COMMUNICATIONS

1990, p. 99, 18-34, III, 14. That the General Assembly appoint an ad hoc committee of seven people, of which one member shall be appointed by each Program Committee (MTW, MNA and CE & P), and four members designated by the Assembly at large to study the whole area of PCA communications: (including printing and mailing of materials by Committees and others); what should be done, by whom and how and who will fund it, and report back to the 1991 Assembly. The cost is not to exceed \$6,000. The funding of the ad hoc committee will come from CE/P and the accounting shall be reflected in the CE/P minutes.

1993, p. 72, 21-22. The Ad Interim Committee on Communications, appointed by the Eighteenth General Assembly "to study the whole area of PCA communications...what should be done, by whom, and how and who should fund them....", has been working diligently to review all current communications media presently utilized by PCA agencies, with special emphases on the *PCA Messenger*.

Due to the complex nature of the task, and of possible recent breakthroughs in its efforts to engage all PCA agencies in the review, analysis, and recommendations process, the Committee has been unable to complete its work and requests the Assembly to continue this Committee at least one more year, or until its task is completed.

1. That the General Assembly continue this Committee and instruct it to report to the Twenty-Second General Assembly. *Adopted*

1993, p. 77, 21-29. ...referred to the Ad Interim Committee on Communications. ...that the 21st General Assembly instruct the MESSENGER, through CE/P, to allow, encourage, and stimulate articles and editorials that provide for the dissemination of accurate information among the "grass roots" membership of this denomination regarding the concerns, activities, actions, and issues within this body and its constituent membership.

#### COMMUNION

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 58-4; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #23; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Fencing the Lord's Table, pp. 294-299; Paedocommunion, pp. 498-515)

1979, p. 102, 7-41, 6. That answer 4 (p. 180) to the Rev. James C. Bland regarding the procedure for giving Communion to members of the Congregation who are unable to attend worship services be approved.

The Committee recommended that the following procedure be used when giving communion to members of the congregation who are unable to attend worship service:

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper may be administered to those who are ill, elderly or infirm, provided that the Session authorizes an abbreviated service of worship to convene at a specified time and place, following announcement, and with the Teaching Elder and at least one Ruling Elder in attendance.

1984, p. 103, 12-31, III, 9. That Overture 56, be answered in the affirmative. . . . That the Twelfth General Assembly appoint a study committee to reassess the PCA's current practice with regard to the Lord's Supper and her covenant children in the light of the overall teaching of Scripture.

1988, p. 120, 16-30. (See full Report on "Paedocommunion," PART V: POSITION PAPERS, pp. 498-515)

1. That the PCA continue the practice defined in our standards and administer the Lord's Supper "only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves."



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### COMPENSATION FOR COORDINATORS AND DIRECTORS

2. That the Committee on Paedocommunion prepare an annotated bibliography of sources both for and against the practice, and that resources be collected by the Committee for distribution to those who request them (at the requesters' cost) to study this matter further.
3. To answer Overture 12 to the Fourteenth General Assembly (14-4, p. 49 and 14-52, 28, p. 127) in the negative.
4. That those ruling and teaching elders who by conscience of conviction are in support of the minority report concerning paedocommunion be notified by this Assembly of their responsibility to make known to their presbyteries and sessions the changes of their views since their ordination vows.

1993, p. 181, 21-64, III, 32. That Personal Resolution #8 from TE Frank Moser concerning fencing of the Lord's table during General Assembly communion be answered in the affirmative.

*Adopted*

Whereas, in the opening worship service of the 21st General Assembly, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated without the appropriate fencing required by the *Book of Church Order*, 58-4, namely in the omission of any reference to those invited being "communicants in good standing in any evangelical church" or any words to that effect; and

Therefore be it resolved, that the 21st General Assembly instruct the Administrative Committee to take such steps as are expeditious and necessary, such as including this direction in the written manual (if such exists) for those in charge of arranging for this service each year, so that the Lord's Table may from this time forth be properly fenced at each and every celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at subsequent General Assemblies.

### COMMUNISM

1978, p. 110, 6-111, III, 2. . . . That this General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America record its unalterable opposition to atheistic communism and that the Churches urge their members to register their opposition by writing the President of these United States and their Congressmen, urging them to exert every possible effort to resist the further encroaching of this Godless ideology.

### COMPENSATION FOR COORDINATORS AND DIRECTORS

1984, p. 184, 12-90, III, 16. That the General Assembly direct COA to make a study of the philosophy of the salary structure with reference to the coordinators, taking into account in the replacement of coordinators such matters as years of experience, ability and education in determining starting salaries and whether these warrant starting a new coordinator at the same base level as his predecessor, and to report to the next General Assembly.

1985, p. 140, 13-73, III, 39. That the Assembly extend the work of the Ad Hoc Salary Study Committee of COA to the 14th General Assembly in order to provide additional guidelines for salaries at all levels for the Committee staffs along with initial personnel policy manual to be presented to the 1986 General Assembly.

1986, p. 172, 14-74, III, 36. That a salary compensation package of \$45,365 for FY87 be approved for coordinators and stated clerk with an allowable salary package range of 15 percent below or above the approved figure.

1987, p. 189, 15-91, III, C, 16. That the total compensation, including all benefits of Coordinators, Directors and Presidents and Stated Clerk, be set forth in their respective budgets.

1988, p. 209, 16-91, III, 10. That the Permanent Committee's Coordinator compensation range for all coordinators for FY89 be \$41,787 to \$56,535.

## PCA DIGEST

### COMPENSATION FOR COORDINATORS AND DIRECTORS

1989, p. 134, 17-81, II, 16. That each Permanent Committee's Coordinator compensation range for FY90 be \$54,800 to \$63,700.

1989, p. 135, 17-81, II, 29. That the 17th GA require that all coordinators/directors/presidents salary line items must be split with a line showing salary plus housing, and another line showing benefits.

1989, p. 135, 17-81, II, 30. That the 17th GA require that where a car is provided as a personal benefit, in contrast to a business tool, it must be shown as a benefit as part of the total compensation package.

1990, p. 112, 18-40, III, A, 35. Note: This replaces Recommendation 5.

That the Administrative Committee shall annually determine and recommend a salary range for the coordinators of the permanent committees and CEOs of the General Assembly's agencies and shall notify each committee and agency board of such salary range for preparation of their budgets. It is understood that the salary of the CEO of the Insurance, Annuity and Relief Funds shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of IAR, according to the terms of the trust agreements between the Trustees and the General Assembly.

1991, p. 125, 19-61, III, 17. Approve the total Compensation Range for coordinators for 1992 as follows:

	Low	Median	High
AC	\$58,842	\$66,866	\$74,890
CE&P	59,148	67,214	75,280
MNA	61,321	69,683	78,045
MTW	75,386	85,666	95,946
CC	68,469	77,806	87,143
CTS	60,151	68,353	76,555
RH	51,032	61,809	72,586
IAR	63,840	72,546	81,252
IFBD	55,553	63,906	72,259
PCAF	56,189	63,851	71,513

And that the range for coordinators be adjusted every three years from this year, since there is a 24% variance within the range.

### COMPLAINTS

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 39-2, 1984, 12-53, #56)

### NOTICE OF

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 43-4, 1985, 13-45, #53)

### SUSPEND ACTION

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 43-4, 1985, 13-45, #53)

### COMPUTERS

1981, p. 111, 9-55, III, 3. That the General Assembly direct its Committee on Administration to conduct a study concerning the coordination of computer operations of denominational offices in the office of the business administrator.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CONFESSIONAL SUBSCRIPTION

1983, p. 83, 11-30, III, 36. That the Committee on Administration be directed to form an advisory committee, which shall include representatives of the committees and agencies using the data processing center operated by the COA to expeditiously determine an appropriate solution to the problems presently experienced by the using committees and agencies. The COA shall not purchase additional computer hardware or software until the advisory committee has reported and its report has been acted on by the COA, except such peripheral equipment as may be necessary to maintain operations until the study is completed and a decision reached. Any using committee or agency may, at its expense, employ qualified consultants to assist the advisory committee in its deliberations in drafting its report. It is the sense of the General Assembly that the denomination will maintain a coordinated approach to data processing.

1983, p. 159, 11-87, III, 9. That the General Assembly assign a Highest Priority to adequate computer support to the Trustees and all other church agencies.

1984, p. 187, 12-90, III, 27. We recommend that the General Assembly authorize the raising and expenditure of the necessary funds to implement the updating of the computing ability of the General Assembly.

### CONFESSIONAL SUBSCRIPTION

(See also MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Ordination; MTW, SUPPORT, Non-Reformed Agencies, 1979; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, 15-1, 1985, 13-45, #47)

1982, 10-75, 24, p. 103. That the paper "Confessional Subscription" be received as information and that it be commended to the presbyteries, Sessions and Board of Deacons for study.

[Note: For the text of this report see the Minutes.]

1982, p. 103, 10-75, III, 25, A. That the Questions in Personal Resolution 5, Ninth General Assembly, on "Confessional Subscription" be answered with the following response:

- Q.1. Does the second ordination vow require the Presbyterian Church in America church officers to embrace as Bible truth each and every statement in our confessional standards?
- A. When an officer of the Presbyterian Church in America subscribes to the Confessional Standards, he is declaring them to be the confession of his faith with reference to doctrine, worship, and government, recognizing that the Word of God written is the only infallible, inerrant, unamendable rule of faith and practice.
- Q.2. If not, then what statements in the confessional standards are to be regarded as "fundamentals of the system of doctrine," which, if a man should fail to embrace them, would disqualify that man from holding office in the Presbyterian Church in America?
- Q.3. May a man be lawfully received/ordained/installed within the Presbyterian Church in America who rejects either implicitly or explicitly any of the following doctrines, and if so, which?
  - a. Any of the so-called "five points of Calvinism."
  - b. Sabbath observance as set forth in the Confession.
  - c. Baptizing only once.

## PCA DIGEST

### CONFESSIONAL SUBSCRIPTION

- A. Answer to Q. 2 and Q. 3. It would be unwise, improper, and unconstitutional for the General Assembly to determine abstractly apart from the proper processes afforded by our constitutional standards what would disqualify a man from holding office in the Presbyterian Church in America. The constitution provides that the standards of our church may be modified if it should be proved from the Word of God, our only inerrant and unalterable guide to faith and practice, that the standards are in any way not in agreement with that Word. Also, as the result of proper judicial processes, judgments may be made which determinately interpret what may or may not be in accord with our standards. Any other procedure of setting forth or compiling a list of essential or nonessential doctrines would, in effect, amend the standards by an unconstitutional method. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms are already held by our church as "standard expositions of the teaching of Scripture in relation to both faith and practice" (*BCO* 29-1) and all officers and candidates for office in the Presbyterian Church in America are required to adopt our standards sincerely and without mental reservation (*WCF* 22-4) as faithful expositions of Bible truth.

The approval of any man for office belongs, in the first place, to the court of jurisdiction (*BCO* 21-5). The Church has always reserved to herself the prerogative of determining what views shall not be in accord with the standards. No officer should presume to have the right of making a self-evaluation regarding the conformity of his view.

Any exception to the constitutional standards may have the potential of striking at the vitals of religion (see *BCO* 34-5), even one which some may consider to refer to an obscure or very technical point of doctrine. A system of doctrine is made up of constituent parts, so that a variation in one of these parts may logically effect a change in the system as a whole. Any court of jurisdiction should therefore give careful consideration to any exception a man might reveal or take with regard to the constitutional standards before determining that an exception is or is not in conformity to the standards and/or proceeding to receive, ordain, and/or to install him.

- Q.4. If a man makes known to his session/presbytery a fundamental change in his doctrinal views, what would be the appropriate action or actions of the session/presbytery in the case of a ruling elder, in the case of a deacon, or in the case of a teaching elder?

- A. Should a man make known any changes in his doctrinal views, the procedure which the respective court of jurisdiction should follow would apply equally to a deacon, ruling elder, or teaching elder. The court of jurisdiction should investigate the matter. Then its subsequent actions would be dependent upon the findings of its investigation. If the court should find that the exception is such as to warrant judicial process, the procedure as set forth in the *BCO* (see chapters 27 - 37) should be followed. Or, if the court of jurisdiction should find that the exception does not warrant judicial process, due minutes of the proceedings should be recorded noting the exception and the action of the court.

1986, p. 125, 14-52, 13. That the answer of the Permanent Committee concerning Constitutional Inquiry #5 from the Gainesville Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, VA be ratified as amended as follows:

1986, p. 331, Appendix I, 5. Constitutional Inquiry #5. From the Gainesville Presbyterian Church regarding men who have taken exceptions with the Constitutional Standards.

"...[W]e have a considerable amount of disagreement over how a teaching or ruling elder is to handle the issues on which he differs from the official PCA stand. Specifically, is he allowed to preach and teach his views even when they differ from the views of the denomination?

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**ANSWER:** When a man is ordained with the allowance of exceptions to his full acceptance of the PCA standards, he thereby obtains (1) approval of his suitability to function within the ordained office, and (2) liberty to believe and live in some way not fully in accord with some portion of those standards. This allowance of exceptions, however, does not warrant his teaching or preaching of that matter so as to disturb the peace and purity of the church. The court of jurisdiction must determine in each situation whether such unwarranted actions have occurred.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

#### STATEMENT OF

1982, p. 89, 10-66, III, 18. The Assembly is asked to take note of the "Statement of Confidentiality" prepared by the Commission as requested by the Ninth General Assembly.

#### STATEMENT ON "CONFIDENTIALITY"

1. Whereas, since the laws of the United States of America clearly define the subject of privileged communication between a clergyman and a person with whom he has a professional relationship; and,
2. Whereas, the laws of all states (with the exception of Alabama, Connecticut, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Texas, and West Virginia) have various statutes defining the subject of privileged communication between a clergyman and a person with whom he has a professional relationship; and
3. Whereas, notwithstanding the applicable laws which apply in criminal proceedings, all clergymen may be open to and subjected to civil suits for malpractice in cases resulting from professional relationships;
4. Therefore, the Tenth General Assembly of the PCA recommends that all Ministers of the Word and any others, such as Ruling Elders, Deacons, or non-ordained laity who are involved in professional counseling ministries, take the following action:
  - a. Clearly familiarize themselves with the appropriate federal and state laws which define the subject of privileged communication between a clergyman and a person with whom he has a professional relationship. To this end, the advice and counsel of a knowledgeable attorney is recommended.
  - b. Consider the possibility of purchasing an individual or church-group insurance policy to provide professional liability coverage (malpractice insurance). To this end, it is recommended that an agent representing the St. Paul Property and Liability Insurance Company be contacted, since they are the only U. S. company providing such individual coverage for clergymen as of this time.

### CONGREGATION

(See CHURCH)

### CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

[Note: formerly the Permanent Sub-Committee on Judicial Business]

#### AUTHORITY, LIMITS OF

1986, p. 126, 14-52, 15. That the answer of the Permanent Committee concerning Constitutional Inquiry #7 from the Missouri Presbytery, be ratified.

1986, p. 331, Appendix I, 7. Constitutional Inquiry #7. From Missouri Presbytery regarding procedure in the course of a trial. See Recommendation 15.

## **PCA DIGEST**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**ANSWER:** It appears to the Committee on Judicial Business that answers to the questions it has been asked would in effect resolve many of the issues raised in the complaint pending before the Presbytery. It would be improper for the Committee on Judicial Business to predetermine substantive matters regarding which a complaint has been filed, or in which the matter is already in judicial process (*MIIGA*, p. 97, item 8). We suggest to the presbytery that if they find themselves in the situation described in BCO 41-2, they might consider referring the complaint, or the entire matter, to the General Assembly.

### **MANUAL**

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES; RAO 7-2)

### **MINUTES**

1988, p. 175, 16-77, III, 19. That the Permanent Committee on Judicial Business, as a permanent Committee of the General Assembly, is to keep its minutes according to the guidelines set out in RAO 8-13 which apply to all permanent committees of the General Assembly.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL INQUIRIES**

(See PART II. INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION BY THE ASSEMBLY)

### **CONTINUING REVELATION**

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #12; #50)

### **CORPORATIONS**

(See CE&P, GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS, 1975, 3-75, III, B, 8; COVENANT COLLEGE; COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY; INCORPORATION; PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION; RIDGEHAVEN)

### **COURTS**

#### **HIGHER, POWER**

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #9; #33)

#### **LOWER, BYLAWS**

1976, p. 72, 4-71, III, A. With respect to a communication from Rev. Donald Dunkerley concerning the oversight of a church without a session but with at least one ruling elder, the Committee would direct attention to Paragraph 12-2 of the Book of Church Order beginning with the word "secondly" and continuing through the end of the paragraph which gives church courts latitude to establish rules as needed agreeable with Scripture and doctrines which are not in violation of the Constitution of the Church.

### **COVENANT COLLEGE**

(See also CE&P, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, pp. 390-397)

### **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS & GUIDELINES)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### COVENANT COLLEGE

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1983, p. 77, 11-27, III, 2. That since Covenant College was received by the Joining and Receiving with its Bylaws intact, and since the Bylaws of the College have always allowed for a limited number of members from other NAPARC churches to be elected to the board, the Committee of Commissioners recommends that the Bylaws of the General Assembly be amended to provide for the Assembly to be able to elect to the Board of Trustees of Covenant College one male member of any NAPARC church to each class of the Board (total of up to four).

#### BYLAWS

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS & GUIDELINES)

#### CAREER PLANNING

1979, p. 113, 7-49, III, 6. That all PCA churches be informed of the availability of the career planning program for youth being developed by Covenant College in conjunction with the Committee for Christian Education and Publications.

#### DENOMINATIONAL INSTITUTION

1981, p. 99, 9-43, III, 5. That Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary shall be received as denominational institutions under their present Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws...

[Note: Adopted in 1982, p. 19, 10-2]

#### DUE PROCESS

1986, p. 172, 14-74, III, 34. That the action taken by the Board of Directors of the PCA meeting June 20, 1986, "That the General Assembly accept the report of the Board of Directors that they have completed their assignment by the 11th General Assembly (and continued by the 12th and 13th Assemblies) to establish guidelines for a working relationship and due process between Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary and the courts of the PCA' (MII GA, 11-36, III, 54, p. 101)" be approved.

#### GUIDELINES FOR A WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND DUE PROCESS BETWEEN COVENANT COLLEGE AND THE COURTS OF THE PCA

1. In all cases involving administrative action against employees of Covenant College, the Board of Trustees shall be the last resort for any appeal as it (the appeal) relates to the status of employment.
2. In cases involving dismissal of members of the PCA for doctrinal deviation or moral failure, it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to notify the appropriate church court within the denomination in order that the court bring charges if it so desires.
3. An employee who is a member of the PCA and is dismissed for moral or theological reasons may appeal to a church court for the purpose of clearing his or her name of any moral or theological charges. If such an appeal is successful, however, it will not automatically overturn the decision of the Board of Trustees with respect to status of employment. The Board of Trustees retains the final authority with respect to employment status.
4. An employee who is not a member of the PCA and is dismissed for moral or theological reasons has no right to appeal beyond the Board of Trustees.
5. An employee who is dismissed for other than moral or theological reasons has no right to appeal beyond the Board of Trustees.
6. If any court of the PCA feels that there are moral or theological issues which need to be dealt with within the faculty or staff of Covenant College, it should proceed with judicial action in accordance with the Book of Church Order and notify the President that such judicial action has been initiated.

## PCA DIGEST

### COVENANT COLLEGE

7. If a church court below the level of General Assembly were to find an employee of Covenant College and a member of the PCA guilty of moral or theological deviation, the college would ordinarily either (a) terminate the employee's relationship with the college, or (b) suspend the employee pending the outcome of any appeal to a higher court.
8. If a recommendation came from the General Assembly to terminate an employee for moral or theological reasons, then the college would have no alternative but to follow that directive.

### PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, Part III, pp. 395-397)

### SCHOLARSHIPS

(See CE&P, SCHOLARSHIP FUND)

### SUPPORT

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 12. That Covenant College continue to be commended to our churches and to our people for support in prayer, students and finances.

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 13. That local churches continue to encourage their young people to participate in the Career Planning Program sponsored by Covenant College.

1981, p. 90, 9-36, III, 9. That churches be urged by the Assembly to encourage the support and utilization of Covenant College.

[Note: Continued in succeeding years.]

1993, p. 71, 21-21, III, 2. ...designate October 17 as Covenant College Sunday and encourage churches to observe the day ... *Adopted*

### WORKING RELATIONSHIP

1983, p. 101, 11-36, III, 54. That the Eleventh General Assembly direct the COA to establish guidelines for a working relationship and due process between Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary and the courts of the PCA. The study should be done in consultation with the boards of Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary.

### COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

(See also CE&P, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES)

### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

### BYLAWS

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

### DENOMINATIONAL INSTITUTION

1981, p. 99, 9-43, III, 5. That Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary shall be received as denominational institutions under their present Articles of Incorporation and By-laws...

[Note: Adopted in 1982, p. 19, 10-2]



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

#### DUE PROCESS

1986, p. 172, 14-74, III, 34. That the action taken by the Board of Directors of the PCA meeting June 20, 1986, "That the General Assembly accept the report of the Board of Directors that they have completed their assignment by the 11th General Assembly (and continued by the 12th and 13th Assemblies) 'to establish guidelines for a working relationship and due process between Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary and the courts of the PCA' (*M11GA*, 11-36, III, 54, p. 101)" be approved.

#### GUIDELINES FOR A WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND DUE PROCESS BETWEEN COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND THE COURTS OF THE PCA

The Faculty Manual on pp. 3 and 4 outlines the procedure for dismissal of a professor. The procedure specifies that an appeal can go all the way to the Board of Trustees, whose action in the case shall be final. The guidelines which follow are intended to clarify how this procedure relates to the interest and jurisdiction of the General Assembly of the PCA or some lower church court in such cases.

#### Guidelines

1. In all cases involving administrative action against employees of Covenant Theological Seminary, the Board of Trustees shall be the last resort for any appeal as it (the appeal) relates to the status of employment.
2. In cases involving dismissal of members of the PCA for doctrinal deviation or moral failure, it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to notify the appropriate church court within the denomination in order that the court bring charges if it so desires.
3. An employee who is a member of the PCA and is dismissed for moral or theological reasons may appeal to a church court for the purpose of clearing his or her name of any moral or theological charges. If such an appeal is successful, however, it will not automatically overturn the decision of the Board of Trustees with respect to status of employment. The Board of Trustees retains the final authority with respect to employment status.
4. An employee who is not a member of the PCA and is dismissed for moral or theological reasons has no right to appeal beyond the Board of Trustees, within the PCA.
5. An employee who is dismissed for other than moral or theological reasons has no right to appeal beyond the Board of Trustees, within the PCA.
6. If any court of the PCA feels that there are moral or theological issues which need to be dealt with within the faculty or staff of Covenant Theological Seminary, it should proceed with judicial action in accordance with the Book of Church Order and notify the President that such judicial action has been initiated.
7. If a church court below the level of General Assembly were to find an employee of Covenant Theological Seminary and a member of the PCA guilty of moral or theological deviation, the Seminary would ordinarily either (a) terminate the employee's relationship with the Seminary, or (b) suspend the employee pending the outcome of any appeal to a higher court.
8. If a recommendation came from the General Assembly to terminate an employee for moral or theological reasons, then the Seminary would have no alternative but to follow that directive.

#### MDiv

1987, p. 103, 15-34, III, 8. That CTS be commended for broadening the base of their MDiv program to train a larger number of the body of Christ for specialized ministries not requiring ordination while still maintaining their focus on preparing men for ordination to the gospel ministry.

## PCA DIGEST

### COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

#### MINUTES

1986, p. 137, 14-57, III, 10. That all policies, curriculum revisions, and documents referred to in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee be appended to their Minutes and supplied to the Committee of Commissioners through the Stated Clerk's Office.

1988, p. 127, 16-37, III, 4. That the General Assembly direct the secretary of the Board of Trustees to communicate any Board of Trustees or Executive Committees minutes of meetings prior to General Assembly of each year to the Committee of Commissioners on Covenant Theological Seminary.

#### PURPOSE

1987, p. 103, 15-34, III, 5. That the GA commend CTS for its concise Statement of purpose as a Seminary of the PCA:

"The purpose of Covenant Theological Seminary is to train servants of the triune God, in walking with God, in interpreting and communicating God's Word, and in leading God's people."

#### RESPONSIBILITY TO

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 7. That in light of the reception of the RPCES, the Assembly reaffirm its support for that part of the "joining and receiving" plan approved by the Ninth General Assembly which specifies that Covenant Theological Seminary will report directly to the Assembly through its own Committee of Commissioners; and further, that the Assembly reaffirm the responsibility of CE/P to oversee and coordinate the denomination's program for theological training, particularly through support of the Certification Committee.

1983, p. 75, 11-24, III, 5. That Covenant Seminary continue to be accountable directly to the General Assembly through a Committee of Commissioners on Covenant Seminary.

1983, p. 75, 11-24, III, 6. That the relationship of Covenant Seminary to the Permanent Committee on Christian Education and publications be that of liaison and an exchange of information on matters of mutual concern.

1983, p. 101, 11-36, III, 53. That the following advice to the Stated Clerk regarding the General Assembly's "review" of Covenant Theological Seminary be ratified:

"It is the understanding of the SCJB that the word "review" (see *M9GA*, 9-43, III, J, 5, i, p. 100) in the Joining and Receiving Agreement means that the General Assembly has the final responsibility in regard to decisions relating to Covenant Theological Seminary." (See also Recommendation 51.)

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

(See also CE&P, SCHOLARSHIP FUND)

1986, p. 137, 14-57, III, 6. That the Presbyteries be advised of matching scholarship grants through CTS and be encouraged to assist the students under their care by meeting their matching fund challenges.

#### SUPPORT

1982, p. 120, 10-93, III, 2. That the Assembly grant Covenant Seminary permission to present its ministry to presbyteries and local congregations, and that the Assembly encourage local congregations to contribute financial support to the Seminary.

1983, p. 75, 11-24, III, 3. That the churches be asked to support theological education with faithful prayer and regular giving and to seek to support Covenant Seminary at the level of the ASKINGS requested by the Stewardship Committee.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

#### TRUSTEES

1982, p. 120, 10-93, III, 3. That the Board of Trustees of the Seminary be permitted to communicate with the Presbyteries when nominations of new trustees are considered.

#### DATA PROCESSING

(See COMPUTERS)

#### DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

1973, p. 24, 1-10. Resolution

Whereas the central task of the Church is summarized in the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, Matthew 28:18-20, therefore, be it resolved that the First General Assembly of the Continuing Presbyterian Church request its Committee on Mission to the World:

1. To designate a day of their selection as a day of prayer and fasting for the world mission of the Church, and,
2. To provide appropriate material for promotion of such a day.

[Note: Reaffirmed every succeeding year.]

1975, p. 64, 3-46, 3. Overture 20

Whereas, the United States of America is in its Bicentennial celebration, and

Whereas, we as a nation stand at one of the most critical junctures of its 200 year history, and

Whereas, the Scriptures instruct us to pray for all men, kings, and all that are in authority (1 Timothy 2:2; Ezra 6:10), and

Whereas, the Scriptures also teach us to pray for the nation and city in which we dwell (Jeremiah 29:7; Psalm 122:6), and

Whereas, God set for the requirements for revival to be followed by His people (2 Chronicles 7:14),

Now Therefore, Grace Presbytery overtures the Third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to call for a Day of Prayer and Fasting for revival in the United States. And further, that this day of Prayer and Fasting be set for July 4, 1976, and all congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America be called to set aside and observe this day for the above stated purpose.

1979, p. 97, 7-37, III.

1. That Resolution 1 (p. 39) be answered by the following substitute:

Whereas, in the life of Israel under the Old Covenant, in the practice of the early church and among Reformed Assemblies of modern times, God's people have resorted to corporate prayer in times of great moral and spiritual crisis with confidence in God's promise: "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14); and

Whereas, this is such a time in the life of our nation and throughout the world;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Seventh General Assembly call upon the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America to set regular times of prayer for revival and healing of our land, and for the blessings of Almighty God.

1982, p. 97, 10-71, III, 17. That since there has been much illness in the families of our pastors and staff during the last year, the Moderator be asked to suggest to the Church a day of prayer and fasting and prayer in each quarter of the year for the health and strength of members of the PCA, that we all may serve to His glory.

1984, p. 103, 12-31, III, 13. That Personal Resolution #4 be answered in the affirmative as amended, as follows:

Whereas the Scriptures instruct God's people to pray for revival (2 Chronicles 7:14); and

Whereas the Scriptures also contain many examples of God's divine visitation in revival; and

## PCA DIGEST

### DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Whereas God in times past has been pleased to visit His Covenant people with visitations of Divine Revival;

Therefore be it resolved that the PCA General Assembly of 1984 meeting at Baton Rouge encourage its churches to set aside at least one Sunday a month to claim the Promise of our Covenant God to visit the Church of Christ with a mighty revival.

1993, p. 86, 21-38, III, 11. That May 4, 1994 be set aside as the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization and Revival as part of the National Day of Prayer, and that the General Assembly unite in prayer that God would send many more laborers to His harvest field.

*Adopted*

### DEACONS

(See also **DIACONAL MINISTRIES; OFFICERS; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Diaconal Ministries**, pp. 159-181; **Mercy Ministry, Biblical Guidelines**, pp. 414-428)

### ADVISORY COUNCILS

1981, p. 88, 9-35, III, 16. That the General Assembly encourage the Presbyteries to sponsor the gathering of representative deacons into advisory councils for the purpose of discovering better ways of carrying out the regular business of the church, and for discovering better means for undertaking diaconal ministries among the needy around us.

### EMERITI

#### Voting

(See **PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 24-9**)

### RECEIVING

1979, p. 103, 7-41, III, 16. That Overture 10 from the Presbytery of the Evangel (p. 43) be answered as follows:

- a. That the Book of Church Order 14-7 adopted by the Seventh General Assembly clarifies the procedure for receiving Ruling Elders from a congregation that is coming from another Presbyterian body, and
- b. That the procedure for receiving Deacons should be handled in a similar fashion by the Session of the incoming church.

### TRAINING MANUAL

1980, p. 72, 8-29, III, 8. That Churches be encouraged to utilize the "Diaconal Training Manual", produced by the Committee for Christian Education and Publications as directed by the Fifth General Assembly, which is scheduled for publication in early September, 1980.

### WOMEN

(See **PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 21-5, 1984, 12-53, 2A; 1984, 12-73; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #23**)

### DEAF MINISTRY, A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES

1985, p. 116, 13-49, III, 28. That Overture 37 (p. 52) be adopted. The GA requests the MNA committee to identify resources and training materials on ministry to the deaf, assemble these materials and make them available to local churches for implementing ministries in their churches.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### DEAF MINISTRY

1986, p. 113, 14-43, III, 1. That the Assembly receive the paper entitled "Deaf Ministry: A Guide for Churches" which includes an annotated bibliography of materials for ministries with the deaf as requested by the 13th GA and leave with CE/P the responsibility to "assemble these materials and make them available to local churches." (Appendix J, Attachment A as amended as follows)...

1986, p. 353, Appendix J, Attachment A.

#### DEAF MINISTRY: A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES

##### Mission to North America

### INTRODUCTION

The Thirteenth General Assembly directed the Committee on Mission to North America "to identify resources and training materials on ministry to the deaf, assemble these materials and make them available to local churches for implementing ministries in their churches." (M13GA, p. 116)

There are currently available a number of excellent programs for churches desiring to begin a deaf ministry. There is no need at the present time for our denomination to write its own "manual". Rather, the following guide identifies resources with an annotated bibliography, and outlines the basic issues the church must address. This guide, then, is a door for the PCA church who wishes to embark on this needed ministry.

From the General Assembly there are currently available two resources. One is this guide you are reading. It can be ordered from Mission to North America. Also, you can order W. Yount's book, *Be Opened! An Introduction to Ministry With the Deaf*, from the Christian Education and Publication Committee. This is by far the best single reference book on the subject. With these two items, the individual or group seeking to begin a deaf ministry will have all the information necessary.

### I. OUTLINE FOR INTEGRATING DEAF PERSONS INTO CHURCH.

There are approximately 1,800,000 hearing impaired persons in the United States. The deaf, like everyone else, are lost without Christ, yet there are many deaf persons who are without a church in their community that is willing to interpret the gospel for them. The need is even greater among the deaf who are from minority racial and language groups.

Many churches have responded to the need. There are 800 Southern Baptist churches alone that provide some kind of ministry to the deaf. But many more churches must reach out as well.

#### A. Learn about the general needs of the deaf

1. Come to understand the nature and extent of deafness. What kinds are there? What are the causes?
2. Learn the psychological/cultural effects of deafness on an individual. Get to know the needs you are trying to meet.
3. Learn about the special educational and vocational needs of the deaf. Become aware of the opposing approaches to communication and education known as Oralism and Manualism. Within the manual approach, learn the differences between American Sign Language and Signed English.

#### B. Identify the specific needs of the deaf in your area

1. Locate deaf persons in your community.
  - a. There is no central, single way to locate the deaf, since the census and other federal records do not register the deaf. Therefore it is important to use several different methods to locate them.
  - b. First, look at very local resources. Look in the phone book for any clubs or associations for the deaf, parents of deaf children, or interpreters for the deaf. Call the local department of social services, department of vocational rehabilitation, or any referral agencies for helping agencies.

## PCA DIGEST

### DEAF MINISTRY

- c. Secondly, contact *all* the national organizations listed below under RESOURCES/Organization (See *M14GA*, pp. 355-356, Appendix J, Attachment A, II, A; p. 114, 14-43, III, I, RESOURCES). Ask for any state or local chapters or groups which can give you the names and addresses of hearing impaired persons in your area. Each organization may be in contact with a different circle of deaf people in your area.
    - d. Thirdly, there is at least one state school for the deaf in every state. State departments of education can give you information on all schools and instruction programs for hearing impaired children.
    - e. Fourthly, once you have contacted a deaf person, be sure to ask for all of his/her contacts with other deaf friends and acquaintances.
    - f. Make your church accessible to the deaf persons in the community by purchasing a TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) and provide training in its use.
  2. Take a survey of the needs of the deaf.
    - a. Visit. Let the deaf person and family know that the purpose of the visit is to determine social and physical needs to learn how the church might better meet those needs. Example of the kind of information to gather:  
Name  
Address and Phone  
Age  
Sex  
Member of what church? Attends?  
Christian?  
Language used: oral or sign or both  
Deafness: total or partial  
Education level:  
Employment  
Deaf Organizations affiliated with:  
Family background:  
Parents are: deaf or hearing  
Parents members of a church?  
What could the church do to make you feel at home?  
For deaf children, See *Manual for Work With the Deaf* (Southern Baptist) for more help.
    - b. Invite. See if the deaf person and family is willing to come to the church. It is good to already have a ministry to offer (such as interpreted preaching at regular services).
  3. Develop a relationship with local interpreters or interpreter referral agencies to ensure proper coverage of services and events.
  4. Church bulletins, as well as any publicly circulated announcements of Church services, should advertise that interpreter services may be arranged if requested, giving the name of the contact person and date by which notification should be made. This will preclude unnecessary contracting of interpreter services.
- C. Choose a Program Option.
  1. A Bible Study. In the home or at the church. Weeknight, weekday, or Sunday morning or evening.
  2. Interpreted Services. Provide interpreters at regular services. Be sure to enlist the help and input of the deaf so that the ministry does not decay into a "one man(woman)" show.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### DIACONAL MINISTRIES

3. Department ministry. A more extensive program when more deaf persons and families become involved. It may include classes for different age groups of hearing impaired persons, i.e. a mini-Sunday school department. For example, parents of deaf children may have a special class while their children are in a class as well. Many models are possible.
4. A sub-congregation, mission church, or autonomous church for the deaf.
  - a. When a deaf ministry grows and there appear to be many more deaf persons in the community to reach, it may be feasible to begin a deaf congregation, with its own officers, budget, and even staff.
  - b. The difficulties of deaf churches are two-fold. First, deaf persons often do not make large salaries. The financial base is small. Secondly, the children of deaf parents who are hearing need some of the resources of a hearing church.
  - c. The advantages. Deaf Christians can seldom move into leadership positions in a hearing church. Deaf churches reach deaf persons more effectively.

Note: Congregations should be aware that there is a substantial body of opinion among professionals in this field, with regard to the question of "subcongregations, mission churches, or autonomous churches" for the deaf, arguing that such structures are harmful to the best interests of the deaf, and their integration into the Body of Christ.
5. To promote integration of deaf persons into your congregations, offer Sign Language classes for all interested persons. Any deaf members may assist in the organization and instruction of the class.

### DIACONAL MINISTRIES

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Diaconal Ministries, pp. 159-181; Mercy Ministry, Biblical Guidelines, pp. 414-428)

### BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

(See BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES)

### CHILDREN

1974, p. 80, 2-104, II, B, 13. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly receive as information the Following communication from the MUS Committee:  
"MUS brings to the attention of the PCA the availability of the Palmer Home, Columbus, Mississippi, for the care of orphans and dependents from broken homes."

### ELDERLY

1975, p. 91, 3-81, 29. That the General Assembly be advised that a survey has indicated that there appears to be no effort, at the present time, to establish, nor interest in, the establishing of a home for the aged and children and that the Assembly requests individual presbyteries to undertake the responsibility therefore.

1981, p. 91, 9-36, III, 12. That the CE/P begin the processes for developing and making available diaconal literature and curriculum designed to help pastors and churches meet the growing need of ministering to the elderly.

1981, p. 87, 9-35, III, 7. That Overture 2 from North Georgia Presbytery be answered in the negative as being premature at this time, and that the Committee on Mission to the United States study the need and feasibility of establishing a facility to care for the elderly of the PCA and report to the Tenth General Assembly.

## PCA DIGEST

### DIACONAL MINISTRIES

**1982, p. 86, 10-66, III, 14, B.**

1. That the PCA affirm that ministries to the elderly and infirm are important, and that responsibility for their care rests with God (Deut.7:6-9), who will provide for His own, looking
  - a. First to each individual to provide for himself (all assets and income available to provide for his and his spouse's care);
  - b. Next, the sons and daughters should step in and provide what is necessary to maintain their parents (Ex. 20:12; 1 Tim. 5:8);
  - c. Next, the Church (local congregation/presbytery/General Assembly) should assist its own;
  - d. Finally, the civil government in "providing for the common good" should deal with Christian needy in the same way it deals with non-christian needy recognizing that such care is provided by common tax monies.
2. That in order to assist individuals, families, the Church, and society to carry out their respective responsibilities:
  - a. PCA encourage the establishment of Christian Care Centers for the elderly and infirm by local congregations, presbyteries, and groups of individuals. Operation of these Christian Care Centers should be by groups of Christian people at the local level. General Assembly's role would be to encourage these works, providing appropriate assistance through its Committee on MUS.
  - b. PCA encourage the formation of an association of Christian Care Centers in accord with 2a above, commending this matter to the prayerful attention and action of presbyteries, congregations and members. Should a Christian Care Center accreditation agency be established, oversight would be through MUS.

**1983, p. 130, 11-71.** TE James M. Baird, Jr. made a special report on progress on a retirement facility underway in Southern Florida, sponsored by PCA teaching and ruling elders. Those interested in it or in possible similar developments were encouraged to contact RE Robert Eberst, Executive Director, Genesis Life Care, Inc., 4111 SW 4th St., Miami, FL 33134

Presbyteries and Churches Encouraged to Consider Developing of Retirement Homes and Conference Centers

**1989, p. 132, 17-81, II, 2.** That the 17th GA encourage churches and presbyteries considering the development of specialized ministries such as retirement homes and conference centers, to organize and operate them as separate corporations from the church, and to obtain the advice of competent legal counsel throughout the process.

Grounds:

- (1) A specialized ministry, such as a retirement home or a conference center, involves many additional areas of exposure to liability that it warrants a separate corporation. Although such an institution may legitimately be a part of the church's ministry, the many risks involved could needlessly place the church's other assets at risk if the retirement home were included in the church's corporation. Suits for such matters as personal injury and financial improprieties would place the church's assets in jeopardy.
- (2) A separate corporation with a separate Board of Directors would not only mean more legal protection for the church, a separate corporate structure would also mean that the retirement home would have more effective oversight and preservation of its own assets than if it were lumped in with all of the church's other ministries.

### MERCY MINISTRIES

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Mercy Ministry, Biblical Guidelines, pp. 414-428)



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### DIACONAL MINISTRIES

#### MERCY REPORT

1986, p. 53, 14-4, B.

Whereas, the Lord calls His Church to minister to the hungry (Mt. 25); and

Whereas, we feel the need for guidance for this ministry in a day when the world hunger problem is painfully conspicuous;

Therefore, the Northeast Presbytery overtures the 13th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to instruct the Mission to the World (MTW) and Mission to North America (MNA) Committees, and/or Covenant Seminary and Covenant College, and/or a committee convened for this purpose alone, to produce a study paper with practical guidelines for the instruction of PCA churches in ministry to the hungry.

We request that the study would address the following questions:

1. What does the Lord require of His people and of His church in ministering to the hungry?
2. What do Old and New Testament practices suggest about what can be done at the individual, group, and societal levels? To what degree are these practices applicable today and in what possible re-enculturations?
3. What practices, whether of other churches or secular agencies, have been effective in the relief of the hungry?
4. How can the PCA organize at the individual, particular church, and denominational levels to implement effective ministries in this area?

#### REPORT

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Diaconal Ministries, pp. 159-181)

1978, p. 85, 6-75, III, 7. That the Committee for Christian Education and Publication do the following during the coming year regarding diaconal ministries:

- a. That CE/P Committee further evaluate the operations of each of the NAPARC Assembly level diaconal committees with a view toward establishing procedures in this area that are compatible with and helpful to the particular needs and structure of the PCA.
- b. That the CE/P Committee discuss with MUS and MTW the possibilities of coordination of PCA resources in meeting diaconal needs in their areas of ministry.
- c. That the CE/P Committee develop instruction resources and aids for the training of deacons, educating, and motivating members of the PCA to Christian response to these in extraordinary need; the poor, the orphan, the widow, both within the church and in the world around them.
- d. That the CE/P Committee emphasize the need for communication between local churches, presbyteries and at the Assembly level regarding needs, resources, and activities in the area of diaconal concerns.
- e. That the CE/P Committee appoint two delegates to the NAPARC Conference on diaconal ministries to be held in October, 1978 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- f. That the CE/P Committee encourage Presbyteries of the PCA to organize committees on diaconal concerns after the pattern of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church or the Christian Reformed Church for meeting the needs with the Presbytery.
- g. The CE/P Committee encourage local church diaconates to take advantage of the resources and examples of diaconal works mentioned in the "Report of the Sub-Committee on Diaconal Ministries" (See Appendix D, p. 172) and consider the possibilities for both broadening and deepening the diaconal ministries of their particular churches.
- h. That the General Assembly, through the CE/P Committee, exhort more prayerful and careful diligence in the election and ordination of qualified deacons by congregations.

## PCA DIGEST

### DIACONAL MINISTRIES

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 15. That the responsibility for all diaconal ministries, except overseas relief, be placed under the MUS Committee and that the CE/P Committee continue to offer assistance in the area of training and materials needed for that ministry.

### DIGEST OF MINUTES

1980, p. 123, 8-103, III, 15. That Overture 21 be answered in the affirmative . . . [That] the General Assembly instruct the Stated Clerk to prepare a Digest of Assembly Actions taken which provide guidance in the interpretation and application of our *Book of Church Order*, this digest to be prepared in loose-leaf form, fully indexed and annotated as appropriate to its use, to be updated annually.

Further, it is requested that the Stated Clerk be granted the services of an assistant for a term of one man-month in the initial preparation of this digest, if, in his judgment, such assistance is necessary.

A cost of \$10,000 shall be included in the budget of the Committee on Administration to pay for printing. Copies of the digest shall be sold through Christian Education & Publication channels to recover costs of publication.

Grounds: such a digest will be very helpful.

### DISASTER RELIEF

(See MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA, DISASTER RELIEF & EMERGENCY AID; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Mission to North America, Policies for Disaster Relief)

### DISPENSATIONALISM

1978, p. 80, 6-63, II, A. Re Overture 7, Your Committee recommends that the General Assembly affirm that Dispensationalism is basically incompatible with Covenant Theology. Your Committee also recommends that the Christian Education Committee of the General Assembly be instructed to prepare and make available for distribution a study documenting the errors of modern Dispensationalism in the light of our doctrinal standards.

### DISTINCTIVES OF THE PCA

1986, p. 187, 14-85, III, 3. Overture 5 from Delmarva  
This overture dealing with a document explaining the convictions and history of the PCA and RPCES was accepted as amended by the Committee of Commissioners...

1986, p. 44, 14-4, B. Therefore be it resolved that the Thirteenth General Assembly direct the Stated Clerk to prepare for publication a document explaining the convictions and history of the PCA and the RPCES. The document shall be revised under the supervision of the Stated Clerk to include history pertinent to the formation of the PCA and a reflection of PCA governmental standards rather than those of the RPCES.

This document shall not represent an "official" position of the PCA but shall be available as information. Upon completion of the revision, the Committee on Christian and Publications shall publish the study when funds are available and make it available for sale.

### DIVORCE AND CHURCH OFFICERS

(See OFFICERS, DIVORCED; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #51; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Qualifications for Officers of a Divorced Person, pp. 292-293)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### ENDORSED AGENCIES

#### DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #3, #51, #60; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Divorce and Remarriage, pp. 182-292; Qualifications for Officers of a Divorced Person, pp. 292-293)

#### DUE PROCESS FOR STUDENTS

##### COVENANT COLLEGE

(See COVENANT COLLEGE)

##### COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

(See COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY)

#### EDUCATION

(See CE&P, COLLEGES; EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES; COVENANT COLLEGE; COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY; MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Candidacy, *Uniform Curriculum*; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Higher Education, pp. 390-397; *Uniform Curriculum*, pp. 557-560; Guidelines for Theological Education, pp. 561-565)

#### ELDER

(See also CONFIDENTIALITY; OFFICERS; SESSION)

#### EMERITUS, VOTING

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 24-9)

#### ORDINATION

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #57)

#### ROTATION OF

1979, p. 105, 7-41, III, 27. That Resolution 13 concerning the rotation of Elders be answered as follows:

This General Assembly believes that the previous General Assembly acted wisely when it adopted Chapter 25 in the *BCO* without legislating on the specific matter of the rotation of church officers.

### ENDORSED AGENCIES

#### BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

(See also BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES)

1986, p. 116, 14-43, III, 8b. That Bethany Christian Services be considered an endorsed agency under this definition.

#### DEFINITION

1986, p. 115, 14-43, III, 8a. That the Assembly adopt the meaning of "endorse" in Attachment C, II.C.1.a.

Meaning of "endorsement"

- (1) Endorsement includes accreditation. The agency is declared a valid and worthy ministry. Endorsement goes beyond accreditation, however.

## PCA DIGEST

### ENDORSED AGENCIES

- (2) Endorsement of an agency is a statement that the General Assembly will not duplicate the agency's service and will seek to actively support it from its resources.
- (a) Individual donor level: an endorsed agency shall have access to the denomination's mailing list on a schedule approved by the Committee on Administration which shall also approve the content of the mailing with the concurrence of GA MNA.
  - (b) Local church level: The GA MNA Committee shall formally recommend that the endorsed agency receive support from local churches and presbyteries.
  - (c) General Assembly Level: develop a plan of cooperation with the endorsed agency to aid its expansion in areas of PCA strength.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

1982, p. 68, 10-33, III, 3. That the Assembly direct the Sub-Committee on Judicial Business to frame a bylaw to allow Committees, Boards and Agencies of the Assembly to use Executive Committees, providing for a full review and approval of all actions of the Executive Committees, and for the submission of Executive Committee minutes to the Committee of Commissioners for review along with the minutes of the full Committee, Board or Agency. Further, that if the Committee on Administration approves the proposed language of the Sub-Committee, the proposal may be put into effect immediately pending final approval by the next General Assembly.

All Committees, Boards or Agencies of the Assembly, upon receipt of the proposed bylaw change for the Assembly, shall prepare amendments to their respective Manuals or Bylaws to bring them into conformity with the Assembly's Bylaw proposal, if they desire to use Executive Committees. In the meanwhile, Executive Committees should not be used by Assembly Agencies.

1983, p. 93, 11-36, III, 14. That the General Assembly rescind the action of the Tenth General Assembly regarding Executive Committees.

#### GROUND:

1. The use of executive committees tends naturally to concentrate the decision making process in the hands of a small number of people. This is not consistent with the philosophy underlying the constitutional documents.
2. Most of the Committees and Agencies\* of the General Assembly have no apparent need or desire to use executive committees. Of the few committees which have expressed a possible desire to do so, none have demonstrated either a clear need, or that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

(\*The prior guidelines adopted regarding Joining and Receiving exempt Covenant Theological Seminary and Covenant College from the effect of this recommendation.)

### EXTRAORDINARY CLAUSE

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Ordination, *Extraordinary Clause*; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 13-6, 1985, #56; BCO 21-4, 13-45, #44; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #11)

### FAMILY CONFERENCES

(See CE&P)

### FREEMASONRY

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Freemasonry, pp. 300-377)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### FUGITIVES FROM DISCIPLINE

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, NAPARC's Agreement on Transfer of Members, pp. 437-438)

#### FUND RAISING POLICY

1976, p. 80, 4-74, 5. . . That the Fourth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America advise its members and churches as follows:

- a. The Lord has ordained that giving should be an act of worship and thus a means of grace.
- b. God has revealed in His Word that His kingdom on earth is to be supported by the cheerful, willing and loving tithes and sacrificial offerings of His children.
- c. Commercial activities such as suppers, bazaars, rummage sales, etc., held primarily to raise money are improper activities for the Church.
- d. Commercial activities designed primarily to provide a ministry such as a bookstore, are proper Church activities.
- e. Neither the Church, nor any organization of the Church should sponsor such benefit promotions which have as a primary purpose raising money for the support of the Lord's work.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### ACTIONS, BINDING CHARACTER OF

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 15-1, 1985, 13-45, 47, #4)

1979, p. 111, 7-48. The Stated Clerk in response to this report, set forth the following points regarding the binding character of the different kinds of actions of the Assembly:

1. Constitutional changes made by the Assembly, in accord with Chapter 27 of the *Book of Church Order* are binding upon the whole Church.
2. Judicial cases, when adjudicated by the Assembly, are binding [on the parties] regarding the matter thus settled.
3. Review and Control of Presbyteries and of Committees are binding upon the particular Presbytery or Committees.
4. Adoption of reports on particular subjects give the consensus of an Assembly's opinion on that subject. Such opinions by our Assembly serve as a guideline or pious advice to our constituency on the subject. As such, they should be reported, studied, and taken seriously. They are not binding on the consciences of sessions or individuals who believe on Biblical grounds that another position is preferable.

1987. (See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #58, Explanatory Opinion)

#### ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

1974, p. 76, 2-100, II, B, 2a. That requests for speaking time by representatives of groups not of the church be answered in the negative, but that representatives of such groups be introduced at such time that other distinguished guests are introduced to the Assembly.

1975, p. 76, 3-63, 6. That the composition of the Assembly Arrangements Committee be as follows: a chairman selected by the host church. A representative from each of the four permanent committees, the Coordinator of the Committee on Administration, and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

1975, p. 76, 3-63, 7. That the Assembly approve the following guidelines for displays at the Assembly:

Subject to space available, priorities for exhibitors will be as follows:

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- a. Committees of the Presbyterian Church in America, including agencies or institutions with which they have formally, through their minutes, established a working relationship.
- b. Agencies or institutions with which the General Assembly, through its minutes has established a working relationship.
- c. Agencies and institutions which in the opinion of the Committee on Arrangements have objectives, policies, or programs in general conformity with those of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- d. A disclaimer statement should be printed in the General Assembly Docket distributed to all Commissioners, stated in effect that permission granted to place an exhibit does not mean the Presbyterian Church in America necessarily fully endorses the exhibitor's product, services, or objectives.  
These guidelines are to serve as the ordinary guidelines. If the Committee on Administration feels that an exception must be made, it has the authority to do so, and is to report such actions and the reasons to the next Assembly.

1978, p. 99, 6-87, 17. That Resolution 2 (6-19) on future Assembly arrangements be answered in the affirmative.

Whereas, it is incumbent upon us to be faithful stewards of money which God entrusts to us; and

Whereas, many colleges actively seek to schedule large conferences as a means of utilizing their facilities during the summer months; and

Whereas, the use of such college facilities proves both practical and economical;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Sixth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America encourage the Permanent Committee on Administration to seek out such facilities and the support of local churches in hosting those meetings of the General Assembly after 1980.

1980, p. 122, 8-103, III, 10. That presbyteries and not the four major committees be responsible for worship services at future General Assemblies on a regular rotating basis.

1982, p. 70, 10-33, III, 29. That the Assembly Arrangements Committee, and particularly those who share the responsibility of preparing the Assembly's Docket, be instructed to give special attention to a rearrangement of the 1983 Docket in order to allow doctrine, polity and judicial matters, as well as budgets, to be handled earlier on the docket, and that the Committee of Commissioners on Judicial Business meet an extra day early, if necessary.

1983, p. 85, 11-30, III, 42. That the General Assembly authorize a registration fee for the General Assembly to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on June 22, 1984, not exceeding \$45.00.

1983, p. 81, 11-30, III, 20. That Overture 19 from the Presbytery of Eastern Carolina, be answered in the negative and that the COA be permitted to arrange the time of the General Assembly, and that for planning purposes, the normal time for the General Assembly is to be considered to be the third full week of June.

1985, p. 87, 13-30, III, 3. That the Women's Advisory Sub-Committee, a permanent sub-committee of CE/P, assist local assembly arrangement committees in coordinating the spiritual activities for the women attending General Assembly.

1985, p. 136, 13-73, III, 2. That as a rule of the Assembly no private business solicitation is authorized at the Assembly without prior approval of the Assembly Arrangements Committee.

1989, p. 132, 17-81, II, 4. That in place of the present funding method for GA meetings, which requires host presbyteries to underwrite up to 25% of the costs, beginning with the 1992 GA that COA will recommend that the planning and operating costs of GA will be borne by all of the churches and all the teaching elders not in PCA pastorates.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1989, p. 82, 17-47, III, 15. (Also adopted at 17-81, II, 9, p. 132.) That the General Assembly concur with Overture 17 from Westminster Presbytery . . . "that those responsible for scheduling the Pre-Assembly program at subsequent General Assemblies include seminars that deal directly with Christian Education and schooling.

1993, p. 181, 21-64, III, 30a. That the AC give preference to Presbyterian and Reformed organizations to exhibit at General Assembly. *Adopted as Amended*

#### Manual

1986, p. 171, 14-74, III, 14. That the Manual for General Assembly Arrangements, attachment D, p. 129, be approved with the following amendment: That the word "net" be inserted after "Assembly" and before "costs," line one, and after the word "proposed" and before "costs," line two of III Financial Arrangements and that the following section be added under II Location of Assemblies

II D. The cost of items included in C above shall be submitted to a previous General Assembly.

#### Volunteer Pages

1982, p. 70, 10-33, III, 30. That the expenses of pages at this General Assembly for food and lodging be paid by the Committee on Administration for those who are unable to pay their own way, to be funded from the four Committees.

#### ASSISTANT CLERKS

(See RECORDING CLERKS)

#### AUTHORITY OVER OTHER COURTS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

#### BUDGETS

(See FINANCIAL POLICIES, Budgets)

#### CANCEL MEETING

1988, p. 176, 16-77, III, 23. That the advice of the Committee on Judicial Business to the Stated Clerk be ratified.

Advice requested as to whether the Stated Clerk or the Committee on Administration acting as a Board of Directors may cancel a meeting of the General Assembly.

#### ADVICE:

1. The BCO provides in 14-2 for the Assembly to meet annually.
2. No provision is made for the cancellation of the Assembly meeting.
3. In relation to the question of the place and meeting arrangements, this is under the authority of the COA.

#### COMMITTEES OF COMMISSIONERS

1981, p. 156, 9-80, III, 16. That Resolution 1 be answered in the affirmative. Whereas, the committees of commissioners are charged with the responsibility of reviewing the activities of the permanent committees, and boards of the Assembly; and, Whereas, the General Assembly from time to time directs these committees and boards to carry out certain projects, ideas, and goals; and Whereas, the committees of commissioners may not always be able to determine from the minutes that these assignments have been concluded;

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Therefore, be it resolved, that the minutes of the first meeting of each year following the General Assembly of the permanent committees and boards list the forthcoming year's work for the committee or board (Assembly assigned responsibilities, projected ideas and goals, citing the General Assembly minutes by page and paragraph); and that the minutes of the last meeting before the next General Assembly include the same work list, showing what has been completed and what work was not accomplished including reasons why.

1986, p. 137, 14-57, III, 10. That all policies, curriculum revisions, and documents referred to in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee [of Covenant Theological Seminary] be appended to their Minutes and supplied to the Committee of Commissioners through the Stated Clerk's Office.

1988, p. 127, 16-37, III, 4. That the General Assembly direct the secretary of the Board of Trustees to communicate any Board of Trustees or Executive Committees minutes of meetings prior to General Assembly of each year to the Committee of Commissioners on Covenant Theological Seminary.

1991, p. 95, 19-45, III, 18. That the Committee on Mission to the World be instructed to provide its Committee of Commissioners with all written documents to which reference is made in their minutes, which shall include the reports of the Coordinator and all Directors.

1993, p. 183, 21-70. Constitutional Inquiry

TE James Meek's constitutional inquiry, that the procedure for adopting and/or amending the report as a whole be clarified. This was referred to the Committee on Constitutional Business to report back to the 22nd General Assembly.

### COMMITTEES, PERMANENT

#### Cooperation

1978, p. 98, 6-87, III, 6. That Resolution 3 which originated in the Committee of Commissioners on Administration (6-44) be amended and answered in the affirmative as follows:

Whereas, in accomplishing its work the Committee of Commissioners on Administration detected tensions and what appears to be competition between some of the Permanent Committees of the Assembly, over promotion of program, solicitation of funds, and levels of budgets; and

Whereas, it is also noted that in the current year some Committees are being funded better than others. Your Committee feels these things ought not to be: "The work of the Church is one work"; and

Whereas, your Committee is aware that the very structure of the Assembly is designed to prevent centralization of power, and fully agrees with this principle; your Committee recognizes that unless all areas of the work of the church move ahead in harmony, the work and witness of the church will become out of balance and thereby will be injured. For example, growth in World Missions depends upon growth in new and existing churches from which missionary candidates and their support are drawn. Local churches require Christian training materials and information for growth through winning new, and disciplining present, members in Christ. 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that though our tasks may differ we are one, and that each differing task or function is an essential part of this branch of our Lord's Body.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Therefore, it is against this background and out of prayerful concern for the future of our church and a commitment to see her a mighty soul-winning instrument, that we recommend that the Assembly direct the four Permanent Committees and their Sub-Committees not to lose the vision of over-all work of the church so necessary to her welfare; to direct the staff to maintain such vision even when pursuing the objectives of their particular areas of responsibility, and to so conduct their promotional and fund-raising efforts as well as the development of their budgets in a manner that will also promote and consider the needs and responsibilities of the other Committees as charged to them by the Assembly; to the end that we will move forward in unity and harmony under our Lord's banner to be used mightily in His work.

1983, p. 83, 11-30, III, 35, 2. That the COA with the addition of the chairmen of the permanent committees (CE/P, MNA & MTW) be directed to prepare and present a plan to the Twelfth General Assembly to cooperate more effectively in the support of the General Assembly's directives and purposes and to provide for the financing for the total program of the Assembly.

#### Coordinators

1983, p. 83, 11-30, III, 35, 4. That the coordinators of the permanent committees be urged to meet at least quarterly for prayer.

#### Insurance

1981, p. 114, 9-55, III, 13. That the General Assembly direct its Committees and Boards automatically to adjust the compensation packages for Coordinators, the Business Administrator, and the employees of the Church whose compensation package is set by the General Assembly, for any group insurance rate increases.

#### Meetings

1975, p. 90, 3-77, 15. That the General Assembly declare that all Permanent Committee meetings may be attended by any member of the PCA and that such members shall be afforded a place on the Committee's docket when a request to do so is received by the Committee at least ten days before the Committee meeting, and that the dates of stated Committee meetings must be published at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

1976, p. 85, 4-80, 15. That, in conformity with the instructions contained in Resolution No. 15 of the Third General Assembly, the General Assembly remind each of the Committees of the necessity of publishing dates of all committee meetings at least 30 days in advance of such meetings and that such publication be in "Continuing...." or in the proposed denominational magazine.

1988, p. 139, 16-58, 4. That during this year between the 16th and 17th General Assembly the chief administrative officers of the Program Committees and Agencies, at their own expense, may attend any meeting of COA, shall be entitled to the privilege of the floor, but shall not have a vote and must be excluded when an executive session is called.

#### Minutes

(See also COMMITTEES OF COMMISSIONERS)

1975, p. 91, 3-81, 24. That the minutes of all permanent committees along with the guidelines for review be sent to all appropriate committee of commissioners members prior to the General Assembly.

1986, p. 175, 14-74, III, 62. That the General Assembly direct the committees and agencies to propose and develop standards for the evaluation of their coordinators and agency heads and the fact that an evaluation has been conducted be reported annually as a part of their minutes.

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1991, p. 167, 19-67, III, 12. Be it resolved that the Nineteenth General Assembly instruct its committees and agencies promptly to furnish their committee approved minutes (other than executive session) to any member of the PCA in good standing who so requests, at his expense.

#### Social Security

1978, p. 98, 6-87, III, 2. That any ministers subject to Social Security tax, employed by a committee of the Assembly, should have his salary and allowances package arranged so that he is self-employed for the purpose of Social Security.

#### Staff Moving on to Field

1975, p. 90, 3-81, 20. That the General Assembly remind the Committee for Christian Education and Publications and all the other permanent committees that no program staff should move on to the field until they have been approved by the General Assembly Theological Examining Committee.

#### Travel Expenses

1989, p. 133, 17-81, II, 10. Overture 21 from the Presbytery of the Southwest (*M15GA*, 1987, p. 36, 15-3, B; *M16GA*, 1988, p. 65, 16-3, C)

Whereas Members of the Presbytery are expected to fulfill their responsibilities to that body, and

Whereas the PCA is a National Church and should have broad representation from Presbyteries throughout the country, and

Whereas the Permanent Committees are servants of the entire Church and need to be represented to the various Presbyteries,

Therefore the Presbytery of the Southwest overtures the 15th General Assembly meeting in Grand Rapids, June 1987 to direct its Committees and Agencies to allow time for and provide the expenses for travel and lodging necessary for both Teaching and Ruling Elders who are employees of said Committees and Agencies to attend their respective Presbyteries at least once each calendar year.

Recommendation: That the 17th GA approve Overture 21 from the Presbytery of the Southwest and refer it to the appropriate committees and agencies to implement. *Adopted*

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1993, p. 177, 21-64, III, 8. That in response to the 20th General Assembly instructions that the Administrative Committee study the appropriateness of committees, boards of agencies, or employees thereof being involved in outside commercial interest promoting or soliciting funds for benefit plans in competition with denominationally authorized plans, that the 21st General Assembly recommend that full consideration and application of the principles included in the Conflict of Interest Report, Section VI:3, be observed by all committees, boards of agencies and employees thereof. *Adopted*

### ERROR PERCEIVED

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 15-1, 1985, 13-45, 47, #4; *BCO* 45, 1984, 12-53, #58)

### FINANCIAL POLICIES

#### Accounting Method

1983, p. 81, 11-30, III, 19. That the Presbyterian Church in America change its accounting method to an accrual basis from a cash basis for its four permanent committees effective December 31, 1983.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### Askings

1975, p. 30, 3-11. Overture 11

1. That whereas the principal of freedom of conscience of the individual Christian to give where he feels the Lord is calling him to give is recognized,
2. And whereas three of our Assembly's committees have received far less than they had anticipated for the vital operation of their work,
3. And whereas it is recognized that the work of Mission to the World justly deserves all funds it has received and more;

[Therefore the General Assembly:]

1. Commend[s] people for their giving to world missions;
2. Urge[s] that they increase their giving to world missions but at the same time also that the individuals and congregations of the PCA prayerfully consider the needs and responsibilities of the Committee on Administration, the Committee on Christian Education and Publications, the Committee on Mission to the US, and without taking anything away from the Committee on Mission to the World, yet increase their giving so that these three other committees may receive sufficient funds on which to operate efficiently.

1978, p. 98, 6-87, III, 6. That the following procedure regarding the Assembly budgets be followed:

- a. That within 30 days after the Assembly the Stewardship Sub-Committee make a suggested allocation of the overall budget adopted by the General Assembly and submit their askings to each Presbytery.
- b. That within 30 days after receipt of such askings, each Presbytery will make a suggested allocation and submit such asking to each local session and request a pledge from such session.
- c. That within 30 days after receipt of such askings, each local session will communicate to its Presbytery what portion of such askings that local church will pledge to contribute.
- d. That the Stewardship Sub-Committee will communicate this information to each Coordinator and Committee Chairman and will during the year continue to encourage the giving by the local churches.
- e. That the Stewardship Sub-Committee select and convene an Advisory Committee of church leaders representing churches of the Assembly to suggest and recommend the best method for presenting to the whole Church the total program of the church and the systematic funding thereof.

1979, p. 137, 7-87, III, 5. That recommendation No. 5, (p. 157), be adopted as follows: that immediately following this Assembly, the Stewardship Sub-Committee be requested to inform all presbyteries and local sessions of the overall budget adopted by the General Assembly, and request the presbyteries to interpret to the local session the "minimum" per capita response "requested" of all congregations in order to meet this challenge.

1983, p. 82, 11-30, III, 35. That Personal Resolution 7 (p. 61) be answered in the affirmative as amended as follows:

Whereas, it appears that our permanent committees are operating as separate entities similar to "para-church" agencies;

Whereas, that situation appears to generate harmful conflict among the committees as they strive toward their individual committee's respective goals;

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Whereas, the financial condition rooted in this situation has resulted in disaster: i.e., the need to borrow monies to cover expenses in arrears, the inability to pay \$3,800 to the Stated Clerk for "out-of-pocket" expenses, the unpaid accumulation of \$11,500.00 in travel vouchers for various committee meetings, the unpaid attorney's fee amounting to \$4,000, the initiating of small claim's court proceedings by a firm in Brevard, NC, for a \$168.00 past-due account, a large printing bill several months past due, and other various past-due accounts.

Whereas, only 216 congregations of the 805 in the PCA currently support the COA;

Whereas, the coordinators of the Assembly's permanent Committees and agencies are servants of the Assembly and are to be committed to the aims and goals of the Assembly, working as a team, mutually submissive to one another in the Lord,

Therefore, Be It Resolved,

- 1) That the Coordinators of the permanent committees be directed to strongly encourage all of the churches to meet the askings of all of the committees of the General Assembly (BCO 14-1-4).
- 2) That the COA with the addition of the chairmen of the permanent committees (CE/P, MNA, & MTW) be directed to prepare and present a plan to the Twelfth General Assembly to cooperate more effectively in the support of the General Assembly's directives and purposes and to provide for the financing for the total program of the Assembly.

1985, 13-33, III, p. 91, 4. That the General Assembly include the Ridge Haven expense budget into the General Assembly's "askings".

Rationale: When the General Assembly authorized its Conference Center Committee to purchase the land and start developing a conference center for the denomination, the Committee on Mission to the World was the only one of the Assembly's four major committees which was receiving close to 100% of its budget. Our Committees on Mission to the United States (now MNA), Christian Education and Publications, and Administration were falling short of receiving the funds they needed to carry out the work the Assembly had committed them to do. Under these circumstances the Ridge Haven Board volunteered to raise its own funds for both operating expenses and development. During the last five years the Church has done much better in funding the three committees which were being seriously handicapped at the time Ridge Haven was started. We believe the time has come to have Ridge Haven's operating budget included in General Assembly's "askings" and to have the Conference Center receive its proportionate share of undesignated assembly benevolence funds.

1986, p. 137, 14-57, III, 9. That the GA strongly urge the churches to meet COA's annual askings per communicant member.

Reasons:

- (a) CTS is the seminary of the GA; GA is therefore responsible before God for its seminary's financial support.
- (b) GA's financial support has grown in the past year, but still falls far short of the approved askings.

1993, p. 180, 21-64, III, 26a. That the General Assembly in adopting these budgets is pledging its support of said budgets, therefore General Assembly should strongly encourage all members of the General Assembly to fully support these budgets. *Adopted*

### Auditing

1973, p. 55, 1-72, 16. That administrative expenses of the 1974 meeting of the General Assembly be borne by the General Assembly, with each committee bearing its proportionate share, according to the budget.

1973, p. 55, 1-72, 17. That all accounts be audited on an annual basis, and that the auditing reports be presented to the Committee on Administration for evaluation and report to the General Assembly, and that bonding be provided for all treasurers.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1975, p. 77, 3-65, 12. That the cost of auditing all Assembly accounts be pro-rated to each committee on the basis of each committee's percentage of the total budget.

1983, p. 105, 11-43, III, 28. That the permanent committees and boards of agencies be instructed to ensure that their audits are reconciled with their statements of actual expenditures as contained in their documentation submitted in support of proposed budgets.

1986, p. 118, 14-43, III, 26. (See recommendation 10, Appendix J, p. 353) Recommend to the GA that it "Receive MNA Supplemental Report Attachment I (p. 378) and approve it as a standard format whereby the Reformed University Ministries of the Committee on Mission to North America can report its ministries, staff and finances. The Assembly's auditors believed that a simple report of financial activity to the Assembly was all that was necessary, rather than a separate (from MNA) audited statement. The GA committee in the area of campus ministries acts as an administrative channel for the funds for the presbyteries and provide an audited report of the funds to the presbyteries involved.

1987, p. 189, 15-92, III, 18. That the 15th GA instruct agencies not included in the denominational corporation (i.e. IAR, PCA Foundation, Ridge Haven, Covenant College, Covenant Theological Seminary, and Investor's Fund) to amend their bylaws, if necessary, to require an annual audit of the financial affairs of the agency by an auditing firm designated by the GA on recommendation by the agency.

#### **Borrowing**

1974, p. 71, 2-94, II, A. That the Minutes of the Board of Directors be approved.

1974, p. 98, 1-20. Resolution Authorizing Committees to Borrow Money and Sign Notes Not to Exceed a Maximum Total of \$50,000

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Presbyterian Church held at the First Presbyterian Church in the City of Montgomery, Alabama, on April 16, 1974, pursuant to due notice, at which a quorum of the Board was present, on motion, duly seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that the following Permanent Committees of the National Presbyterian Church (A Corporation): The Committee on Administration; The Committee on Christian Education and Publications; The Committee on Mission to the United States and The Committee on Mission to the World; be hereby authorized, upon proper resolution duly adopted by the said Committee, in the name of and for the account of this Corporation, or in the name of and for the account of the said Committee, which is a constitutionally appointed Committee of this Corporation, and on such terms as the said Committee may deem proper, to borrow from a bank or other lending agency as designated by the said Committee any sum or sums of money, not to exceed a maximum total of \$50,000; to sign, execute and endorse such documents as may be necessary or required by said Bank or lending institution to evidence such indebtedness; to discount or rediscount with said Bank or lending institution and of the bills receivable held by this Corporation through the said Committee; to apply for and obtain from said Bank or lending institution, letters of credit, and to sign and execute agreements to secure said Bank or lending institution in connection therewith; to pledge and/or mortgage any moneys on deposit or any moneys otherwise in possession of said Bank or lending institution, and/or any bonds, stocks, bills receivable or other property of this Corporation to secure the payment of the indebtedness, liability or obligation of this Corporation to said Bank or lending institution, whether due or to become due and whether existing or hereafter incurred, howsoever arising; to withdraw and/or substitute any property of this Corporation held at any time by said Bank or lending institution, and to sign and execute trust receipts for the withdrawal of same when required; and generally to do and perform any and all instruments necessary or required by the said Bank or lending institution for its protection in its dealings with this Corporation.

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolved, that the said Bank or lending institution be furnished with a certified copy of these resolutions and be hereby authorized to deal with the Committee or its duly appointed representatives herein-above named under said authority unless and until it be expressly notified in writing to the contrary by this Corporation, and shall in writing acknowledge receipt of such notification; and said Bank shall at all times be protected in recognizing as such officers the persons duly certified by the Committees named in a certificate signed by any officer of this Corporation.

#### Budgets

(See also COMPENSATION FOR COORDINATORS AND DIRECTORS)

1975, p. 76, 3-60. The following recommendations were adopted:

2. That the General Assembly adopt the following policy regarding budgets: that the budget adopted for a particular year by the General Assembly be the spending limit for each committee.
3. That the General Assembly adopt as policy that each committee be allowed to rearrange its budget within the total approved each year with the exception of designated gifts and the compensation of the Stated Clerk and the four Committees' Coordinators.
4. That the General Assembly determine each year the percentages to be used in distributing undesignated gifts during the forthcoming budget year and that this determination be based on the experience during the period of the current year prior to the meeting of the Assembly.

1979. (Re "Committed" and "Growth" Budget, see STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE, DUTIES, 1979, 7-22, 1 and 2)

1980, p. 109, 8-80, III, 12. That the Eighth General Assembly direct its Sub-committee on Stewardship Ministries to establish a uniform budget format to be used by all General Assembly committees.

1982, p. 118, 10-90, III, 20. That the system of presenting the budgets according to a unified budget format be abandoned in favor of a return to presenting detailed budgets.

1983, p. 105, 11-43, III, 29. That the permanent committees be instructed to use a standard form in their presentations of budgets for approval and that, where feasible, agencies use the format.

1984, p. 191, 12-90, III, 62. That the salaries of all Directors, etc., of agencies and institutions be reported in their budgets as a specific item.

1985, p. 122, 13-58, III, 6. That all General Assembly Committee and Agency budgets be automatically adjusted to compensate for increases in health insurance premiums not anticipated in those budgets and that such increases be absorbed at no income loss to the individuals affected. Further, that PCA churches be encouraged to do the same.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

1987, p. 189, 15-91, III, 17. That the 15th GA direct all committees, boards and agencies to develop actual financial budgets based not on a maximum amount to spend but on a realistic amount expected to be spent; that GA approve spending of 5% above a realistic budget.

1989, p. 135, 17-81, III, 28. That the 17th GA instruct the Committees and Agencies to provide to the COA staff the information for income sources and income projections to be included in the *Handbook* of the General Assembly as a standard operating procedure.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1990, p. 111, 18-40, III, A, 27. That the 18th General Assembly reaffirm the policy adopted at the 11th General Assembly on deficit spending: "That the Eleventh General Assembly direct its permanent committees and agencies that expenses are not to exceed income. The expression 'not to exceed income' is to be understood to mean the summation of total income and total expenses for the fiscal year of the committee or agency, and that the use of a line of credit or other short-term cash arrangement tools are not precluded. In the event that a committee's or agency's income does not meet requirements of conducting business, obligations are to be paid in the following order - (a) salary commitments, (b) bills due to other organizations and businesses, (c) other expenditures authorized by the General Assembly.

*Adopted*

1992, p. 135-6, 20-63, VI, 34.

Whereas the budgets of some of the PCA committees and agencies contain explanatory notes, while others do not; and

Whereas some committees and agencies justify the increases in their budgets while others do not; and

Whereas proposed increases and planned expenditures of the budgets do not appear to be realistic for some committees and agencies; and

Whereas assumptions used for the escalation of salaries, benefits, and other expenses vary by committee and agency; and

Whereas the AC has had difficulty exercising its responsibilities delineated in RAO 4-11 due to lack of uniformity and commonality in budgeting procedures for the committees and agencies;

Therefore be it resolved, that the 20th General Assembly direct the AC to recommend budgeting standards for the preparation and evaluation of all committee and agency budgets, and that such recommendations be reported to the 21st General Assembly; and

Be it further resolved, that the proposed budgeting standards include at least these minimum provisions:

- a) reasonable grounds for increases in the ASKINGS from one year to the next;
- b) that adequate correlation must exist between the proposed ASKINGS and the ASKINGS received in the last fiscal year; and
- c) documentation that substantiates the funding included in the proposed budget for any new ministry or activity.

1993, p. 178, 21-64, III, 21. Comments on MTW Budget:

1. Administrative cost increase of \$430,000 or 17.6% over 1993 seems excessive in view of:
  - a. Projected increase in missionaries to 511 is 49 less than projection for 1993.
  - b. The 1994 budget level of \$2,872,578 represents an increase of 95% over a six year period or more than 3 times the rate of increase in the number of missionaries.
2. There is concern that discrepancies exist between MTW's published list of services covered by administrative costs, e.g., "Since You Asked" -- brochure and those reported in the MTW budget [Appendix K, p. 436] as being covered by administrative costs.
3. The 6% increase in salary and benefits for MTW staff and at least one increase of 12% seem excessive vis-a-vis other agencies, and in view of declining undesignated support of MTW from the churches.
4. *IMPACT* should include a historical record of 2 year missionaries as well as its projected number of two-year missionaries for budget year under consideration [see Appendix C, Attachment 4, p. 335ff].

1993, p. 179, 21-64, III, 21a. That Mission to the World report in its "Criteria for Preparation of Proposed Budget" (see Appendix C, Attachment 4, p. 325), the Missionary Units (husband/wife, singles) in addition to the total number of missionaries and that these units be listed in two categories:

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Units fully administered by Mission to the World.
2. Units in Cooperative Agreements and administered partially by Mission to the World.

1993, p. 179, 21-64, III, 23a. Direct the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven to report all projected income and expenses in future budgets. *Adopted*

1993, p. 179, 21-64, III, 24. That automatic salary increases not be used to project future budgets of any of our committees, boards, or agencies, beginning in fiscal 1995. *Adopted*

1993, p. 179, 21-64, III, 25. That General Assembly grant the AC an extension until the 23rd General Assembly to comply with the directive of the 20th General Assembly to produce standards for the preparation and evaluation of all committee, board, and agency budgets which were to have been presented for consideration by this 21st General Assembly and that the General Assembly direct all committees, boards, and agencies to cooperate with the production of these standards. *Adopted*

Comment: The Committee of Commissioners on AC notes that the AC did not comply with the directives of the 20th General Assembly, but it appears that it would have been difficult if not impossible to do so. Moreover, the Committee of Commissioners agrees that the recommendations yet to be produced by the National Financial Task Force will be helpful in preparing Standards. However, the Committee of Commissioners believes that the AC should have reported to this 21st General Assembly its failure to comply, with an explanation, and should have requested from the General Assembly the necessary extension.

1993, p. 180, 21-64, III, 26. That the General Assembly direct all committees, boards, and agencies to include in their budgets:

1. Reasonable grounds for increase in askings from one year to the next.
2. Documentation that substantiates the funding included in the proposed budget for any new ministry or activity.
3. Columns be added to show % of change from previous year as well as change in dollar amounts.
4. Full disclosure of income and expenses.
5. Add a subtotal of total expenses showing cash outlays before depreciation.
6. That the staff of the Administrative Committee and the staffs of the various agencies and committees jointly develop definitions and methodologies in determining the proportions of expenses which are "administrative" *vis a vis* "program".

Further, that AC monitor this compliance and report to the General Assembly any non-compliance of the General Assembly directives. *Adopted as amended*

### Checks

1974, p. 71, 2-94, II, A. The committee recommends that the Board of Directors by resolution require the 4 Permanent Committees to have two signatures on all checks written against Corporation and Committee bank accounts.

### Expenses

#### *Committeemen*

1985, p. 137, 13-73, III, 22. That COA permanent committee chairmen who are not elected commissioners have their expenses to the GA borne by the General Assembly. The committeeman nearest to the location of the General Assembly who is needed for a quorum, but is not an elected commissioner, will also have his expenses to the committee meeting paid by the GA. (This policy applies to the following committees: Theological Examining, Nominating, Interchurch, Review & Control.)



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### *Committees*

1983, p. 83, 11-30, III, 35, 3. That the Eleventh General Assembly direct its permanent committees and agencies that expenses are not to exceed income. The expression "not to exceed income" is to be understood to mean the summation of total income and total expenses for the fiscal year of the committee or agency, and that the use of a line of credit or other short term cash arrangement tools are not precluded. In the event that a committee's or agency's income does not meet requirements of conducting business, obligations are to be paid in the following order:

- a) Salary commitments,
- b) Bills due to other organizations and businesses, and
- c) Other expenditures authorized by the Assembly

1990, p. 111, 18-40, III, 27. The 18th Assembly reaffirmed the policy adopted by the 11th General Assembly.

#### *Legal*

1975, p. 67, 3-49, C. That each of the four permanent committees be authorized and requested to include provisions for legal expenses when preparing their budgets.

#### *Moderator*

1974, p. 83, 2-106, IV, 18. That all travel expenses incurred by the moderator on denominational business be paid by the denomination, and that such expenses incurred at the request of permanent committees, churches, presbyteries or other agencies be borne by that agency.

#### *Ministers and Ruling Elders to attend Courts*

1977, p. 94, 5-92, III, 2. That the Assembly approve the action of paying the expenses of retired ministers to General Assembly as within the discretionary authority of the Trustees;

1977, p. 138, Appendix C, II, A. Since the Assembly indicated a desire to fund the expenses, the Trustees felt that they should proceed to pay these expenses, if funds could be located. In 1977 the expenses will be borne by interest earned on the fund for Ministerial Relief. Future years expenses may be provided for in the same manner, depending on the availability of funds to meet this need.

1983, p. 100, 11-36, III, 47. Overture 20

Whereas, BCO 10-6 states that the "Expenses of Ministers and Ruling Elders in their attendance on the courts shall be defrayed by the bodies which they respectively represent," and

Whereas, ministers do not officially represent the local church (BCO 13-2, 14-2), and

Whereas, the Tenth General Assembly did not answer the question "Does BCO 10-6 intend that Presbyteries defray the expense of their Teaching Elder members upon their attendance of General Assembly?", and

Whereas, it has been the practice of local churches to pay the expenses of their ministers to attend General Assembly annually,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Sub-committee on Judicial Business study this matter and bring in a report to the Twelfth General Assembly.

[Note: The amendment to BCO 10-6 proposed by Judicial Business Committee was not adopted by the Assembly. This question has not been dealt with since.]

#### *Nominating Committee*

(See NOMINATING COMMITTEE, FUNDING)

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### *Presbytery Records Committee*

1991, p. 125, 19-61, III, 16. That expenses of committees of GA be funded as follows:

- A. Presbytery Records Committee be reimbursed as necessary for food and lodging for the two or three days prior to GA from GA registration fees. Further, that members of Presbytery Records Committee, who are not commissioners, be reimbursed for travel, food and lodging for only as long as they are needed to complete the work. [Note: This policy to be reviewed after 3 years.]

#### *Retired Ministers*

1977, p. 94, 5-92, III, 2. That the Assembly approve the action of paying the expenses of retired ministers to General Assembly as within the discretionary authority of the Trustees; Grounds: (p. 139, II, A.)

1978, p. 101, 6-87, III, 28. Overture 28 ...[That] the General Assembly to instruct the Committee on Administration to cease any activities designed to fund the expenses of retired ministers attending future General Assemblies and be it further resolved that the separate Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America be informed that retired ministers are the Presbytery's individual responsibility as to their attendance at General Assembly.

1990, p. 112, 18-40, III, A, 31. That the registration fees for the Honorably Retired and for the Elder Emeritus representing a church be 1/3 the approved General Assembly registration amount for the 1991 and 1992 GA.

*Adopted*

1993, p. 172, 21-64, III, 1. That the 21st General Assembly continue the policy of reduced registration fees for Honorably Retired and Elder Emeritus commissioners and that the policy be reviewed again after the 23rd General Assembly.

*Adopted*

#### *Studies & Study Committees*

1981, p. 156, 9-80, III, 18. That all General Assembly-authorized studies conducted by the Committee on Administration that are related to common concerns of the permanent committees and that require the expenditure of funds, shall be funded by those committees on an equal basis.

1987, p. 191, 15-92, III, 29. That the General Assembly approve and provide a budget for each new study or ad hoc committee to be administered by COA.

#### *Volunteer Pages*

1982, p. 70, 10-33, III, 30. That the expenses of pages at this General Assembly for food and lodging be paid by the Committee on Administration for those who are unable to pay their own way, to be funded from the four Committees.

#### *Fiscal Year*

1973, p. 55, 1-72, 15. That the General Assembly establish the policy that the fiscal year of the church be from January 1-December 31.

1983, p. 84, 11-30, III, 40. That the General Assembly's Bylaws be amended (Article 5, Section 1) that the accounting period of the General Assembly be changed from a calendar year to a fiscal year, July 1- June 30, commencing July 1, 1984. GROUND'S:

1. The accounting firm of Kent, Nobles and Martin recommends change to July 1-June 30 Fiscal Year.
2. Two of the General Assembly agencies, both educational institutions, are already on the July 1-June 30 Fiscal year. Their educational purpose and affiliations make a change of the Fiscal Year impossible. Therefore, having all GA committees and agencies uniform with the educational agencies is easier than asking the College and Seminary to conform to a calendar year accounting period. To change to a uniform accounting period will simplify our GA reporting and will provide a uniform budget period of all GA causes for local church officers.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3. The General Assembly, meeting in June each year can:
  - a. Amend the current budget to cover current year actual expenses before the books are closed.
  - b. Be more realistic in setting a new budget since the new fiscal year will begin on July 1. Presently there is a delay of six months before the new budget begins.
  - c. Set a projected budget beginning one year later on July 1, for planning purposes.
4. Auditing will be done in the summer, reporting to committees for their meetings and included in the annual minutes. In the first year 1983 to June 30 of 1984, an eighteen month period. We would only have one audit.
5. Regarding General Assembly askings:
  - a. At the conclusion of each General Assembly local congregations will know the exact amount of the askings' beginning on July 1 of the current year.
  - b. Sessions and Diaconates will be able to realistically project the askings a year in advance based upon the new projected budget which will be presented for the following year.
  - c. Committees and Agencies will be able to immediately seek funding for their newly approved current budgets.

1989, p. 135, 17-81, III, 31. That the 17th GA change the fiscal year of the Committees and Agencies of General Assembly (except Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary) from midyear to a calendar year. This is to take effect by allowing a July 1, 1990 to December 31, 1991 budget period.

#### Grounds:

- (1) Committees and agencies would be in synchronization with most PCA churches in their fiscal year.
- (2) Also Committees and Agencies would be in synchronization with individuals and many foundations who plan their giving along calendar year for fiscal purposes.
- (3) Committees and Agencies would also be in synchronization with our presbyteries.
- (4) The calendar year as fiscal year fits better with the stewardship season of most of our churches, which is in the Fall.
- (5) It will be easier to report statistics of membership, and finances and to make appropriate studies when these are in synchronization.
- (6) This recommendation comes with the endorsement of the Committees and Agencies.

#### Gifts

##### *Conditional*

1974, p. 71, 2-94, II, A. That the following policy of conditional gifts be adopted instead of Paragraph 1-23 of the Board of Director's Minutes.

It is resolved that the Board of Directors establish a matter of policy that before any conditional gifts are received in behalf of the National Presbyterian Church, the conditions shall be put into writing and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. It is further resolved that as a matter of policy the Board of Directors does not favor receiving gifts that have any conditions attached thereto, unless after ten (10) years if the purposes of the contributor have not been accomplished, or cannot be accomplished the General Assembly may upon recommendation of the Board of Directors remove such conditions by a 2/3 vote of registered commissioners.

##### *Designated*

1978, p. 98, 6-87, III, 14. That the General Assembly instruct its committees that designated monies are to be disbursed according to the wishes of the donor provided that the gifts are for PCA work or work approved by any Church Court.

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### *Restricted*

1983, p. 113, 11-48, III, 8. That the General Assembly direct the PCA Foundation to establish procedures for dispersing funds which were received as restricted but undesignated funds and the donor of such funds dies before a designation for disbursement is given by that donor.

Grounds: The representative of the PCA Foundation advised that the above contingency had not been addressed and a policy established. As certain substantial gifts had been made to the Foundation as restricted but undesignated gifts, this matter needs to be addressed.

1984, p. 114, 12-45, III, 1. At the directive of the Eleventh General Assembly, the PCA Foundation Board has duly considered the question of the disposition of restricted but undesignated funds in the event of the death of the donor. It is our recommendation that a standard agreement be prepared which would cover this possibility. The agreement would state that the donor could make the designation in his will.

#### *Undesignated*

[Note: Various methods of disbursing undesignated funds have been approved by different Assemblies.]

1973, p. 56, 1-76. "...by authorizing the treasurer of the Committee on Administration, namely the Business Administrator, to receive all undesignated benevolence gifts, and that he be directed to dispense the money to the four committees on the percentages established by the Budget of the General Assembly, without any form of equalization." [Note: The percentage is set by each General Assembly.] (See 1975, p. 76, 3-60, 4)

1973, p. 58, 1-77, 8. That undesignated giving be encouraged for distribution to the four General Assembly committees.

1981, p. 116, 9-56, III, 10. That the funding of the PCA Foundation and the Stewardship Committee be through the Committee on Administration; and that to forestall a financial crisis for that Committee the following plan be adopted:

a. All undesignated General Assembly income be shared equally by all permanent committees with 25% allotted to each committee.

1982, p. 117, 10-90, III, 17. That undesignated General Assembly income be shared by the four Permanent Committees according to the following formula:

Administration	25%
CE/P	25%
MTW	25%
MUS	25%

1983, p. 80, 11-30, III, 14. That the following plan for funding the Committee on Administration be adopted:

Whereas, the COA is now responsible for funding the COA, PCA Foundation, and the Stewardship Ministries, and

Whereas, the COA is responsible for its own funding by asking for "designated giving" and has been sharing in the "undesignated giving" of the General Assembly, it is recommended that the following plan be adopted:

1. All undesignated giving to the General Assembly will be shared as follows when the COA is operating at 90% to 100% of budget (sum of "designated" and "undesignated" giving).
  - a. Messenger is to receive funds for postage and printing first.
  - b. Balance of "undesignated giving" is to be divided 25% to each of the four permanent committees with the COA not sharing beyond the sums needed to meet 100% of the budget for the calendar (budget) year.
2. In the event that the COA drops below 90% of its budgeted needs in any month, the "undesignated giving" will be divided as follows:
  - a. Messenger--same as 1.a. above.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- b. The COA will receive a share sufficient (if available) to fund it at the 90% level for the month, and
- c. The balance of "undesignated giving" will then be handled as 1.b. above.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

1984, p. 150, 12-67, III, 9. That the Assembly return, as soon as it is practical, to any equitable division of funds given to the work of the Assembly without more particular designations, or declare that all undesignated gifts to the Assembly will be used only for administrative purposes.

#### Support, Committees

1973, p. 45, 1-66, 5. That the General Assembly affirm as its own position the action of the Advisory Convention of the Continuing Presbyterian Church (Minutes of Advisory Convention, page 24) saying that "each Committee shall be responsible to raise the financial support for its own work and distribute its fund through its own treasurers elected by each committee" and that the Assembly further affirm as its own position the action of the Organizing Committee of the Continuing Presbyterian Church (Minutes of September 7-8, 1973, meeting of Organizing Committee, page 9) saying in effect that no Committee of the Assembly is precluded by any act of the Assembly from having direct access to all of the churches of this denomination by direct mail.

1983, p. 104, 11-43, III, 8. That all churches review carefully their giving to PCA causes in comparison with their giving to non-PCA benevolences, and that all churches be encouraged to increase their support of PCA needs.

#### GOALS

(See MNA, GOALS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Mission and Purpose of the PCA, pp. 429-436)

#### LOGO, SEALS, AND BANNERS

1973, p. 55, 1-72, 21. That the matter of a Church emblem or seal be referred to the Christian Education and Publication Committee for study.

1983, p. 81, 11-30, III, 18. In response to Resolution #4 carried over from the Tenth General Assembly, the following two recommendations are made:

- A. That the General Assembly direct the COA to develop a distinctive emblem for seals, banners, and logo in accord with the following principles:
  - 1. Continue the direction set by the First General Assembly to have a uniform and distinctive designation for the denomination, its committees, agencies, and churches.
  - 2. Express the unity of the denomination in public relations, correspondence, road signs, etc.
  - 3. Respect the confessional position that no representation of deity shall be made.
  - 4. Permit the concurrent use of a specific logo for the permanent committees and agencies.

1986, p. 43, 14-4, B. Overture 21: From Westminster Presbytery

Be it resolved that the Fourteenth General Assembly not accept the Proposed Logo presented to the Thirteenth General Assembly.

1986, p. 171, 14-74, III, 13. That Overture 21 be approved. Tabled

1989, p. 138, 17-81, III, 38. Overture 37 from Delmarva Presbytery, "Development of a PCA Logo"

Whereas the First General Assembly received and approved a communication regarding a unified emblem or logo for the PCA, and referred the issue to a committee; and

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Whereas the 11th General Assembly again approved the concept of a logo and approved the following guidelines concerning a logo:

"That the General Assembly direct the COA to develop a distinctive emblem for seals, banners, and logo in accord with the following principles:

1. Continue the direction set by the First General Assembly to have a uniform and distinctive designation for the denomination, its committees, agencies, and churches.
2. Express the unity of the denomination in public relations, correspondence, road signs, etc.
3. Respect the confessional position that no representation of deity shall be made.
4. Permit the concurrent use of a specific logo for the permanent committees and agencies." and

Whereas the Fourteenth General Assembly, meeting in Philadelphia, did not accept a particular proposal for a logo, but did not reject the concept of a unified logo; and

Whereas there has apparently been no further progress on a logo;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Committee on Administration is instructed to again take up the matter of preparing and proposing a unified logo for the PCA and report to each General Assembly on this project until such a logo is adopted; and that the principles approved by the 14th General Assembly are reaffirmed and are to be followed, and that the following guidelines are to instruct (but not bind) the Committee in carrying out of this assignment:

1. The PCA Messenger is instructed by this Assembly to publish an article at the earliest convenient opportunity outlining the need of the PCA for such a logo, the adopted guidelines of the 14th General Assembly, and invite submissions for this logo to COA by 1/1/90.
2. At the first meeting of the COA after the first of the year the committee is to consider these applications. It may (1) adopt one of these submissions for submission to the General Assembly as its recommendation or (2) may seek outside professional assistance in obtaining a proposed logo.

The committee is instructed and authorized to fulfill any legal requirements concerning a logo.

Recommendation: That Overture 37 be approved as funding is available, and that COA is instructed to make this a priority since this request started with the first GA and has not yet been completed.

1992, p. 135, 20-63, VI, 29. That the 20th General Assembly relieve the AC of its responsibility to develop a PCA logo.

1993, p. 157, 21-56, III, 22. "PCA Logo Resolution" directed at AC.

Answered in the negative, on the ground that the Twentieth General Assembly relieved the Administrative Committee of this responsibility. *Adopted*

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TEACHING ELDERS

1986, p. 171, 14-74, III, 12. That Overture 19 be approved.

1986, p. 42, 14-4, B. Overture 19: From Westminster Presbytery

Therefore be it resolved that the General Assembly cease its annual memorial service for Teaching Elders.

### MINUTES

(See also PUBLICATION OF ASSEMBLY ACTIONS)

1982, p. 69, 10-33, III, 12. That hereafter, the Minutes of the General Assembly not be distributed free of charge to ministers, clerks of sessions, etc., but be sold at prices set by the office of the Stated Clerk. Rationale: prices may fluctuate.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### MODERATOR'S CONFERENCES

1975, p. 78, 3-65, 17. That the Assembly adopt Resolution 4 as follows:

Be it resolved, not as a mandatory directive, but as a recommendation expressing the sense of the Assembly as follows:

1. That the Moderator call and chair two Moderator's Conferences each year, preferably one in November and one in May.
2. That the purpose of the conference shall be to discuss the issues facing the programs of the Church.
3. That the Conferees shall be:
  - (a) The Moderator and the immediate past Moderator
  - (b) The Stated Clerk
  - (c) One Ruling and One Teaching Elder from each of the 4 Committees, one of whom shall be the chairman of his Committee.
  - (d) The 4 Coordinators
  - (e) The chairman of the Sub-Committee on Stewardship and the Director of Stewardship Ministries.
  - (f) Any special invitee of the Moderator.
4. That the cost of these conferences be paid as follows:
  - (a) From the Moderator's Fund for the moderators and any special invitee.
  - (b) From the respective Committees for its members.
5. That each conference convene at noon on a Friday and adjourn at noon on a Saturday.
6. That the time of the call of the Fall conference be set and announced by the Moderator at the General Assembly, and that the time for the Spring Conference be set and announced at the Fall Conference. (See paragraph 3-78)

[Note: These conferences were held for several years. None have been conducted since 1980.]

#### OFFICES

(See PCA OFFICE BUILDING)

#### PUBLICATION OF ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

1979, p. 139, 7-90, 24. That because of the need for congregations to understand as quickly and as fully as possible what the Seventh General Assembly has accomplished, and, because of the difficulty even commissioners have in accurately assimilating, recalling and documenting major decisions of the Assembly as they report to congregations, and as sessions attempt to follow the lead of the General Assembly, and, because realistically, the Minutes of the General Assembly are largely not effective in communicating to the churches the Assembly's actions due to their detailed treatment, therefore, the information be presented in the earliest issue of the Messenger rather than directly by the Stated Clerk.

#### PURPOSE, STATEMENT OF

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Message to All Churches, pp. 7-14; Mission and Purpose of the PCA, pp. 429-436)

#### RECONSIDERATION OF ACTION

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 15-1, 1985, 13-45, 47, #4; BCO 45, 1984, 12-53, 58)

## PCA DIGEST

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### RECORDING CLERKS

1979, p. 139, 7-90, 19. That in view of the misunderstanding which had occurred despite the action of the Sixth General Assembly, the expenses of the assistant clerks, who have not been paid by their local churches or presbyteries, be paid by the Assembly this year, but no more in the future, and that the presbyteries be billed for those expenses.

1979, p. 139, 7-90, 20. That the Assembly pay the expenses of its recording clerks each year (two at present).

#### RELATIONSHIP OF AGENCIES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1993, p. 181, 21-64, III, 31b. That the General Assembly instruct the PCA Foundation that the Foundation is under the authority of General Assembly both ecclesiastically and as touching civil matters. *Adopted*

1993, p. 181, 21-64, III, 31c. That should the AC Board of Directors desire that the Stated Clerk's paper on "The Relationship of Agencies to the General Assembly" be accorded the status of a position paper, the AC should present the paper to the General Assembly for adoption. *Adopted*

#### REORGANIZATION PLAN

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

#### REPORTS

1974, p. 82, 2-106, IV, 10. That the General Assembly instruct all Committees to report monthly, in a uniform manner, financial information to the Committee on Administration.

1983, p. 80, 11-30, III, 12. That the General Assembly request each PCA church to participate in the completion of a congregational profile questionnaire and census form entitled "Session's Annual Survey and Statistical Report for the Office the General Assembly, PCA."

#### RULES FOR ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS

[Note: The current rules are printed in the back of the Minutes of the General Assembly every year. See also STANDING RULES OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

#### RULING ELDER PARTICIPATION

1976, p. 83, 4-79, J, 6. That the General Assembly recognize the serious lack of participation on the floor of the General Assembly, which lack is distressing and inconsistent with our commitment to the parity of ruling and teaching elders, and further that the General Assembly instruct the Permanent Committee on Administration to bring to the next General Assembly positive recommendations as to how ruling elders can better be informed and encouraged to participate in all the courts of the Church, and further, that the committee continue to address this problem as part of its permanent function.

#### STANDING RULES OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1973, p. 26, 1-15. Judge Leon Hendrick, Chairman of the Judicial Business Committee presented the following temporary standing rules, which were adopted by the General Assembly:

1. Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Temporary Rules, ROBERTS'S RULES OF ORDER shall be the standard in parliamentary procedures.
2. Each recommendation in each report of each provisional Committee must be read, considered and acted upon separately.
  - (a) The chairman moves the adoption.
  - (b) The Moderator asks: Is there objection or question?
  - (c) Hearing no objection or question, the Moderator states: It is adopted.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### HEROIC MEASURES

3. Procedure in debating a question:
  - (a) The chairman reporting, or his designate, may answer questions concerning the report addressed to him through the Moderator.
  - (b) Only the chairman shall have an opportunity to make the final statement in debate.
  - (c) No commissioner may speak on the same question more than once until all desiring to speak have done so. Each speaker shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes.
  - (d) When any main motion has been debated for one hour, the Moderator shall inquire of the court whether it wishes to place some definite limit upon further debate.
  - (e) Debate shall be free and open, with equal time being given to proponents and opponents insofar as possible.
4. All motions shall be presented in writing and read before being voted upon.

### STRUCTURE OF THE PCA

(See RELATIONSHIP OF AGENCIES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

### GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Internship; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 24-9)

### GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

(See CE&P)

### HERESY

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 46-5, 1985, 13-45, 43)

### HERMENEUTICS

(See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS, NAPARC, 1980, 8-43, IV, 4)

### HEROIC MEASURES

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Heroic Measures, pp. 378-389)

1984, p. 42, 12-10, II, B. Overture 37: From the Presbytery of Illiana

Therefore, be it resolved that the Illiana Presbytery overture the Twelfth General Assembly to establish a committee to study such questions as "What constitutes heroic measures?", "At what point do modern medical approaches attempt to usurp the life/death authority of God?", "When may Christians properly refuse heroic attempts to prolong life?", and to provide helpful Scriptural insight and direction for families finding themselves in this dilemma.

## PCA DIGEST

### HISTORICAL CENTER

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Archives, pp. 73-77)

### CHURCH HISTORIES

1975, p. 91, 3-81, 22. That the General Assembly encourage each local session to compile and maintain a history of the church and that the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly be directed to supervise the collection and deposition of such material at the direction of the Assembly.

### COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES

1979, p. 138, 7-85, III, 6. That all committees and agencies of the Assembly be directed to preserve all of their records, until such time as a suitable place of depository for historical records is provided by the Assembly.

1982, p. 69, 10-33, III, 8. That the Stated Clerk be directed to visit the offices of each of the Assembly's Boards and Agencies to determine how each is preserving its historical materials, and to report to the next Assembly as to the status of the historical records of the various agencies of the Assembly.

### LOCATION

1982, p. 62, 10-24, III, 9. That Covenant Seminary be the repository for RPCES presbytery and synod records and other historical materials until such time as permanent arrangements can be made.

1984, p. 184, 12-90, III, 14. That Covenant Seminary become the temporary site of the PCA archives.

### RECORDS POLICY

1984, p. 185, 12-90, III, 20. That pending development and adoption of a comprehensive records policy for all the interests of the General Assembly, that the General Assembly adopt the following brief Principles of Records Management and Archival Responsibility:

1. In questions of whether or not a given record or group of records is still needed for operational use and operational reference, barring other specific General Assembly action the Assembly's Operational Agency creating and using the records is the final judge.
2. In questions of whether or not a given record or group of records is still needed for historical use and historical reference, barring other specific General Assembly action the Assembly's Historical Agency is the final judge.
3. In questions of the definition of what constitute records, to whom they belong, and who may destroy them, the following provisions shall apply:
  - a. "Records" includes ALL of these underlined categories:
    - Correspondence: all correspondence both outgoing and incoming.
    - Minutes: of the Committee or Agency; of its committees; and of its subdivisions; and any papers relating to them.
    - Reports: issued by the Committee or Agency, or by its subdivisions, or by its staff.
    - Financial: ledgers and books of final entry; master files; audits; records of annuities, bequests, endowments, property, etc. (Requisitions, cancelled checks, and other ephemera seldom need to be retained in bulk beyond current reference use requirements EXCEPT that block samples should be randomly retained for the use of future students of the history of the systems.)
    - Personnel: dossiers and personnel records of administrative and staff members and of employees. These should be marked "Personnel - Restricted."

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### HOMOSEXUALITY

**Publications:** two copies of every publication issued by the agency. This includes also house organs such as bulletins, newsletters, press releases, etc.

**Artifacts:** portraits, sculpture or other objects related to individuals or activities connected with the agency or the Church; items of furniture decoration and equipment used in the operations of the agency and representative of its personnel, times or operations.

(The term "Records") includes all communications and forms, examples of which would be hand- or machine-produced manuscripts, scripts, prints, films, negatives (photographs, slides, filmstrips, motion pictures, microforms), audio recordings (phono discs, tapes, wires), electronic processing data media (cards, tapes, discs).

- b. Records retention periods for records of administrative, legal or fiscal value should be determined by those administrators responsible for their creation and current use--with legal counsel if necessary.
- c. Although Church agency records may have been created by an individual, those records do not belong to him individually, but are a part of the creative end product of the agency of which he is a member, and therefore are the property of the Church. Neither the individual nor the agency has the right or the authority to remove or destroy them.
- d. Ordinarily, all records, files and other archival material will be placed in the Archives after five years. In unusual circumstances the Archivist with the Stated Clerk may allow specific parts of materials to be left out of the General Assembly Archives beyond five years. After 10 years, all files, records and other archival material will be placed in the General Assembly Archives. Records retention periods for records of administrative, legal or fiscal value should be determined by those administrators responsible for their creation and current use--with legal counsel if necessary.
- e. The General Assembly's historical agency is the Office of the Stated Clerk. This office has the ultimate responsibility for determining the possible historical value of the Church's records and has final authority as to whether any item or group of items may be destroyed even though they are no longer classified by agency officials or staff or employees as current or permanent for agency use, including administrative, legal or financial.

### HOLY SPIRIT, GIFTS

(See SPIRITUAL GIFTS; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #61; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Spiritual Gifts, pp. 543-551)

### HOMOSEXUALITY

(See also PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #62; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Homosexuality, pp. 398-401)

1993, p. 160, 21-56, III, 26. "Commendation of the People of Colorado"

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Colorado have passed amendment #2 to the Constitution of the State of Colorado that prohibits the granting of minority status to homosexuals; and...

Therefore Be It Resolved that the 21st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America commend the people of the State of Colorado for their courage in support of amendment #2 by sending a letter from our Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor of that state; and

## PCA DIGEST

### HOMOSEXUALITY

By separate and appropriate actions, urge local churches throughout the PCA to take practical steps to support PCA churches in Colorado as they seek to advance Christ's Kingdom while their governing authorities enable them to live in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:2)

### HUMANISM

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Humanism, pp. 402-403)

### HYMNALS

1975, p. 112, 3-89, 8. Regarding item 3 calling for a Reformed Psalter, the Committee recommends that the Assembly recommend the use of hymnbooks that include a good selection of the Psalms and hymns, that are true to the Word, set to music suitable for the worship of God, such as, the *Trinity Hymnal* of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and the *Psalter Hymnal* of the Christian Reformed Church.

1975, p. 89, 3-75, 10. That the General Assembly encourage the use in the churches of the *Trinity Hymnal* published by the Great Commission Publications. (Unanimous) The Assembly amended this to add *The Book of Psalms for Singing* (Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America) and *Bible Songs* (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) to the list of psalters and hymnals.

### INCORPORATION

#### BYLAWS

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

[Note: The text of the Bylaws may be found printed at the end of the *Book of Church Order*.]

#### CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

1973, p. 36, 1-52. Judge Hendrick announced that the Church has been incorporated in the State of Delaware, according to the directive of the Advisory Convention. He delivered the Certificate of Incorporation to the Stated Clerk of the Assembly.

1980, p. 118, 8-88, III, 10. That the following changes be made in the Certificate of Incorporation of the PCA:

Add the word "civil" between "The" and "activities" in the first line of Article Sixth. Delete the following sentence found at the end of the first paragraph of Article Sixth of the Certificate of Incorporation: "The board of directors is expressly authorized to make, alter or repeal the Bylaws of this corporation."

[Note: The Certificate of Incorporation may be found printed at the end of the *Book of Church Order*.]

#### PRESBYTERIES

1973, p. 36, 1-53. The following recommendations of the Judicial Business Committee were adopted:

We recommend that each Presbytery be incorporated in the State of Delaware with as many as fifteen incorporators, if desired, or as few as three, and that said incorporators be duly selected by each Presbytery.

#### PROPRIETY OF

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, II, pp. 118-122)

## **ASSEMBLY ACTIONS**

### **INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF**

#### **INSURANCE**

##### **CASUALTY AND LIABILITY**

1983, p. 82, 11-30, III, 34. The COA has been studying various proposals involving mass merchandising property and casualty insurance plans which may be available to PCA churches, through local agents, at considerable savings. Permission is requested to continue the study and to offer a desirable program to local churches if possible.

##### **FIRE AND LIABILITY**

1975, p. 65, 3-47, 2. The Committee recommends that each church secure Fire and Liability Insurance protection from local sources as there appears to be very little interest in a group approach.

#### **INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF**

[Note: As the insurance and retirement plans are constantly updated they are not included in this publication but can be obtained from the Committee on Insurance, Annuities and Relief.]

##### **ANNUITY PROGRAM**

1973, p. 49, 1-67, 11. We recommend that full time General Assembly administrative personnel be full participants in the Annuity Program and collateral benefits on the same basis as ministers.

1973, p. 49, 1-67, 12. We recommend that an annuity program for Lay Employees be established to provide a retirement annuity based on a contribution of 9% of the employee's salary, 6% from the employer and 3% from the employee. Contributions to this program can be received as of January 1, 1974 in line with our other recommendations above.

1976, p. 87, 4-83, II, D, 4. Motion adopted unanimously that the Board of Trustees encourage Presbyteries to cover the cost of the dues for a minister who desires to be in the Annuity program and when the church he is serving is financially unable to meet that cost.

1983, p. 80, 11-30, III, 13. That the Coordinator of the Administration Committee be authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in America, A Corporation, a voluntary tax-sheltered annuity plan and the money purchase pension plan as approved by the Tenth General Assembly (10-71, Article 3, Par.12) (XV.5, p. 97).

##### **BYLAWS**

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

1984, p. 113, 12-44, III, 13. That the General Assembly approve the by-laws adopted by the Trustees

##### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

(See MINISTERIAL RELIEF)

##### **DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING**

(See DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING, 1982, 10-71, 17)

##### **DENTAL PLAN**

1983, p. 159, 11-87, III, 17. That the Trustees be granted authority to offer to all eligible PCA ministers and lay employees, on an optional basis, a PCA group dental plan, provided that sufficient interest exists and that a sufficient number of participants can be enrolled in such a plan.

## PCA DIGEST

### INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF

#### DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITTEE

1973, p. 49, 1-67, 2. We recommend that a Board of Trustees be elected by this General Assembly to serve as Trustees for the Insurance and Annuity Fund. We recommend that six persons be elected as trustees at this Assembly to serve; two of them for three years, two for four years, two for five years, and that two additional trustees be elected at each of our next General Assemblies providing a total Board of ten trustees for the Fund.

The following were elected to the Board of Trustees...

1974, p. 82, 2-106, IV, 8. That the responsibilities of the Insurance Subcommittee be placed in the hands of the trustees for the insurance and annuity fund after the 1975 General Assembly. Until then, the Insurance Subcommittee will continue to evaluate our major medical insurance and other insurance needs.

1974, p. 82, 2-106, IV, 9. That the Trustees of the Insurance and Annuity Fund be authorized and directed to report directly to the General Assembly.

1981, p. 112, 9-55, III, 9. The Trustees of the Insurance and Annuity Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America contemplate the possibility of separating the operations of its office from that of the Committee of Administration and the employment of a director or administrator to manage the functions and responsibilities assigned and delegated to the Trustees combined with the potential for future growth of the Church give an urgency to the matters that required the supplementary recommendations following these words of explanation. Further, an examination of the Church documents governing the operations of General Assembly created organizations reveals that adequate documentation of the role of the Trustees is not set out. Further, there does not appear in the Church documents any of the language set out in the Trust instruments governing the Trustees. Such trust instruments are binding on both the Trustees and the General Assembly. These instruments provide for proper accounting of all transactions to the General Assembly and provide that anyone or all of the Trustees can be removed by the General Assembly with or without cause. We believe that the provisions of the Trust instruments, the relevant civil law, and the judicious selection of Trustees by the General Assembly make appropriate the delegation of authority and responsibility contemplated in the language of the following recommendations:

- c. The Trustees shall, unless specifically directed otherwise by the General Assembly, be authorized to operate from a separate location with separate offices and separate staffs.

#### DISABILITY COVERAGE

##### Lay Church Workers

1983, p. 159, 11-87, III, 18. That the General Assembly grant authority to the Trustees to offer disability coverage to clerical, custodial and other lay church workers beginning January 1, 1984.

##### Missionaries, short-term

1976, p. 59, 4-41, III, 2. That the Insurance Committee provide, if available, disability income coverage for short-term missionaries.

#### ESTATE PLANNING

1976, p. 88, 4-83, II, D, 2. Motion adopted unanimously that Trustees explore a program to meet the urgent need of educating ministers and sessions for the purpose of providing estate planning for ministers. "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Timothy 5:8).

1977, p. 95, 5-92, III, 6. That the Fifth General Assembly instruct the Trustees of the Insurance and Annuity Fund to institute a plan to assist the Teaching Elders and the Courts of the Church in estate planning for those persons covered under the Annuity Plan.

Grounds:

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF

- a. Virtually no understanding of what is involved in estate planning except that social security included in annuity plans is a major component of the Estate Program, in most cases; therefore, it is not illogical to ask for help with the rest of estate planning.
- b. Recognize that this may overlap with the Foundation or Stewardship, and perhaps will need to be coordinated.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

1990, p. 112, 18-40, III, 36. That the General Assembly adopt the following statement to clarify fiduciary responsibility as it applies to the IAR Trustees:

"Fiduciary responsibility" is a legal duty that must be respected by both the IAR Trustees and the General Assembly, but it is not an impenetrable wall that exempts the IAR Trustees from complying with instructions from the Assembly that do not infringe on the terms of the trust agreements or general principals of fiduciary law. "Fiduciary responsibility" is limited in scope to the assets entrusted to the Trustees and the terms of the trust agreements governing those assets and should not be broadened to cover everything the Trustees do in order to insulate them from the general role of an agency accountable to the General Assembly.

### HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS

(See MINISTERIAL RELIEF and BCO 23-2 and 3)

### MEDICALLY DISABLED

1986, p. 133, 14-53, III, 16. That the General Assembly direct its Committee on Judicial Business to prepare wording to allow for a designation of "Medically Disabled" (in BCO 23-2 and 3 and/or elsewhere as appropriate), and to report back to this General Assembly and that the General Assembly direct its Stated Clerk's office to begin using this designation immediately, as appropriate.

### MONEY PURCHASE PENSION PLAN

1993, p. 114, 21-52, III, 7. That the General Assembly approve the Ninth Amendment to the Presbyterian Church in America Money Purchase Pension Plan (MPP) with the understanding that later this year, after Congress has passed the tax bill of 1993, the entire MPP plan document will need to be amended and restated to comply with the new tax law and the 1986 tax law changes and will need to be submitted to the 1994 General Assembly for approval before it can be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for a new determination letter.

*Adopted*

### NAME OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHANGED

1982, p. 95, 10-71, III, 5. That the official name of the Board of Trustees be changed from "The Board of Trustees of the Insurance and Annuity Fund of the Presbyterian Church in America" to "The Board of Trustees of the Insurance, Annuity, and Relief Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America," and that all applicable documents be changed accordingly.

### PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

1974, p. 50, 2-54, II, B, 2. ...That the General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church encourage and urge all of its ministers and congregations to participate in the denominationally sponsored retirement program, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the General Assembly encourage all the presbyteries of the National Presbyterian Church to establish a policy of urging participation in the denominationally sponsored retirement and medical insurance programs in the terms of a call to a minister.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

## PCA DIGEST

### INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF

1981, p. 111, 9-55, III, 1. That the General Assembly strongly encourage all non-participating congregations to participate in the annuity and insurance programs on behalf of their ministers and lay employees.

1986, p. 132, 14-53, III, 2. That the General Assembly strongly encourage all PCA presbyteries to *require* that retirement, health, life and disability insurance benefits be included in all pastoral calls.

### POLICY QUESTIONS

1992, p. 94, 20-47, III, 9. That the moderator of the General Assembly appoint an ad-hoc committee of 3 to 5 qualified people to study the issues raised in Overtures #27 and #36 and report to the 21st General Assembly with appropriate recommendations. The expenses of the committee (up to \$5,000) will be funded by IAR from its 1992 and 1993 approved budgets ("Meetings" line item). *Adopted*

1993, p. 102, 21-44. Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Policy Questions of IAR

1. The Committee recommends that the 21st General Assembly continue this Study Committee for another year and that the expenses of the Committee (up to \$5,000) be funded, as they were this last year, by IAR from its approved budgets. *Adopted*
2. The Committee recommends that the 21st General Assembly instruct the Committee to bring a report on the PCA Health Plan to the 22nd General Assembly. *Adopted*
3. The Committee recommends that the 21st General Assembly instruct the Committee to bring a report on the IAR management of retirement funds to the 22nd General Assembly. *Adopted*

### PURPOSE

1983, p. 159, 11-87, III, 10. That the General Assembly adopt the following:

#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Board of Trustees of Insurance, Annuity, and Relief Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America is to glorify God through serving His servants who minister in the church. This service is carried out through providing for the health, welfare and retirement needs of the denominations ministers, lay church workers and their families.

### RATES

1982, p. 96, 10-71, III, 7. That the Board of Trustees be granted permission to adjust health insurance premiums as required from time to time, but no more often than once each six months between General Assemblies, to protect the viability of the program.

1983, p. 158, 11-87, III, 5. That the General Assembly authorize the Board of Trustees to enhance the plans and set premium rates for all insurance programs administered by the Trustees to become effective January 1 of each year. Rates each year will reflect the best judgement of the Trustees based on the insurance plans, claims experience and insurance company negotiations and will normally be changed no more often than once per year, except when necessary to maintain the viability of an insurance plan, and then no more often than once each six months.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

### REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVANGELICAL SYNOD (RPCES), JOINING & RECEIVING

1982, p. 96, 10-71, III, 9. That an open enrollment for participation in the PCA Health Insurance Plan be held for all eligible former RPCES ministers and lay employees during the months of October, November and December 1982, with coverage and premium payments to become effective January 1, 1983; and that if at least 75% of present RPCES Synod's Hospitalization Plan participants enroll, the preexisting conditions limitation for first year coverage will be waived for the entire group.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

1982, p. 96, 10-71, III, 10. That during the period of open enrollment as provided and conditioned by Recommendation 9, if at least 75% of the present Covenant Theological Seminary participants enroll, the preexisting conditions limitations for first year coverage will be waived for the group, if this provision is approved by the insurance carrier.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

1973, p. 49, 1-67, 5. We suggest that all ministers be participants in the Social Security or Self Employment Tax program available in our country.

1974, p. 50, 2-54, II, B, 3. That we again suggest that all ministers be participants in the Social Security Program.

1987, p. 152, 15-68, III, 1. That the General Assembly remind its ministers:

- (a) that the only legal ground for opting out of the Social Security system is conscientious or religious principles objection to participating in a government sponsored program (with respect to services performed as a minister) which makes payments in the event of death, disability, old age or retirement, or makes payments towards the costs of or provides services for, medical care, and
- (b) that those whose consciences do not allow such participation should make adequate arrangements for disability, survivor, and post-retirement health coverages and retirement income.

1988, p. 140, 16-62, III, 1. That the General Assembly remind its ministers and ministerial candidates:

- (a) that the only legal ground for opting out of the Social Security system is conscientious or religious principles objection to participating in a government-sponsored program (with respect to services performed as a minister) which makes payments in the event of death, disability, old age or retirement, or makes payments towards the costs of or provides services for, medical care, and
- (b) that those whose consciences do not allow such participation should make adequate alternative arrangements for disability, survivor, and post-retirement health coverages and retirement income.

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

#### ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1981, p. 103, 9-43, III, R. That the Permanent Sub-committee on Interchurch Relations meet with representatives of Covenant Presbytery and with representatives of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to report the outcome of the General Assembly's action, to assure them of our good will, and to effect any reconciliation possible.

1982, p. 63, 10-24, III, 14. In the matter of fraternal relations with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America makes the following affirmations:

- a) We recognize that it is possible for Christians and for judicatories to say and do things that offend other Christian brethren; and we acknowledge that offenses against Christian brethren do occur and have occurred that affect the testimony of the Church before the watching world.
- b) We reaffirm our commitment to fraternal relations with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

[Note: This pertained to the PCA's reception of a former ARP congregation that had failed to follow ARP procedures.]

## PCA DIGEST

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

1983, p. 166, 11-95. Personal Resolution #5

Whereas, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was begun in 1733, and

Whereas, the "Seceder" Movement was formed out of a concern for the truth and purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and

Whereas, one branch of the "Seceders" is today part of the ARP, and

Whereas, the last distinctive "Seceder" branch is in this country, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America merged with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America on June 7, 1969,

Therefore, be it resolved that the 11th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, does hereby instruct the PCA Fraternal Delegates to the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America to convey to these bodies the following greetings:

"Fathers and Brethren, we of the PCA rejoice with you in the 250th celebration of the founding of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. We are moved by the love for the Saviour and warm evangelistic fervor and zeal manifest in the movement. We are grateful to God for the historic witness which was raised in Scotland and America by the "Seceders", and are inspired by their gracious example. We pray that we all will continue to learn from unique testimony, as well as from their willingness to join with others of like precious faith as an expression of the visible unity of the body of Christ. In accord with the ARP heritage may we together seek to be faithful to King Jesus the Head of the Church."

### BUDGET

1984, p. 109, 12-39, III, 7. That in order for the Permanent Committee to function, as a matter of policy the Committee of Commissioners recommends that the Interchurch Relations Committee submit budgetary requests to the COA.

### CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

1983, p. 127, 11-64, III, 2. That the Presbyterian Church in America continue fraternal relations with the Christian Reformed Church.

1991, p. 68, 19-19, III, 5. That this communication be sent to the Christian Reformed Church:

The Presbyterian Church in America praises God for the vigorous and vital witness to our Lord Jesus Christ through the Reformed faith that the Christian Reformed Church has long maintained. We are grateful that many who have been nurtured and matured in your fellowship have come to us and been used to strengthen our church in faith and witness.

It is then, with respect, humility and gratitude toward you, and with deep concern for the retention and propagation of the Reformed faith that we entreat you to reverse the 1990 action opening the offices of minister and ruling elder to women.

We believe this to be contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture (1 Timothy 2, 3) and the Belgic Confession (Article XXX).

1992, p. 68, 20-22, III, 12. Resolved, that the 20th General Assembly hereby instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee to prepare documentation with regard to the Christian Reformed Church for presentation to the 21st General Assembly, such documentation to include such matters as the view of Scripture, the toleration of beliefs in evolution and homosexuality, and the treatment of brethren who have stood against these modernist trends.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

1993, p. 59, 21-17, III, 4. That the 21st General Assembly in response to Communication No. 2 from the Christian Reformed Church dated October 21, 1992, adopt the following resolution:

The Presbyterian Church in America expresses our thanksgiving to God that the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in 1992 refused to ratify the change in the Church Order Article 3 that would have opened the office of minister, elder and evangelist to women, and assures the Christian Reformed Church that we shall continue to pray for God's blessing and leading among them. "As you presently meet, we will earnestly pray that your Synod will experience the power of the Holy Spirit as you strive for renewed faithfulness to the reformed heritage we hold in common." *Adopted*

1993, p. 63, 21-17, III, 7a. That General Assembly answer Overture 35 in the negative. A substitute motion to answer in the affirmative prevailed. *Adopted*

"Instruct IRC re. Concerns about CRC"

Therefore Be it Resolved that the Louisiana Presbytery hereby overtures the 21st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to instruct the stated clerk to write a letter to the stated clerk of the CRC expressing our grave concerns over these matters and calling the CRC to repentance over its departure from the Scriptures in its doctrine and practice.

Further Be it Resolved that the 21st General Assembly instruct its delegates to NAPARC to express this concern and to communicate our desire to see the CRC correct these errors and repent of these sins.

1993, p. 68, 21-17, III, 9. ...that Interchurch Relations Committee comply with instructions given by 20th General Assembly.

Resolved, that the 21st General Assembly hereby instructs the Interchurch Relations Committee to prepare documentation with regard to the Christian Reformed Church for presentation to the 22nd General Assembly, such documentation to include such matters as the view of Scripture, the toleration of beliefs in evolution and homosexuality, and the treatment of brethren who have stood against these modernist trends [M20GA, 20-22, III, 12, p. 68]. *Adopted*

1993, p. 169, 21-62. Protest Regarding Answer to Overture 35

The undersigned respectfully, but solemnly, must in conscience protest the action of the 21st General Assembly in answering in the affirmative Overture 35 from Louisiana Presbytery concerning the Christian Reformed Church.

The allegations raised against the Christian Reformed Church in the "Whereas" portion of the Overture are indeed serious and, if proven true, warrant an expression of concern called for by the Overture. There is no dissent regarding the seriousness of the issues raised.

What the undersigned must in conscience protest is that the Assembly, in adopting this Overture, has accepted and spread upon its *Minutes* allegations contained in the "Whereas" portion of the overture, allegations against brothers not formally substantiated to this General Assembly in violation of Biblical principles of love and justice, principles embodied in our own Rules of Discipline. Specifically,

1. The allegations were not proven. While some members of the Assembly may have personal knowledge of the matters referred to in the Overture, all members of the Assembly did not, nor did the Assembly as a whole have documentation of the charges laid before it. While reference was made in discussion of the Overture to press clippings, these were not provided to the Assembly for examination, nor would the Assembly itself be content to be judged by some of its own press clippings. The Assembly essentially has accepted as proven charges supported only by hearsay.
2. There was no opportunity for the "accused" to reply to the allegations, to correct misunderstandings, to provide explanatory information, or to make any defense. Yet, Proverbs 18:17 says that "The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him." The Assembly has acted after hearing only the accuser.

## PCA DIGEST

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

3. Both the Scriptures and our own Standards require the testimony of witnesses before convicting a brother of wrong. Yet no witnesses, in the sense of those with first-hand personal knowledge of the matters at issue, were heard or questioned by the Assembly.

Perhaps an analogy may help clarify. A court dealing with charges may have members who are personally acquainted with many of the facts surrounding the matter. This personal acquaintance, however, does not except the courts from providing due process to all parties, from hearing witnesses, gathering and weighing evidence, and from allowing accused parties to be heard. Courts which have done so have sometimes found that the "facts" turned out to be different than they at first appeared.

The issue before the General Assembly is not strictly a judicial matter, in that the Christian Reformed Church is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Assembly. Surely, however, these principles of justice and fairness apply in dealing with those outside our jurisdiction as well as with those under our jurisdiction.

There would be no cause for protest if the Overture had been prefaced in such terms as "Whereas it has been reported that..." and had the clerk been directed to "express our concern over these reports and the seriousness of the issues raised as, if true, being departures from the Scriptures in doctrine and practice that call for repentance".

Since, however, the Overture as adopted appears to condemn brothers without testimony, proof of charges, or opportunity for defense, the undersigned in conscience must respectfully protest these apparent violations of Biblical demands of love and justice.

### CHURCHES IN CORRESPONDENCE

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, pp. 404-405)

### CHURCHES OUTSIDE THE USA AND CANADA

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, pp. 407-408)

### COMITY AGREEMENT (GOLDEN RULE)

1985, p. 98, 13-44, III, 9. That we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America:

- A. We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and missions ministries of other NAPARC churches and will take great care in receiving members of these existing ministries.
- B. We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, Presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a neighborhood where NAPARC churches or missions ministries exist.
- C. We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans.
- D. We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships.

(Grounds: The above is the "Golden Rule" Comity Agreement of NAPARC as slightly amended.)

1987, p. 165, 15-80, III, 6. That the General Assembly accept the explanation made by NAPARC and adopt its "Golden Rule Comity Agreement."

- a. NAPARC defined "enlisting" as "actively recruiting" and felt that the paragraph regarding communicating is sufficiently clear without further refinement or definition.
- b. The "Golden Rule Comity Agreement" as adopted by all the NAPARC churches but the PCA reads as follows:  
"That we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America:

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

- 1) We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and missions ministries of other NAPARC churches, and will refrain from enlisting members and take great care in receiving members of these existing ministries.
- 2) We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, Presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a community where NAPARC churches or missions exist.
- 3) We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans.
- 4) We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships."

1989, p. 152, 17-82, III, 10. That amendments to the *BCO* are unnecessary to enable Session and Presbyteries to be guided by the NAPARC AGREEMENT, and that the Assembly *communicate* the NAPARC AGREEMENT to Sessions and Presbyteries for their guidance.

#### CORRESPONDING CHURCHES ABROAD

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, p. 408)

#### ECCLESIASTICAL FELLOWSHIP

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, pp. 406-407)

#### Redefining of the Nature of Relations with Other Churches

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, pp. 408-410)

#### EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1989, p. 59, 17-13, III, 3. That the PCA continue communications with the EPC by exchanging observers at national meetings, but that the PCA not seek a relationship of "ecclesiastical fellowship" with the EPC under the current circumstances because of their irrevocable position providing for the ordination of women as ruling and teaching elders.

#### FRATERNAL DELEGATES

1977, p. 73, 5-66, III, 2. That the General Assembly pay full expenses of lodging and meals for fraternal delegates to the PCA Assembly, beginning with this General Assembly;

#### FRATERNAL RELATIONS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, pp. 404-406)

#### FUNCTIONAL RELATIONS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Interchurch Relations, p. 406)

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church Union, Guiding Principles for Ecumenical Relations, pp. 149-158)

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF REFORMED CHURCHES

1990, p. 69, 18-16, III, 3. That request be made of the International Council of Reformed Churches to include the PCA on its mailing list of corresponding churches to receive all reports, notices, and other material deemed appropriate to the PCA as an interested church body, the expense of such correspondence to be borne by the PCA as determined by the ICRC.

## PCA DIGEST

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

1993, p. 67, 21-17, III, 8. Recommend that General Assembly concur with Permanent Committee's answer to Communication #1, namely, that we see no conflict on initiating another Presbyterian and Reformed fellowship through WEF and that we will continue to observe the ICRC. *Adopted*

Communication 1 from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
"Urge PCA to Join ICRC"

That the Assembly urge the Presbyterian Church in America to apply for membership in the ICRC and that the Assembly express to the PCA regret that the PCA is proceeding to initiate another worldwide Presbyterian and Reformed fellowship.

### KOREAN AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1980, p. 80, 8-43, IV, 2. That the General Assembly at this time decline the invitation from the Korean American Presbyterian Church.

Reason: The multiplicity of Presbyterian and Reformed groups in Korea and among Koreans in this country suggests care to avoid any suggestion of partiality.

1981, p. 97, 9-43, III, F. That the General Assembly decline to send a delegate to the General Assembly of the Korean American Presbyterian Church, but instruct the Stated Clerk to extend fraternal greetings.

1982, p. 63, 10-24, III, 12a. That the General Assembly approve the reception of the Korean American Presbyterian Church into the membership of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council.

1982, p. 63, 10-24, III, 13. That the General Assembly express its desire to enter into fraternal relations with the Korean American Presbyterian Church; and that the Sub-Committee on Interchurch Relations be authorized to appoint two Fraternal Delegates to the up-coming meeting of the General Assembly of that Church. (It is understood that these Fraternal Delegates will be in the area at the time of this meeting, thus minimizing expenses.)

### LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE

1975, p. 87, 3-73, 7. That the Sub-Committee on Interchurch Relations be encouraged to continue observer-status with the Board of Managers of The Lord's Day Alliance.

1976, p. 67, 4-59, 7. That we commend the work of the Lord's Day Alliance and continue among our people and in our communities a deep concern for the increasing commercialization of the Lord's Day, including its careless use in work and pleasure by church members, urging that the pulpit ministry and teaching instruments of the church support strongly a witness to the Biblical materials on the observance of the Lord's Day as holy unto the Lord.

### MEMBERSHIP

1974, p. 76, 2-100, II, A, 3, b. That the membership of the Committee on Interchurch Relations be set at 3 ministers and 3 ruling elders, established in classes, with the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly as member *ex officio*.

1976, p. 67, 4-59, 13. The Committee of Commissioners urges the Commissioners to the General Assembly to give careful consideration to the deliberate election to the permanent Sub-Committee on Interchurch Relations of at least one man each who has been received from the OPC and the RPCEs.

The Stated Clerk has pointed out that over half of the constituent churches of our denomination were *never in the PCUS*: moreover, many of our ministers came from other denominations, and this ecumenical character of the PCA should be recognized, and the available insights of these men utilized.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

#### NAPARC (NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL)

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Interchurch Relations)  
1975, p. 86, 3-73.

1. That the General Assembly approve the formation of a North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council and authorize the Committee on Interchurch Relations to participate in the establishment and organization of such a Council, including the appointment of four (4) delegates.
2. That the General Assembly accept the proposed Constitution and By-laws as the basis for the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council. (The Assembly should notice that a two-thirds vote of the Assembly is requested.)
3. That upon formation of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council, the Committee on Interchurch Relations is authorized to invite two members of each of the Council's participating Churches to attend the next General Assembly. Further, that the committee be authorized to send delegates to the top judiciary meetings of the Churches comprising the NAPARC.

1976, p. 66, 4-59.

1. That the General Assembly recognize the establishment of the North America Presbyterian and Reformed Council at its Constituting Meeting, held at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA., October 31-November 1, and receive as information the Minutes of that meeting, deleted slightly, and request that these be included in the Minutes of this Assembly. (See Appendix C, p. 115)
2. That this Assembly receive as fraternal delegates representatives of the NAPARC member churches, and in addition, of the ARPC, until such time as the NAPARC shall finally act on its application for membership, accepting these member churches as churches in ecclesiastical fellowship with us; furthermore, that one such representative of each denomination named be heard by this Assembly at an appropriate time. In addition, that these brethren be welcomed as corresponding members and be accorded a speaking right on the floor in our deliberations.
3. That the Committee on Interchurch Relations shall be charged with the responsibility of appointing this Church's representatives to all meetings of NAPARC and to act for us according to the limitations of the NAPARC Constitution and of our own.
4. That the Committee on Interchurch Relations be authorized to send delegates to the member churches of NAPARC and to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, including both Teaching and Ruling Elders.
10. That the Committee on Administration be authorized to cover our fair share of the NAPARC budget.

1977, p. 73, 5-66, III, 3. That the Assembly encourage the practice of occasional pulpit exchange among NAPARC member church.

1977, p. 74, 5-66, III, 6. That the Assembly approve the amended and strengthened statement of "Basis" of NAPARC, amended by substitution to read as follows:

"Confessing Jesus Christ as only Savior and Sovereign Lord over all of life, we affirm the basis of fellowship of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches to be full commitment to the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God written, without error in all its parts and to its teaching as set forth in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canon of Dort, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms."

1980, p. 80, 8-43, IV, 4. That the General Assembly approve participation in a proposed NAPARC study of the science of Hermeneutics, naming TE O. Palmer Robertson and TE R. C. Sproul as PCA members of this study committee.

Reason: This study should benefit the PCA, especially in its understanding of the positions of the other Churches in NAPARC. The two men named are knowledgeable in the area and are willing to serve.

## PCA DIGEST

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

#### Agreement on Transfer of Members and Congregations

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, NAPARC's Agreement on Transfer of Members, pp. 437-438)

#### Constitution

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Interchurch Relations)

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS (NAE)

(See also CHAPLAINS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS)

1986, p. 110, 14-38, III, 7. That the Presbyterian Church in America now enter into full membership in the National Association of Evangelicals. Your committee has thoroughly studied the matter over the course of several years, and wishes to fully inform you of reasons advanced for and against this proposal. Attached are these papers: (See Appendix H, p. 321)

Paper A - Reasons Favoring Affiliation with the National Association of Evangelicals

Paper B - Statement of Faith of NAE

Paper C - Projected Annual Expense to the PCA for Membership in NAE

Paper D - Minority Report, opposing joining NAE

A motion that matters of funding the membership of the PCA in the NAE be referred to the Committee of Commissioners on Administration for their recommendation was adopted.

1986, p. 175, 14-74, III, 63. That should the recommendation from the Inter-church Relations Committee for the PCA to join the NAE be approved, the cost of annual dues be divided proportionately among the *permanent* committees of the PCA based upon the overall budgets of the *permanent* committees.

1987, p. 165, 15-80, III, 4. That the selection of PCA representatives to the NAE be according to the following procedure: that the denominational representatives of the PCA on NAE Commissions/Affiliates and as official delegates to the NAE Convention shall be named by the Interchurch Relations Committee, after consultation with the respective Committees/Agencies of the PCA. The Interchurch Relations Committee may also nominate members at large on Commissions/Affiliates after inviting nominations from presbyteries.

1987, p. 165, 15-80, III, 5. That the funding of expenses for PCA representatives to the NAE be as follows: that as funds are available, the respective Committees/Agencies of the PCA are to pay the expenses of the members of their permanent committees and their staff members, who serve as denominational representatives on NAE Commissions/Affiliates and as official delegates to the NAE Convention. The General Assembly is to pay for any other denominational representatives to the NAE Commissions/Affiliates and as official delegates to the NAE Convention.

1992, p. 66, 20-22, III, 7. That Overture 17 from Heritage Presbytery be answered as follows:

"The Interchurch Relations Committee accepts the responsibility as outlined in the Overture. Further, that the report of the representatives to NAE will be distributed as is being done this year."

Whereas, the PCA joined the National Association of Evangelicals several years ago, and

Whereas, the General Assembly has not heard much about our involvement in NAE recently,

Therefore Be it Resolved that as long as PCA remains a part of NAE, that the Interchurch Relations Committee is hereby charged with the responsibility of annually reporting upon and keeping the General Assembly aware of the work of the NAE, and also keeping the entire PCA aware through the *PCA Messenger* or other appropriate means.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1973, p. 46, 1-66, 9. That the General Assembly affirm as its position that no work of this Committee of the General Assembly be carried on in cooperation with those denominations which are a part of the National or World Councils of Churches.

[Note: Position reaffirmed in 1975, p. 123, 3-93, C-2; 1976, p. 61, 4-45, VI.]

#### ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (OPC)

1976, p. 67, 4-59, 11. That this General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude and Christian love the communication of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, May, 1976, regarding our common ecumenical concerns, also the action of the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, May, 1976, in instructing its Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations to study a similar communication. In response this General Assembly requests its own Committee on Interchurch Relations, together with the Moderator, Past-moderators, and the Clerk of the General Assembly as Ex-officio members, to consider carefully the matters suggested by the Reformed Presbyterian communication and, furthermore, to endeavor to fashion a long-range policy of mutual concern, activities, and the persuance of unity with these denominations, reporting to the next General Assembly. We remind sister churches that we are still an infant denomination and that obligations we feel for the firm establishment of our church and of our congregations require that we avoid any appearance of haste in these matters. At the same time, we take this initial step so as to support those Biblical principles which place us under the divine tension of unity in the body of Christ visible, wherever and however this may be encouraged or engaged without compromise of our standards or of our primary responsibilities to our member churches.

1982, p. 62, 10-24, III, 8. That future relations with the OPC be referred to the Permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations and that the General Assembly ask the presbyteries to consent to an invitation by the Eleventh General Assembly, if the way be clear, to the OPC to effect and perfect one church under the Constitution of the PCA. (Deferred for a report on the constitutionality of this motion by the permanent Sub-Committee on Judicial Business. The report was adopted in 10-53, p. 77.)

Recommendation 8 was then divided on line two after the word "Relations". The first part of the motion was adopted as follows, and the remaining part was defeated.)

That future relations with OPC be referred to the Permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations.

1984, p. 109, 12-39, III, 2. We would encourage the deepening of knowledge of and fellowship with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church through articles about the Orthodox Presbyterian Church history and faith, by inviting Orthodox Presbyterian speakers to churches and church courts and the exchange of pulpits, and by the exchange of pulpits, and by the exchange of church papers.

1986, p. 111, 14-38, III, 8.

a. That the Fourteenth General Assembly reissue the invitation of the PCA to the OPC to join and be received on the basis of the joint statement adopted by the Eleventh General Assembly (*M11GA*, p. 127-128).

b. That the Permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations continue to be the appropriate representative of the PCA for any discussion pursuant to Joining and Receiving.

The Stated Clerk was directed to include the vote of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church General Assembly of 78-68 in the communication to the presbyteries regarding this matter.

Reason: The Committee felt that continued discussion of ecumenical relations between the OPC and PCA is warranted. The Committee also feels that the process of Joining and Receiving remains the best vehicle to achieve this.

## PCA DIGEST

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

1987, p. 165, 15-80, III, 2. That the Committee on Interchurch Relations be granted the permission of the General Assembly to enter into discussion with the OPC in order to be allowed to explore what options are feasible for us in order to move to the common goal of union.

1988, p. 38, 16-3, A. Communication 1

...That in response to the request of the PCA Committee on Interchurch Relations the Assembly inform the 16th General Assembly that the Assembly would like its Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations to meet with representatives of the following agencies of the PCA: the Committees on Christian Education and Publications, Mission to North America, Mission to the World, Administration, and Covenant Seminary, together with representatives of corresponding agencies of the OPC, at mutually agreeable times, and the Assembly would deeply appreciate the PCA General Assembly giving its encouragement and help so that such meetings can be held; and that the Assembly inform the PCA Assembly that our purposes in seeking to have these meetings are, in pursuance of our mutually expressed desire "to move to the common goal of union", *inter alia*, to obtain an understanding of one another's means of operation and goals and the effect of union on the operations of the OPC's agencies.

1988, p. 118, 16-25, III, 9. That the Communication #1, p. 37, from the OPC General Assembly to our 16th General Assembly be received with gratitude; and, that, if the 16th General Assembly postpones the adoption of the Statement of "Guiding Principles for Ecumenical Relations" in order to hear from the Presbyteries/Sessions, the Assembly direct its Committee on Interchurch Relations to enter promptly into discussion of this Statement with the OPC Committee so that both denominations may adopt the same principles before directly discussing how we may "move to the common goal of union." That therefore, the Assembly instruct the Committee on Interchurch Relations to set up meetings with our Committees and Agencies only after the principles have been adopted by both denominations.

1989, p. 59, 17-13, III, 5. That the 17th General Assembly direct our permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations to continue face to face discussions with the OPC Committee on Ecumenicity (or between corresponding sub-committees) concerning the possibility of movement toward union, and with particular regard to the "Proposed Guiding Principles for Ecumenical Relations" sent down by the Sixteenth General Assembly.

1990, p. 63, 18-15, III, 2. That the assembly respond to overtures 4, 5, 9, 20, 24, 25 by informing the OPC that the best way that the PCA can understand the desire of the OPC for union is for the OPC to take their necessary constitutional steps requesting to be received into the PCA, and that the Interchurch Relations Committee continue to be available to the OPC Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations for discussion of matters relating to the joining and receiving process.

1991, p. 65, 19-19, III, 1. That the 19th General Assembly affirm its desire that this committee continue to be available to the OPC Ecumenicity committee for discussion of matters relating to the joining and receiving process; that we rejoice in the reported progress of these discussions, and support them with our prayers.

1992, p. 63, 20-21, III, 1. Communication 3 From the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

"Consider Merger, not J & R"

Fathers and Brethren:

The recently concluded (June 6, 1991) 58th General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church was informed, via the report of its Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations, of the decision of your 1990 General Assembly "(to inform) the OPC that the best way that the PCA can understand the desire of the OPC for union is for the OPC to take their necessary constitutional steps requesting to be received into the PCA, and that the Interchurch Relations Committee continue to be available to the OPC Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations for discussion of matters relating to the joining and receiving process."

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

It surely is no secret that many in the OPC, including some who have favored and some who have not favored the joining and receiving proposals that came before our General Assembly in 1981 and 1986, believe that the joining and receiving process itself has engendered difficulties in the OPC. For some, the joining and receiving process is an obstacle to the eventual joining of our churches on a biblical basis.

During discussion of this topic at our General Assembly it was moved and carried that "the 58th General Assembly reaffirm to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America our desire for closer union with the PCA, and plead with our brethren to reconsider their rejection of organic union by any process except J & R." This motion received a strong majority, and we trust that you will give it your prayerful consideration.

May the Lord of the church deliver all of us from all thoughts and stands that can not be substantiated from His Word, as we seek to reflect more perfectly His desire for one church.

Yours in Christ's service,

/s/ Richard A. Barker, Stated Clerk

#### Response of the PCA

The General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Richard A. Barker, Stated Clerk  
639 Shadowlawn Drive  
Westfield, NJ 07090-3357

#### Fathers and Brethren,

May the rich grace of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and nurture your hearts in faith and love!

We have received your communication, informing "that the 58th General Assembly (OPC) reaffirm(s) to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America our desire for closer union with the PCA and plead(s) with our brethren to reconsider their rejection of organic union by any process except J & R."

Your clerk's letter concludes with this hope: "May the Lord of the church deliver all of us from all thoughts and stands that cannot be substantiated from His word, as we seek to reflect more perfectly His desire for one church."

We rejoice that your General Assembly has reaffirmed its desire for closer union with the PCA, and further rejoice that we both stand together in this desire, and have adopted the same "Guiding Principles for Ecumenical Relations." This statement introduces Section II (Developing Procedures for Removing Barriers to Unity): "No schedule of conversations, no procedures for reception or plans for union will be pleasing to the Lord or effective in his service unless his glory is the motivation of our actions."

We have abundant evidence that this spirit motivated the representatives of the OPC, PCA, RPCES, and RPCNA on September 14, 1979 when the idea of inviting other churches to join the PCA, originally proposed at the 6th General Assembly, come to fruition in the concept of "joining and receiving". After nine years of discussion and various actions relating to J & R, our 1989 General Assembly reconsidered this, and determined to enter into union discussions with the OPC. This action brought six overtures from as many presbyteries, expressing great concern that such discussions would consume inordinate amounts of our limited time, energy, manpower, commitment, emotion and financial resources, are "of debatable priority" and would yield questionable results.

In response to these overtures the 18th General Assembly (1990) directed that the OPC be informed that "the best way that the PCA can understand the desire of the OPC for union is for the OPC to take their constitutional steps, requesting to be received into the PCA, and that the Interchurch Relations Committee continue to be available to the OPC Committee on 'Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations for discussion of matters relating to the joining and receiving process."

## PCA DIGEST

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

The representatives of our three denominations (OPC, PCA, RPCES) in 1979 saw the J & R process as a biblical, speedy and effective way to fulfill the desire of our Lord for the unity of His church, and their judgment has been confirmed by majority votes at OPC and PCA General Assemblies. We are further convinced by events since 1982, when the RPCES entered the PCA through J & R, that it is the best route to achieve unity and practice prudent stewardship.

The late Francis Shaeffer warned that the prolonged intricacies of negotiated church union can bring a drain on our limited resources that our little flocks can ill afford.

The Presbyterian Church in America lovingly assures you that we stand ready to give sympathetic consideration to your request for reception and again offer its Interchurch Relations Committee to be available for discussion of any matters relating to the joining and receiving process that may concern you.

Brethren, pray for us!

In Christ,  
The General Assembly of  
The Presbyterian Church in America

#### PAN PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE

1981, p. 97, 9-43, III, D. That the General Assembly decline participation in the Pan-Presbyterian Conference at this time.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

1974, p. 76, 2-100, II, B, 1. That the communication from the Presbyterian Church in Australia be answered as follows:

That General Assembly authorize the Committee on Interchurch Relations to enter into correspondence with the Presbyterian Church in Australia with a view to establishing possible overseas contact with that Church.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A. (PCUSA)

1979, p. 95, 7-34, III, 3. That in regard to the letter from the PCUS inviting the PCA to send an ecumenical participant to the next General Assembly, the Stated Clerk be instructed to inform the PCUS that the PCA does not authorize voting participation in other Assemblies or Synods.

#### REFORMED CHURCH U.S. (RCUS)

1981, p. 97, 9-43, III, E. That the General Assembly concur with the Sub-committee in declining to send a fraternal delegate to the Synod of the Reformed Church US this year, but that the Stated Clerk be instructed to extend fraternal greetings.

1993, p. 61, 21-17, III, 6a. That General Assembly answer Overtures 31 & 36 in the negative.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Louisiana Presbytery hereby overtures the 21st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to inquire into the reported allegations and to instruct its delegates to NAPARC to vote in favor of the reception of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) to that organization without further delay; to establish with the RCUS the relationship of ecclesiastical correspondence, pending approval by that body.

*Adopted*

#### REFORMED ECUMENICAL SYNOD (RES)

1976, p. 67, 4-59, 6. That the Interchurch Relations Committee study the matter of our participation in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod during the coming year, and bring a recommendation to the next General Assembly.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

1979, p. 94, 7-34, III, 2. That the PCA not join the RES at this time; and that the General Assembly instruct the Permanent Sub-Committee on Interchurch Relations to

- (a) assemble a bibliography of official RES documents (Constitution, acts, pronouncements, committee reports, etc.) as well as historical data relative to the involvement of our sister denominations: this bibliography to be disseminated to all our churches as soon as possible after the adjournment of this Assembly; and
- (b) prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Eighth General Assembly concerning the advisability of membership in the RES by the PCA.

1980, p. 80, 8-43, IV, 3. That in the interest of further information about the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, the General Assembly authorize the attendance of two observers at the Nimes meeting of the RES, these persons to be TE James A. Jones, Jr., and TE William Edgar III.

Reasons:

- (1) The Seventh General Assembly decided not to join the RES at this time.
- (2) These PCA personnel are on the mission field in France and are expected to be in Europe at the time of the meeting.

1981, p. 97, 9-43, III, C. That in regard to possible membership in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, the General Assembly adopt the recommendations of the representatives to the RES as follows:

1. That the PCA seriously consider establishing a relationship with the RES
2. That the PCA withhold making a decision about membership in the RES pending action by that body on problems that have arisen among member churches, and
3. That the PCA be prepared to send observers to the RES in 1984 in order to report on the outcome of Synod action on the fore-mentioned problems and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly.

1985, p. 97, 13-44, III, 4. That the General Assembly no longer pursue consideration of membership in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod in any form, and declare that it will only become affiliated with RES or any other interchurch body by the deliberate action of the General Assembly. In adopting this, the Assembly is clarifying its intentions with regard to the clause in the Joint Statement of 1983 in relation to "honor the commitments of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church". Lest it be otherwise interpreted, the Assembly is declaring that this statement will not enter the PCA into membership in RES in any form for any period of time.

### REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1988, p. 116, 16-25, III, 3. That the Interchurch Relations Committee be granted an extended time for consultation with the Reformed Episcopal Church on possible fraternal relations until their next General Conference in 1990.

### REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVANGELICAL SYNOD (RPCES)

[Note: In 1982 the RPCES joined the PCA.]

(See JOINING AND RECEIVING, REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVANGELICAL SYNOD; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Joint Statement on Joining & Receiving, pp. 411-413)

### REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA (RPCNA)

1986, p. 110, 14-38, III, 4. That your committee be given permission to seek a joint meeting with the Interchurch Relations Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America to discuss mutual relations and areas of cooperation, with the possibility of proposing next year a plan for joining and receiving for consideration by the 1987 General Assembly.

1987, p. 165, 15-80, III, 3. That the Committee on Interchurch Relations be granted the permission of the General Assembly to continue discussions with the RPCNA on a possible plan for union.

## **PCA DIGEST**

### **INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

1988, p. 116, 16-25, III, 2. That although the Interchurch Relations Committee has no recommendation, at this time, of possible options relative to a Joining and Receiving with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America; and, that the Committee on Interchurch Relations be authorized to meet with the Interchurch Committee of the RPCNA to make arrangements for our General Assembly and their Synod to be held concurrently in 1990 or later if the way be clear.

### **WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES**

1982, p. 63, 10-24, III, 15. That the General Assembly acknowledge the courtesy of the invitation from the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, to be represented with an observer at the General Council in Ottawa in August, but that in the light of the fact that the Presbyterian Church in America continues at this time to perfect its ecclesiastical relationships, we decline this invitation with thanks for its having been extended.

### **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

1973, p. 46, 1-66, 9. That the General Assembly affirm as its position that no work of this Committee (MNA) of the General Assembly be carried on in cooperation with those denominations which are a part of the National or World Councils of Churches.  
[Note: Position reaffirmed in 1975, p. 123, 3-93, C-2; 1976, p. 61, 4-45, VI.]

### **WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP**

1991, p. 67, 19-19, III, 3. That the paper entitled "Proposal to the World Evangelical Fellowship Regarding a World Wide Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship" be adopted as amended. See Appendix B below.

#### **PROPOSAL TO THE WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP REGARDING A WORLD WIDE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED FELLOWSHIP**

The Presbyterian Church in America wishes to propose to the WEF the formation of a fellowship of Reformed and Presbyterian churches to be established under the auspices of the WEF.

The purpose of this fellowship would be to provide contact and fellowship between like-minded churches from various countries around the world at a relatively informal level. We would propose that WEF associated churches from the Reformed branch of Christ's Church be identified as such, for the purpose of this fellowship and that a meeting of representatives of these churches be held in conjunction with the June, 1992, WEF General Assembly in Indonesia. At that meeting, plans for further or ongoing contact could be drawn up as seemed good to the churches.

This fellowship would remain informal. One of the reasons we desire it is to avoid political or cultural entanglements easily blundered into when formal relations are attempted with churches not already on intimate terms.

The sole criteria for membership in this proposed fellowship of recognized Reformed and Presbyterian churches would be membership in the WEF through the national Association in a particular country or through Associate member status in the WEF. In this way the proposed fellowship does not need to take on the sometimes sticky responsibility of enforcing standards of reformed theology and practice which has plagued other organizations such as the Reformed Ecumenical Council and others. It is not that these standards do not matter to us, but rather, it is our desire that the enforcement of Biblical standards be the responsibility of the various national Associations who are close enough to deal effectively with it.

In addition, the proposed fellowship will encourage a greater sense of being part of the world Church. Those of us who are already connected to the WEF would encourage churches who wish to have ties to us to do so through the WEF. Thus, they would need to face their role as a part of their national church. We hope this would foster a real spirit of oneness among evangelical churches in their respective countries.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### WORLD PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED FELLOWSHIP

(See also INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF REFORMED CHURCHES)

1993, p. 59, 21-17, III, 1. That the Assembly pause to pray for God's leading and blessing on steps being taken toward the formation of a World Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship, and that God would use this fellowship to strengthen reformed churches around the world and to further the evangelization of the world, to the honor and glory of Christ. *Adopted*

#### INTERNSHIP

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY)

#### INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION

##### DELMARVA

1985, p. 93, 13-34. Report of Investigative Commission re Delmarva Presbytery. TE John T. DeBardeleben III led in prayer and presented the report of the judicial commission appointed by the Thirteenth General Assembly to investigate the complaint by RE J. Breeding and RE R. Judkins concerning an action of Delmarva Presbytery. The report was received. (See Appendix S, p. 351ff)

##### GREAT LAKES

1985, p. 96, 13-41. Report of Investigative Commission re Great Lakes Presbytery. TE Stuart H. Perrin, Chairman, led in prayer and presented the report of the General Assembly Investigative Commission Concerning First Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY. Recommendations 1 and 2 were adopted and the report was received as a whole. (See Appendix T, p. 354ff)

##### Recommendations:

1. In view of the fact that none of the parties desired to make formal charges against anyone else, we recommend that no judicial actions be taken against any of the parties involved.
2. In view of subsequent resignation of the other elders and the pastor of First Church, thus leaving the church without a session, we recommend that the Presbytery of the Great Lakes direct its Commission to hold an election of church officers at First Presbyterian Church in Louisville (with the understanding that the two former Elders may allow their names to stand in nomination without prejudice).

\* In view of First Presbyterian Church's withdrawal from the denomination at a congregational meeting on January 26, 1985, our Commission deems that its second recommendation is superfluous. We include it here for information only.

#### INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

(See also MNA, BUILDING CLUB; FIVE IN FIVE; REVOLVING BUILDING FUND; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

1986, p. 172, 14-74, III, 23. That the Articles of Incorporation (Appendix C, p. 265) of Investors' Fund for Building and Development of the PCA, Inc. be approved.

1986, p. 265, Appendix C, Attachment B. Articles of Incorporation of Investor's Fund for Building & Development of Presbyterian Church in America, Inc., A Nonprofit Corporation

## PCA DIGEST

### INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### BYLAWS

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### NAME

1986, p. 115, 14-43, III, 5. That the Assembly recognize the Revolving Building Fund, operated as a trust, as ordered, but under the name "Investors Fund for Building and Development, Presbyterian Church in America." (Appendix J, Attachment D, p. 369)

#### POLICY MANUAL

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

1986, p. 171, 14-74, III, 20. That the Assembly adopt the Basic Policy Guidelines for Revolving Building Loans (Appendix C, p. 273) as a portion of the policy manual required by the 13th General Assembly (*M13GA*, p. 115, 17b.(4)) and that the Trustees of the Investors' Fund for Building and Development be directed to complete the policy manual and submit it to the 15th General Assembly.

1987, p. 190, 15-91, III, 27. Approve policy guidelines for the Investor's Fund for Building and Development. (Appendix I, p. 319).

#### REPORTS

1986, p. 118, 14-43, III, 24. That Overture 30, p. 55, dealing with the Five Million Fund, be answered in the affirmative [as amended] . . .

Grounds:

1. There has not been adequate response from direct mail efforts.
2. Point 4 as originally proposed might require additional staff.

1986, p. 55, 14-4, B. Overture 30: From Covenant Presbytery

Therefore be it resolved, that the Session of New Life Presbyterian Church requests Covenant Presbytery to petition the General Assembly at its 1986 meeting to consider the following:

1. That as soon as possible after January first of each year, the Coordinator of Church Building Programs submit a copy of his annual report to the Chairman of the MNA Committee of each Presbytery, and he, in turn, make this report a part of his committee's report to his Presbytery's meeting as soon as possible after receiving it from the Coordinator. The report should include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. Names and addresses of all churches that have received church loans, with the status of each in their repayment commitment.
  - b. Names and addresses of all churches who have made formal applications for loans indicating the amount requested.
  - c. Names and addresses of all churches who have been approved for loans indicating the amount, but not yet funded, during the preceding year.
  - d. Names and addresses of all churches having been funded, including the amount, during the preceding year.
2. That each MNA Committee of each presbytery be designated to promote the program within its presbytery bounds.
3. That churches within the denomination be encouraged to consider helping, financially, through the Coordinator of Church Building Programs, needy churches, not only at large, but particular churches within their own presbyteries.
4. That the GA request the Coordinator to make the building needs of our churches known on a regular basis through the *Messenger*.
5. That the General Assembly again consider an asking amount to be included in church budgets beginning in 1987.

This overture is submitted that God might be glorified through this ministry.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

#### JEWISH EVANGELISM

1992, p. 111, 20-51, 14. "Evangelism of Jewish People"

Whereas, Messiah Jesus commanded that "repentance and forgiveness of sins be preached in His name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47); and

Whereas, there has been an organized effort on the part of some who claim to profess the name of Christ to deny that Jewish people need to come to Him to be saved; and

Whereas, these people have spread a false hope and security that Jewish people can inherit eternal life apart from the faith in God's New Covenant promises foretold by the Jewish prophets (Jeremiah 31:31, Isaiah 53);

Therefore, Be it Resolved the 20th General Assembly of the PCA re-affirms that: we are "not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16); and

Re-affirms that anyone and everyone - Jewish or Gentile - who fails to receive Jesus, Messiah of Israel, as Savior and Lord, as taught in the New Covenant, will perish eternally; for Peter, appointed as Apostle to the Jewish people (Galatians 2:7), pleaded with the men of Israel, "save yourselves from this corrupt generation" (Acts 2:1-41); and

Re-commits itself to prayer for all peoples - Jewish & Gentile, to turn to the God of Israel and His Holy Messiah Jesus in faith, as the *Westminster Larger Catechism* states, we are to pray that "the gospel [be] propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in" (*Westminster Larger Catechism* answer to Question 191); and

Re-commits itself to the preaching of the gospel of Christ to all peoples - Jewish & Gentile, and condemns as the worst form of anti-semitism withholding the gospel from the Jewish people; and

Condemns as erroneous the false teaching held by some that salvation for Jews today is possible apart from the gospel of Christ due to the Abrahamic Covenant, for this heresy necessarily involves denying the completed atonement for sin accomplished through our Messiah (Hebrews 9:15).

We therefore re-affirm, in accord with the scriptures and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, that it is our duty, as Messiah's people, to take the gospel to all the peoples of the earth, including the Jewish people. We call the Jewish people, through whom Jesus came, to join us in faith in their own Messiah, obedience to their own King, Jesus the "King of the Universe", and in proclamation of His gospel to all peoples, for that same Jesus will one day return to judge the world (Acts 1:11).

#### JOINING AND RECEIVING

1979, p. 95, 7-34, III, 5. [Note: The first proposal to authorize preparation of a plan of union, though failing, resulted in the establishment of a committee to study areas of agreement, difference and difficulty between the PCA, OPC, and RPCES.]

a) That a 3/4 vote of those present and voting be required to adopt Recommendation 5b.

*Adopted by vote of 285-204*

b) That the Assembly approve the statement adopted by the joint meeting of the Fraternal Relations Committees of the OPC, the PCA, and the RPCES, and authorize the continuation of consultations with a plan of merger in view;

Following prayer by the Rev. William C. Hughes, the recommendation was then defeated by a vote of 353 for, 208 against, since a 3/4 majority had been required for passage.

[Clerk's Note: The following amendment to the Report was adopted later during the Assembly (par. 7-73) by the required two-thirds vote of those present. It is presented here for easier reference.]

c) Since Item 5b above received a majority vote, but less than 3/4, the following action is taken by the General Assembly:

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

- 1) That an Ad-Interim Committee be appointed by the General Assembly to meet with representatives of the RPCES, the OPC and the RPCNA with instructions not to develop any plan of union, but merely to determine possible areas of agreement, difference and difficulty that might exist between the three denominations.
- 2) That a committee be appointed by the General Assembly of three ruling elders and three teaching elders, members to be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
- 3) That this Committee be funded in the same manner as the Sub-Committee for Interchurch Relations, and
- 4) That this Committee report its findings to the 1980 General Assembly through the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations.

*Adopted by Vote of 418-82.*

1979, p. 95, 7-34, III, 6. That the General Assembly assert that this does not constitute a rejection of any cooperative arrangements or ventures that are presently in existence.

1980, p. 80, 8-43, IV, 5. That the Eighth General Assembly of the PCA reaffirm at this time that portion of its original letter from our First General Assembly to all Churches, which reads: "As this new member of the family of Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ comes into being, we necessarily profess the Biblical doctrine of the unity of all who are in Christ...We greet all believers in an affirmation of the bond of Christian brotherhood. We invite into ecclesiastical fellowship all who maintain our principles of faith and order."

Reason: The Sub-committee on Interchurch Relations has responded to new channels of discussion with other Churches of like confessional base for which we are grateful. However, the Committee of Commissioners feels that the substance of the letter proposed in the Sub-committee Recommendation 4 may have been inappropriate in view of the actions of the Seventh General Assembly (see *M7GA*, 7-34, Recommendation 5, p. 95).

Chairman Clements moved Recommendation No. 5. A motion was made and seconded to substitute for Recommendation no. 5 the "Letter" attached to Recommendation No. 4 of the Sub-committee on Interchurch Relations' report (see p. 154), excluding the text of Recommendation No. 4 itself.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the substitute so that the "Letter" would read as follows:

#### LETTER

Adopted by the 1980 General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in America

To: The General Synods and General Assembly of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Subject: An invitation to effect one Church.

Brethren:

Greetings in the Names of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

Whereas, we hold to and desire to promote a common testimony to the inerrancy of Scripture, the system of doctrine contained in the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*, and the doctrine of the purity of the visible Church; and

Whereas, we feel constrained by our commitments to seek a more perfect unity among us as members of Christ's body;

Now Therefore, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in America, in the bonds of our Lord Jesus Christ, invites you to come with us for the purpose of effecting and perfecting one Church among us. We propose, as the basis of this association, the above named principles, together with the *Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

It is to be understood that this invitation is an action of the Eighth General Assembly, and to receive any denomination which responds to this invitation it should be stated that for the Presbyterian Church in America to consummate any such union, it would have to go through the constitutional process of approval by subsequent General Assemblies and three-fourths of our presbyteries. In this constitutional process each denomination must be dealt with separately.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Paul G. Settle, Moderator  
For the Presbyterian Church in America

RE Michael Williams led the Assembly in prayer.

Two commissioners asked questions related to the Constitution, and the moderator referred these to the Sub-Committee on Judicial Business. TE Thomas A. Cook, vice-chairman, subsequently presented the following report on the questions.

Question 1. Does an invitation from the General Assembly to other ecclesiastical bodies require a three-fourths vote of the presbyteries in order to be issued, on the assumption that an invitation presupposes receipt of the body upon acceptance of the invitation?

Response 1. The *BCO* does not speak to the issue of extending an invitation to other ecclesiastical bodies but it does speak very clearly to receiving other ecclesiastical bodies. It is the opinion of this sub-committee that the invitation could be extended by the General Assembly without presbytery consent, but that in doing so the General Assembly should remind those ecclesiastical bodies that their reception would be contingent upon the consent of three-fourths of the presbyteries of the PCA (*BCO* 15-6).

Question 2. What is the constitutional meaning of the phrase "the doctrine of the purity of the church?"

Response 2. In responding to the question, the sub-committee has in mind the statement in the fifth line of the "Letter," which reads, "the doctrine of the purity of the visible Church." Such language is not found in the standards, but concern for the purity of the visible Church is clearly expressed in Westminster Confession of Faith 25:4, 5, the "Preface to the Book of Church Order," II(4), and Book of Church Order 2-1, 2-2, 22-5(6), and 25-5.

On motion this report was adopted by the Assembly.

[This letter was approved by a] vote of 525 affirmative, 38 negative.

1980, p. 83, 8-43, IV, 6. That the Ad-interim Committee to Discuss ... be continued for one year and that in the event approaches from any other Churches are made to the PCA during the coming year, the Ad-interim Committee be authorized to welcome, receive and study such approaches; be directed to communicate such information to the Church-at-large by all means available; and report to the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations at the Ninth General Assembly of the PCA...

1980, p. 83, 8-43, IV, 7.

- a. That the Ad-interim Committee continue to work on its original mandate, and that they meet with the representative of the OPC, and of the RPCES and RPCNA, if the latter so desire, to draw up a statement that exhibits the representatives' understanding (or, if necessary, individual statements that exhibit individual understandings) of the compatibility of the participating Churches, the statement to take into consideration discussion of those questions raised by PCA representatives at the joint meeting held September 14, 1979 (see p. 237), and any other pertinent issues.

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

- b. That the Ad-interim Committee be instructed to report by means of a letter to all teaching elders and clerks of session no later than February 1, 1981, areas of similarity and difference among the PCA, OPC, RPCES and RPCNA, giving a brief summary of each Church's position on these areas based on their standards and assembly pronouncements, along with a description of the size and location of the individual churches of each denomination.
- c. That the Ad-interim Committee report to the Ninth General Assembly of the PCA through the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations their recommendations as to future efforts in the area of Church unity.  
Reason: The Committee of Commissioners feels that this communication from the OPC should be responded to positively, and that, as a special study committee, the Ad-interim Committee is the proper vehicle to deal with these discussions and make recommendations.

1981, p. 100, 9-43, III, K. [Note: The following plan for receiving of the OPC into the PCA was adopted by the 1981 Assembly. The vote of the presbyteries failed by one vote to approve this invitation during the year 1981-82. It was subsequently reissued in 1983, p. 59, 11-65, III, 5 and approved by a sufficient number of presbyteries to be officially issued to the OPC.]

In regard to the reception of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, we recommend:

1. That these recommendations shall be acted upon without amendment or deletion due to the fact that this plan has been approved by the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church;
2. That in view of our prior invitation to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to effect and perfect one church with the Presbyterian Church in America, the General Assembly take the first formal vote under paragraph 14-6 of the Book of Church Order: "to receive under its jurisdiction, with the consent of three-fourths of the presbyteries, other ecclesiastical bodies whose organization is conformed to the doctrine and order of this Church." (The adoption of this recommendation confirms the interpretation that the words "ecclesiastical bodies" include an entire denomination.) Thus all ordained officers in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church will be received into the Presbyterian Church in America without examination;
3. That the Assembly approve and send to the presbyteries for their approval a plan for the reception of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as follows:
  - a. Upon the approval of three-fourths of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America and the completion of the constitutional process in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church the presbyteries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shall become a part of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America according to the boundary proposals contained in recommendation 3-b;
  - b. Presbytery boundaries shall be drawn as follows:  
(See Addendum I for maps and explanatory text)
  - c. Presbyterian Church in America presbyteries whose boundaries are affected by these changes shall take separate action regarding their consent (BCO 14-6). Presbyterian Church in America presbyteries which do not consent to the proposed boundaries shall negotiate their boundaries or difficulties with the assistance of an ecclesiastical commission (BCO 15), consisting of representatives from each of the joining bodies, appointed for this purpose by the General Assembly, which commission shall report to the next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America following the reception of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church:

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

- d. Churches and missions from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, which have difficulties adjusting to the new boundaries shall make their concerns known to the presbytery of jurisdiction, which shall follow ordinary procedures for resolution of their problems;
4. That committees and agencies of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shall be received by the appropriate committees and agencies of the Presbyterian Church in America as follows:
  - a. The following Orthodox Presbyterian Church agencies, Committee on Foreign Missions, Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension, Committee on Education, Committee on Stewardship, shall have the privilege of designating not more than four persons each as members for an advisory sub-committee to each of the corresponding permanent committees or subcommittees of the Presbyterian Church in America (Mission to the World, Mission to the US, Christian Education). These sub-committee members shall serve for a period of two years from the date of reception of the church. At the expiration of the two-year period the sub-committee shall be discontinued. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church Committee on Diaconal Ministries with its personnel and assets, shall become an advisory sub-committee of the Mission to the US Committee. The Ministerial Committee on Pensions and Hospitalization shall have the privilege of designating not more than two persons each as an advisory sub-committee to the PCA Board of Trustees for the Insurance and Annuity Fund. This advisory sub-committee shall serve for a period of two years, after which it shall be discontinued.

Corporate Charters: The existing corporation charters shall be maintained. The Presbyterian Church in America shall determine, with the advice of legal counsel, which of these corporations shall be active and which shall be dormant. For those corporations which shall be active, the Board of Directors/Trustees shall be elected as provided in the certificate of corporation and bylaws of the corporation. For those corporations which shall be dormant, the Board of Directors/Trustees shall be the Committee on Administration of the Presbyterian Church in America.

The Stated Clerk of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shall serve as an associate clerk for a period of two years. The compensation shall be determined by the Committee on Administration on the basis of the work load required.
  - b. The staff persons serving the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in the following positions shall be retained by the Presbyterian Church in America permanent committees or sub-committees for at least one year following reception, to wit: Committee on Foreign Missions-General Secretary, Controller; Committee on Home Missions- General Secretary; Committee on Christian Education General Secretary; Committee on Stewardship-General Secretary. The salaries and benefits of these persons shall continue at their present level, but no higher than the maximum salary set by the General Assembly for their counterparts. These persons will be received without examination by the Theological Examining Committee.

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

- c. Out of respect for the integrity of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the approval of its acceptance of the invitation shall be understood to honor such commitments as it may have. The ministries presently conducted by the agencies of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shall be continued, subject to the review of the permanent committees and the approval of subsequent General Assemblies.
5. That any judicial case pending at the time of the reception of the church in a court of original jurisdiction shall be continued in the corresponding court of the Presbyterian Church in America which has jurisdiction of the accused. Any appeal or complaint pending at the time of the reception shall be returned by the appellate court of the PCA to the lower court which has jurisdiction of the appellee/respondent. In all cases the PCA court shall treat the case as a new case timely instituted as of the date of reception, and shall begin the process anew (*de novo*). The accuser/appellant/complainant shall have the right to prosecute the case whether or not the trial court has present jurisdiction of the accuser/appellant/complainant.

1981, p. 103, 9-43, III, U. That the General Assembly address the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as follows: That while we are anxious to effect one church with you, we wish to make known to you our great concern in regards to the issue of justification by faith that has been raised at Westminster Seminary and in Philadelphia Presbytery. Our Prayers will be with you for a definitive resolution of these matters.

1982, p. 77, 10-53, 1. The Sub-Committee on Judicial Business was directed to respond to a question from TE David Dively regarding recommendation #8 of the report of the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations concerning the method of receiving under its jurisdiction other ecclesiastical bodies according to BCO 14-6.

It is the opinion of the Sub-Committee on Judicial Business that BCO 14-6 does not specify whether the Presbyteries shall vote before General Assembly votes or the General Assembly before the Presbyteries. Therefore, either procedure is constitutional.

If the General Assembly desires to request the Presbyteries to vote before the General Assembly votes, it must direct the Stated Clerk to request the Presbyteries to vote on the following overture: "That \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery overtures the Eleventh General Assembly to extend an invitation to the OPC to effect and perfect one church under the constitution of the PCA."

Three-fourths of the Presbyteries must adopt the overture in order for the Eleventh General Assembly to act on an invitation to the OPC.

1983, p. 127, 11-65, III, 3. That the Eleventh General Assembly re-issue the invitation of the Ninth General Assembly to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to join with us under the terms of "The Revised Joint Statement."

#### A JOINT STATEMENT

The statement below was adopted jointly and severally at the March 3-6, 1981, joint meeting in Atlanta, GA and has been modified by the PCA sub-committee on Interchurch Relations to fit present circumstances. Taken together with your Committee's evaluations above and the "Comparison of Areas of Similarity and Differences" among the OPC/PCA/RPCES distributed earlier to our churches, this statement expresses the judgment of your Committee and of the three committees jointly that there is a compatibility among these churches that would, if they were joined together, "produce a church that would be of substantially one in its willingness to deal on a biblical basis with issues that would inevitably arise from time to time" (*Minutes, Forty-seventh General Assembly*, p. 199).

The statement follows:

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

We have sought to fulfill the mandates given us by our representative major assemblies in order to make recommendation concerning the reception and joining of the OPC in and with the PCA.

With joy and thankfulness to the Lord of the Church we recognize that our churches have a common and sincere commitment to the inerrant Word of God and to the Westminster Standards as faithfully expressing the system of truth taught in Holy Scripture. Further, we recognize that our churches are Presbyterian in their order and practice. But above all, we find clear evidence that each of our churches desires to be faithful to our primary standard, the Bible, and to our secondary standards as true to the Bible. We acknowledge our weaknesses and failures but we are one in our commitment to obey the Lord Jesus Christ in his rule over us through his Word and Spirit.

We recognize, however, that due in part to differences of historical development, there are differences among us as to how our common Presbyterian convictions are applied in practice. We have given careful attention to those that have been referred to us, and we have provided a comparison of similarities and differences that we have discussed. No doubt there are variations of practice that have little or no theological significance but would require mutual forbearance and understanding during a period of adjustment in the augmented church. It is also true that there are differences of emphasis among our churches that are to be found within each of them as well as between them; some of these have their roots deep in the history of Presbyterianism.

It is apparent to us that, just as within our churches there has been a deep and continuing desire to be constantly reforming ourselves in conformity to the Word of God, so too in the augmented Presbyterian Church in America this commitment would be not only continued but heightened by the reception of the OPC. The OPC, whose ministry would be joined with that of the PCA, would be called upon to follow the faith and order of the church that they enter; the PCA, on the other hand, would further strengthen its life and witness by welcoming the insights and experience represented by the OPC and seeking to profit from differences in striving for a more perfect biblical faith and practice. In receiving this denomination the PCA recognizes the history of the denomination as part of her total history and receives its historical documents as valuable and significant materials which will be used in the perfecting of the church.

We, therefore, as committees of our churches, recognize that unity of faith and practice which our churches have through the grace of God. This unity must draw us together as the body of Christ and enable us to remove the barriers that would prevent us from full communion of life and love in an undivided church. We also recognize our need for the grace of the Spirit and the love of Christ as we seek to reconcile differences and remove practical barriers. We, therefore, do severally and jointly:

1. Commend to our respective churches that we become one in organization in accordance with the invitation of the Presbyterian Church in America:
2. Urge upon our respective churches the necessity of resolving in the thus-augmented church the differences among us, and others that may arise, in kindness and forthrightness begotten of love, with the determination that by the grace of the Spirit of God through the teaching of His Word we shall "all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto . . . the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13).

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

And further we, as committees of our respective churches, do severally and jointly agree that the above committee of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shall recommend to its assemblies in 1984 that the necessary constitutional actions be taken to begin the process required to join the Presbyterian Church in America in accordance with its invitation; that the above-named committee of the Presbyterian Church in America will if the invitation is accepted by the OPC recommend to the General Assembly that the acceptance be approved, that the procedures stated elsewhere be followed for the assimilation of the several agencies of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church into the Presbyterian Church in America; that out of respect for the OPC's integrity the approval of its acceptance of the invitation shall be understood to honor such commitments as the church may have and to continue the ministries presently conducted by the OPC subject to the review of the permanent committees and approval of subsequent general assemblies; and that the assimilation of agencies shall endeavor to provide for the just treatment of those who may not be able, for reasons of conscience, to participate in the acceptance of the invitation.

3. That these recommendations shall be acted upon without amendment or deletion due to the fact that this plan has been approved by the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church;

1983, p. 128, 11-64, III, 4. That in view of our prior invitation to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to effect and perfect one church with the Presbyterian Church in America, the General Assembly take the first formal vote under paragraph 14-6 of the *Book of Church Order*: "to receive under its jurisdiction, with the consent of three-fourths of the presbyteries, other ecclesiastical bodies whose organization is conformed to the doctrine and order of this Church." (The adoption of this recommendation confirms the interpretation that the words "ecclesiastical bodies" include an entire denomination.) Thus all ordained officers in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church will be received into the Presbyterian Church in America without examination.

1983, p. 128, 11-64, III, 5. That the Assembly approve and send to the presbyteries for their approval a plan for the reception of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as follows:

- a. Upon the approval of three fourths of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America and the completion of the constitutional process in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church the presbyteries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church shall become a part of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- b. Presbytery boundaries shall be drawn as follows:  
Joint PCA and OPC Committees shall meet as soon as practicable to work out the boundaries plan. The basis for this plan shall be the present PCA boundaries (*M10GA* pages 324-326) and present OPC boundaries.

### REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVANGELICAL SYNOD (RPCES)

1981, p. 97, 9-43, III, J. [Note: The following invitation for the RPCES to join the PCA was adopted by the Assembly and a sufficient number of presbyteries and thus extended to the RPCES.]

In regard to the reception of the Reformed Presbyterian Church Evangelical Synod, we recommend:

1. That these recommendations shall be acted upon without amendment or deletion, due to the fact that this plan has been approved by the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod;



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

2. That in view of our prior invitation to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod to effect and perfect one church with the Presbyterian Church in America, the General Assembly take the first formal vote under paragraph 14-6 of the *Book of Church Order*: "to receive under its jurisdiction, with the consent of three-fourths of the presbyteries, other ecclesiastical bodies whose organization is conformed to the doctrine and order of this Church." (The adoption of this recommendation confirms the interpretation that the words "ecclesiastical bodies" include an entire denomination.) Thus all ordained officers in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod will be received into the Presbyterian Church in America without examination;
3. That the Assembly approve and send to the presbyteries for their approval a plan for the reception of the RPCES as follows:
  - a. Upon the approval of three-fourths of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America and the completion of the constitutional process in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod the presbyteries of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod shall become a part of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America according to the boundary proposals contained in recommendation 3-b;
  - b. Presbytery boundaries shall be drawn as follows:  
(See Addendum I for maps and explanatory text)
  - c. Presbyterian Church in America presbyteries whose boundaries are affected by these changes shall take separate action regarding their consent (*BCO* 14-6). Presbyterian Church in America presbyteries which do not consent to the proposed boundaries shall negotiate their boundaries or difficulties with the assistance of an ecclesiastical commission (*BCO* 15), consisting of representatives from each of the joining bodies, appointed for this purpose by the General Assembly, which commission shall report to the next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America following the reception of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod;
  - d. Churches and missions from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod which have difficulties adjusting to the new boundaries shall make their concerns known to the presbytery of jurisdiction, which shall follow ordinary procedures for resolution of their problems;
4. That boards and agencies of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod shall be received by the appropriate committees and agencies of the Presbyterian Church in America as follows:
  - a. The following Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod agencies, World Presbyterian Missions, Board of Home Ministries, Christian Training Incorporated, National Presbyterian Missions, shall have the privilege of designating not more than four persons each as members for an advisory sub-committee to each of the corresponding permanent committees of the Presbyterian Church in America (Mission to the World, Mission to the US, Christian Education). These sub-committee members shall serve for a period of two years from the date of reception of the church. At the expiration of the two-year period the sub-committee shall be discontinued. The Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod Committee on Ministerial Welfare and Benefits and the Board of Pensions shall have the privilege of designating not more than two persons each as an advisory sub-committee to the PCA Board of Trustees for the Insurance and Annuity Fund. This advisory sub-committee shall serve for a period of two years, after which it shall be discontinued.

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

Corporate Charters: The existing corporation charters shall be maintained. The Presbyterian Church in America shall determine, with the advice of legal counsel, which of these corporations shall be active and which shall be dormant. For those corporations which shall be active, the Board of Directors/Trustees shall be elected as provided in the certificate of corporation and bylaws of the corporation. For those corporations which shall be dormant, the Board of Directors/Trustees shall be the Committee on Administration of the Presbyterian Church in America.

The Stated Clerk of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod shall serve as an associate clerk for a period of two years. The compensation shall be determined by the Committee on Administration on the basis of the work load required.

- b. The staff persons serving the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod in the following positions shall be retained by the Presbyterian Church in America permanent committees for at least one year following reception, to wit: World Presbyterian Missions - Executive Director, Associate Director, Financial Director, Officer Director; National Presbyterian Missions - Executive Director, Director of Church Planting, Director of Development; Board of Home Ministries - Executive Director; Christian Training Incorporated - Executive Director; Reformed Presbyterian Foundation - Executive Director. The salaries and benefits of these persons shall continue at their present level, but no higher than the maximum salary set by the General Assembly for their counterparts. These persons will be received without examination by the Theological Examining Committee.
  - c. Out of respect for the integrity of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, the approval of its acceptance of the invitation shall be understood to honor such commitments as it may have. The ministries presently conducted by the agencies of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod shall be continued, subject to the review of the permanent committees and the approval of subsequent General Assemblies.
5. That Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary shall be received as denominational institutions under their present Articles of Incorporation and By-laws with proposed amendments, copies of which are attached. These institutions shall be treated in a manner similar to the Ridge Haven Conference Center, with the following specifics:
- a. Their Boards of Trustees shall be retained as presently constituted;
  - b. These institutions shall remain as separate, non-profit civil corporations;
  - c. They shall be governed by their Boards of Trustees through their administrative personnel;
  - d. The General Assembly shall elect subsequent trustees through its regular nominating process. These institutions may suggest nominations to the presbyteries or interested commissioners may make nomination from the floor of the General Assembly;
  - e. The number and terms of the trustees shall be determined by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the institution;
  - f. The Bylaws of the General Assembly of the PCA shall be amended to allow the Board of Trustees of these institutions to govern the institutions according to their approved Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
  - g. These institutions shall report annually to the General Assembly through a Committee of Commissioners;

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

- h. These institutions shall be included annually in the General Assembly's askings for special benevolent support. These askings shall be submitted to the local churches along with the askings for the permanent committees although not as a part of the General Assembly's budget for these permanent committees;
  - i. Since the General Assembly is responsible for the conduct of the work which the whole church does unitedly, the powers and activities that it has delegated to institutions under its jurisdiction shall always be subject to review. It shall not delegate any of its general powers beyond its own recall so as to cease to be fully responsible for the spiritual oversight of the entire denomination.
6. That any judicial case pending at the time of the reception of the church in a court of original jurisdiction shall be continued in the corresponding court of the Presbyterian Church in America which has jurisdiction of the accused. Any appeal or complaint pending at the time of the reception shall be returned by the appellate court of the PCA to the lower court which has jurisdiction of the appellee/respondent. In all cases the PCA court shall treat the case as a new case timely instituted as of the date of the reception and shall begin the process anew (*de novo*). The accuser/appellant/complainant shall have the right to prosecute the case whether or not the trial court has present jurisdiction of the accuser/appellant/complainant.

1981, p. 107, 9-50, III, 16. That the General Assembly answer Communication 6 from the RPCES (9-10, p. 29) with the following letter:

#### COMMUNICATION TO THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVANGELICAL SYNOD

The Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, meeting June 15-19, 1981, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, wishes to respond to your communication regarding the "perfecting of one church" and specifically to the perceived differences of mission philosophy underlying the strategy and operation of the PCA's MTW and the RPCES's WPM as follows:

"Our churches are united by a common bond of doctrine which is foundational to our missions outreach. The motivation of our program flows from commitment to the church's obligation to fulfill the Great Commission in its fullest sense. We are bound to proclaim the whole counsel of God and, in word and deed, demonstrate our testimony to a watching world. It is within that spirit that we wish to answer your communication.

We appreciate your careful reading of our manual and handbook which represent the foundation of the PCA's mission policy. We've also made available to you other working documents which are subject to the manual and handbook, and reflect our current thinking on many issues. These positions are constantly evaluated for they are seen as dynamic and not static. We welcome your evaluation input as we come together in a combined program.

I. The parameters you refer to for our PCA opening of new fields are just that -- for new fields. The PCA is a new mission and came into being without existing fields. We of necessity developed parameters that would focus our contribution to world evangelization.

Your fields would be accepted not as new fields, but as existing fields subject to the same support and continued evaluative process as delineated in the MTW handbook, to which all of our programs must be submitted.

II. We, who hold to a common Reformed tradition, find the thought of a dichotomy between word and deed abhorrent. Such a dichotomy must be repudiated. Our working together in a combined quest for the extension of the kingdom of God in our world must be rooted in the acceptance of the inexorable unity that is the true witness of Christ's Church. We also must accept that our existing programs are fruit of our individual churches' pursuit of these goals. Our coming together is a realization that unitedly a more perfect expression in methodology and strategy will be possible because of our diversity within the framework of the Reformed faith.

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

**Conclusion:** There is of necessity a recognition that our methodology and strategy, while rooted in our understanding of the biblical imperatives, is also a product of our individual histories and our interaction with the world we have confronted. We, in Mission to the World, thank God for all that has been accomplished through the ministry of our brothers and sisters at WPM and the OPC Foreign Mission Board.

Our cooperation together must begin, first of all, with the acceptance that we are not all that God wants us to become; and secondly, that in many areas our understanding of our world and God's mandate for it is imperfect. Thirdly, that our strategies and programs must be submitted unitedly to the scrutiny of God's Word and the discipline of our brethren. Fourthly, that our committee requests the Board of WPM and the Board of World Missions of the OPC to send representatives to meet with it as soon as mutually convenient to begin the processes of discussion and negotiation whose purpose will be to effect a harmonious integration of our respective ministries.

The principles and policies of MTW have evolved out of our context as a new and emerging mission facing a missions environment very different from that which existed at the time of the formation of our sister missions. We will undoubtedly benefit from the perspectives and experience that will be brought from these programs, both ecclesiastically and missiologically.

As we progress in time, all of our strategies and programs must be submitted to the scrutiny of God's Word in the light of changing and developing situations in the world. This will be true of Mission to the World first and foremost, but will of necessity include others who unite with us also. Those who join with us will be a part of this process by sharing both on the committee and in the Assembly. Surely we have this guarantee -- that which bears the stamp of God's blessing and seal of His Word continue and increase.

It is within this spirit that we accept wholeheartedly the ministries in which our brethren are presently engaged, and are committed to look forward together to a more perfect understanding of how best to meld and mold them in order that God might be glorified through the extension of His Church worldwide."

Date:

Attest: Morton H. Smith  
Stated Clerk

### Corporation Form Used

1982, p. 61, 10-24, III, 5. That the following form be used for joining and receiving RPCES Corporations if such takes place:

Now, Therefore, the presbyteries of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod have become a part of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America. The boards and agencies of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, are received by the appropriate committees and agencies of the Presbyterian Church in America.

A. **Corporations:** The Presbyterian Church in America will determine that these corporations shall be active:

"Presbyterian Church in America (a Corporation)", a corporation of the State of Delaware; "Presbyterian Church in America Foundation, Inc.", a corporation of the State of Georgia; "Reformed Presbyterian Foundation," a Missouri corporation; "Ridge Haven, Inc.", a North Carolina corporation; "Covenant College", a corporation of the State of Missouri domesticated under the laws of the State of Georgia; "Covenant Theological Seminary", a corporation of the State of Missouri.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

These corporations shall be merged into and become a part of the "Presbyterian Church in America (a Corporation)": "Christian Training, Inc.", a Delaware corporation; "World Presbyterian Missions, Inc.", a Delaware corporation; "National Presbyterian Missions, Inc.", a Delaware corporation; "Board of Home Ministries", a Michigan corporation; and "Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod", a corporation of the State of Pennsylvania; the RPCES Pension Fund, an Illinois Corporation.

- B. *Board of Directors*: The Committee on Administration of the Presbyterian Church in America shall serve as the Board of Directors of the corporations to be merged into the "Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation)" for the purpose of accomplishing the mergers and winding up the affairs of each corporation, seeing to it that all duties, commitments, responsibilities and obligations, fiduciary and otherwise, of the various corporations are strictly observed.
- C. *The Reformed Presbyterian Foundation*: The "Reformed Presbyterian Foundation" shall be merged into and become a part of "Presbyterian Church in America Foundation, Inc.", as rapidly as facts and circumstances permit. The Trustees of the Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, elected as provided in the bylaws of the corporation and placed in classes for specific term of years, and the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America Foundation, Inc. elected by the General Assembly shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Reformed Presbyterian Foundation during the interim period. Any rule of the PCA, which might prevent a trustee of the Reformed Presbyterian Foundation from serving as a member of the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, or as a member of the Board of the PCA Foundation, Inc., is suspended for a period of two years.
- D. *Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary*:  
These educational institutions are authorized to operate and to be governed pursuant to their newly amended bylaws and/or articles of incorporation during the coming year, and the Committee on Administration is directed to prepare amendments to the bylaws of the General Assembly of the PCA to conform to the new bylaws and/or articles of incorporation of these institutions.

1982, p. 19, 10-2. Mr. Jussely yielded the floor to TE Paul G. Settle, Chairman of the Ad-Interim Committee on Interchurch Relations. He announced the results of the final vote of the General Synod of the RPCES on the proposed joining of the PCA. The vote was 322 affirmative and 90 negative, thus adopting the proposal and approving the joining and receiving of the RPCES with the PCA. The PCA having completed its vote with the presbytery votes the RPCES delegates (See Appendix O, p. 322 for the report on this vote), who had been duly certified, were declared members of this General Assembly.

TE Francis Schaeffer was the keynote speaker for the Monday afternoon session as part of the celebration of the joining and receiving of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, into the Presbyterian Church in America.

#### **Covenant College Trustees Recommendation**

1982, p. 79, 10-56, III, 5. That the General Assembly hear and act favorably on the following recommendation from the Trustees of Covenant College:

"We commit ourselves to your philosophy that men should not serve on more than one General Assembly Level Committee. In the interim following Joining and Receiving, we would recommend that all presently serving on more than one board or committee be able to serve out their elected terms."

#### **Joint Statement**

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Joint Statement on Joining & Receiving, pp. 411-413)

## PCA DIGEST

### JOINING AND RECEIVING

#### Records

1982, p. 62, 10-24, III.

7. That all the records of former RPCES presbyteries be closed as of the date of reconstitution.
10. That all records of RPCES Committees and Boards be deposited at Covenant Seminary until such time as permanent arrangements can be made.

#### SUNDAY OF RECOGNITION

1982, p. 63, 10-24, III, 16. That the Committee on Administration, as soon as possible, develop an Assembly-wide Sunday of Recognition in order to engage simultaneously the people of the churches in celebration of the enlarging of the church through "joining and receiving." [Clerk's note: The Committee on Administration designated the first Sunday of October, 1982, as the date for this celebration.]

### JUDICIAL BUSINESS

(See CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE)

### JUDICIAL CASES

(See PART III)

### JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

#### APPOINTMENT OF

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 15-2, 1986, 14-44)

#### EFFECT OF REFERENCE

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 41-3, 1984, 12-53, 52)

#### MANUAL

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, *Standing Judicial Commission Manual*)

#### REVIEW OF JUDICIAL PROCEDURES

1993, p. 121, 21-56, III, 6. That Overture 8, from Southwest Florida be answered by recommending that the General Assembly establish an Ad Interim Committee on Judicial Procedures to review our current General Assembly judicial procedures, evaluating their comparative strengths and weaknesses. Said study committee shall report to the 22d General Assembly the results of its findings, complete with recommendations, if any, for further perfection of our judicial procedures. *Adopted*

#### STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

(See STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION)

#### TEMPORARY GUIDELINES

[Note: Temporary Guidelines were adopted in 1983, 11-21, 28, p. 73. However, see PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, *Standing Judicial Commission Manual* for current guidelines.]

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MEN OF THE COVENANT

#### KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES

(See PRESBYTERY, KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES)

#### LEGAL AUDIT

1992, p. 135, 20-63, VI.

30. That the 20th General Assembly require all committees and agencies to participate in the Legal Audit Questionnaire.
31. That the 20th General Assembly direct the completion of a Representative Legal Audit Analysis for the PCA, the cost not to exceed \$17,398, which is to be divided equally among the ten committees and agencies. Further, if adopted, that the budgets for committees and agencies be adjusted accordingly.
32. That the 20th General Assembly direct the completion of an on-site representative field legal audit contingent on obtaining designated funding through PCA Foundation or otherwise. The cost is approximately \$10,000.

1993, p. 86, 21-38, III, 21. That the Legal Audit be referred to the 22nd GA (the audit was not made available to the C/C for review because it had not yet been reviewed by CMTW).

*Adopted*

1993, p. 181, 21-64, III, 31a. That the AC be directed to assemble the recommendations in and response to the Legal Audit by the various committees, boards, and agencies and to present such reports through the appropriate committees, boards, and agencies to the 22nd GA, and that the parts of the Legal Audit referred to each committee, board, and agency be made available to the Committee of Commissioners reviewing its work at the 22nd General Assembly and that the entire legal audit and responses be made available to the Committee of Commissioners on AC at the 22nd General Assembly.

*Adopted*

#### LICENSURE

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY)

#### MARRIAGE

1991, p. 63, 19-16, 7.

In light of the current focus on sexuality and the public confusion generated through the recent controversy on that subject within the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a distinctly different denomination, strongly reaffirms its commitment to the Bible's teaching on sex and marriage.

The PCA reaffirms that sex is a gift from God which should be expressed only in marriage between a man and a woman. Therefore all sexual intercourse outside marriage, including homosexuality and lesbianism, is contrary to God's Word (the Bible), and is sin. We acknowledge that the Bible declares that those who continuously and unrepentantly sin shall not inherit the kingdom of God, and we sorrow for their plight. Yet we also joyfully acknowledge that God in the gospel of Jesus Christ forgives repentant sinners and welcomes such forgiven, cleansed and changed sinners into the Church of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)." (See Divorce and Remarriage, 1992)

#### MEN OF THE COVENANT

1973, p. 58, 1-77.

9. That each congregation be encouraged to promote a local Men's organization with a distinctly spiritual emphasis, to be known as "Men of Covenant".
10. That each Presbytery be encouraged to hold a Spring Rally for men.

## PCA DIGEST

### MEN OF THE COVENANT

11. That the Assembly's Christian Education Committee be authorized to begin plans for an Assembly-wide Men's Convention in 1975.

1975, p. 88, 3-75, B.

1. That the General Assembly officially designate PCA men's ministries by the title MEN OF THE COVENANT.
2. That the General Assembly approve the general concept of Men of the Covenant ministries contained in this report and recommend it to the presbyteries and sessions for their consideration.
3. That the General Assembly approve the establishment of a Men of the Covenant Advisory Subcommittee of the Committee for Christian Education and Publications, whose members shall be appointed by the Committee for Christian Education and Publications.

1976, p. 84, 4-80, 10. That local churches and presbyteries be encouraged to consider the establishment of Men of the Covenant organizations in 1977.

1990, p. 99, 18-34, III, 6. That in our efforts to mobilize the laity for ministry and to develop a greater sense of support of the PCA's fellowship and ministry, through its CE/P Committee the Assembly encourage the organization of the Presbytery Men of the Covenant (approved 1973 and 1974) utilizing the resources of these presbyteries with a present MOC working with CE/P.

1993, p. 74, 21-24, III, 4. That local churches and presbyteries be encouraged to develop a Men of the Covenant program ministry and the Men of the Covenant guide distributed to all the churches be considered as a beginning point.

*Adopted*

### MERCY MINISTRY

(See DIACONAL MINISTRIES; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Diaconal Ministries, pp. 159-181; Mercy Ministry, Biblical Guidelines, pp. 414-428)

### MESSAGE TO ALL CHURCHES

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Message to All Churches, pp. 7-14)

### MESSENGER

(See also GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PUBLICATION OF ASSEMBLY ACTIONS)

1973, p. 57, 1-77, 6. That a printed publication containing news of interest to the denomination be published on a regular schedule, the policy of this publication to be the presentation of news only, without editorializing.

1975, p. 92, 3-77, C, 2. That Overtures #12 and #13 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery and Westminster Presbytery, respectively, be answered by instructing the Permanent Committee for Christian Education and Publications to take the matter of a denominational magazine under advisement until the next General Assembly, at which time a specific recommendation shall be made.

1976, p. 85, 4-80, 15. That in conformity with the instructions contained in Resolution no. 15 of the Third General Assembly, the General Assembly remind each of the Committees of the necessity of publishing dates of all committee meetings at least 30 days in advance of such meetings and that such publication be in "Continuing...", or in the proposed denominational magazine.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MESSENGER

1976, p. 85, 4-80, 16.

- A. That the General Assembly adopt the following procedure in phasing the present "Continuing ..." into a denominational magazine:
1. News Content - the primary purpose of the magazine shall be to provide news of the denomination concerning the work of the major committees, the presbyteries and churches.
  2. Editorial Policy - the magazine shall contain no purely editorial material.
  3. Specific Features - space shall be devoted regularly to the following features:
    - a. Family Section: including a Bible study suitable for family devotions.
    - b. Discussion: pro and con on issues currently under study by any committee of the church.
    - c. Theological Section: devoted only to studies in areas already recognized by the denomination (e.g. the Westminster Standards, Book of Church Order, etc.).
    - d. Leadership Section: designed especially for training officers in the church.
    - e. Feature Section: containing articles on music, book reviews, specialized ministries, biographies.
  4. Advertising - directory-type advertising shall be included for approved Christian enterprises and for churches and individuals in the PCA.
  5. Size, Layout, Frequency - the magazine shall be published monthly on 6" x 9" stock and shall contain suitable art work and photographs.
- B. The Committee for Christian Education and Publications shall bring a full mock-up of the proposed magazine to the Fifth General Assembly.
- C. \$10,000 shall be added to the Christian Education budget for the purpose of developing the mock-up and the Christian Education staff shall be permitted to cancel one or two issues of "Continuing ..." in order to prepare the mock-up.
- D. Plans shall be presented to the Fifth General Assembly to begin publishing the magazine on January 1, 1978, contingent upon appropriate financial capability.
- E. An Assistant Coordinator for Publications shall be presented to the Fifth General Assembly for examination and approval.
- F. That the amount of \$25,000 be added for the purpose of hiring appropriate editorial personnel.

1977, p. 77, 5-72, III, 18. That the Committee on CE/P be authorized to publish a bimonthly denominational magazine, The PCA Messenger, based on the design approved at the Fourth General Assembly, and as viewed in two mock-up editions published during the summer of 1977.

1978, p. 85, 6-75, III, 6. That the General Assembly approve the monthly publication of the PCA Messenger, beginning in September, in accordance with the original plan adopted by the Fourth General Assembly (cf. Minutes, p. 85, No. 16) except that the Committee may exercise its best judgment with respect to the format, method of printing or reproduction, and manner of handling distribution, including the possibility of a small subscription charge, where such is deemed necessary or advisable in order to effect a reduction in the expense involved.

1979, p. 139, 7-90, 24. That because of the need for congregations to understand as quickly and as fully as possible what the Seventh General Assembly has accomplished, and, because of the difficulty even commissioners have in accurately assimilating, recalling and documenting major decisions of the Assembly as they report to congregations, and as sessions attempt to follow the lead of the General Assembly, and, because realistically, the Minutes of the General Assembly are largely not effective in communicating to the churches the Assembly's actions due to their detailed treatment, therefore, the information be presented in the earliest issue of the Messenger rather than directly by the Stated Clerk.

## PCA DIGEST

### MESSENGER

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 23. That all permanent committees and sub-committees of the General Assembly be encouraged to use "The PCA Messenger" as the Denomination's official news organ to keep the constituents informed as to the news and development within the PCA.

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 11. That due to the rapidly rising cost of printing and mailing, the CE/P Committee be authorized to explore and implement alternatives for financing the publication and distribution of the denominational magazine, The PCA Messenger.

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 12. That in light of the defined purpose of the Messenger in its attempt to present the whole news of the PCA, prayer is requested on behalf of the committee and staff for this essential ministry.

1982, p. 117, 10-90, III, 16. That the General Assembly instruct the PCA Business Administrator to pay for the total printing and postal cost of the Messenger out of the total of undesignated funds given to the General Assembly each month prior to percentage distribution of those funds to the Permanent Committees. This shall begin immediately. It should be understood that oversight of the Messenger will remain with CE/P. However, all Boards and Committees of the PCA are requested to use the Messenger as a vehicle for their publications and news announcements, when possible.

1983, p. 131, 11-75, III, 10. That those individuals and churches receiving the PCA Messenger (some 54,000 family units) be encouraged as they read the Messenger to be aware of the need to uphold the Assembly's total program, committees, agencies, and staff in regular prayer, and that the CE/P Committee be encouraged, as funding and staffing are available, to continue to expand the magazine's design to incorporate all of the areas originally proposed in the 1976 GA Minutes (*M4GA*, p. 85). (See 1976, 4-80, 16, A)

1983, p. 131, 11-75, III, 12. That Overture 15 from the Tenth General Assembly be answered in the following manner:

- a. That reference be made to the Tenth General Assembly Minutes, page 117, 10-90, Item #16, regarding the use of the denominational magazine: ...all boards and committees of the PCA are requested to use the Messenger as a vehicle for their publications and news announcements, when possible.

1986, p. 146, 14-67, III, 15. That the Assembly recommend that local churches continue to encourage their members to receive and read the PCA Messenger and that prayers and financial support for its ministry be increased in order to insure a maximum readership; that the editor and all who work with him be commended for their work of expanding the Messenger in format and content.

1987, p. 148, 15-66, III, 9. That in order to expand the MESSENGER in accordance with the original assignment from the Fourth General Assembly, and as explained in the Permanent Committee report (Appendix D, p. 290), CE/P be authorized to include a column open to various viewpoints expressed by the editor and others on issues before the church, and paid advertising for evangelical and reformed programs, materials and services available to our churches.

1987, p. 148, 15-66, III, 10. That in order to keep the church membership informed, and challenged about the PCA's ministry at home and throughout the world, each local session encourage its members to subscribe by January 1, 1988 to the PCA MESSENGER either individually or by church group enrollment.

1988, p. 122, 16-33, III, 15. That whereas, The PCA MESSENGER is seeking to serve the entire church as a vital part of the PCA's program; and,

Whereas, The PCA MESSENGER is part of the PCA's and CE/P's overall stewardship strategy and program; and,

Whereas, the General Assembly for the last four years has given assistance to CE/P with some of the printing and postage costs from undesignated giving; and,

Whereas, the projected subsidy needed for the next year is \$120,000;

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MINISTER

Therefore, CE/P requests that the General Assembly continue to allow the use of the undesignated funds to assist with the printing and postage of The PCA MESSENGER, to be reviewed by the 1989 Assembly.

1990, p. 100, 18-34, III, 15. "Ask Messenger not to Publish Anonymous Letters"

Whereas, the Scripture calls God's people to integrity ("Speak every man truth with his neighbor." Eph. 4:25) and the Westminster Confession of Faith XX:iii cautions against the practice of any sin "upon pretence of Christian liberty"; and

Whereas, the PCA *Messenger* has published several articles under assumed pen-names (Feb. 1990, pp 6 & 10);

Therefore, the Session of the Prosperity Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC, humbly requests the Central Carolina Presbytery at its regular stated meeting on April 28, 1990, to petition the General Assembly of the PCA to direct the Committee on Christian Education and Publications to implement a policy by which unsigned or anonymous or pen-named articles or editorials shall not ordinarily be published in the Messenger.

That Overture 28 from Central Carolina Presbytery be answered in the affirmative.

1991, p. 74, III-13.

Whereas, the PCA was begun with the stated intention of being a church that is true to the scriptures and to the Reformed Faith; and

Whereas, we have an obligation to the members of that denomination to feed them nothing but the inspired Word of God; and

Whereas, the *Messenger* is a periodical which is read by many members of the denomination; and

Whereas, in the issue of February, 1991, there was an advertisement on the back cover for a Commentary series written by William Barclay; and

Whereas, on page 12 of the commentary on Luke, Mr. Barclay states, "The church does not insist that we believe in this doctrine ... Now let us look at the things which may make us wonder if the story of the Virgin Birth is to be taken as literally as all that," and

Whereas, this viewpoint would be seen a rank heresy by all the Reformed Standards upon which the PCA was established;

Therefore, the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, North Carolina, respectfully overtures the 19th General Assembly of the PCA to direct the Christian Education Committee, publishers of the *Messenger*, to recommit themselves to the position of guardian of the flock against the savage wolves (Acts 20:28-29), and to review and to reject any advertisements for materials which run directly contrary to the stated doctrine of the PCA.

### MINISTER

#### ASSISTANT

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 22-3, 1986, 14-52, 42)

#### ASSOCIATE

#### Voting

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 4-3, 1985, 13-45, 49)

## PCA DIGEST

### MINISTER

#### BURN-OUT

1985, p. 123, 13-58, III, 15. That the General Assembly receive as information the excerpts from "The Church At Risk", (see Attachment F, Appendix G, p. 229) and further, that the Assembly take seriously the problem of burn-out among PCA ministers and through appropriate action attempt to prevent and treat this problem.

#### CALL

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 13-5, 1984, 12-53, 54; *BCO* 20-1, 1983, 11-36, 55; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #12, #38)

#### CONFIDENTIALITY

(See CONFIDENTIALITY)

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

1973, p. 64, 1-82. A motion that the General Assembly recommend to each Presbytery that it utilize one of its Committees or appoint a Committee to establish an annual theological conference to serve its own constituency, and that this matter be referred to the Committee on Christian Education and Publications, was referred to the Committee on Christian Education and Publications for study and report back to the Second General Assembly.

1975, p. 90, 3-77, 13. That the General Assembly urge presbyteries to conduct conferences for teaching Reformed theology and its implications for the life and work of the churches and members of the PCA.

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 8. That the ministers and local churches be encouraged to continue to take advantage of the training offered at the annual PCA Minister's Continuing Education Conference.

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 9. That the presbyteries be encouraged to establish and finance their own regional continuing education program for ministers, utilizing the resources and personnel from CE/P for this training.

1986, p. 147, 14-67, III, 24. That the Assembly through the offices of the Stated Clerk and CE/P urge local sessions and presbyteries to utilize the continuing education and training programs offered by CE/P as an attempt to minister to the needs of pastors and wives, and that CE/P continue to cooperate in the area of Church Growth and Revitalization with MNA as they work in the area of church planting.

#### CO-PASTOR

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 4-3, 1986, 14-52, 9)

1988, p. 170, 16-77, III, 3. *BCO* 23-1 amendment re co-pastors sent down to presbyteries but defeated in 1989 (see *M17GA*, p. 43, 17-6, Item 3).

#### DIVORCE

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #3, #51, #60; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Divorce and Remarriage, pp. 182-292; Qualifications for Officers of a Divorced Person, pp. 292-293)

#### EVANGELIST

#### Powers of

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 8-6, 1987, 15-83, 13)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MINISTER

#### HONORABLY RETIRED

(See MINISTERIAL RELIEF)

#### MINISTERING TO

1987, p. 148, 15-66, III, 12. That, in order to assist CE/P and others involved in ministering to our pastors and wives, the CE/P Committee urges each presbytery in the PCA, if they have not done so, to establish a committee for the purpose of being available to encourage, assist and counsel those involved in full time ministry.

#### ORGANIZING MINISTERS

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

1974, p. 79, 2-104, 11. That the Church, which is authorized to call and appoint teaching elders to labor as Pastors (*BCO* 8-3), authorize the Committee on MUS to call teaching elders to be organizing pastors in areas not within the jurisdiction of an existing PCA Presbytery, provided the call is approved by the teaching elder's Presbytery. (*BCO* 22-1).

1978, p. 77, 6-51, III, 14. Overture 8

...The Central Florida Presbytery requests the General Assembly to clarify which MUS Committee, denominational or presbytery, has the final approval regarding a man's qualifications as an organizing pastor after a work within an existing presbytery's boundary.

Answered with the following statements.

1. That the Presbytery has final approval of a man's qualification for any call within its boundaries.
2. That this in no way requires the denominational MUS Committee to give any financial support for any man without the approval of said denominational committee.

1987, p. 125, 15-60, III, 12. That the General Assembly call on MNA to continue seeking the most experienced, qualified men from among us to be the organizing pastors of the hundreds of new churches that will be started in the next decade.

#### OUT OF BOUNDS

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #2, #6)

#### PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY

##### Candidacy

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 18-2)

##### *Dual Candidacy*

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 18-7, 1984, 12-53, 15)

##### *Examination*

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 15-1, 1985, 13-45, 47; *BCO* 19-2, 1986, 14-52, 19; *BCO* 21-4, 1986, 14-52, 37 & 48)

1975, p. 64, 3-46, 2. Overture 1

...The Third General Assembly encourage[s] the presbyteries to examine candidates and ministers in their knowledge of the Shorter Catechism and that candidates for the ministry be informed that they will be expected to exhibit such knowledge of the content of the Shorter Catechism.

## PCA DIGEST

### MINISTER

#### *Uniform Curriculum*

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Uniform Curriculum, pp. 557-560; Guidelines for Theological Education, pp. 561-565)

1975, p. 57, 3-17, 13. Answer Communication 3 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery calling for clarification of the requirements on Hebrew and Greek examinations, by answering in the affirmative Overture 17 from the Presbytery of Mississippi Valley requesting the following be added to paragraph 22-4: "A Presbytery may accept a Seminary degree which includes study in the original languages in lieu of an oral examination in the original languages." Add this sentence after "Church." on page 38, line 19.

1978, p. 86, 6-75, III, 13. That the Coordination and implementation plan be approved with the following procedure:

1. That the Committee for Christian Education and Publications be authorized to work with the seminaries which the General Assembly endorses, toward having them help coordinate the 3+1 or 2+2 programs with the seminaries' requirements to the end that they would grant the Master of Divinity Degree to PCA candidates.
2. That the General Assembly authorize the establishment of a Certification Committee for the purpose of examining all the theological training programs operated by presbyteries of the PCA, and to certify programs to grant certificates indicating satisfactory completion of the Uniform Curriculum according to approved standards. This committee's membership is to be elected annually from presbyteries with approved programs having at least one year of *tutorial* training. Presbyteries are completely responsible for all trials relative to licensure and ordination of candidates to the Gospel ministry. The Committee shall make an annual report to the General Assembly through the Committee for Christian Education and Publications, indicating: 1) the degree of uniformity in the quality of instruction in the various presbyteries and seminaries; 2) an assessment of the educational strengths of the program at the time the report is prepared; 3) an assessment of the educational weaknesses of the program at the time the report is prepared; and 4) what actions the General Assembly needs to take to safeguard or improve the quality of the program as an effective means to prepare candidates for the Gospel ministry.
3. That at least 2 year's residence in approved seminaries, or approved theological study centers with full-time resident theologian(s) be required in the approved curriculum. (This is an initial recommendation to which the fully non-Seminary four-year tutorial program may be added as the church matures in its ability to properly execute the educational task.)
4. That the Uniform Curriculum, as adopted by the General Assembly, be undertaken as that which is intended by the words "an approved course of theological studies: as found in 22-4 of the *Book of Church Order* (p. 32)."
5. That since the purpose of training is to equip men for their task and not simply show a record of having taken certain courses of study, an individual may request a comprehensive examination to demonstrate his competence in any particular course of study, which, if satisfactorily passed, may stand in lieu of studying the prescribed material.
6. That the Sub-Committee on Theological Education be continued for one year and that it be authorized to give preliminary approval to presbytery training programs so that presbyteries may be able to elect representatives to the certification committee and to evaluate this uniform curriculum in theological education in light of information secured from existing seminaries, theological centers, and educational models already drawn by accrediting agencies and sister denominations.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MINISTER

1979, p. 113, 7-49, III.

16. That the Assembly's Christian Education and Publications Committee continue to act as coordinator and liaison in the area of theological training.
17. That the presbyteries assign the oversight of the theological training program to their Christian Education Committee and the membership candidates committee, jointly working in this area.
18. That each presbytery examine its resources available to carry out the obligations of ministerial training. Such resources should take into account teaching elders, ruling elders, knowledgeable laymen in certain areas, and institutions.
19. That each presbytery consider either a 3+1 program or a 2+2 program and concentrate on its development initially.
20. That each presbytery prepare a general plan of theological training for its candidates plus a specific plan for each individual that takes into account the candidate's previous background, training, etc.; and that the plans be submitted to the Certification (Accrediting) Committee for Approval.

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 16. That the General Assembly direct the presbyteries to continue to develop their plans of education for ministerial candidates following the suggestions and guidelines contained in the *Minutes of the Seventh General Assembly*, pp. 189-190.

1981, p. 91, 9-36, III, 13.

- a. The 3+1 and 2+2 methods had to be considered "Optional" until the necessary amendments were made to the *Book of Church Order*.
- b. The intention of this Committee (and the expressed intention by this Committee before the General Assembly) has always been that the Uniform Curriculum program eventually be the normal, approved method of ministerial training.
- c. The "one year of tutorial training" fits within the Uniform Curriculum as the "year of licensure." (They are the same under the Uniform Curriculum.)
- d. It has never been intended or expressed that the Certification Committee should require a specific plan for each individual candidate; rather, it has been this Committee's intention that Presbyteries - in accordance with the enactment of the Uniform Curriculum - describe in detail to the Certification Committee how they plan to carry out either the 3+1 or 2+2 plan (or both).

#### Definitions:

- a. 3+1 -- Attendance at a standard seminary for academic training with the fourth year required to complete practical training by tutorial study under men from the PCA on presbytery levels. An intern year would be accepted in lieu of the fourth year tutorial.
- b. 2+2 -- Two year program in a standard seminary and/or regional seminary or by a carefully outlined program of self-study for a two year period under the tutelage of qualified ministers of the PCA. The candidate would then enter into a concentrated two year study in the area of practical theology. It should be noted that this plan does not require seminary attendance (pp. 151-152, *1977 Minutes*).
- c. 3 -- Attendance at a standard seminary for academic training leading to a theological degree. One year of licensure may be completed concurrently within this three year academic program.
- d. Tutorial Training -- Tutorial training is directed study by a presbytery for the purpose of insuring that a candidate's academic training conforms to the Uniform Curriculum.

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 10. That each presbytery be reminded of the constitutional requirement for an Assembly-approved program of theological education for each person entering training after June, 1981, and that the presbytery plan be submitted to the Certification Committee for approval by January 1, 1983.

## PCA DIGEST

### MINISTER

#### Internship

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 19-7, 1988, 16-77, 9; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

1979, p. 102, 7-41, III, 8. That answer 6 (p. 180) to James D. Hatch regarding a resolution of Evangel Presbytery calling for a fourth year of training to complete a ministerial candidate's study be approved.

The Committee answered the questions as follows:

1. With regard to the first question as to whether the resolution is in conflict with any provisions of the *Book of Church Order*, *BCO* 19-1 requires the Presbytery to take control of a candidate's training, and the resolution in question is not in conflict with the *BCO*.
2. In answer to the second question, the resolution would fulfill the spirit of the General Assembly actions on training of ministers.
3. With regard to the problem stated in the third paragraph of the letter, the resolution should not apply to anyone who is currently a candidate, but that any incoming candidate be advised of the requirement for an additional year of preparation. (See proposed changes to the *BCO* found in the *Minutes of the Sixth General Assembly*, pages 115-119.)
4. With regard to the possible conflict between Presbyteries, Presbyteries will have to handle each case on an individual basis during the transitional period.
5. With regard to other observations or suggestions, it is suggested that Presbyteries do not go too far ahead of the actions of the General Assembly on this matter.

#### Certification Committee

1985, p. 88, 13-30, III, 20. That...The Thirteenth General Assembly, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, June 1985, restructure the Committee on Certification as follows:

1. Those presbyteries having had a plan for internship approved shall be represented on the Committee on Certification;
2. Presbyteries shall elect their own representatives for a four-year term of office;
3. The Committee on Christian Education and Publications be instructed to develop a plan for changing the membership of the Committee on Certification into a three-class arrangement, with each class to serve four years, with no alternates being needed;
4. These plans be forwarded to the presbyteries by the end of October 1985, so that presbytery action can be taken in time for the restructuring to be in place by the February 1986 meeting of the Committee on Certification.

1985, p. 107, 13-45, III, 45. That the advice regarding Constitutional Inquiry 3 (p. 239 I.D.3) be ratified as amended.

Is it an optional item or is it a requirement for presbyteries to submit a plan to the Certification Committee for its approval?

Answer: The action of the General Assembly in this matter was to adopt the following: "That each presbytery prepare a general plan of theological training for its candidates, plus a specific plan for each individual that takes into account the candidate's previous background, training, etc., and that the plans be submitted to the Certification (Accrediting) Committee for approval." (*M7GA*, p. 113, Recommendation 20)

1. General Assembly directed the presbyteries to submit their plan for approval and, therefore, compliance was not optional.
2. The Tennessee Valley Presbytery has raised a valid question concerning the constitutionality of the original General Assembly requirement of approval by a committee, which seems to impinge upon the rights of Presbytery.  
The weight to be given to the actions of previous assemblies is presently being studied by the Committee on Judicial Business.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MINISTER

#### *Cooperative Agreements*

1984, p. 142, 12-53, II, 68. That the General Assembly approve the use of cooperative arrangements between Presbyteries for the internship program in principle and that the matter be referred to the Permanent Committee on Judicial Business, in consultation with the Certification Committee to perfect language for the amendment of BCO 19.

#### *Financial Support*

1983, p. 75, 11-24, II, 12. That the General Assembly and the Presbyteries review the internship program, reporting through the Committee on Christian Education, specifically considering the three year concurrent model in light of the candidate's need for financial support while serving in churches to fulfill ordination requirements, of the fact that many opportunities for internships and pastoral calls tend to come from presbyteries other than the one of a candidate's care, and of the tendency for certain presbyteries to have a disproportionate number of candidates under their care, and that Covenant Theological Seminary be included in the continuing deliberation on the internship program.

1983, p. 132, 11-75, III, 19. That the General Assembly strongly challenge the presbyteries to accept their financial responsibilities to participants in the mandatory internship program so that the participants may devote themselves fully to the benefits of this program in terms of their readiness for the ministry.

#### *Grandfather Clause*

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 24-9)

1983, p. 132, 11-75, III, 18. That since the General Assembly, in its adoption of the requirement for one year of mandatory licensure under the supervision of the presbyteries, did expressly establish a "grandfather clause" exempting those candidates who were already under process under the previous requirements and did allow the presbyteries two years to develop the required programs for supervision, this same procedure be followed in regard to those candidates, who were in process under the supervision of the RPCES and those presbyteries created by Joining and Receiving.

#### *Moving to Field*

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 21-1-2, 1987, 15-83, 21)

#### *Plans for Internship*

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 16. That the General Assembly direct the presbyteries to continue to develop their plans of education for ministerial candidates following the suggestions and guidelines contained in the *Minutes of the Seventh General Assembly*, pp. 189-190.

#### **Licensure**

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 19-2, 1988, 16-77, 9; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #34)

1987, p. 172, 15-83, III, 16. That the Assembly adopt the following:

"Licensure is defined in BCO 19-1 as permission to preach on a regular basis after examination. The purpose of licensure is to preserve the purity of the preaching of the Gospel.

Ordination, on the other hand, invests a man with the full authority of the office of teaching elder (BCO, Preface II (3) and Chapter 8).

## PCA DIGEST

### MINISTER

We recognize that historically there may have been differences in application of these provisions. In one area of the church, particularly prior to the internship program, it was common to accept all of the licensure examination as a part of the ordination examination, either on the same day or within a very short space of time. In other parts of the church, licensure has been seen as a very preliminary step or a part of a testing procedure which might or might not lead to ordination.

It should be emphasized that two different examinations are required for licensure and ordination. The scope of the licensure examination may be, and usually is, less thorough and comprehensive than that for ordination, though all parts of the licensure examination must be covered, except in extraordinary cases (*BCO* 19-2). This is reflected in *BCO* 19-2 (B) (1) and (3), where it is stated that only "basic" knowledge of Biblical doctrine and church government is required.

By way of contrast, *BCO* 21-4 specifically states that trials for ordination shall consist of a "careful" examination in all parts.

However, it is also true that *BCO* 21-4 allows a Presbytery to accept all or any parts of the licensure examination as satisfying the corresponding parts of the ordination examination, if it is satisfied that the examination given at the licensure level meets the requirement of a "careful examination." The determination of what constitutes "basic" knowledge and what constitutes a "careful examination" is one which must be left to Presbytery to decide in each case, subject to review and control or judicial process.

It is clear, therefore, that a higher standard is required for the ordination, examination than for the licensure examination and Presbyteries are expected to ensure that this distinction is maintained. No changes in the *BCO* are required."

### Ordination

(See also CONFESSONAL SUBSCRIPTION; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 21-4, *BCO* 21-5; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #2, #6)

1978, p. 123, 6-116, IV, B. That Presbyteries be reminded that according to *BCO* ALL applicants for ordination must be candidates under care of Presbytery first, and that ALL MEN coming into the Presbytery must be examined whether or not they have been members in that Presbytery before.

1985, p. 47, 13-3. Overture 17: From the Presbytery of Missouri

Whereas, questions have been raised about exceptions to the *Book of Church Order*; and

Whereas, the 1984 General Assembly began to formulate answers to this question on the floor by adopting two separate motions,

- (1) the first of which indicated that exceptions to the *BCO* are to be handled in a different manner from exceptions to the *Confession of Faith* because Ordination Question 3 asks "merely" approval of the form of government and discipline, and
- (2) the second of which indicated that exceptions to the *BCO* dealing with a matter spoken to in the *Westminster Confession or Catechism* shall be dealt with as exceptions to the *Confession or Catechisms*; and

Whereas, these motions did not directly address the heart of the Ordination Question 3 (*BCO* 21-5), namely, "the general principles of Biblical polity" which are not dealt with in *The Confession of Faith or Catechism*;

Therefore, be it resolved that the answers of these two adopted motions be further clarified by the addition to these motions of the following motion:

"Further, when an exception to the *BCO* is dealing with a matter that is itself one of the 'general principles of Biblical polity,' the exception shall be dealt with as the presbytery deals with an exception to the *Westminster Confession of Faith or Catechisms*."

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MINISTER

1985, p. 107, 13-45, III, 42. That Overture 17 be adopted and that the Stated Clerk be instructed to print the entirety of the following material together in this year's Minutes as the statement of the GA on the matter. (Paragraph 1 is from *M12GA*, p. 166; Paragraph 2 is from the language of the overture.)

Ordination Question 3, (*BCO* 21-5) asks merely "Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of Biblical polity?" Whereas, Ordination Question 2 asks concerning our doctrinal standards "Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this church as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will on your own initiative, make known to your presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?" When an exception to the *BCO* is dealing with a matter spoken to in the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* of this church, the exception shall be dealt with as an exception to the *Westminster Confession of Faith or Catechisms* of this church. (*M12GA*, 12-83, p. 166)

Further, when an exception to the *BCO* is dealing with a matter that is itself one of the "general principles of Biblical polity", the exception shall be dealt with as the presbytery deals with an exception to the *Westminster Confession of Faith or Catechisms* (see *Westminster Confession of Faith*, I, X: "The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.").

#### *Extraordinary Clause*

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 13-6, 1985, 13-45, 56; *BCO* 19-2, 1988, 16-77, 9; *BCO* 21-4; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #11)

1976, p. 72, 4-71, III, D. The Committee on Judicial Business was asked by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery to give an interpretation and its advice regarding the application of the "Extraordinary Clause." The Committee gives the following opinion that each Presbytery has the right and responsibility to interpret the "Extraordinary Clause" for itself and its action in no way binds the action of any other Presbytery.

1981, p. 122, 9-65, III, E. That the question, "What is the proper use of the extraordinary clause?," referred to the Sub-committee on Judicial Business by the Eighth General Assembly (*M8GA*, 8-36), be answered with the following counsel:

The General Assembly recognizes that the use of the extraordinary clause is left to the discretion of an individual presbytery subject to review of the General Assembly and to the process provided for in a complaint. The General Assembly declares that the use of the extraordinary clause should be limited to extraordinary circumstances of the church or proven extraordinary gifts of the man. The Assembly would take notice, however, that there has been an increasing laxity in the application of the clause. The Assembly would, therefore, counsel that presbyteries exercise diligence and care in the use of this provision in order that they not prevent the ordination of a candidate for whom there are truly exceptional circumstances nor ordain a person who is inadequately prepared for the ministry.

## PCA DIGEST

### MINISTER

#### RELOCATION OF

1985, p. 113, 13-49, III, 9. That this recommendation be presented in two (2) parts based on the plan submitted by the Permanent Committee on MNA (See Appendix J, p. 257).

1985, p. 257, Appendix J, Attachment A.

#### Stage One

1. Make available through the General Assembly Office of the Stated Clerk a printout of vacant churches.
2. Use the Office of the Stated Clerk to send the data form of any minister requested by any church (provided it is on file) or of any minister who requests that his data form be sent to a particular church.
3. Authorize the Office of the Stated Clerk to prepare and distribute a manual to assist churches seeking a minister and ministers seeking a new call.
4. Request the Assembly's Stated Clerk to enlist the assistance of all the presbyteries' stated clerks in helping both churches seeking ministers and ministers seeking new calls. This will be accomplished primarily by a prompt notification of the Office of Stated Clerk of ministers who are seeking calls and churches who are seeking to fill a staff position.
5. Provide an office at the General Assembly, staffed by a secretary from the Office of the Stated Clerk, where ministers seeking calls and churches seeking to fill a staff position can be helped to get to meet and know each other.

#### Stage Two

1. Through a committee (Office of the Stated Clerk) appointed by the Moderator of the General Assembly, seek a minimum fund of \$100,000 to establish the office of "Coordinator of Vocation".
2. Employ a Coordinator of Vocation to set up an office in the denomination's common office space, which will serve as a central clearing house for churches, institutions, and GA committees seeking to fill staff positions and ministers seeking a staff position with a church, institution, or committee of the denomination.
3. Fund this office (after the initial donations) through gifts from churches, institutions, and committees of the denomination; and from ministers who seek the services of the office. (Institutions, offices, and churches of over 501 members \$200. Churches of 201-500 members - \$100. Churches of fewer than 200 members - \$50. Ministers who file their data form or update it - \$25).
4. Through the Office of Coordinator of Vocation (Office of the Stated Clerk), a profile will be developed and entered into a computer for each church seeking to fill a staff position and for each minister seeking a new call. After that, computer match-ups will be made available to churches and ministers who will be free to correspond with whomever they may desire.
5. When funds are available (see 3), the Coordinator [of Insurance, Annuity and Relief] will employ a counselor to work with both the churches and ministers in helping them to overcome situations or attitudes which have created difficulties in developing a fruitful ministry.

#### REMARriage

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #3, #51, #60; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Divorce and Remarriage, pp. 182-292; Qualifications for Officers of a Divorced Person, pp. 292-293)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MINISTER

#### RESTORATION AFTER DIVESTITURE

(See also *BCO* 37-5 and 37-9)

1993, p. 138, 21-56, III, 16. "Amend *BCO* 34-10 to Permit Ministers Divested Without Censure to be Re-admitted"

...answered in the negative, with the following grounds:

*Adopted*

Grounds:

- a. The current provisions of the *BCO* provide a functional process for divestiture and re-entry into the ministry.
- b. The overture assumes that the ordination of a man who is divested without censure is somehow merely "suspended" and may be reinstated, when in fact a divested man has no ordination.
- c. The first part of the overture largely repeats the current *BCO* 46-8. We understand that under this provision a minister divested without censure becomes a member in good standing in a local church, and therefore able to hold office and to enjoy any normal rights and privileges of church membership.
- d. A man who has served as a teaching elder, though he was divested (albeit in a non-judicial manner), will easily meet most ordinary *BCO* requirements for ordination (i.e., he has been a candidate and an intern, he has met the educational requirements, etc.). We believe that passing an examination as to his call to the ministry and of the matters noted in *BCO* 21-4 would be all that is necessary under the current system for re-ordination.
- e. We believe that a presbytery should have the right, as per current *BCO* 38-2, to divest without censure a man who is not fully satisfied in his own mind of his call to the ministry. We believe such a man, again pursuing the ministry, should be examined as to his sense of call in accordance with the procedure described in *BCO* 21-4 (not *BCO* 13-6).

We note that *BCO* 34-10 does not require a Presbytery either to institute judicial procedure or divest without censure (in fact such divestiture requires a special 2/3 vote).

*BCO* 13-2 merely requires that the Presbytery follow *BCO* 34-10 in the event that a man is without a call for three years. There is therefore no requirement that a man without a call for three or more years be divested.

- f. This does not delineate the procedure to be followed in the event of a call to another Presbytery.

#### SALARY

1987, p. 153, 15-68, III, 15. That the General Assembly urge PCA churches, presbyteries, committees, and agencies to use the PCA MINISTER'S COMPENSATION WORKSHEET (supplied at no charge by the IAR office) to spell out salary, benefits, and professional expenses, and that the term "TOTAL PACKAGE" no longer be used.

#### STATUS CHANGE

1978, p. 40, 6-11, B, 20. Reference 1

That the Sixth General Assembly advise Grace Presbytery that Mr. Snapp's Resolution is constitutional in that any particular presbytery may determine to receive or dismiss ministers only at regular stated meetings at its pleasure.

Grounds: Pro re nata meetings ordinarily are used to accommodate emergency conditions (*BCO* 14-9).

#### TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 13-6, 1985, 13-45, 56; 1979, 7-41, 21; *BCO* 21-4, 1986, 14-52, 48; *BCO* 38-3, 1987, 15-83, 8)

## PCA DIGEST

### MINISTERIAL RELIEF

(See also GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FINANCIAL POLICIES, Expenses, *Retired Ministers*)

#### CHRISTMAS GIFT

1973, p. 55, 1-72, 12. That the General Assembly establishes an annual offering to be received during the Christmas Season for ministerial relief. (This is the continuation of that offering known among some us as the Joy Gift.)

1974, p. 52, 2-63, C.

2. We recommend that an offering to be known as the Christmas Gift for Ministerial Relief be received to help supplement the retirement needs of ministers and their families of the National Presbyterian Church.
3. We recommend that 80% of the funds received in the Ministerial Relief Offering for the first five years of our church's life be set aside as a reserve fund against future needs for both retired ministers and their dependents.
4. We recommend that the Ministerial Relief Funds provide that the retired ministers of the National Presbyterian Church receive a minimum income of not less than \$4,800 per year for couples and \$3,300 per year for single persons, all regular income being considered.
5. We recommend that Ministerial Relief Funds be used to pay the premiums for the health insurance and to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B for the retired ministers of the National Presbyterian Church, and their dependents.

1974, p. 83, 2-106, IV, 19. That the cost of promoting the Christmas gift for ministerial relief be paid out of the ministerial relief fund.

1977, p. 139, Appendix C, III. The first General Assembly authorized "an annual offering to be received during the Christmas Season for Ministerial Relief." 1-72 (12)

The Assembly has not directed how the funds should be spent. Some suggested policies have been drawn up to provide a basis for assembly action on this matter. They are:

1. Ministerial Relief Funds are discretionary funds to assist the personnel of the Presbyterian Church in America who are eligible under Guidelines adopted by the Trustees of the Insurance and Annuity Fund, where their regular income is insufficient to meet minimum or emergency needs.
2. The Trustees have full authority to distribute these funds under Guidelines which they adopt, as resources allow and needs arise from time to time, at their discretion.
3. Relief Funds will be used to provide Medical insurance coverage for retired ministers and lay workers, to assist in emergency situations, and to supplement income of retired personnel and their families when needed.
4. The trustees, within their discretion, may require evidence that the employee has made suitable efforts to provide for his retirement needs. Ordinarily participation in an Annuity Plan of the Presbyterian Church in America will answer this requirement. Other plans will be considered on a case by case basis.
5. An annual report shall be made to the General Assembly of the use of the funds, with great discretion so that the dignity of those receiving aid is protected.

1981, p. 111, 9-55, III, 2. That the General Assembly strongly encourage all non-participating congregations to support the annual "Christmas Gift" funding relief activities.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

#### COORDINATOR

1985, p. 123, 13-58, III, 16. That the General Assembly approve the establishment of an IAR staff position of Coordinator of Ministerial Relief to work with the presbyteries to better facilitate ministerial relief activities at the local level and as a first step in addressing some of the concerns expressed in the research report (see MINISTER, Burn-out, 1985, 13-58), and that the IAR director be urged to coordinate his ministry with the staff of CE/P.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### MINISTER'S WIVES

1981, p. 90, 9-36, III, 6. That the Assembly urge presbyteries to provide conferences for ministers' wives on a presbytery-wide or regional basis.

#### MISCARRIAGE

1984, p. 102, 12-31, III, 3. Overture 14

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the teaching of Scripture, has affirmed that human life begins at conception and continues both before and after birth (Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Abortion, adopted by the Sixth General Assembly); and

Whereas, miscarriage, as well as abortion, most often results in the death of a human being; and  
Whereas, the loss of the life of an unborn child by miscarriage is often a definite source of grief and sorrow to the parents of the child; and

Whereas, funeral and memorial services are regularly conducted for the worship of God and the consolation of the living at the death of a loved one; and

Whereas, it has not generally been the practice in our churches to conduct memorial services at the time of miscarriages in which there are no physical remains of the child to be buried; and

Whereas, this issue which has long been neglected by the Church of Christ and which now, more than ever, should be addressed by the church in the light of Scripture;

Therefore, Westminster Presbytery respectfully overtures the Twelfth General Assembly to adopt the following statement: "In view of the Biblical teaching that life begins at conception, a memorial service, given to the glory of God and for the comfort of the bereaved, is Biblical and appropriate in regard to miscarriage regardless of the existence of physical remains available for burial."

#### MISSION OF THE CHURCH

1975, p. 89, 3-76. That the Presbyterian Church in America reaffirm the Commitment to the Preaching of the Gospel, and inviting lost men to the Lord Jesus by public confession of faith.

1976, p. 53, 4-18. The Fourth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America reaffirms its commitment to the Great Commission.

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA (MNA)

#### ARMY OF INTERCESSORS PRAYER PROJECT

1993, p. 91, 21-41, III, 6. That, because of the continued need of God's intervention and blessing on all the ministries of Mission to North America toward the accomplishment of Vision 2000, the General Assembly reaffirm its dependence upon Almighty God for the growth and health of the PCA and urge congregations to continue to participate in the *Army of Intercessors Prayer Project*. *Adopted*

#### ASSESSMENT CENTER

1990, p. 134, 18-56, III, 17. That the 18th General Assembly receive the response of MNA to Recommendation 27 from 17th General Assembly (*M17GA*, 17-56, III, 27, p. 99), to wit: Communication 19 Personal Resolution from RE Dale White "Manual on MNA Assessments" that the permanent MNA Committee be requested to make available to presbyteries, by May 1, 1991, information that will be helpful in recruitment, assessment, and training of church planters, and for formulating policy and procedures for church planting.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

A letter has gone out to all presbytery MNA chairmen giving the requested data including a brochure on the Assessment Center and a list of upcoming assessments. Both the church planting manual entitled "Laying Firm Foundations" and the "Suggested Manual for Presbytery MNA Committees, PCA" have been given to each presbytery. Additional copies are available through the MNA office.

#### BUILDING CLUB

(See also FIVE IN FIVE; REVOLVING BUILDING FUND; INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

**1974, p. 79, 2-104, II, 12.** That the General Assembly authorize the Committee on MUS to establish a "Building Club" with the following purpose, membership, program and goal.

##### Purpose

To provide a means of helping the infant church begin to build the first unit of its church building.

##### Membership

Those who will pledge \$10.00 per appeal, to be used completely for a specific church building program.

##### Program

- a) The assistance will be used only on MUS and Presbytery-approved programs.
- b) An appeal for help will be limited to a maximum of three a year, none to be less than three months apart.
- c) The assistance will be used only for the actual construction program, and only for the first building program of a church.
- d) Each member will receive detailed information about each proposal, and will receive progress report.

##### Goal

At least 5,000 members, 1974-75.

### CANADA

#### National Church

**1986, p. 115, 14-43, III, 7.** That the Assembly answer the overture from the Presbytery of Eastern Canada (*M13GA*, p. 132, III Recommendation 3) by permitting the Canadians to take a name, or names, acceptable to Canadians without attempting to disavow their international relationships. The Assembly on its part will order its Committee on Mission to North America, and encourage its other presbyteries and churches, to offer the Canadians all possible aid for the development of a Canadian national church.

The recommendation was further amended by adding to Attachment G (Appendix J, p. 375), "Western Expansion of PCA", a new 3.e:

"that the General Assembly order the Mission to North America Committee to give greater effort in building PCA churches in Canada, and that the General Assembly encourage its other presbyteries and churches to offer the Canadians all possible aid for the development of PCA churches in Canada.";

See Appendix J, Attachment G, p. 375, for the full text.

#### CENTER FOR URBAN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**1984, p. 151, 12-67, III, 24.** That the PCA accept the invitation of the Center for Urban Theological Studies to become a member of the sponsoring association with representation through MNA.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### CHANNEL FUND

1973, p. 46, 1-66, 14. That the General Assembly approve a Channel Fund using this Committee's treasurer to the end that member churches may channel gifts to approved individuals and programs.

#### CHURCH GROWTH

(See also EVANGELISTIC PROGRAM; MISSION CHURCHES)

1973, p. 24, 1-10. Resolution

Be it resolved that the First General Assembly of the Continuing Presbyterian Church:

1. Urges all its member congregations to consider prayerfully its opportunities for forming a new Continuing Church congregation in a neighboring vicinity, and to move toward the establishing of such a new congregation by the next General Assembly.
2. Requests the General Assembly's Committee on the Mission to the United States to provide strategy papers for the realization of such goals.
3. Encourages Presbyteries to work with local congregations in making plans for the establishing of new churches during the coming year.

1974, p. 79, 2-104, II, B, 8. That the General Assembly adopt as its policy that the Committee on Mission to U.S. continue taking advantage of the many opportunities for the establishment of new churches, with the constant thought in mind of firming up and substantiating what already has been done in 1974 by the establishment of more Presbyteries; and that these objectives be commended to the churches for prayer.

1976, p. 63, 4-53, III, 3, f. That the General Assembly encourage local congregations and Presbyteries to continue to be active in the work of a new church planting.

1982, p. 85, 10-66, III, 12. That the first report of the plan for denominational development requested by the Ninth General Assembly (report of the Committee of Commissioners, Item 5) and prepared by the Committee on MUS (Attachment A) be approved, and that the Committee on MUS be instructed to continue development of the plan with more reference to small town church planting, and bring to the Assembly any changes from year to year that experience might dictate.

1983, p. 121, 11-61, III, 3. That the Assembly commit itself to seek a 6% growth in established churches and a 10% growth in newly organized churches in the next year. Our chief goal is to increase the professions of faith and adult baptisms.

1984, p. 149, 12-67, III.

1. That churches of the PCA give a higher priority to evangelism and church development in the neglected parts of the United States and Canada and among those from other nations, in these beginning years of our denomination.
2. That our churches continue to strive toward our goal of 6% growth, recognizing that in older, static communities this may not be achievable, but in new and dynamic communities, and in young churches, even 13% annual growth is often realized. (With an average growth in churches of 6% and with expected new church additions our goal of doubling the denomination between 1982 and 1992 will be achieved. Our growth in 1983 was 5.7%.

1985, p. 98, 13-44, III, 9. That we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America:

- A. We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and missions ministries of other NAPARC churches and will take great care in receiving members of these existing ministries.
- B. We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, Presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a neighborhood where NAPARC churches or missions ministries exist.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

- C. We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans.
- D. We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships.

(Grounds: The above is the "Golden Rule" Comity Agreement of NAPARC as slightly amended.)

1985, p. 112, 13-49, III, 1. That the PCA emphasize and participate as far as possible in the westward expansion of the Church during the next five years.

1987, p. 125, 15-60, III.

- 10. With God's sovereign, elective love in mind, that the General Assembly approve of MNA's employment of bold strategies of evangelism and church growth in all facets of American and Canadian life and culture; to expect and plan for a bountiful response, and to anticipate that God may very well increase our number of churches to over 2,000 and our membership to over 400,000 by the year 2000 and to give full attention to the need to promote growth in church depth and Christian nurture equally alongside growth in numbers.
- 11. That the General Assembly call on the Committee on Administration, Covenant College, Covenant Seminary, Ridge Haven, Insurance, Annuities and Relief, Foundation, Christian Education and Publications, The Investor's Fund and Mission to the World to anticipate strong growth in the denomination ("...that the Father may be glorified in the Son") and begin to make faith plans now to be ready to meet the challenge and opportunity this presents.
- 23. That the General Assembly endorse the vision of 300 PCA churches starting daughter congregations in 1990, and instruct the MNA permanent committee and staff to prepare the materials and training for its implementation. It is understood that responsibilities for the actual church planting will be under the session of the local church (the mother) and coordinated by the presbytery.

1987, p. 165, 15-80, III, 6. That the General Assembly accept the explanation made by NAPARC and adopt its "Golden Rule Comity Agreement."

- a. NAPARC defined "enlisting" as "actively recruiting" and felt that the paragraph regarding communicating is sufficiently clear without further refinement or definition.
- b. The "Golden Rule Comity Agreement" as adopted by all the NAPARC churches but the PCA reads as follows:

"That we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America:

- 1) We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and missions ministries of other NAPARC churches, and will refrain from enlisting members and take great care in receiving members of these existing ministries.
- 2) We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, Presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a community where NAPARC churches or missions exist.
- 3) We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans.
- 4) We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships."

1989, p. 92, 17-56, III, 4. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to a faithful and aggressive expansion of the church throughout North America, with the involvement of every believer, local church, and presbytery, using every possible biblical means, with an expectation of great harvest by faith, because of the work of our Sovereign God.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

1989, p. 152, 17-82, III, 10. That amendments to the *BCO* are unnecessary to enable Session and Presbyteries to be guided by the *NAPARC AGREEMENT*, and that the Assembly *communicate* the *NAPARC AGREEMENT* to Sessions and Presbyteries for their guidance.

1990, p. 129, 18-56, III.

4. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to a faithful and aggressive expansion of the church throughout North America, with the involvement of every believer, local church, and presbytery, using every possible biblical means, with an expectation of great harvest by faith, because of the work of our sovereign God; that the General Assembly commend to local churches and presbyteries the involvement of the MNA committee and staff in their efforts to develop strategies for church planting.
5. That the General Assembly call the Presbyterian Church in America to continue concerted prayer for the work of MNA, for evangelistic outreach and for genuine revival in our churches.
6. That the General Assembly urge every congregation before God to consider specifically if it should not be a part of starting another church. *Adopted*

### COLLEGE CAMPUS WORK

1976, p. 66, 4-57, d. Overture 8

- (1) That the oversight of college campus work be committed to the Committees on Mission to the United States of the Sessions, Presbyteries, and General Assembly.
- (2) That the Mission to the United States Committees of the Sessions, Presbyteries, and General Assembly study and develop a philosophy and program of Presbyterian and Reformed college campus ministry.
- (3) That such a study of the philosophy and program take into serious consideration the already existing college campus ministries across our nation.
- (4) That the Committee on Mission to the United States of the General Assembly function in this matter primarily as a coordinating and resource body.
- (5) That the Congregations and Presbyteries become actively involved in a ministry to the college campuses in their geographical bounds.
- (6) That the Committee on Mission to the United States of the General Assembly be responsible for the development of college campus ministries where there is no Presbytery that can so function.

1977, p. 100, 5-100, IV, 7.

- a. Avenues for establishing campus ministries:
  - 1) Plant churches in college communities with no vital Reformed witness. These churches would look to unify and consolidate the gains of campus ministries.
  - 2) That the priority of the PCA in campus work be the establishment of distinctly Reformed work on the campuses of key colleges and universities in each state within our boundaries.
  - 3) If a member of a PCA church desires to serve on the staff of one of the parachurch ministries, and his local session and presbytery approve him, the MUS Committee could itinerate him/her to raise support. The staff worker would be subject to joint control of both the MUS Committee and the organization;
- b. That a practical manual of campus ministry be written, including (1) a Reformed philosophy of campus ministry; (2) information for equipping and advising local churches how to form profitable relationships with the campus; (3) any agreements and arrangements between the MUS Committee and existing para-church campus ministries. For the preparation of this manual, churches and presbyteries with successful college ministries would be consulted;
- c. That a member of the MUS staff be appointed to carry out the stated purposes using the approved avenues outlined above;

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### Grounds:

- 1) That the MUS Committee may have the opportunity and encouragement to move forward in the area of campus ministry.
- 2) That congregations and presbyteries which desire to establish campus ministries may have the resources of the MUS Committee available to them.
- 3) That the Permanent Committee has not (in the written report - *Minutes of General Assembly*, p. 66, 4-57, 3D2) reflected the instructions of the Fourth General Assembly (page 66, 3-D2) in the preparation of a Presbyterian and Reformed Philosophy and Program of Campus Ministries urging PCA churches and Presbyteries to do the work of campus ministry.

1978, p. 76, 6-51, III, 6. That the Sixth General Assembly grant the Permanent MUS Committee an extension of one year to carry out the desires of previous General Assemblies on campus work, and that the MUS Committee appoint a Sub-Committee to prepare a practical manual for Presbyterian and Reformed college campus ministries and that this Committee include strong representation from among those actually involved in this specialized ministry.

1992, p. 77, 20-23, II, 10. Since from the time initial discussions are started it normally takes two to four years before a campus minister begins his work on a campus, and since a feasibility study is usually done in conjunction with the presbytery's MNA Committee, it is recommended that the GA encourage presbytery MNA committees presently not involved in campus ministry through the PCA's campus work (Reformed University Ministries) to contact GA MNA's campus ministries department to work with them in determining the feasibility of starting campus ministries in their areas.

1993, p. 96, 21-41, III, 12. That the General Assembly approve the following: *Adopted*  
That in order for the General Assembly to understand the full scope of PCA campus ministry, the entire budget of the Campus Ministries Department of MNA and that of the affiliated campus committees, be provided hereafter to the GA for its *information* as Reformed University Ministries' budget and that the GA note with thanksgiving the entire 1994 Reformed University Ministries' budget.

#### Rationale:

- A. Since its beginning, the GA MNA Campus Ministries Department has provided support, resources, ministry-at-large projects, events, activities, and oversight of campus ministries as directed and funded by affiliated ministries. It has also assisted in starting campus ministries in geographical areas desiring such ministries and has helped them become affiliated with Reformed University Ministries/Mission to North America.
- B. The GA MNA budget, Campus Ministries Department, contained two elements:
  1. International Students Ministries  
This line item reflects personnel costs, programming and associated expenses for staff members. There are presently seven staff members on the field. The budget allows for the addition of two staff people in 1994.
  2. Support Services and Area Assistance for affiliated campus ministries and their staff and for ISCF missionaries. This includes financial support, training, overall ministry projects, events and activities, and the necessary support staff, office rent, and salaries. Funding comes from contributions from affiliated ministries.
- C. Historically, the ministry budgets (personnel costs, program and associated expenses for local Campus Ministries and their staff) have been approved by each affiliated campus committee and its respective presbyteries. This is because all ministries and staff operate under the supervision of an affiliated committee and its respective presbyteries. This procedure for budgeting is reflected in the affiliation agreements between affiliated committees and GA MNA.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

The budget of Campus Ministries of MNA has never reflected the total budget of the affiliated committees since those budgets are approved by presbyteries, not General Assembly. Because these budgets are not reflected, a false impression is given of support services and area assistance-related budget line items.

- D. To reflect truly the total budget of campus ministries, both the ministries' costs and the support costs need to be reflected in one form.
- E. The campus ministries department has grown from providing services for ministries on four campuses and seven staff members in 1984-1985 with receipts of \$120,309 and disbursements of \$90,122, to ministries on 26 campuses and 51 staff members in 1992 with receipts of \$1,341,714 and disbursements of \$1,306,090. The financial records of affiliated committees have been kept separately from GA MNA for these years with yearly audits provided to respective affiliated committees.

### COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

#### International Students, Inc.

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 7. That the cooperative agreement with International Students, Inc., based also on the NAE doctrinal statement, be approved. Attachment B & C (p. 239)

#### Western Indian Ministries, Inc.

1981, p. 87, 9-35, III, 6. That the PCA continue to work with Western Indian Missionaries, Inc. (Appendix F, p. 242) for one year and request that a doctrine statement and field policy be submitted for approval at the Tenth General Assembly and that approval of a cooperative agreement be held in abeyance until a review of the doctrine statement and field policy of the Western Indian Ministries, Inc., can be completed at the Tenth General Assembly. (See 1981, Appendix F, p. 242)

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 6. That the cooperative agreement with Western Indian Ministries which is now based on the NAE doctrinal statement be approved. Attachment A & C (p. 238) Adopted with substitution of Attachment B-10 for Attachment A-9

### DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY AID

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Mission to North America, Policies for Disaster Relief)

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 24. That the General Assembly assign responsibility for coordination of all PCA disaster relief efforts

- a. within the 50 states of the USA to Mission to the United States, and
- b. outside the 50 states of the USA to Mission to the World.

1982, p. 88, 10-66, III, 16. That the following proposal from the Committee on MUS to establish a fund for North America disaster relief and other emergency aid be approved and that the churches be encouraged to give to the fund any monies designated for diaconal relief purposes in excess of local needs at the end of each year. To build up these funds churches might be advised to receive a second offering for the poor at the regular communion services.

- a. Our nation is suffering a recession. Manufacturing plants have been closed and unemployment is high. Some Christians suffer. The remedy now applied seeks to remove the hand of national government in large measure so that less is taken from the citizenry in taxes and less is distributed to the poor by agencies of the state. This should serve to challenge the church of Jesus Christ. Will the church take care of the suffering brethren as an example to the whole world of the way the people of God love one another? Can we recapture the reality of Christian fellowship within the church, and between churches, that so recommended the primitive church to the common people: the churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Philippi and Corinth?

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

- b. The Committee on Mission to the United States was designated by the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America as the agency of the church which should act in national disasters for the relief of human suffering. The Committee proposes that the mandate be enlarged to include the sufferings of saints, for whatever cause, which are beyond the ability of the particular church to which the sufferer belongs.
  - c. The Committee makes the following proposals:
    - 1) Each particular church and mission of the PCA should look carefully to the needs of its own members, assuring that there is no undue suffering because of wants that can be alleviated by the compassion of Christian brethren on the local level.
    - 2) Each particular church and mission having an excess of funds, particularly at year's end, for "diaconal" purposes should share those funds with churches having a lack by forwarding them to the Assembly's Committee on Mission to the United States designated for the Disaster Relief and Diaconal Emergency Fund.
    - 3) Each particular church and mission having needs within the membership which cannot be met locally, should apply to the Disaster Relief and Diaconal Emergency Fund for aid.
    - 4) Policies for the administration of the fund shall be determined by the Committee on Mission to the United States.
  - d. In support of this proposal we quote from Acts 11:27-30 (KJV): "And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be a great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea: which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."
  - e. We suggest the commentary of Matthew Henry in explanation of the above passage: "When they were told of the famine at hand, they did not do as the Egyptians, hoard up corn for themselves; but, as became Christians, laid by for charity to relieve others, which is the best preparative for our own sufferings and want... The persons that were recommended to them as objects of charity, were, the brethren that dwelt in Judea... The care which every particular church ought to take of their own poor we were taught by the early instance of that in the church at Jerusalem, where the ministration was so constant that none lacked (Acts 4:34). But the communion of saints, in that instance, is here extended farther, and provision is made by the church at Antioch for the relief of the poor in Judea, whom they call their brethren... This early care was taken upon notice of this famine coming, to send them a stock beforehand, lest if it should be deferred till the famine came, it should be too late. Every man determined to send something, more or less, according to his ability, what he could spare from the support of himself and his family, and according as God had prospered him. What may be said to be according to our ability we must judge for ourselves, but must be careful that we judge righteous judgement."
- 1985, p. 113, 13-49, III, 12b. That the Thirteenth GA appoint a Disaster Services Coordinator to plan and implement the PCA's formal disaster response, including advocacy, home repair and financial assistance.
- 1985, p. 114, 13-49, III, 14. That the Assembly approve removing the collection and distribution of gifts for Mercy Ministries, except for the cost of office support, from the annual budget of MNA, allowing the receipting of gifts (good for tax purposes) and the distribution of those gifts without budgetary restraints according to need as determined by a Subcommittee on Disaster Response.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

1986, p. 115, 14-43, III, 3. That the Assembly note the employment of a Disaster Services Coordinator, as ordered, and urge that presbyteries proceed to identify area coordinators and train disaster response teams. That the Administrative policies of the "Disaster and Diaconal Fund" (Appendix J, Attachment C, p. 367) be approved provisionally, for the use of MNA in decision-making in the administration of this fund, until those policies are received and reported on by the Study Committee on Diaconal and Mercy Ministry.

1987, p. 127, 15-60, III, 27. That the Administrative Policies of the Disaster and Diaconal Fund (*M14GA*, Appendix J, Attachment C, p. 367), which were approved provisionally last year, until the study committee could report back to this assembly, now be approved as the guide for MNA in making policy decisions in the administration of this fund. (See Appendix K, Attachment E, p. 361)

1987, p. 128, 15-61, 3. That the Assembly find the Administration Policies for the Disaster and Diaconal Funds of the Committee on Mission to North America to be in accord with the guidelines in the attached document (See Appendix K, Attachment E, p. 361).

### DUTIES

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Mission and Purpose of the PCA, pp. 429-436)

1974, p. 73, 2-98.

1. To nominate a Coordinator to each General Assembly and recommend his salary to the Committee on Administration.
2. To study the mission needs in the nation, and inform the Assembly of these needs.
3. To promote mission work outside the boundaries of the Church until such work can be integrated into the regular Presbytery, and to assist in the coordination of such work by Presbyteries.
4. To cooperate with Presbyteries in their mission work.
5. To promote financial aid where needed and other mission support throughout the denomination.
6. To interpret the mission program to the denomination.
7. To maintain liaison with the Mission to the United States committees of all the judicatories.
8. To organize provisional Presbyteries.

### ETHNIC MINISTRIES

(See also CE&P, CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING)

1984, p. 150, 12-67, III, 11. That Overture B, carried over from the RPCES Synod of 1982, be answered by reference to the above report, section number VII. Our churches and people are encouraged to reach out to those ethnic minorities near them and include missionaries among the ethnic minorities of North America in missionary conferences, faith-promise programs and/or in their missionary budgets. Where cross-cultural work is being done, or is contemplated by churches or presbyteries, the services of our Coordinator of Ethnic Ministries, TE Dwight Linton, should be considered.

1990, p. 129, 18-56, III, 9. That the General Assembly take note of the pressing need many Ethnic churches have for worship facilities, and that the Assembly urge PCA congregations to open their hearts and, where possible, their facilities to Reformed groups of other cultures.

### EVANGELISTIC PROGRAM

(See also CHURCH GROWTH; MISSION CHURCHES)

1982, p. 90, 10-66, III, 21. That the Committee on MUS be approved as the primary agency of the General Assembly to provide help and service to our churches in the fields of evangelism, revitalization and church growth, and that churches of the Assembly be encouraged to seek these services from the Committee, after first seeking such help from their local church and Presbytery MUS Committee.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

1982, p. 93, 10-66, III, 28. That the Tenth General Assembly call upon the MUS Committee to plan an evangelistic program in conjunction with the Eleventh General Assembly, which will help instruct and motivate both teaching and ruling elders in the work of evangelism.

1987, p. 125, 15-60, III, 9. That the General Assembly praise God for His predetermining love, effectual calling and irresistible grace for sinners and commit itself to the ingathering of all those who are so loved of the Father as to be able to respond, using every Biblical strategy of evangelism available.

#### FIVE IN FIVE

(See also BUILDING CLUB; REVOLVING BUILDING FUND; INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

1976, p. 83, 4-76, I, 9. That the following recommendation of the Permanent Committee on Mission to the United States be referred to the Permanent Committee on Administration for study and answer to the 1977 General Assembly.

That the General Assembly approve a five year five million dollar capital funds campaign for Mission to the United States to be used primarily for the construction of new churches. This recommendation is made in light of the fact that at the present time more than eighty (80) of our Presbyterian Church in America congregations do not have their own "church building," and that that number will increase each year as new congregations are begun throughout the United States.

1977, p. 100, 5-100, 9. That the General Assembly approve a five year, five million dollar capital funds campaign for Mission to the United States, to be used primarily for the purchase of land and the construction of new churches. This recommendation is made in light of the fact that a great number of our Presbyterian Church in America congregations do not have their own land or "church building," and that number will increase each year as new congregations are begun throughout the United States.

1978, p. 77, 6-51, 10. That the actual loans from the "Five in Five Campaign" are to be handled through a loan committee consisting of one teaching elder and two ruling elders appointed by the MUS Committee and empowered to effect decisions regarding the loans, reporting these to the MUS Committee through the Coordinator.

1979, p. 91, 7-29, III, 21. That the General Assembly amend the policy guidelines established by MUS Committee, Presbyterian Church in America, for loans to Presbyterian Church in America congregations, *Minutes of the Sixth General Assembly*, p. 78, paragraph 5, inserting the following sentence as an additional paragraph at the end of paragraph 5:

This obligation is not enforceable in a civil court, but is understood to be a moral obligation.

1980, p. 87, 8-50, III, 17.

- B. That the General Assembly reaffirm the idea and the goal of the Five in Five program (on the basis of one dollar per month per member-over-five-years-asking).
- C. That the General assembly encourage the churches who have not yet made their pledge to this special Assembly-wide program to do so prayerfully and promptly in order to facilitate the building of the church.
- D. That the MUS Committee appoint a group of professionally qualified men to give advice as to how to complete the Five in Five Campaign promptly; and, to study and recommend further alternate methods for making maximum use of funds, in view of the eroding effects of inflation and the present economic situation.
- E. That the General Assembly make the following change in the Five in Five program, in view of the skyrocketing inflation upon the available funds:

A portion of the fund shall be administered as an endowment, with loans being made for new church development from the interest received on these investment funds.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

The policy of Five in Five shall not allow for regular, undesignated gifts to be placed in an endowment, but if donors designate their gifts to be placed in an endowment, such designations shall be honored.

1981, p. 88, 9-35, III, 21. That the Assembly reaffirm the idea and the goal of the Five-in-Five Program on the basis of \$1.00 each month, each member, over five years' asking, and that it encourage the churches which have not yet made their pledge to this special order, to facilitate the building of the church.

1982, p. 87, 10-66, III, 15b. That the Assembly take notice of the approaching end of the fifth year and the continuation of the effort according to the recommendation of the Committee amended below:

- 1) The five years of the Five in Five Capital Fund approved by the Fifth General Assembly will expire at the end of this year, 1982. A decision will therefore have to be made by the Assembly to either discontinue fund raising efforts or continue the program, possibly with some alterations.
- 2) It is the opinion of the present Committee on Mission to North America, none of whom were on the Committee when the program was inaugurated, that the Five in Five program has been a great blessing to our infant church and should be continued indefinitely. It is hardly to be imagined that a denomination as young as ours should so soon be left without means to help the many new churches being established to obtain buildings of their own in which to meet. The erosion of the present funds due to inflation will continually minimize its usefulness until it disappears altogether. Testimonials as to the program's past blessing will be given to the Assembly, but will be distributed on the floor so as to not encumber the minutes.
- 3) No new pledges to Five in Five have been made in the last two years, although many new churches have been added to presbyteries of the Assembly. Many other churches and presbyteries may be added during the course of this Assembly. Present pledges amount to \$2,052,310, although nine churches which have made pledges have paid nothing on their pledges. As of November 30, 1981, \$1,067,232 has been received by the Five in Five Fund to the benefit of 38 churches which have received loans.
- 4) With the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, we will receive on our staff Mr. Richard Aeschliman, coming to us from National Presbyterian Missions. The Committee on Mission to the United States has assigned Mr. Aeschliman the responsibility for Five in Five, and he has accepted those responsibilities. We believe that the program will once again receive competent leadership.
- 5) It is the proposal of your Committee on Mission to the United States that the words "Five Million in Five years" be dropped from our vocabulary. The name does not appear in the original authorization from the Fifth General Assembly. Instead, the fund will be known as a new church building fund.
- 6) In order to establish a permanent program in the place of Five in Five, the Committee on Mission to the United States proposes the following changes in the program as it was originally established:
  - a. A loan may be made, not only to an organized church, but to a mission church, properly chartered as a legal entity, when such a loan is enthusiastically recommended by the presbytery of jurisdiction and when the presbytery, by simple motion, agrees to take the responsibility for repayment of the loan should the mission fail in its obligation.
  - b. Ordinarily, no loan will be made to an organized church already possessing a sanctuary when the loan is to be used for the expansion of existing facilities or for the replacement of those facilities. The purpose of the fund will be to help new churches obtain land and/or first buildings they could not obtain by other means.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

- c. As approved by the Eighth General Assembly, a portion of the fund will be set aside as an endowment, with loans being made for new church development from the income received on these invested funds. Regular, undesignated gifts will not be placed in the endowment, but only those gifts so designated by the donor will be added to the endowment.

1984, p. 149, 12-67, III, 5. That the churches of the Assembly again be encouraged to support the Five Million Fund with regular gifts and our people be encouraged to make loans to the Revolving Building Fund, in order that our new congregations be helped to obtain church buildings of their own.

1991, p. 87, 19-35, III, 6.

Whereas, the importance of an adequate dedicated building to facilitate church growth cannot be underestimated; and

Whereas, due to the increasing expense and complexity of building programs, there is growing need for the demand upon the various denominational agencies involved in providing building assistance (to wit the MNA Building Department and the Investor's Fund); and

Whereas, These two agencies, having separate existence but some shared staff, have grown to a point that their structure is unwieldy and cumbersome; and

Whereas, the primary focus of MNA is church extension and the primary focus of the Investor's Fund is church building and financing;

Therefore, it is requested that the 19th General Assembly agree to the transferring of files and other assets, and the Five Million Fund, to Investors Fund for Building and Development for administration and development.

### FOUNDING OF MUS (NOW MNA)

1973, p. 45, 1-66. To the end that God be glorified the Committee on the Mission to the United States makes the following recommendations to this historic General Assembly:

1. That the General Assembly accept as of this date the gracious offer of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship to give to the General Assembly and its Committee on Mission to the United States all assets, records, correspondence, and equipment which the Mission to the United States Committee under the direction of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship has acquired.
2. That the General Assembly express its sincere thanks to Almighty God for the service which the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship has rendered to him in the organizing of this part of the body of Christ.
3. That the General Assembly commend the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship and its evangelists to member churches of this denomination as effective instruments of God in the work of evangelism and that members churches of this denomination be encouraged to support and use these men of God in the work of evangelism.
4. That the General Assembly express its thanks to the sovereign God for the financial and prayer support which individuals and churches have given to the Mission to the United States Committee since its inception and for the work which He has already permitted this Committee to begin.

### GIFTS

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

### Designated

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

### GOALS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Mission and Purpose of the PCA, p. 433)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRIES

1986, p. 116, 14-43, III, 9. The Assembly is asked to recognize the development of International Student Ministries and approve the policy found in Attachment F (Appendix J, p. 373) to cover missionaries with International Student Ministries and Ethnic Church Development.

Grounds: This policy is modeled on tested MTW policies. The MNA Committee expressed its intention to include Ethnic Church Development under these policies.

1986, p. 373, Appendix J, Attachment F.

#### Policy For Missionaries Under

#### The Committee On Mission To North America Working With International Student Ministries And Ethnic Church Development

##### 1. Background

In a rapidly changing world, North America--the United States and Canada--has grown to be a mission field (in the historic sense of the word) of gigantic proportions. If the Presbyterian Church in America is to be a national church, reaching all segments of the American population as well as guests who are temporarily within our borders, the Committee on Mission to North America will need to address these new challenges in a consistent and orderly way. Our policy should apply to all those who are missionaries under MNA, for they should be administered with evenhandedness. These policies should not be greatly divergent from those which control the ministries of the Committee on Mission to the World for we are committees of one assembly. The policies stated here have been discussed with the responsible persons in Mission to the World and among the various departments of the Committee on Mission to North America.

The present impetus to establish a set of policies is the growing concern and commitment of the Presbyterian Church in America to ethnic ministries and to ministry with international students. The sheer weight of numbers has demanded denominational action.

a. For instance, consider the growth of student guests from abroad.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>
1954-1955	34,000
1966-1967	100,000
1977-1978	268,940
1980-1981	+300,000
1982-1983	336,990
1985-1986	500,000

Seventy colleges and universities in the United States have more than 1,000 international students with 18 of those colleges having more than 2,000. Approximately one of every six international students in the United States is seeking a master's degree, and one in twelve is working toward a doctorate. Lawson Lau has written in *The World at our Doorstep*, a handbook for international student ministry (IVP): "In the next 25 years these students could occupy one-half of the world's top leadership positions in government, business and education. It is hard to imagine a more strategic group to evangelize."

Concern for international student ministries is already seen in the PCA in the following ways:

- (1) Miss Jean Lappin is working with international students under the Committee on Mission to North America in the Atlanta area, and her reports to churches, particularly in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, have stirred great interest.

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- (2) A ministry to international students was begun at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and this was enlarged by Mr. Bruce McDowell. This has had considerable success and has become an example of what a local church and a committed pastor can do.
    - (3) Mr. Jim Gearing was approved by the Presbytery of North Georgia as a missionary to international students in the Atlanta area, and has wished to come under the aegis of the Assembly's committee.
    - (4) There has been great interest expressed by seminary students who would direct their attention toward ministries with international students if there were the proper denominational vehicle under which they could work.
    - (5) Some other PCA churches already have a regular outreach effort toward international students and are wanting to increase their efforts within a denomination-wide system.
  - b. As an example of ethnic developments which call for PCA ministries and a policy to govern them, consider the influx of Latin immigrants in southern California. The 1980 census indicated four million of Latin origin in the area, but conservative estimates of the total in 1986, (including undocumented) suggest seven million. It is believed that there may be 1,200 Hispanic churches averaging 100 members each, which means that only 1.7 percent of southern California's Latin population is related to an evangelical church. The PCA must minister in this American Latin community!
2. The following policies and procedures are to be established for those desiring to do cross-cultural ministry with the help and supervision of the Committee on Mission to North America, whether that ministry is with international students (a campus ministry) or under the department of Ethnic Church Development.
  - a. The missionary is to be a member of a congregation or presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America. If the applicant is a member of a church he or she will need the recommendation of the appropriate session for the projected ministry. (An ordained teaching elder may be recommended for missionary service by the Presbytery MNA Committee and/or the MNA Committee of the General Assembly.)
  - b. Each candidate must go through an application and assessment process established by the Committee on Mission to North America. When approved by the Committee for missionary service it will also issue a "call" which, in the case of the unordained will be sent to the church in which the candidate has membership in order that the candidate may be commissioned. In the case of the ordained the call will be sent through the MNA Committee of presbytery for the approval of the call by the presbytery itself.
  - c. The candidate will continue in candidate status until presbyteries, churches and individuals have promised sufficient support for the ministry projected at which time the candidate will become a missionary.
  - d. The financial support of a particular missionary will consist of:
    - (1) Salary package to include base salary, housing, health insurance, death and disability insurance and retirement annuity.
    - (2) Program budget which will include training, itineration, support services provided by the Committee on Mission to North America and field-related program expenses.
  - e. The amount of financial support for a particular missionary will be determined by the Committee on Mission to North America and will be recommended by way of a call given to presbytery or a letter of recommendation to the missionary's home church.

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- f. The missionary candidate, while in candidate status, will normally be involved full-time in building a support base for his/her future ministry; support building will ordinarily be completed within 18 months. During this time the missionary candidate can be involved also in training, language school (if applicable) and a part-time ministry, if approved by MNA.
  - g. The missionary candidate will receive a portion of his/her monthly salary in addition to health insurance beginning when it is financially possible as determined by the Committee on Mission to North America. The portion of monthly salary received will be adjusted by MNA in consultation with the missionary candidate as funds accumulate in his/her support account. The goal is to see that the full support of the missionary candidate is received and paid as soon as possible and that all expenses for itineration are reimbursed as they are incurred.
  - h. MNA will determine what the allowable deficit in a missionary's account will be, and this may be determined in part by the type of missionary work to be performed and the department under which the missionary will eventually work. A deficit, normally, should result only from expenses for monthly health insurance premiums and for itineration-related expenses.
  - i. The missionary candidate's itineration will be coordinated by the appropriate MNA department.
  - j. The missionary candidate's funds will be applied to an account under the missionary's name and ministry (e.g., International Students--Bill Jones or southern California Hispanic team--Joseph Smith). The goal is to build support from churches and individuals for a ministry as well as for a missionary.
  - k. Whenever a missionary leaves a ministry to which he has been called, for whatever reason, the support funds remaining in that missionary's account will be placed in an account which will continue to support ministries of like kind.
3. The policies above will apply to all "missionary" ministries under the review and control of the Committee on Mission to North America.

### LAY MINISTRIES

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual) 1979, p. 89, 7-29, III, 7. That Attachment B (p. 203) the "Guidelines for Lay Ministries" be approved as presented.

1979, p. 203, Appendix G, Attachment B.

#### Guidelines Governing The Relationship Of Mission To The U. S. With All Unordained And Lay Workers (As Requested By The 5th General Assembly)

- A. Definitions
- 1. There shall be two categories of personnel;
    - a) Unordained men preparing for the Gospel Ministry
    - b) Lay workers with special skills and training necessary to the support of our mission as defined by the General Assembly. (Page 44, *Minutes of the First General Assembly*)
  - 2. Those in the first category (1.a. above) are fulfilling a dual role in their ministries with MUS.
    - a) They are receiving training necessary to their future ministries.
    - b) They are supplementing and supporting the ministries of others.
  - 3. Those lay men and women (1.b. above) may be doing any one of the following:
    - a) Providing a program support either to a ministry of MUS or to a mission with which MUS has a cooperative agreement.

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- b) Serving as a lay missionary in an evangelistic or teaching capacity where ordination is not necessary.
  - c) Ministering in what might be called a Diaconal ministry.
- 4. In this context we will speak of "unordained" and "lay worker" as representing the two categories (1.a. and b).
- B. Support
  - 1. The support of the unordained will be looked upon as bare maintenance. Basic living needs will be met. It is understood that the support of such personnel must be a cooperative effort of MUS, the Presbytery and the local church. The primary benefit to the unordained is the training and experience received.
  - 2. The support of the lay worker will not be materially different from that of the organizing pastor, except that education and experience will be considered.
- C. Supervision and Assessment
  - 1. The unordained will always be assigned under the supervision of an organizing pastor, a minister of the PCA in the vicinity of his service, a presbytery evangelist, a member of the MUS staff, or the Presbytery MUS Committee.
  - 2. The minister charged to supervise will also be asked to make assessments of the unordained worker's ministry and progress at regular intervals.
  - 3. The lay worker will be supervised and evaluated according to the procedures already in force or those that will be later established to affect organizing pastors and UPM missionaries.
- D. Ministries for the Unordained
  - 1. The unordained may be theological students on summer vacation or students who are participating in a clinical year. They may also be men who are in a second year of post-M.Div. training under the more direct responsibility of Assembly or Presbytery MUS Committee.
  - 2. They might be used in any of these ways:
    - a) To survey an area, gathering data, developing interest and ministering from house to house, in hope that a PCA church will be established.
    - b) Participate in a team ministry with an evangelist, organizing pastor, a UPM missionary, or other unordained men and lay workers.
    - c) Serve as a short-term assistant to the pastor of an established church as a part of the training process.
    - d) Serve as a short-term assistant of an evangelist in a mission church.
    - e) Work in some specialized ministry of benefit to the PCA, as in a summer conference, youth ministry, rehabilitation center, etc.
- E. Ministries for the lay worker are mentioned under A.3. above.
- F. Cooperation
  - 1. The Committee on MUS will cooperate with those seminaries approved by the Assembly in giving practical experience of benefit to the PCA as well as the unordained.
  - 2. The Assembly's Committee will cooperate with presbyteries and local churches in assigning the unordained so as to support their ministries.
- G. Qualifications for Employment
  - 1. Only those unordained or lay workers that are members of a local PCA church or mission will be eligible for employment under these guidelines.
  - 2. Before appointment to a ministry the unordained and lay worker must have a positive recommendation from the session of the local church. In addition, the unordained should have a letter of recommendation from the applicable department of the seminary in which he is enrolled or from which he has been graduated.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### MERCY MINISTRIES

(See **DIACONAL MINISTRIES; PART V: POSITION PAPERS**, Diaconal Ministries, pp. 159-181; Mercy Ministry, Biblical Guidelines, pp. 414-428)

#### MISSION CHURCHES

(See also **CHURCH GROWTH; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES**, MNA, Policy Manual)

1974, p. 79, 2-104, II, 11. That the Church, which is authorized to call and appoint Teaching Elders to labor as Pastors (*BCO* 8-3), authorize the Committee on MUS to call Teaching Elders to be organizing pastors in areas not within the jurisdiction of an existing PCA Presbytery, provided the call is approved by the Teaching Elder's Presbytery. (*BCO* 22-1)

1975, p. 66, 3-48, III, 6. That guidelines adopted by the MUS Committee on May 2-3, 1975, be approved by the General Assembly as follows:

"The standards for support of new work within the geographic bounds of existing presbyteries from the Committee on Mission to the United States of the General Assembly."

- 1) 10 families with 75% attendance of 30 or 40 people.
- 2) Giving should project that it will be self-supporting in 2 years.
- 3) Half of pastor's salary is to be underwritten by the congregation from the outset.
- 4) Pastor must pass examination by MUS Committee regarding the man's qualification for starting a new work.
- 5) A specific cut-off date of MUS funds scheduled.

1981, p. 87, 9-35, III, 9. Overture 19

Whereas, the *Book of Church Order* does not provide standards or guidelines for the instruction and preparation of those groups seeking to be organized into Presbyterian Church in America congregations, and those persons seeking to be ordained as officers in PCA congregations:

Therefore, the Presbytery of the Western Carolinas overtures the Ninth General Assembly to take steps to devise procedures for the instruction and preparation of groups seeking organization as congregations in the PCA, and for men looking to be ordained as officers within local congregations in the PCA.

That the permanent MUS Committee proceed with establishing such Standards.

#### NAME CHANGE

1981, p. 88, 9-35, III, 14. That the name of this Committee be changed to the Committee on Mission to North America, but that change be made in printed material of the Committee only in normal course of reprinting.

1982, p. 93, 10-66, III, 26. That the Assembly now vote upon and finally approve name for this Committee to the Committee on Mission to North America. These are to be used as general guidelines for the committee to follow in assisting new work.

#### OFFERING

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 9. That congregations be encouraged to take a special offering during the Thanksgiving season for the work of your Committee on Mission to North America.

1993, p. 91, 21-41, III, 4. That the General Assembly approve an offering for PCA Mercy Ministry to be taken preferably during the Thanksgiving season.

*Adopted*

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### POLICY

1981, p. 225, Appendix F, 5.

- a. GA MUS should provide standardized forms on which presbytery MUS can be periodically reported to GA MUS.
- b. Presbytery MUS Committee reports to presbytery should be shared with GA MUS.
- c. The GA MUS should videotape its organizing pastors' conferences and make the videotapes available for use within the presbyteries.
- d. The following definition of a mission church should become standard: "A mission exists when the goal of organizing a particular church is being pursued under the oversight and support of either GA MUS, Presbytery MUS, a mother church or a combination of the above. Where possible a church nearby should hold members on its roll as associate members for the mission work until the day of the mission's organization. In remote areas the presbytery is encouraged to place an evangelist on the scene as organizing pastor for the purpose of receiving members."
- e. The 20-minute slide presentation on the 5 in 5 Campaign should be shown in all the churches of the presbyteries by Presbytery MUS Committees.
- f. The television spots already made available by the GA MUS to churches in two areas should be made available in as many other areas as possible. (The Assembly MUS Committee notes that it will not distribute a spot containing a picture of Christ.)
- g. GA MUS organizing pastors should be itinerated among the churches. The Chairmen of Presbytery MUS Committees would be responsible for arranging this itineration.
- h. Each Presbytery MUS Committee should prepare a goals statements, have it approved by the presbytery at its next meeting, and then send it to GA MUS for consolidation and report to the General Assembly. (GA MUS would prepare a goals statement for areas outside presbytery boundaries, and the consolidated report would constitute a master plan for the church.)

#### POLICY MANUAL

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

1978, p. 76, 6-51, III, 4. That the MUS Committee be granted another year to prepare a revised Mission to the US Policy Manual, and that a new MUS Policy Manual including a training program for organizing pastors be presented to all presbytery MUS committee chairmen for their suggestions before the final draft is prepared, and that the Permanent Committee present the Revised Policy Manual to the Seventh General Assembly.

Grounds: A real need felt by some of the organizing pastors for more training.

1981, p. 87, 9-35, III, 5. That the Policy Manual for the Committee on Mission to the United States, and the Financial Policy and Procedures Manual be approved.

#### PRAYER

1974, p. 79, 2-104, II, B, 7. That the General Assembly approve a day of prayer for home mission work.

[Note: Continued in succeeding years.]

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 8. That the Assembly encourage a season for prayer during the fall months, perhaps one night each week for a month or one day each month for three months, to pray earnestly for God's promotion of each Assembly and Presbytery cause and the evangelistic outreach, spiritual vitality and stewardship of the local congregations; and that the three program committees work together in developing the materials which will both prepare and facilitate this ministry.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

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The concept of corporate prayer envisioned by this recommendation involves the division of the congregation into prayer cells or units with a leader or coordinator over each. (Many congregations are already so divided and those that are not are encouraged to maintain such cells, once structured, for Bible study, evangelistic outreach, follow up, pastoral care, etc.) Materials should be prepared to help the group know how to pray, specific needs for which to pray (from General Assembly causes to the local church's outreach and stewardship) and how to make the time most meaningful. The materials should include cards for MTW missionaries and MNA church planters as well as specific requests from CE/P, Administration, Covenant College, Covenant Seminary and Ridge Haven. The goal of this season of prayer would be to summon the whole church to the whole ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America.

#### PRE-ASSEMBLY

1985, p. 113, 13-49, III, 7. That the General Assembly approve the Pre-Assembly Conference as an annual event, in cooperation with the other committees of the General Assembly, administered by the MNA Committee.

#### PRESBYTERY MNA COMMITTEES

1979, p. 204, Appendix G, Attachment C.

##### Relationship Between Assembly And Presbytery MUS Committees

That the General Assembly reaffirm that the relationship between the General Assembly and Presbytery MUS Committees will reflect this agreement:

- A. Where funds are requested from the General Assembly MUS Committee, a strategy for each Presbytery will be developed between the General Assembly and the Presbytery MUS Committees in advance of making definite plans for definite works and men in the Presbytery.
- B. Plans for each man and each work will be made in writing by both the General Assembly and Presbytery Committees prior to taking any definite action.
- C. Only such specific places or works as have been planned in writing in advance as mission areas by a Presbytery shall be discussed with a candidate, formally, as possible places of service.
- D. The supervising party, the mechanics of administration and the goals for the work shall be agreed upon by both General Assembly and Presbytery Committees in advance. The work shall be evaluated according to a schedule and standards agreed upon by both Committees.
- E. All works yet unorganized or individual churches outside the bounds of any Presbytery will be supervised directly by the Assembly M-US Committee regardless of the Presbytery membership of the evangelist or organizing pastor or the source of funding.

The above recommendations are presented in the spirit and with the desire of working together in church planting in the most effective way possible, and with deep appreciation for the work of the Committee.

#### QUEBEC MISSION FIELD

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 10. That the Assembly approve and give encouragement to our entrance into the mission field of Quebec province, Canada, to work among the French speaking people of Quebec only.

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 23. That Communication 6 be answered with the following statement. That the French language work in the province of Quebec be removed from the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Eastern Canada and be designated a French language mission field.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### RADIO EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

1973, p. 46, 1-66, 7, b. That the General Assembly approve an evangelistic radio ministry to be directed by the General Assembly as it gives instruction to the Mission to the United States Committee. (See Appendix for Supplemental Report of the Committee on Mission to the United States, p. 162)

#### REVOLVING BUILDING FUND

(See also BUILDING CLUB; FIVE IN FIVE; INVESTOR'S FUND FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT; PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, MNA, Policy Manual)

1983, p. 123, 11-61, III, 11. That the Assembly recognize the existence of the Revolving Building Fund established by National Presbyterian Missions and accepted by your Committee on Mission to North America in 1982 as a part of the Joining and Receiving agreement. This fund will be operated by borrowing money from churches and individuals at a certain rate of interest and then loaned to churches needing funds for building purposes at a slightly higher interest sufficient to cover expected administrative costs. We recommend that all Revolving Building Fund contracts continue to be honored, and that this committee be encouraged to continue and develop the RBDF as a further alternative for the financing of church buildings.

1985, p. 114, 13-49, III, 17b.

(1) That the Committee on Mission to North America be authorized to establish and the Board of Directors of the PCA be authorized to form and implement a separate RBF (Revolving Building Fund) operating as a trust. Said trust shall receive monies and make loans for the primary purpose of church building construction.

Until further authorization by the General Assembly of the PCA the trust fund shall solicit such monies only from members, member churches, presbyteries, agencies, or committees of the PCA.

At the time of "joining and receiving" RPCES had in existence several 501 (C) (3) corporation (tax-exempt corporations recognized by the IRS.) These corporations were preserved and remain under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Administration.

(2) That one of these corporations be considered as the vehicle for this trust, if possible.

This trust shall be a civil legal entity separate from the existing PCA Corporation (a civil Delaware Corp.).

This trust may pledge the assets of the trust fund but shall have no authority to pledge or encumber any of the assets of the PCA, its committees, or agencies.

(3) This "trust fund" shall be authorized to make loans to churches and/or presbyteries of the PCA, for the construction or remodeling of buildings and equipment or the purchase of land.

The trust fund shall be authorized to secure such loans by mortgages from the borrowers.

This trust may pay interest on monies received and charge interest on loans made.

The initial trustees of this trust shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the PCA upon recommendation of the Committee on MNA. Thereafter, the trustees shall be elected by the General Assembly of the PCA.

The trust shall report annually through the General Assembly's Committee on Administration.

The trust shall make loans to only those borrowers who have prior recommendation and approval of the Committee on MNA of the General Assembly, and trustees of the fund.

This trust shall adopt no policy or take any action which in any manner conflicts with the right of the local congregation to own and control its own properties in accordance with BCO 25.

(4) The trust shall develop a policy manual which must be submitted for approval at the 14th GA.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

1991, p. 118, 91-55, III, 11. That the 19th General Assembly agree to the transfer of the work of the MNA Building Department (including the Five Million Fund) to the Investor's Fund for Building and Development for the PCA for administration and development.

#### SISTER-CHURCH PROGRAM

1981, p. 88, 9-35, III, 17. That the Assembly encourage the involvement of all our churches in the Sister-Church Program established by the Committee on Mission to the United States.

#### SUPPORT

##### Church Planters

1993, p. 91, 21-41, III, 5. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to consider providing financial support in their benevolence budgets as they are able for specific church planters. *Adopted*

##### MNA Multicultural Missionaries

1993, p. 97, 21-41, III, 13. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to develop within their churches advocates who can come to know the multicultural missionaries and their need and who can speak to their churches on their behalf; and that congregations consider taking the financial support of an MNA multicultural missionary. *Adopted*

#### URBAN, POOR AND MINORITY MINISTRIES

1978, p. 76, 6-51, III, 5. ...That the Assembly's Mission to the United States Committee shall appoint a Sub-Committee on urban, poor, and minority ministries and shall establish a separate budget for these ministries and employ a director, responsibilities of this Sub-Committee to include the following:

- a. To assist and supervise the urban, poor, and minority ministries in the PCA, in cooperation with Presbytery MUS committees.
- b. To acquaint the churches with these ministries, to promote them and to raise prayer support and funding for them.
- c. To develop a comprehensive national strategy for planting churches and furthering the growth of God's kingdom among our urban, poor, and minority populations. In order to accomplish this special task, the Sub-Committee shall have representation from the Mission to the World and Christian Education committees and staff, and from those actually involved in these ministries.
- d. To encourage, assist, and train our churches in beginning outreach ministries to blacks, other minority groups, and the poor in and around their communities, in order to initiate contact and confirm the PCA's interest in fulfilling the Great Commission in these sectors of society.
- e. To study and report on all ways to implement a scholarship fund to assist minority Christians to attend PCA related or approved higher institutions of learning in preparation for the ministry or other forms of Christian service.
- f. To study and report on the feasibility of a Mini-Training centers program which would have as its purpose the equipping of minority Christians who have potential as leaders (pastors, teachers, counselors) in English, Bible, Reformed Doctrine, Homiletics, English Grammar, and other subjects.
- g. To report its progress quarterly to the MUS Committee.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

#### WESTERN EXPANSION

1986, p. 116, 14-43, III, 10. The Assembly is asked to review the plan of MNA and the three western presbyteries to accomplish the Assembly's wishes for emphasis on western expansion and support the concept of a western office to facilitate this emphasis over a period of five years. (Attachment G, Appendix J, p. 375 amended as follows)

3.a.4) insert "*offer to*" before "provide" and *strike 3.e.*

Grounds:

1. on 3.a.4) This is to make clear that primary responsibility for church planting within the bounds of presbyteries remains with the presbyteries.
2. Strike MNA's 3.e - this is covered by recommendation 7.

1986, p. 375, Appendix J, Attachment G. For the Western Expansion of the Presbyterian Church in America

1. The 13th General Assembly approved and ordered a five-year special effort to expand the PCA in our western states, west of Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas.
2. The Committees of Mission to North America of the three PCA presbyteries in the West called for a joint consultation to plan western development. A consultation of ten men met, with GA MNA participation, in Walnut Creek, California on January 7-8, 1986.
3. The Consultation consensus follows:
  - a. That in ordering priorities the criteria suggested by MNA staff be accepted, recognizing that our goal is to establish and/or strengthen presbyteries.
    - 1) Where a new region is being developed but is lacking a sufficient number of churches to create a viable presbytery, new missions in the region should have highest priority. (i.e. San Francisco)
    - 2) Where a presbytery can be divided and the core area of the presbytery would be unduly weakened, special efforts to start a few new churches in the core area would have a high priority. (i.e. Colorado and Southwest)
    - 3) Where an area can be removed from a present presbytery to create a more cohesive presbytery, able to take responsibility for a clearly identifiable region, new mission churches in the area should be given priority. (i.e. San Diego)
    - 4) Where a presbytery has proven itself unable to reach into the territory within its boundaries to begin churches in key population centers, the MNA Committee of GA should provide help in initiating new church planting projects. (i.e. Northwest)
    - 5) Where there are large and influential cities in regions without PCA presence, a pioneer effort should be made to plant a strong church in each of these cities in faith that they will become radiating centers around which presbyteries will grow. (i.e. Salt Lake City)
  - b. "It is the consensus of this gathering that the GA MNA Committee be encouraged to proceed with the establishment of a western office, and that serious consideration be given to the San Francisco Bay area, and that every consideration be given to utilizing the gifts of Dr. J. Philip Clark when the position is filled."
  - c. The following locations should be considered as prime targets for new church development in fiscal year 1987:
    - 1) Chandler or Scottsdale, Arizona
    - 2) Greater Phoenix
    - 3) Ventura, California
    - 4) Seattle, Washington
    - 5) San Francisco Bay area, California

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

- 6) San Diego County, California
- 7) Portland-Willamette Valley, Oregon
- 8) Surrey/Delta, BC
- 9) Southwest Denver
- 10) Salt Lake City or some other major city in totally virgin territory (to the PCA)

These are not in any order of priority except that 10 should be given lowest priority unless a golden opportunity should present itself.

- d. It was suggested that the development of an Hispanic team in the territory of Pacific Presbytery should be the responsibility of GA MNA and should not be under presbytery control and supervision since an ethnic presbytery is a possibility.
  - e. The Canadian churches are asked to consider a target date for a new Anglo/Canadian denomination, possibly in 2000. The PCA General Assembly is asked for greater effort in building Canadian churches. Also, the idea of any name change to satisfy the Canadians will be set aside with the announcement of this goal.
4. The report of this consultation to the three presbyteries was well received. The MNA Committee of the General Assembly received the report on March 6 and promised its cooperation.

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

#### CHRIST'S COLLEGE

1974, p. 68, 2-88, 4. That the General Assembly approve in principle the acceptance of Christ's College in Taiwan, and to authorize the Permanent Committee on Mission to the World to actively support Christ's College while working toward completion of the transfer,...and that a report on the college and the proposed transfer to the National Presbyterian Church be heard at this time. (See Appendix L for Agreement) (This authorizes the Committee to begin sending missionaries to the college.)

1993, p. 88, 21-38, III, 26. That the FCCCA board become a decision-making board relating to, and representing CMTW in regard to the oversight of Christ's College, working in partnership with the Coordinator of MTW and the CMTW. Approved.

The General Assembly note that the Free China Christian College Association in Taiwan continues to be a subsidiary corporation of the PCA. *Adopted*

#### CHURCH PLANTING

1975 p. 115, 3-93, III, A, 3. That the primary thrust of Mission to the World continue to be the establishment and strengthening of Presbyterian and Reformed churches in other countries, *keeping a high proportion of church-planting-oriented missions over service support missions, with constant effort towards improving the current proportion; further, that the General Assembly exhort Presbyteries and Sessions to make a concerted effort to actively recruit and to extend calls to qualified and motivated ministers and young men preparing for the ministry for the work of World Missions.*

1976, p. 59, 4-41, III, 4. That the attention of the Fourth General Assembly be called to the opportunities for church planting and evangelism in Brazil, Korea, Mexico, and Taiwan and the need for more ordained men for each of these countries.

1976, p. 59, 4-41, III, 5. That the Committee on Mission to the World be requested to develop a program during the coming year which shall encourage Presbyteries to take the initiative in extending calls for missionary service to ordain ministers, who the Presbytery would judge to be qualified for missionary service.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

1978, p. 67, 6-26, III, 6. That the Assembly urge the presbyteries to seek out from their midst the evangelists and church planters, the men with the potential for cross-cultural evangelism, and seek to call them for missionary service.

### COMMISSION

1993, p. 88, 21-38, III, 25. Instruct CMTW to find ways to have PCA missionaries serve with CoMission without the binding of their consciences in using the "Jesus Film". *Adopted*

1993, p. 89, 21-39. Protest Regarding CoMission Cooperative Agreement

We, the undersigned, do hereby respectfully protest the action of the 21st General Assembly in denying the MTW Committee of Commissioners Report Recommendation 3b to take exception to the partnership agreement with CoMission on the grounds that it violates the PCA Constitution (WLC Q/A 109) by use of the Jesus Film. We believe the failure of the General Assembly to uphold this exception is a serious departure from the plain teaching of the 2nd Commandment (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5) as explained in the Westminster Standards. With due respect to the brethren from the RPCES whose denomination officially permitted "pictures of Jesus", it must be recognized that the PCA was founded as a strict subscription Church, and that the General Assembly's failure to uphold the Law of God at this point is cause for grave concern. May God provide a means for us to minister to the people of the former Soviet Union without compromise of His Word in this way.

Note: See Personal Response to Protest, 21-61, p. 166.

### COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS

(See also GENERAL ASSEMBLY, COMMITTEES OF COMMISSIONERS)

1991, p. 95, 91-46, III, 18. That the CMTW be instructed to provide its Committee of Commissioners with all written documents to which reference is made in their minutes, which shall include the reports of the Coordinator and all Directors.

### COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 14-1, 1982, 10-23)

(See the Report of the MTW Committee printed in the *Minutes of the General Assembly* each year for the list of cooperative agreements for MTW and MTW/Impact. The terms of each agreement as it is made are included in the year the agreement is approved by the Assembly.)

1974, p. 68, 2-88, II, B, 2. That the General Assembly authorize the Committee on Mission to the World to establish working relationships with other evangelical missionary agencies that welcome the services and teaching of missionaries holding the Reformed faith and polity, so as to enable it to send candidates to them, as it may seem best for the greatest effectiveness in proclaiming the Gospel, to work under their auspices while at the same time maintaining full relationship to the NPC; also to receive and forward to the agencies concerned financial support needed by them. Such missionaries shall be responsible to the Sessions or Presbyteries in matters of doctrine and moral conduct, but at the same time subject to the rules of the agencies under which they serve. Such missionaries shall be considered missionaries of the NPC, and as such will send news and reports of their work to the CMW, their Presbyteries and supporting churches and individuals in the NPC. Details as to itineration while on furlough, pensions and other matters needing definition or adjustment would be worked out with the agencies concerned, that careful evaluation be made at the 1975 General Assembly to be certain that our missionary efforts under the program provide full and free presentation of the Gospel as contained in and understood in the Reformed view.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

1975, p. 115, 3-93, III, 4. That the policy of relationships with other agencies that will welcome the services and teaching of missionaries holding the Reformed faith and polity be continued under the safeguards established by the 1974 General Assembly and as more fully outlined and defined in Articles II.C. 2 & 3 (p. 26-7) and Appendices A, B, & C (p 34ff) of the proposed position paper entitled "A Plan for Mission to the World."

1975, p. 116, 3-93. From "A Plan for Mission to the World of the Presbyterian Church in America". (Articles II.C. 2 & 3):

#### 2. Reformed Missions

There are many places where we can work in closest cooperation with other evangelical Reformed missions. We can thereby avoid duplication and overlapping, give visible demonstration of our unity and greatly further our major goal of planting and strengthening Presbyterian Churches overseas. The cooperation in this model will be the responsibility of the field committee of the Reformed mission.

Our relationship to each mission is defined in signed agreements. (See Appendix B for sample copy, pp. 119-120)

#### 3. Interdenominational Missions

The above two models relate specifically to the planting and strengthening of Presbyterian Churches overseas. The third relates to support and service ministries in cooperation with evangelical missions and to a Reformed witness in deed and word overseas. This model is 1) proper and scriptural because of the unity of the believing church, 2) secondary to the task of planting and strengthening Presbyterian churches overseas, and 3) limited by the definition of the General Assembly and by Mission to the World's policy.

1975, p. 117, 3-93. Agreements, which protect the interests of the General Assembly, are signed by Mission to the World and the interdenominational mission. (See Appendix C for sample copy, pp. 120-121) No missionary is sent to work with another mission without this signed agreement.

These additional guidelines and limitations are followed or suggested by Mission to the World.

- 1) Mission to the World ordinarily enters into discussions with interdenominational mission boards only at the request of a PCA church member, minister, session or presbytery. The initiative for such a cooperative venture must come from a church court or church member. Mission to the World does not recruit missionaries for interdenominational missions. It responds to requests from its constituency - the Presbyterian Church in America.
- 2) Mission to the World does not participate in any way in its planning function in cooperative effort with independent mission agencies.
- 3) Only funds specifically so designated will be transmitted to independent mission agencies for missionary support or project use.
- 4) In keeping with our stated priority of planting and strengthening Presbyterian churches overseas, it is expected that the larger portion of our missionary force will serve in that category (the first two models).
- 5) The missionary with an interdenominational mission must report to his sending body and to Mission to the World at least once a year concerning the freedom he has to minister and work in line with the General Assembly's instructions.

The coordination in this model will be the responsibility of the field committee

1976, p. 67, 4-59, 9. That an immediate area of cooperation with those churches in ecclesiastical fellowship with us concerns our open policy with other evangelical mission boards so that we would wherever possible give preference to such boards as are specifically Presbyterian and Reformed in commitment.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

1978, p. 68, 6-26, III, 9. That the Assembly answer Overture 18 (6-11, A) from North Georgia Presbytery and Overture 22 (6-11, A) from Ascension Presbytery by requiring the Permanent Committee on Mission to the World to submit to the 1979 General Assembly clarifying language in these matters, and that the Mission to the World Committee be asked to provide the Assembly a written rationale explaining why participating in these projects does not violate the Manual.

1979, p. 132, 7-68, III, 12. That the following sentence be added to the end of the last paragraph, p. 166, C, 3, *Minutes of the Fourth General Assembly*. "Each new cooperative agreement will be presented annually to the Committee of Commissioners with the doctrinal statements of each agency for review."

1982, p. 75, 10-48, III, 22. That it be noted, that as directed by the 1981 General Assembly (*Minutes*, 9-50, III, 12; p. 107), additional correspondence was carried on with Overseas Crusades Ministries, Inc., which resulted in O.C. changing their doctrinal statement to that of the National Association of Evangelicals.

1984, p. 345, Appendix K.

#### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR MISSION/CHURCH RELATIONS

The Presbyterian Church in America maintains ecclesiastical fellowship with Presbyterian and Reformed church bodies in North America through NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council). Through its Committee on Mission to the World, the PCA relates to both these and other churches outside North America in its efforts to carry out the task of world evangelism. This is done through specific written agreements. These agreements are designed to enable both parties to be better stewards of God's resources.

The following statements form a framework for mission/church relations to guide the PCA/MTW's relationship with churches outside its own country:

1. The Presbyterian Church of America is part of Christ's church and as such possesses all the promises and mandates given to the whole church. In obedience to the Scriptures the PCA is committed to spread the gospel to the end that the church will grow both qualitatively and quantitatively.
2. Where Presbyterian/Reformed churches true to God's Word do not exist, PCA recognizes its calling to plant new congregations and whenever possible pursues this objective in cooperation with other Presbyterian/Reformed church bodies.
3. MTW is the agency of the PCA appointed by the General Assembly to implement the biblical injunction to preach the gospel beyond North America to the ends of the earth. Both mission and church stand under the authority of Jesus Christ the head of the church and His Word; therefore, the biblical principle of interdependence and reciprocity is affirmed.
4. We recognize that all cultures and peoples stand under the authority of God's Word, both as to form and substance of the churches' theology. We will therefore seek to teach the whole counsel of God as we plant new churches. MTW strives to establish presbyterian form of government in the churches formed through its efforts. When planting new churches and presbyteries, the cultural identity of the merging church must be respected from its inception.
5. MTW views its missionary calling as permanent but its missionary presence in any given location transitional, giving way to local church leadership.
6. When assisting in local church/presbytery programs, MTW views its role as supportive rather than primary, the authority and responsibility resting with the church/presbytery from the beginning.
7. MTW recognizes that each church in its own context and depending on its age, level of maturity, etc. may perceive agendas differing from those of MTW. MTW recognizes the validity of these differences as long as both church and mission are committed to God's Word as final authority. These differing perceptions of priorities should not inhibit fellowship.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

8. Relationships between mission and church are sustained by a common theological commitment rooted in obedience to the Scriptures as both seek to carry out the Great Commission.
9. The vehicle for the expression of this relationship is a written agreement regarding a mutually agreed upon project. Such agreements are to be made at the operational level, to cover responsibilities of both parties for specific action together, and are not to be considered blanket endorsements.

Approved on September 9, 1983 by the Committee on Mission to the World  
Revised February 17, 1984 by Committee on Mission to the World

1986, p. 144, 14-62, III, 16. That Overture #18, p. 61 from Westminster Presbytery be answered by approving the third plea - "3) that missionaries seconded to other agencies not be sent to the field until such time as their cooperative agreements be approved by the General Assembly." (The current list of cooperative agreements is found in the annual report of the MTW, printed in the Appendix of the *Minutes of the General Assembly*.)

1989, p. 122, 17-70, III, 22. That the Stated Clerk be instructed to list the names of sensitive cooperative agreements in the Minutes, with the note that the agreement is held in the Stated Clerk's office, to be made available to any *bona fide* member of the PCA.

#### DUTIES OF THE MTW COMMITTEE

1974, p. 73, 2-98.

1. To nominate a coordinator to each General Assembly and recommend his salary to the Committee on Administration.
2. To advise the General Assembly of missionary needs abroad.
3. To recommend ways of meeting these needs abroad.
4. To assist Presbyteries and local churches to recruit missionaries.
5. To function as a sending agency for missionaries not otherwise accredited, and the support agency for missionaries not sustained.
6. To promote the missionary spirit across the denomination.
7. To interpret the missionary program to the denomination.
8. To assist missionaries in their visas and recognition by foreign countries.
9. To maintain liaison with the missionaries but not to function as administrator of the local program of the individual missionary, and to work with them in developing their work.
10. To coordinate the work of Presbyteries in the endorsement of military and institutional chaplains and to represent chaplains in relation to military and civil authorities.
11. To be a servant to the General Assembly. The General Assembly as servant to the churches shall establish and/or approve general guidelines and policies within which the committee shall implement the denomination's efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. The Committee shall have the responsibility for immediate supervision of the Committee staff, which the General Assembly shall elect.  
(See also 1973, p. 38, 1-57)

The following additional comment on the relation of the Coordinator and staff was made by the Committee in its report to the First General Assembly. The coordinator is the chief executive officer of staff. He shall have the boundaries of his authority specifically drawn by the committee and have access to a sub-committee empowered to give advice and counsel in matters of urgent nature.

The staff shall have the responsibility under the coordinator to see that this specific program of the General Assembly is given expression.

The staff shall consist of a coordinator and administrative secretary, a missionary evangelist, a treasurer and other such personnel as needed.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

#### EXPENSES, ADMINISTRATIVE

1980, p. 69, 8-25, III, 13. That the General Assembly approve a policy by which the Committee on Mission to the World may fund its administrative expenses by

- a. adding an administrative increment to the support requirements of each missionary, and
- b. by transferring these funds from the missionaries' support accounts to the general fund as needed.

#### FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT

1973, p. 39, 1-57, 1. That the General Assembly accept the gracious offer of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship that all of the financial assets of the Executive Commission on Overseas Evangelism, the office equipment, records and correspondence, mission projects, international contacts and records of prospective missionaries, and that we express our gratitude to God and the leaders of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship for the foresight that enables us to inherit such an extensive overseas program that has personnel in three nations and projects in several more.

#### FREE CHINA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

1993, p. 88, 21-38, III, 26. That the FCCCA board become a decision-making board relating to, and representing CMTW in regard to the oversight of Christ's College, working in partnership with the Coordinator of MTW and the CMTW. Approved."

The General Assembly note that the Free China Christian College Association in Taiwan continues to be a subsidiary corporation of the PCA. *Adopted*

#### HANDBOOK

1977, p. 72, 5-64, IV, 9. That the Assembly separate sections III and IV (Handbooks for Candidates and Missionaries) from the policy sections of the Mission Manual so far as revision procedure is concerned, the policy manual to be revised only by General Assembly procedures while changes in the handbooks (which unavoidably need continual changes to meet changing situations with regard to such things as insurance, annuity, travel, etc.) be reported annually to the MTW Committee of Commissioners at the General Assembly for their approval.

#### LAY MISSIONARIES

1974, p. 68, 2-88, 8. That lay missionaries be allowed to participate in the 12% annuity program. The Assembly referred this recommendation to the Trustees of the Insurance Fund.

1993, p. 86, 21-38, III, 12. That the seminaries and colleges involved in training PCA candidates for ministries and PCA churches be urged to promote the need for both elders and lay people to serve on Mission to the World church-planting teams.

#### MINUTES

1976, p. 59, 4-41, III, B, 1. That a resume of the approved minutes of each MTW meeting be mailed to each Presbytery MTW Committee Chairman so that each Presbytery might be kept abreast of current needs, concerns, and causes for praise.

#### MTW/IMPACT [FORMERLY SERVANTS IN MISSIONS ABROAD (SIMA)]

1980, p. 69, 8-25, III, 11. That the General Assembly authorize the Committee on Mission to the World to create a structure that will enable students and those who are non-career missionaries to respond to God's call to short-term work worldwide.

1980, p. 69, 8-25, III, 12. That the Mission to the World Committee be authorized, for a two-year period, to operate the Short-Term Project in exception to the Missions Manual in Section 3.01.10 pertaining to PCA membership of Short-Termers\*, and 2.02.1(4) and 2.02.2 pertaining to missionaries raising their own support.\*\*

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

Quote from Missions Manual 3.01.10:

"Church Relationship. Prior to approval, candidates will be expected to be members of a congregation or presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America."

\*This change would allow short-termers, who are in full accord with the PCA standards, but are not necessarily members of the PCA, to serve with Mission to the World.

2.02.1(4): "Support. It is clear that the sending churches in the book of Acts were involved in the support--prayer and financial--of their missionaries. When a session or presbytery encourages an individual to mission service, it accepts the responsibility to back up that person by prayer and giving."

2.02.2 Enabling Committee (paragraphs 6 and 8):

"It works with the missionary candidate and his church or presbytery in planning for further training or experience where it is necessary. It assists churches and presbyteries in the matter of support. It does not replace the sending bodies in this responsibility but can and will assist congregations and presbyteries, who desire assistance in the matter of support for their missionaries, who do not have large support from their churches or presbyteries, to find interested churches.

"It recommends salary and benefit levels, assists the missionary in itineration (in cooperation with session or presbytery) and helps him in the technical matters related to his going overseas."

\*\*For career missionaries this responsibility is that of Mission to the World. This change would give short-termers the responsibility of raising their own support.

1981, p. 107, 9-50, III, 13. That the General Assembly answer Item 8-80, III, 19, p. 53 by the Permanent Committee's minutes, June 5, 1981, p. 2, "Old Business" which says:

About 31% of the support has come from home churches. If you don't count home churches, then only 5% of the SIMA support money has come from PCA churches other than home churches.

1982, p. 74, 10-48, III, 16. That the General Assembly approve and establish as a permanent program of Mission to the World, Servants in Missions Abroad (*M8GA*, 8-25, III, 12, p. 69).

### POLICY MANUAL

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

1974, p. 68, 2-88, 9. That the Second General Assembly direct the Permanent Committee on Mission to the World to prepare a policy manual to be presented for approval and adoption at the next General Assembly, and be authorized to hire an additional staff person, if necessary, to implement this action, and that the Permanent Committee be reminded of our consistent separation from the World Council and National Council of Churches.

1977, p. 72, 5-64, IV, 9. That the Assembly separate sections III and IV (Handbooks for Candidates and Missionaries) from the policy section of the Mission Manual so far as revision procedure is concerned, the policy manual to be revised only by General Assembly procedures while changes in the handbooks (which unavoidably need continual changes to meet changing situations with regard to such things as insurance, annuity, travel, etc.) be reported annually to the MTW Committee of Commissioners at the General Assembly for their approval;

### PRAYER

(See also DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING)

1978, p. 68, 6-26, III, 8. That the report of the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the World be concluded with a time of prayer to God;

Praising Him for His blessings upon our growing commitment to world evangelization;

Seeking His continued blessings upon our efforts to recruit cross-cultural church planters;

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

Seeking the outpouring of His Spirit upon our churches, creating desire to fulfill our responsibilities in meeting the needs of our missionaries in proclaiming Christ's Gospel around the world;

Asking His protection and care over the staff of MTW and their families and His blessing upon their ministry to the missionaries, the candidates, and the churches at home;

And finally, submitting ourselves to Him for whatever changes in our plans or life-style He wants to make to further the advancement of His Kingdom through world missions;

1979, p. 129, 7-68, III, 2. That the General Assembly express its gratitude for each of our missionaries and join in prayer for God's provision of every spiritual, emotional and physical need in each of their lives.

#### PRIMARY THRUST

1977, p. 72, 5-64, IV, 4. That the Assembly reaffirms the primary thrust of the Mission to the World Committee to continue to be to establish Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in other countries of the world.

#### PURPOSE

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Mission to the World, A Picture of Purpose; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Mission and Purpose of the PCA, pp. 435-436)

#### RECRUITMENT

1976, p. 59, 4-41, III, A, 5. That the Committee on Mission to the World be requested to develop a program during the coming year which shall encourage Presbyteries to take the initiative in extending calls for missionary service to ordain ministers, who the Presbytery would judge to be qualified for missionary service.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

#### REFUGEES

1975, p. 62, 3-39. The General Assembly directed its Mission to the World Committee to survey the needs of the South East Asians still quartered in military camps in this country, and communicate its findings to the Churches, and summon all our congregations to prayer and planning to determine how each church might best be used to effect the resettlement of these people in our midst in the NAME of Christ, our Lord.

#### SUPPORT

##### Missionaries

1974, p. 68, 2-88, 5. That the General Assembly support the Committee on Mission to the World as they seek to help the Presbyteries and Churches find reasonable, judicious, and Biblical ways for raising support for approved missionary efforts by the Presbyterian Church in America.

1979, p. 131, 7-68, 10. That in the future, when a particular missionary's account exceeds a reasonable surplus (to be determined by the Committee on Mission to the World), funds designated toward that missionary's support may be allocated to the work budget of that particular missionary's field. Notification of the Committee on Mission to the World intent to implement this action is to be communicated to each future supporter of the missionary with the opportunity given for the supporter to redesignate his gifts.

##### Non-Reformed Agencies

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Mission to the World)

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

#### TEN YEAR PROJECTION

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Mission to the World, A Picture of Purpose; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Mission and Purpose of the PCA, pp. 435-436)

1984, p. 97, 12-29, III, 11. That the paper "MTW 1993--A Picture of Purpose" be approved as the *general* direction in which Mission to the World should move during the next ten years.

#### TENTMAKING PROGRAM

1986, p. 143, 14-62, III, 11.

- a) That the Committee on Mission to the World endorse and seek approval from the General Assembly in June 1986 to commission the development of a detailed plan that would define factors relevant to the incorporation of a tentmaking program into MTW's strategic plan.
- b) That said approval from the General Assembly would give necessary authority to the Committee on Mission to the World to approve such an experimental plan and administer it for a two-year period; and that such plan would include the possibility of formation of a separate nonprofit corporation or foundation with ultimate control being maintained by Mission to the World. *Such a corporation will place men and women from the PCA and other NAPARC churches who personally subscribe to the Westminster Standards in acceptable service opportunities in countries otherwise inaccessible.*
- c) That the experimental program be brought to the 1989 General Assembly for final approval.

1989, p. 122, 17-70, III, 13. That the two-year experimental tentmaking program approved by the Fourteenth General Assembly, June 1986, be extended for an additional three years and that the experimental program be brought to the 1993 General Assembly for final approval.

#### VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM)

1982, p. 89, 10-66, III, 20. That the Committee on Mission to the United States, in cooperation with the Committee on Mission to the World, use its offices to facilitate the use of volunteer workers in mission endeavors in North America and in all the world.

#### VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM)

The Sub-Committee on Stewardship asked the Committees on Mission to the United States and Mission to the World to prepare a plan for a pool of volunteer workers and a method of relating them to short-term missionary opportunities at home and abroad. The staffs of the two mission committees have prepared a proposal which is here presented to the Tenth General Assembly.

1. Proposed that each committee prepare a list of opportunities for volunteer service, each in its own sphere of responsibility but including other PCA organizations, missions with which cooperative agreements are maintained and various compatible ministries. These opportunities would be in the following job classifications, among others:
  - a. Medical
  - b. Construction
  - c. Administrative
  - d. Office and Secretarial
  - e. Teaching (especially remedial reading and English as a second language)
  - f. Maintenance work
  - g. Agriculture
  - h. Auto mechanic

Workers could be used in church building, mission maintenance or program supplement.

## PCA DIGEST

### MISSION TO THE WORLD

2. Proposed that either a file or computer listing of volunteers be maintained in each mission office with such information as:
  - a. Special skills and training
  - b. Experience
  - c. Health
  - d. Financial independence
  - e. Ability to travel
  - f. Ability to meet own expenses
  - g. Type and place of service desiredThose volunteering for service of from two weeks to three or more months might be retirees, vacationers, those on sabbatical leave or with work furlough time, and young people able to give all or part of a summer.
3. Any incidental expenses of promotion or maintenance of the VIM program will be shared by MTW and MUS. The program will be promoted as a ministry of the PCA and not as a ministry of either committee. The two committees will, however, accept oversight in behalf of the Assembly.  
Those volunteering for service of from two weeks to three or more months might be retirees, vacationers, those on sabbatical leave or with work furlough time, and young people able to give all or part of a summer.

### WOMEN MISSIONARIES

1975, p. 42, 3-11. Overture 11 ...[That the] General Assembly encourage the Mission to the World Committee to be carefully Biblical in its use of women on the mission field, particularly as regards evangelism, preaching, and church development; remembering Paul's admonition to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:12): "But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet." NASB

1975, p. 123, 3-93, III, C, 3. In response to Overture 11 of the Second General Assembly concerning the use of women on the mission field, we recommend the overture to be answered in the affirmative, with this additional explanation, since Scripture is to be interpreted by Scripture, this is to be understood in the light of Acts 18:26.

### WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION

1975, p. 122, 3-93, III, A, 5. That we continue to use the World Relief Commission as an avenue of help and hope in the disaster areas of the world.

[Note: Reaffirmed 4-41, III, A]

1981, p. 106, 9-50, III, 7. That the General Assembly urge the churches to set aside a portion of their budgets for the suffering peoples of the world, e.g., using the World Relief Commission through MTW.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

1993, p. 86, 21-38, III, 10. That the General Assembly urge the churches to set aside a portion of their giving for the suffering peoples of the world and that, to that end, it be recommended that a special offering for World Relief be taken during the Easter season of 1994.

*Adopted*

### ZIMBABWE REFORMED CHURCHES

1982, p. 74, 10-48, III, 14. That the matter of helping to rebuild the damaged Reformed churches in Zimbabwe as referred to the Committee on Mission to the World by the Ninth General Assembly (9GA, 9-50, III, 18, p. 109) be answered by the establishment of a special fund in MTW to receive and properly transmit any such funds received from the PCA constituency.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### MODERATORS (PRESBYTERY)

1981, p. 109, 9-50, III, 18. That the request contained in Communication 9 be approved, and given to the Permanent Committee on Mission to the World for implementation as soon as possible.

Communication 9: From the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Ninth General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in America

Dear Brethren:

During the past year the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) informed our church and other Reformed churches around the world of the devastation to many of their churches and Christian schools during the war of attrition during the past several years, and they asked if we would be willing to help in the overwhelming task of rebuilding. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church is preparing to give assistance through our Committee on Diaconal Ministries.

Our recent, 48th General Assembly, determined to inform you of this "serious need" so that you might join in this effort. A letter from the Zimbabwe church describing this need is being sent to you separately by our Diaconal Ministries Committee.

Part of the background of our desire for you to participate in this project with us is that during the war the World Council of Churches, through its Program to Combat Racism, contributed to supplying weapons to the terrorists of the political left. These weapons were used indiscriminately and resulted in the death of many in the Reformed churches and the loss of schools and church buildings. Another significant part of the background is that the World Council of Churches has, in the past, contributed to rehabilitation work while most of our Reformed churches have stood on the sidelines with our hands in our pockets. Some churches that have been thus aided/not aided have observed that the liberals are more helpful than their own brothers in Christ of the Reformed churches.

Our General Assembly's hope is that your Assembly would commend this need to your congregations, as a means of helping our brothers and sisters who have stood fast in and for the faith during extremely trying times. If you do not yourselves have an agency through which churches could channel their contributions our Assembly offers to handle them for you through our Committee on Diaconal Ministries. Communications should be addressed to the Rev. Lester R. Bachman, 806 Dorsea Road, Lancaster, PA, 17601.

This letter comes to you so soon before your Assembly convenes because our Assembly met so recently. We hope that this will not be too late for consideration, and that a year's delay in this important matter can be avoided.

May the Lord be with you in all of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
John P. Galbraith  
Corresponding Clerk  
48th General Assembly  
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church

### MODERATORS (PRESBYTERY)

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 10-3, 1984, 12-53, #51; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #33)

## PCA DIGEST

### MORALS, PUBLIC

1992, p. 120, 20-51, 25.

Whereas,

1. Judeo-Christian standards of morals and ethics are under vicious attack by secular interests in the media, entertainment, and sundry anti-Christian organizations;
2. Christian (biblical) family values are under attack by the same interests outlined in 1 above;
3. Efforts by Christian groups to prevent abortion throughout the U.S.A. and the world are under organized attack supported by seemingly unlimited financing and political organization;
4. Such anti-Christian activity and the results therefrom are causing the disintegration of American civilization, i.e. divorce, abortion, birth out of wedlock, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, homosexuality and fornication, political, governmental, and civil corruption at all levels, racist attitudes and activities, deficit spending both governmental and private, child abuse and devastating crime including rape, murder, rioting, looting, and pillage;

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the 20th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America boldly, publicly, and unequivocally supports all Biblical values involving marriage, family values, sexual conduct and practices, social conduct and the sanctity of life both parental and post-natal.

### NAME OF THE DENOMINATION

1973, p. 26, 1-16. Recommended Names for the Church

The Moderator reported that the Executive Committee recommended for the consideration of the Assembly the following three names:

The Presbyterian Church in America  
The Presbyterian Church of America  
The National Presbyterian Church

The actual selection of the name for the Church was set for the Wednesday afternoon session.

1973, p. 31, 1-29. The General Assembly selected the name "National Presbyterian Church" to be the name of the Church.

1974, p. 21, 2-10. The retiring Moderator gave a brief report of the progress of the National Presbyterian Church since its First General Assembly. He presented the problem which has arisen during that time regarding the name "National Presbyterian Church."

1974, p. 21, 2-11. The following resolution was adopted by the Assembly

Whereas, the First General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church did in good faith adopt the name "National Presbyterian Church," and

Whereas, since the First General Assembly, it has come to the attention of the Board of Directors of the National Presbyterian Church that there is a congregation of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in the nation's capital called by the name "National Presbyterian Church," which congregation derives a portion of its support from across the nation and claims a nationwide ministry, and thus fears that our use of the same name will cause confusion in their support base, and

Whereas, representatives of the Washington congregation feel so strongly about this matter that they indicate they would resort to the civil courts, if necessary, to settle this issue, and

Whereas, our Lord teaches that "If any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not away" (Mt. 5:40-42),



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### NAME OF THE DENOMINATION

Therefore, be it Resolved, by the Second General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church that it change the name of the Church, in obedience to her Lord, and in love for our brethren in Christ of the National Presbyterian Church and Center of Washington, D.C.

#### 1974, p. 22, 2-17. Proposed Names for the Denomination

The following names were proposed for consideration:

1. National Reformed Church of America
2. The Presbyterian Church of America
3. International Presbyterian Church
4. Vanguard Presbyterian Church
5. Presbyterian Church in America
6. Presbyterian National Church
7. Historic Presbyterian Church
8. Evangelical Presbyterian Church
9. International Reformed Presbyterian Church
10. Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
11. Nationwide Presbyterian Church
12. Continuing Presbyterian Church
13. National Continuing Presbyterian Church
14. American Presbyterian Church
15. Christian Presbyterian Church
16. Presbyterian Church of Jesus Christ
17. Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States

#### 1974, p. 43, 2-25. The top three names chosen were:

- National Reformed Presbyterian Church
- International Presbyterian Church
- American Presbyterian Church

The Assembly selected National Reformed Presbyterian Church as the new name of the Church. (See 2-34, 2-45 - 2-49)

1974, p. 44, 2-34. The Rev. Kennedy Smartt made the following motion: As one who voted with the majority, I move that the Assembly reconsider the matter of the name of the denomination.

The matter was docketed as the first order of business at the afternoon session, with the instructions that all committees be present.

#### 1974, p. 48, 2-46. Names Placed in Nomination

The following names were placed in nomination for consideration:

- Presbyterian Church in America
- The Presbyterian Church
- International Presbyterian Church
- Grace Presbyterian Church
- Mission Presbyterian Church
- National Reformed Presbyterian Church
- American Presbyterian Church
- Presbyterian Church of the Americas

1974, p. 48, 2-47. It was determined that no name should be adopted without a two thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

1974, p. 48, 2-48. It was moved to deal with all of the names including some form of the word "America" separately, so that only one name appear on the final list. The name "Presbyterian Church in America" was chosen.

## PCA DIGEST

### NAME OF THE DENOMINATION

1974, p. 48, 2-49. On the vote on the remaining slate the name "Presbyterian Church in America" was chosen. The following is the tabulation of the votes:

Presbyterian Church in America . . . . .	302
The Presbyterian Church . . . . .	3
International Presbyterian Church . . . . .	27
Grace Presbyterian Church . . . . .	5
Mission Presbyterian Church . . . . .	6
National Reformed Presbyterian Church . . . . .	61

On a revote a total of 401 voted for Presbyterian Church in America.

1974, p. 70, 2-93. Resolved, that the Certificate of Incorporation of National Presbyterian Church (A Corporation) be amended so as to change the name of the corporation from National Presbyterian Church (A Corporation) to Presbyterian Church in America.

The Board of Directors or officers of this Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary or proper to change the name of this corporation to "Presbyterian Church in America."

The above resolution was presented by Ruling Elder Robert Cannada, Chairman of the Judicial Business Committee. It was adopted by the Assembly.

### NAPARC

(See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS)

### AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER OF MEMBERS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, NAPARC's Agreement on Transfer of Members, pp. 437-438)

### COMITY AGREEMENT (GOLDEN RULE)

(See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS, COMITY AGREEMENT)

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

(See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS)

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS)

### NEWS OFFICE

1984, p. 106, 12-36, III, 18. That because the PCA continues to grow nationally and internationally and because it is important to keep our mission before the world; that the General Assembly allow the CE/P Committee and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to develop a plan to establish a denominational news office and that a report of the progress be made to the 13th General Assembly.

### OFFICER

1986, p. 146, 14-67, III, 6. That the General Assembly appoint the editor of the *Messenger* as the News Officer of the Presbyterian Church in America and allocate appropriate funds for his activities, as partial fulfillment of the Business Carried Over, p. 65.

[Clerk's Note: No action was taken on the funding.]

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

#### BIOGRAPHICAL FORMS

1976, p. 86, 4-81, 5. The committee unanimously recommended that in the future Presbyteries be provided with a standardized form for submitting information to be used by the nominating committee. This form would include information such as: Presbytery, Committee, Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, Experience, Qualifications, Biographical data, etc. It was the opinion of the committee that the use of such a form would greatly facilitate the work of future nominating committees by providing standard information from all Presbyteries and also assist the Presbyteries in compiling and submitting this information.

1982, p. 80, 10-61, III, 1. That the General Assembly adopt a policy that all Biographical Forms be typewritten; that the Biographical Forms indicate the necessity; and that the Stated Clerk be instructed not to circulate handwritten Biographical Forms.

1989, p. 132, 17-81, II.

5. That the 17th GA instruct the permanent committees and boards of agencies of the Assembly to provide for the presbyteries job descriptions and lists of qualifications appropriate to the committee or agency, and that the Assembly encourage the presbyteries to nominate only those persons who meet these criteria.
6. That the 17th GA instruct its Nominating Committee to meet face to face rather than to conduct its business by mail and that the expenses be paid by the Administrative Committee.

1993, p. 133, 21-56, III, 13. That Overture 19 [to limit floor nominations] be answered in the negative, and keep the system we are using now. However we would strongly urge that the report of the nominating committee which is distributed at the General Assembly include the biographical sketches from the Commissioners' Handbook as well as those of the men who are nominated from the floor, so that commissioners, when voting, will have all the biographical material in one place and be able to see it at a glance., and that Overture 19 be amended by striking the first "Whereas" clause; and . . . *Adopted*

Grounds: At the time of the nominating committee's report it is difficult to keep up with two slates of nominees: one in the commissioner's bulky notebook and the other a few sheets of paper in hand. This would eliminate that difficulty.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1979, p. 105, 7-41, III, 24. That Overture 20 (p. 35) concerning increasing the term of office for the General Assembly Nominating Committee members to two years be answered in the affirmative.

#### COVENANT COLLEGE

1986, p. 136, 14-56, III, 6. That the 14th GA request the Board of Trustees of Covenant College in its communications with Presbyteries, and the GA Nominating Committee, in regard to prospective nominees for membership on the Board of Trustees, to include all of the responsibilities of members of the Board of Trustees, listed in the Bylaws of the corporation and not be restricted to the items mentioned in the Board of Trustees minutes dated October 24-25, 1985 Page 4, 85-27A.

#### COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1984, p. 156, 12-77, III, 16. That copies of the "Trustees Job Description" be sent to the Presbytery Stated Clerks by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to be forwarded to the chairmen of each nominating committee to guide the committee in nominating seminary trustees.

## PCA DIGEST

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

#### FUNDING

1990, p. 113, 18-40, III, 42.

Whereas, the Nominating Committee serves the entire General Assembly by providing a slate of nominees for all the committees and agencies of the PCA and

Whereas, the Administrative Committee is currently responsible for paying all the expenses incurred by the Nominating Committee;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Administrative Committee is instructed henceforth to divide the expenses incurred by the Nominating Committee equally among the permanent committees and agencies of the General Assembly effective next Fiscal Year; and

That these committees and agencies are instructed to make allowance in their budgets for anticipated Nominating Committee expenses effective the next Fiscal Year.

#### INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF

1976, p. 87, 4-83, II, C, 4. Motion was unanimously adopted that the Nominating Committee be informed that the board of Trustees does not admit the appointment of alternates.

1983, p. 158, 11-87, III, 6. That the General Assembly remind its Nominating Committee that deacons may be elected to the Board and that Assembly rules do not require a specific balance of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, that "geographical balance" is not required, and that the primary consideration for election to the Board of Trustees of the Insurance, Annuities, and Relief Funds should be qualification by background, training and experience for the responsibilities assigned to the Board.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

#### STANDING RULES

1977, p. 64, 5-35.

1. No person shall serve on the Nominating Committee two consecutive terms.
2. Every member of the Nominating Committee should make a reasonable effort to attend the next General Assembly.
3. The Nominating Committee should be reminded of paragraph 15-1 (9) of the *Book of Church Order* regarding proportionate representation wherever possible.
4. No Presbytery shall ordinarily be represented by more than one person nominated for any given Committee. This includes alternates.
5. A biographical form must accompany each name submitted to the Nominating Committee (See Appendix M).
6. Presbyteries should send names of nominees on forms to the Stated Clerk's office no later than six months prior to the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk will then make the forms available to the Convener of the Nominating Committee.
7. A list of members, by Presbytery currently serving on Permanent Committees, should be furnished to the Convener of the Nominating Committee by the Stated Clerk. The Directory of current Assembly Committees should indicate the Presbytery of each Committee member.
8. All nominees should be contacted by their Presbyteries to ascertain their availability and willingness to serve prior to submission of names to General Assembly's Nominating Committee.
9. None of the Standing Rules should be interpreted as to restrict nominations from the floor.

1987, p. 147, 15-65.

1. That the Assembly authorize the Stated Clerk to mail out ballots by simple first class mail and not certified, which is far more costly and time consuming.
2. That the Assembly ratify the election by the Committee of the Chairman and Secretary for next year, and authorize this as the standard procedure hereafter.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### NUCLEAR WARFARE

1988, p. 185, 16-80, 4. That the General Assembly Stated Clerk specify a dated deadline for the return of ballots and that the ballots must be post marked by that date to be counted.

1990, p. 115, 18-44, III.

1. That biographical data for all alternates desiring to continue to serve be included in the List of Nominations sent to the Nominating Committee members (Rainbow Book).
2. That the Clerk of the GA notify the stated clerks of the presbyteries of those presently serving on Boards and Committees who are eligible to be reelected, so that they may be renominated by their presbyteries.
3. That section 1.e. of the Nominating Committee RAO be changed from "Presbyteries should send names of nominees on forms to the Stated Clerk's office no later than six months prior to General Assembly." to "Presbyteries must send names of nominees on forms to the Stated Clerk's office no later than four months prior to General Assembly." (See New RAO 7-4)
4. That the Stated Clerk remind the Presidents and Boards of Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary that while the By-Laws allows (Article IV, Section 2 H 2,3) the boards to make recommendations, it does not make provisions for the president of the institutions, or any other officers, to make recommendations. In the future, recommendations concerning nominees will not be received by the Nominating Committee unless it is clear that these are recommendations from the board and not the president.
5. That the Nominating Committee recommend to the GA Administrative Committee that they develop and implement policies and procedures intended to facilitate the establishing and sustaining of two members of the Board of Trustees of Covenant College from other NAPARC Denominations and that this implementation be done in time for the consideration of persons for the 1991 slate of nominees.

### VACANCIES

1975, p. 61, 3-34. If there is one vacancy in the class, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, if he receives a majority of the votes cast. If no one receives a majority, a run off will be held between the two receiving the largest number of votes on the first ballot.

If there is more than one vacancy in the class, the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, if each receives a majority of the votes. If either does not receive a majority of the votes, there shall be a run off between each nominee and the man receiving the third highest number of votes.

### NUCLEAR WARFARE

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Nuclear Age, pp. 439-454)

1984, p. 105, 12-36, III, 9. That, in answer to overture 23 to the 1983 General Assembly, this Assembly direct Christian Education and Publications to establish a study committee to provide a report on the subject of pastoral guidance regarding nuclear armament and nuclear deterrence, and that the Committee be asked to present to the Thirteenth General Assembly any Christian viewpoints consistent with reformed theology.

1987, p. 101, 15-33. That the Fifteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, adopt the report entitled "Christian Responsibility in the Nuclear Age" as a reliable summary of biblical principles for pastoral guidance regarding nuclear armament and nuclear deterrence, and direct the Committee on Christian Education to make copies available to our constituency and other interested parties.

## PCA DIGEST

### OFFICERS

#### DEPOSITION

##### Ordination Status

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 30-5, 1982, 10-12, C)

##### Restoration

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 30-5, 1982, 10-12, C)

#### DIVORCED

(See also PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #51; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Qualifications for Officers of a Divorced Person, pp. 292-293)

1979, p. 106, 7-42. The task given the Ad Interim Theological Committee on Divorce was two-fold:

- 1) To review and re-study Part II of the Constitutional Documents Committee Report entitled "Interpretation of 1 Timothy 3:2, "the husband of one wife", and report to the Sixth General Assembly;
- 2) To consider and make recommendation concerning overture 12 from North Georgia Presbytery to the Fifth General Assembly;

Whereas, God's Word enjoins His people to recognize the legitimacy of divorce on the grounds of adultery, or desertion by an unbelieving partner only;

Whereas, our civil authorities have taken it upon themselves to recognize other than Scriptural grounds for divorce;

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Assembly appoint a committee to further investigate the practice of divorce and remarriage both within and without the PCA, to the end that specific conditions of divorce be incorporated in the Book of Church Order, as may be most conformable to the Word of God.

After a thorough discussion of the subject under consideration, the Committee adopted the following statement and recommendations for presentation to the Sixth General Assembly:

- I. The interpretation of Paul's qualification for church officers, "the husband of one wife," 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6.

Paul's qualification that an elder or deacon must be "the husband of one wife" has been interpreted mainly in four ways.

1. Some have held that any twice-married man is thereby disqualified for church office, and some devout scholars have translated Paul's words to read, "married only once." Nowhere in the Bible, however, is the remarriage of a widow or widower as such treated as a reflection upon that person's moral character. Consequently, this interpretation does not seem valid.
2. A second interpretation is that an elder must not be a polygamist or that he must not have more than one living wife or more than one woman living who has been his wife. Although scholars have differed in their judgment of the extent to which polygamy posed a problem for the church in Paul's day, the interpretation of Paul's words as excluding a polygamist from church office appears to be a valid one.
3. Some interpret Paul's qualification as directed against the divorce evil, which seems to have been rather common, and have understood Paul's words as disqualifying for church office a man who had divorced and remarried, or at least a man who had divorced on other than Scriptural grounds and remarried.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### OFFICERS

4. Still another interpretation is that a man called to office in the church must be a man of unquestioned moral integrity, a man who is free from any taint of sexual promiscuity or laxity, and who is strictly faithful to his one wife.

Each of the latter three of these views has certain merit as an interpretation of Paul's words, "the husband of one wife," both in the light of the immediate context (with its emphasis on the officer's being above reproach and his managing his own family well) and in the larger context of the whole Scripture. Paul's concern seems to involve this much at the very least, that the man chosen to be a church officer (whether elder or deacon) must be a man whose marital and family relationships are above reproach, and whose personal example gives no encouragement to lax morality.

#### II. Recommendations:

1. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to the Biblical position as summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter XXIV, regarding the integrity of marriage according to the Divine ideal as being for life.
2. That the General Assembly affirm that the integrity of marriage is founded upon God's Word, which declares that marriage is God's institution and should be God-centered, not man-centered. Both husband and wife are the Lord's servants and submit one to the other in terms of the Lord's purposes. They are, together, the Lord's creatures, called to serve Him, with one, the husband, exercising loving headship in that calling.
3. That the General Assembly declare that the Biblical idea for church office is exemplary conduct to the highest degree possible with regard to all of the qualifications set forth by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy and Titus 1.
4. That the General Assembly affirm that the Bible teaches that divorce is permissible in the case of sexual immorality (Deuteronomy 24: 1-4; Matthew 19:9) or willful desertion of a believer by an unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:15). The innocent party is therefore free to remarry, since he is no longer "under bondage" once properly divorced. (See *Westminster Confession of Faith*, XXIV-5) Any man who is divorced in accord with Biblical principles, whether remaining single or having remarried, may serve as a church officer.
5. That the General Assembly urge church courts to exercise special care in the cases of divorced/remarried persons who are considered for ordination, that where there has been divorce and remarriage on other than Scriptural grounds, guilt must be acknowledged and repentance for sin expressed.
6. That the General Assembly remind the Church that in order to be considered for church office the parties concerned in such cases must have been rehabilitated sufficiently in the confidence and respect of other Christians as to be able to fulfill in an exemplary way the requirements of church office with regard to marital and family relationships. The General Assembly reminds the Church and its courts that even when such care is exercised as is urged in this and the foregoing recommendation, there may be circumstances in which it would be inadvisable, even though technically permissible, for divorce/remarried persons to serve as church officers.
7. That the General assembly exhort sessions and presbyteries to follow Scriptural guidelines carefully in dealing with present or prospective church officers who have been divorced.
8. That the General Assembly answer Overture 12 from the Presbytery of North Georgia to the Fifth General Assembly, with regard to divorce and remarriage, by reference to the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter XXIV.

## PCA DIGEST

### OFFICERS

#### ELECTION OF

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 24-1, 1986, 14-52, 17; 1988, 16-77, 26)

1979, p. 101, 7-41, III 4. That answer 2 concerning the constitutionality of announcing in the church bulletin prior to election day the names of those who have been examined and approved by the Session for office, be amended as follows; and then answered in the affirmative:

The Committee answered that although the procedure in question is not specifically prohibited by *BCO* 25-1, it also is not provided for in that section.

Therefore, the Session is given latitude in interpreting the procedure outlined in the *Book of Church Order* 25-1 regarding announcement of officer nominees prior to the day of election.

The Session is to examine all those nominated and report to the congregation those eligible for election at the time of the congregational meeting. This is to say the Session is providing the slate for elections.

Grounds: 1) *Book of Church Order* 25-1 does not state that an announcement is not to be made prior to the election of officers; only that one is to be made on the day of the election.

1979, p. 101, 7-41, III 5. That answer 3 regarding nominees to church office and the proper procedure regarding these nominees be approved. The Committee answered that the Session does not have the authority to delete names of nominees prior to their examination.

1980, p. 119, 8-88, III, 20. ...[That] the General Assembly declare[s] that the local sessions are to determine whether names submitted to it of prospective church officers are indeed "active male members who meet the qualifications of the Word." And that local sessions should consistently apply their interpretation of what it means to be "active" from year to year or so inform the congregations of any changes. Furthermore that men should not be nominated with the hopes that the high offices of Elder or Deacon will make them more faithful or interested in the Church but because they have shown unfailing interest in the worship and work by their past diligence."

#### EMERITUS

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 24-9, 1985, 13-45, 50; 1987, 15-83, 10)

1984, p. 81, 12-10.

Whereas, many of our elders and deacons emeritus have become emeritus officers prior to the Assembly's motion, and

Whereas, the rules these men understood when they became emeritus officers have now changed to disallow their voting privileges,

Therefore, be it resolved that this ruling not be retroactive, but only apply to those becoming elders or deacons emeritus after this Assembly's conclusion.

#### NUMBER OF OFFICES

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Number of Offices, pp. 455-497)

### ORDINATION VOWS

#### Exceptions

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 21-5, 1984, 12-53, 69, 2(A); 1984, 12-73; 1984, 12-83)

#### QUALIFICATIONS (REGARDING DIVORCE)

(See DIVORCED; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #51; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Qualifications for Officers of a Divorced Person, pp. 292-293)



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

#### REMOVAL OF

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 24-6, 1986, 14-52, 16; 1986, 14-52, 44)

#### ROTATION OF

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 3-1, 1986, 14-52, 16, 2; *BCO* 24-1, 1986, 14-52, 17; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #8)

#### ORDINATION

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY)

#### PAEDOCOMMUNION

(See COMMUNION; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Paedocommunion, pp. 498-515)

#### PALMER HOME FOR CHILDREN

1974, p. 80, 2-104, II, B, 13. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly receive as information the following communication from the MUS Committee: "MUS brings to the attention of the PCA the availability of the Palmer Home, Columbus, Mississippi, for the care of orphans and dependents from broken homes."

#### PARENTS' EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, IV, pp. 128-139)

#### PASTORS

(See MINISTER)

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

#### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR

1988, p. 114, 16-14. Therefore, be it so resolved that this 16th General Assembly of the PCA request all her churches to sense their obligations and to fully participate with this Fund Raising Committee in their directed responsibility by the 15th PCA General Assembly to retire the purchased office building debt. Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be communicated to each PCA church.

#### LOCATION OF

1973, p. 56, 1-75. The action on location of Committee offices, item 13 under 1-72, was reconsidered, and amended to read: That the four Committees of the General Assembly with their offices and staff be authorized to operate from separate locations during the first five years.

1976, p. 83, 4-79, J, 5. That the Assembly authorize the Committee on Administration to conduct an in-depth study on consolidation of Church Committee locations and make recommendations to the 1977 General Assembly in reference to this. The report to include the economic consideration of the consolidation, the location, and time of consolidation. That any previous instruction of the General Assembly relating to a time limit that requires the consolidation of the Assembly Committee Offices be removed.

## PCA DIGEST

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

1977, p. 79, 5-79, III, 3. The Assembly postponed for an additional five years (understood to be added to the original five year period, which ends in December 1978) the decision on whether or not to consolidate the four offices of the General Assembly.

1981, p. 156, 9-80, III, 14. That the General Assembly authorize its Committees to consider a single geographical location, the Committee on Administration having the responsibility to coordinate the search and to make recommendations to the Tenth General Assembly.

1982, p. 69, 10-33, 5. That the Assembly approve relocating the Business Administrator's office to the same city as the Computer Center, and thus the same city as many of the Committees of the General Assembly.

1982, p. 69, 10-33, 15. That the General Assembly approve locating the offices of the Assembly's Committees in one geographical location.

Rationale: The Assembly has the right to determine whether or not there will be a centralized location, and likewise to make the selection of the location (if desired).

1982, p. 69, 10-33, 16. That the permanent location be recommitted to COA for further study. Rationale: prerogative of the Assembly to make the determination.

1982, p. 76, 10-48, III, 26. That the General Assembly authorize the Permanent Committees to enter into real estate property leases not to exceed terms of three years, pending decision as to permanent location.

1983, p. 80, 11-30, 11. That the greater Atlanta area be named the permanent location of the offices of the PCA that are in the greater Atlanta area and urge serious consideration of common office space for all committees and agencies, and that the Committee on Administration be authorized to purchase or lease common office space, if agreeable to the four permanent committees and agencies located in the greater Atlanta area, with report of studies completed or action taken to the Twelfth General Assembly.

1984, p. 184, 12-90, III, 13. That the Committee on Administration be empowered to act on behalf of the PCA to lease common office space as soon as possible taking into consideration present lease arrangements and foreseeable space requirements for the Permanent Committees and the office of the Stated Clerk, consistent with sound economic policy. The motion is explained by:

- A. That no present leases of the General Assembly committees and agencies in the Atlanta area be extended beyond the present expiration dates without the concurrence of the Chairman of the permanent Committee on Administration.
- B. That on or before January, 1986, the committees and agencies in the Atlanta area hold leases in a common office location.
- C. That the cost of shared space, not exceed current cumulative costs of the Permanent Committees and office of the Stated Clerk with allowance for anticipated growth or expansion as reflected in the approved General Assembly budgets.
- D. That the general maintenance and oversight of the facilities will be under COA.
- E. Following the move of the committees' and agencies' offices to a common location, a series of studies by COA be undertaken to gather information in areas of: cost analysis of consolidation; financial feasibility study regarding purchase or construction of a facility; development of a plan for financing. This is to be reported to the 15th General Assembly.
- F. By 1988 the COA will present to General Assembly a plan for its approval regarding the purchase or construction of a facility to house the denominational offices.
- G. It is understood that application of this recommendation to the Trustees of Insurance, Annuities and Relief Funds shall be subject to the documents governing operations of the Trustees previously approved by the General Assembly.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

1986, p. 171, 14-74, III, 16. That the recommendation of the COA "that the denomination purchase building or land and build to suit the needs of the PCA" be deferred to the 15th General Assembly and further that requirements of the 12th General Assembly, *M12GA*, p. 164, 12-90, III 13 relating to a series of studies to justify such proposed action be completed and presented to the 15th General Assembly as instructed by the General Assembly.

1987, p. 191, 15-92, III, 35. That the 15th General Assembly approve the purchase of 1852 Century Place, Atlanta, Georgia or a similar building to house General Assembly offices along with the following:

- i. That ownership of the proposed building be in the name of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation)
- ii. That COA be authorized to appoint real estate agent Ronald O'Keefe, COA Coordinator Earl Witmer, IAR Director James Hughes, RE Charles Lowry (COA member), TE William Fox (COA Chairman) and the COA Advisory Committee consisting of Allen Duble, William Gordy, Robert Liken, Allen Morris, Robert Morrison, Louis Philhower, and Loyd Strickland to negotiate all aspects of the purchase of the facility on behalf of the PCA.

1987, p. 192, 15-92, III, 36. That the General Assembly adopt the memorandum "To: Coordinators" (June 9, 1987) regarding procedural matters relating to office consolidation and the purchase of the proposed building.

Revised Copy as of June 9, 1987

TO: Coordinators

FROM: Charles Dunahoo

RE: Procedural Matters

Please read the following and see if I have represented our conclusions properly.

- I. Procedures for things relating to office consolidation.
  - A. There will be two levels of decision making regarding the consolidation of space, service and functions.
    1. Level One: A unanimous decision by all coordinators and agency "heads" located in the Decatur offices. If these decisions impact the Conference Center, College and Seminary, those agency "heads" will also be involved in the process.
    2. Level Two: Partial consolidation of space, services and function will be handled in the following manner: In any area in which the group considers consolidating space, services or functions, any member has the right not to participate in such consolidation. A decision not to participate would constitute grounds for non-participation, but would not prohibit others who desire to consolidate in any given area from doing so.  
These procedures will be reviewed and evaluated at the January 1988 Coordinator's Meeting.
    3. A space planner will be used initially for a feasibility study and to make recommendations for the above. Decisions will be made with those recommendations either at level One or Level Two.
    4. Any CEO can bring before the entire group thoughts, suggestions and/or recommendations regarding space, services or functions. Levels One and/or Two will be used in each case.
- II. Goal.
  - A. For the PCA to own the building and be managed by COA.
  - B. If A. is not possible immediately then IAR is asked to own the building for 12 months up to five years and lease it to the PCA.

## PCA DIGEST

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

#### III. Immediate Situation

It was agreed upon at the June 8, 1987 meeting of the coordinators that the following contingencies must be met before proceeding with the purchase of a building.

- A. That the cost of rent governed by each committee's and agency's 1987-88 budget is not to exceed \$12 per square foot.
- B. That a safety net be established. This is an adequate reserve (at least \$100,000) held by COA as a contingency fund to cover the needed operational and debt retirement cash flow.

Examples:

- (1) \$100,000 available through MTW already approved
  - (2) Balloon loan, with payment of interest only
  - (3) Accounts receivable approval from IAR--allowing partial debt-retirement payments
- C. That a down payment and moving cost fund of \$1.2 million on \$2.3 million purchase must be donated. Any purchase price increase over \$2.3 million increases the needed donations.
  - D. That of the necessary down payment there must be at least one-half in cash up front and commitments for the remainder within three (3) years.

1990, p. 92, 18-32, III, 19. MTW Gift to the Administrative Committee for the Building

On motion the Assembly voted to approve of and concur with the gift to the Administrative Committee and that the terms be printed in our minutes. The Agreement is herewith included (see Appendix L, Attachment 12 for background):

#### AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into between the Committee on Mission to the World of the Presbyterian Church in America (hereinafter "MTW") and the Administrative Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America (hereinafter "AC") on the 15th Day of March, 1990.

Whereas, MTW wishes to make a conditional gift of \$750,000 to be applied toward the indebtedness of the PCA Office Building, located at 1852 Century Place, Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, AC desires to accept the gift and to affirm its willingness to abide by the conditions of the gift:

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth in this Agreement,

IT IS AGREED:

- 1. *Term of Agreement.* This Agreement shall be in effect until the sale of the present PCA Office Building.
- 2. *Application of Gift.* MTW shall pay AC the sum of \$750,000 to be applied in its entirety to the current indebtedness on the PCA Office Building.
- 3. *Conditions of Gift.* AC agrees to accept the gift, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The gift by MTW and the conditions of this Agreement are to be kept confidential and are not be published by AC.
  - b. At the end of 1992, the remaining indebtedness on the PCA Office Building shall be refinanced for a term of ten (10) years more or less by AC.
  - c. During that period covered by the refinancing of the indebtedness, AC shall charge rents for occupants which are reasonably competitive with the rents for comparable facilities in the area.
  - d. A reserve fund shall be created by AC to be used exclusively for the necessary repairs, replacement, improvements, depreciation, and expansion of the building for future PCA needs.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

- e. All funds received by AC from churches, foundations or individuals for the Building Fund which are not needed for the periodic mortgage payments, operational expenses of the building or the reserve fund shall be placed in a separate interest-bearing account. Such funds shall not be used to prepay the mortgage unless they are sufficient to prepay the indebtedness in full. In the event of prepayment of the mortgage in full, the rents charged by AC shall continue at a rate sufficient to accumulate a surplus which shall be deposited in this fund over a reasonable length of time, not to exceed the refinancing term, which is sufficient to repay to MTW the \$750,000 or any remaining balance thereof. If at any time during the term of said refinancing there are not sufficient funds in the Building Account to meet the periodic mortgage payments, the operating expenses of the building, or the reserve fund, funds in this surplus account may be withdrawn to meet this need.
  - f. Upon the completion of the refinancing period, all funds remaining in the account established under the terms of e. above shall be returned by AC to MTW. Such repayment shall not exceed the sum of \$750,000. In the event of prepayment of the mortgage in full, and upon the accumulation of \$750,000 in the account established under the terms of e. above, AC shall pay MTW \$750,000 at such time.
  - g. If the present PCA Office Building is sold and the proceeds of the sale are not invested in another PCA Office Building, AC shall pay to MTW a sum equal to twenty percent (20%) of the net proceeds of the sale less any sum paid to MTW under the terms of e. above.
- 4. *Termination.* This Agreement may be terminated only upon the written consent of both parties.
  - 5. *Successors.* This Agreement shall be binding on the parties and their successors and assigns.
  - 6. *Amendments.* This agreement may not be changed orally, but only by a writing signed by both MTW and AC.
  - 7. *Disputes and Governing Law.* Any dispute between MTW and AC concerning this Agreement shall be adjudicated by any mutually agreeable arbitrator; otherwise, there shall be three (3) arbitrators, one named in writing by each party to this Agreement within five (5) days after notice of arbitration is served by either party on the other party and the third arbitrator (who shall not be a member of either party's permanent committee) selected by those two (2) arbitrators within five (5) days thereafter. No one shall serve as an arbitrator who is in any way financially interested in this Agreement or in the affairs of either party to this Agreement. Arbitrators shall be members of the Presbyterian Church in America, and all proceedings shall be subject to the principles of Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 and the procedures of *Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America. Any costs incurred in the arbitration of a dispute shall be paid by one or both parties, as determined by the arbitrator(s). The parties to this Agreement specifically agree not to litigate any dispute arising out of the Agreement in any civil court.

Committee on Mission to the World of the Presbyterian Church in America

/s/ W. Jack Williamson 3/20/90

Administrative Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America

/s/ William S. Henderson 3/23/90

## PCA DIGEST

### PCA OFFICE BUILDING

#### SUB-LET TENANTS

1993, p. 173, 21-64, III, 4. That the 21st General Assembly adopt as policy that no committee or agency may move from the PCA Office Building without prior approval of the General Assembly, or the Board of Directors of the PCA when the situation requires action before the General Assembly meets. *Adopted*

Grounds: The Administrative Committee became aware of this problem when a sub-let tenant moved out. While this caused no difficulties with revenue, it showed the risk of future shortfall. The building was purchased to reduce costs and was rented to gain funds to pay off the building.

### PORNOGRAPHY

(See also PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Pornography, p. 542)

1984, p. 103, 12-31, IV, 7. That Overture 54, be answered in the affirmative and that an observer be selected, preferably from the Cincinnati area.

1984, p. 43, 12-10. Overture 54 ...[That] the General Assembly meeting in Baton Rouge in June, 1984, to send one official PCA observer to the National Consultation on Pornography and Obscenity in Cincinnati, September 6-7, 1984 and report back to the PCA through an article in the *PCA Messenger*.

1989, p. 151, 17-82, III, 4. Whereas the use of pornography is a sinful abuse of God's gift of sexuality;

Therefore be it resolved, that the General Assembly urge all courts, committees and agencies of the PCA to exercise care in the selection of meeting sites and suppliers.

Be it further resolved, that the General Assembly urge the members of the congregations of our denomination, in conformity with their Biblical calling as a part of the church of Christ, to be involved in various efforts of fighting pornography in our land. (cf *M13GA*, p. 133, 13-65, II, 5)

### POWER OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ACTIONS; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 15-1, 1985, 13-45, 47, #4)

### PRAYER

(See DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING)

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### BYLAWS

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### ESTATE AND TRUST DESIGN AND REVIEW SERVICE

1993, p. 90, 21-40, III, 3. That each local church be encouraged to consider the various ways the Foundation can serve them. Seminars, live and video, and our Estate and Trust Design and Review Service are available to be used to better inform God's people regarding more effective management of God's assets. *Adopted*

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

#### FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT

1976, p. 81, 4-75, II, B, 3. That a Planned Deferred Giving Program be initiated and established as per paper "A". (See Appendix H, p. 197)

1976, p. 197, Appendix H, Paper "A".

#### REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP A DEFERRED GIVING MINISTRY

The purpose of this paper is to examine the question of the Presbyterian Church in America embarking upon a ministry of deferred giving within the frame work of the overall stewardship program of the denomination. The basic question is: Can the church participate in a deferred giving program and still be faithful to the Word of God and be consistent with the Confessional Standards of the church? We believe that the answer is: YES!!!

#### DEFERRED GIFTS DEFINED

Simply stated, a deferred gift is a gift for which legal provision is made during the donor's lifetime, but whose principal benefits do not accrue to the institution until some future time.

Deferred gifts are usually received upon the death of the individual donor and/or his income beneficiary, but may be received during donor's lifetime such as an inter vivos gift.

If the gift is made upon the death of the individual it generally takes the form of a bequest in a will, a trust fund, or life insurance. If the gift is made while the donor is living it usually takes the form of a living trust, an annuity, or gifts of cash, stock or real estate.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S POSITION

In recognition of the concern for carrying the Great Commission given us by our Lord and being of practical assistance to our constituency, the Presbyterian Church in America should embark upon a ministry of deferred giving.

A foundation should be established to encourage, and advise our membership on their God given responsibilities to themselves, their families and to their church. The foundation should also receive, invest, and distribute gifts for the fulfilling of the ministry of the Church.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S REASONING

The committee believes that there is absolutely no question regarding the wisdom of the proper planning of one's estate so as to make future provisions of an individual's family or for making gifts to the Lord's work through the means of wills, life insurance, or inter vivos gifts.

One question of concern that must be properly handled in order to be consistent with God's Word and the Doctrines of the Church is the correct guidelines for receiving, administering, investing and distributing such gifts. It is evident from Scripture that wise planning and investing for the future, as in the example of Joseph "storing up for the lean years" in Genesis 41 and the wise investing of money by the servants in our Lord's parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-29 and proper ways to be just stewards of the worldly possession given us by God. The Church of Jesus Christ can wisely invest the Lord's treasure and still not be considered as competing "in the world's market place."

Hence the committee recommends that strong guidelines be drawn that would:

- (a) Exclude investment in stock in the liquor, tobacco, and gambling industries and all other stocks which would play upon a weakness of the human nature.
- (b) Establish a firm policy that prohibits the hoarding of assets beyond the liabilities of the foundation and requires regular distribution thereof as prescribed by the General Assembly.
- (c) Forbid the Church from ever assuming an active role in a competitive business through management, voting of stocks, or use of stock for political pressure.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

We believe that the scope of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America within the world is limited only by our own vision and resources. A deferred giving program would be a great supplement to the resources of the church. It would be impossible for a deferred program to ever raise the total operational budget of a church. The needs of our denomination are great and the challenges and opportunities so vast that the resources needed could never be over-subscribed; and the continued challenge to our members to regularly tithe is an absolute necessity as the main method for the financial support of our Church. But wise use of our time, talent and treasure in the light of Scripture demands that we provide every opportunity for Christian liberality among our brethren; and this should include a ministry of deferred giving.

1976, p. 81, 4-75, II, B, 4. That the PCA Foundation be created by the adoption of the enabling resolution. (See the Resolution at the end of this report.) (See paragraph 4-76. Item I, 10 for Funding provision.)

#### RESOLUTION ON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Be It Resolved

1. That there is hereby established a Sub-Committee for a deferred giving ministry, which Sub-Committee shall be known as: **THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICAN FOUNDATION**
2. That the manual for this Sub-Committee, (See Appendix H, page 198) to this Resolution, be and the same is hereby adopted as its operating policy.
3. That this Manual may be amended only by a majority vote of the General Assembly.
4. That this Sub-Committee's operations shall be supervised by the Sub-Committee on Stewardship; and that it shall annually report to the General Assembly through the Sub-Committee on Stewardship.
5. That the Director of Stewardship Ministries shall serve as administrative and development officer of the Foundation; and that the office of the Foundation shall be the office of the Director of Stewardship Ministries.
6. That the following are nominated to be the initial Trustees, to wit...
7. This Sub-Committee shall not be considered a Permanent Sub-Committee under Book of Church Order, Section 15-1(12), as it relates to nominations and service.
8. The first named trustee elected shall serve as initial convener of the Board of Trustees.
9. That the Board of Trustees develop guidelines for operation in accordance with the principles set forth in Paper "A" entitled "A Deferred Giving Ministry" and submit such guidelines for review and approval at the 1977 General Assembly.

1977, p. 97, 5-96, III, B. That the Presbyterian Church in America Foundation be made a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Administration.

Grounds:

1. To clarify the organizational structure for the better understanding of and operation of the PCA Foundation.
2. To separate, to a proper degree, the types of giving ministries and opportunities existing within the PCA.

1977, p. 234, Appendix K. The Presbyterian Church in America Foundation was established by the Fourth General Assembly. It now operates as a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Administration. The Foundation has been established for the promotion of creative giving designed to promote the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Foundation offers three avenues for wide use of a believer's financial and material assets. The Foundation aids the Christian in (1) planning his financial future, (2) providing a regular income for life and (3) establishing a continuing gift for the Lord's work. The Foundation offers our constituency a means of investing their money specifically for use by a genuinely Christian church while saving for their own later years.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

1980, p. 107, 8-79, III.

4. That an ad hoc committee be appointed by the moderator of the General Assembly, two members from each of the Committees of the General Assembly, two members of the Sub-committee on Stewardship, and two members of the trustees of the PCA Foundation. The purpose of the committee will be to study the proposed plan for operation of PCA Foundation as outlined (Appendix I, pp. 212-213) for the Eighth General Assembly and to report to the Ninth General Assembly through the Committee of Commissioners of PCA Foundation. That each committee and sub-committee bear the expense of its representatives. This committee to give particular attention to the following specific issues:
  - a. Whether Foundation activities be restricted to receiving, accumulation, managing, investing and disbursing capital funds, stocks, property, etc.
  - b. If the Foundation should also be allowed to solicit funds, gifts, bequests, etc.
  - c. To consider the relationship of the Foundation to the Sub-committee on Stewardship and to the four permanent committees.
  - d. Whether the Foundation should have a full-time director, and if so, what should his qualifications and duties be. *Adopted*
5. That the ad hoc committee develop and present to the Ninth General Assembly a plan to place the operation of the PCA Foundation under the rules for General Assembly operation and bylaws. *Adopted*

1981, p. 115, 9-56, II, B. That Ad Hoc Committee Report as assigned by the Eighth General Assembly (M8GA, p. 107). The main thrust of the report dealt with the need of a coordinating agency which would recommend to the General Assembly goals, strategy, and coordinated use of funds by the major program committees to accomplish the one major mission of the Church. It was proposed that this agency be a strengthened and enlarged Sub-committee on Stewardship.

1983, p. 113, 11-48, III.

1. That the PCA Foundation become a separate agency of the church, similar to Covenant College, Covenant Seminary, Ridge Haven, and Insurance, Annuities and Relief. Grounds: The PCA Foundation has a specialized ministry and a fiduciary responsibility.
2. That, if the PCA Foundation becomes a separate agency as recommended above, the future funding of the PCA Foundation, starting with the 1984 budget, be provided by each of the following agencies paying an equal share of the PCA Foundation's budget: the four major Committees of the General Assembly, Covenant College, Covenant Seminary and Ridge Haven.

1988, p. 132, 16-55, III, 4. That the 16th General Assembly approve the inclusion of the Relief Fund of Insurance, Annuities & Relief as one of the Committees and Agencies supporting and represented by the PCA Foundation. In the case of the distribution of undesignated funds, the Relief Fund is to share in the following manner: 25% of an equal share in FY/89 and an additional 25% share of an equal share for each fiscal year thereafter until a full share is attained by approved. *Adopted*

1993, p. 90, 21-40, III, 4. That the PCA Foundation be directed to use in the future promotional literature the policy stated in the August 15, 1992 minutes of the PCA Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting 08-15-3e - that "capital gains or losses for A and C accounts will be tracked independently of original principal contributions in a capital reserve account. Upon termination of the A and C/P account net capital gains will accrue to the Foundation for its use. Net capital losses will be charged against original principal contributions. Investment risk will be borne by the principal of each account." *Adopted*

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

#### FUNDING

1976, p. 83, 4-76, I, 10. That the 1976 interest money on the Challenge Fund be given to the PCA Foundation (See paragraph 4-75) for seed money to defer their administrative expenses.

1977, p. 96, 5-96, II. It was noted that an anonymous challenge gift of \$20,000 has been offered to the General Assembly's Foundation contingent upon the Assembly's commitment of \$25,000 to the Foundation during 1978.

The Commissioners entertained the question of how the Foundation's administrative expenses should be funded after 1978. Several concepts were discussed among which are the following:

- A. To have the General Assembly fund the Foundation's administrative and operating expenses as they do the Sub-Committee on Stewardship.
- B. To take a percentage "off the top" of all gifts to the Foundation to cover administrative costs.
- C. To find donors who would loan the Foundation \$1,000,000 for five years interest free, the income to cover operating expenses.
- D. To enlist individuals to contribute to the support of the Foundation's administrative expenses; e.g. 300 individuals giving \$250 per year.

This Committee suggests that the General Assembly be aware of these four possibilities, and that they be recorded here to be considered by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation and future Assemblies.

1979, p. 73, 7-16, III.

2. That the 1980 budget be approved as submitted, and that the Board of Trustees be allowed to raise the 1980 budget by private solicitation.

*Deferred. Adopted par. 7-90, p. 138*

5. That beginning in the year 1981, and thereafter, the Foundation budget be included for funding as the other committees until such time the Foundation becomes self-supporting.

*Adopted*

1980, p. 108, 8-79, III.

6. That the Foundation continue to operate in 1980 in accordance with its present plan of operation funded by contributions of \$500 from each of the four permanent committees.

*Adopted*

8. That the 1981 Foundation be funded by contributions from the four permanent committees according to their ratio of sharing in undesignated gifts as determined by the Eighth General Assembly.

*Adopted*

1981, p. 115, 9-56, III.

6. That the General Assembly reaffirms its earlier restricting the activity of the PCA Foundation to receiving, accumulating, managing and disbursing capital funds, stocks, property, etc., in the development of a program of deferred giving.
7. That the General Assembly encourage the PCA Foundation to develop its program around the concept of service rather than fund raising; and that the term "solicit" be limited to the interpretation of its service to its constituents rather than any direct asking for funds.
9. That the PCA Foundation and the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee eventually shall have separate full-time directors. Each organization will be responsible to prepare a job description and qualifications for its own director which shall be approved by the General Assembly. Each organization will nominate its own Director for Assembly's approval. The salary of the Directors shall not exceed that of the Coordinators of the permanent committees.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

10. That the funding of the PCA Foundation and the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee be through the Committee on Administration; and that to forestall a financial crisis for that Committee, the following plan be adopted:
  - a. All undesignated General Assembly income be shared equally by all permanent committees in 1982, 1983 with 25% allotted to each committee.
  - b. The existing 1981 formula for support of the Stewardship Committee and PCA Foundation be continued through 1982; the 1983 support be worked out by the Committee on Stewardship in conjunction with MTW, MUS, and CE&P Committees and be reported to the 1982 General Assembly.

1982, p. 116, 10-90, III, 15. That we hear and adopt the Permanent Committee's recommendation for the 1983 support of PSCSM, and PCA Foundation.

The funding of the PCA Foundation and PSCSM be through the budget of the COA, and that to forestall a financial crisis for that committee, the following plan be adopted:

- a. All undesignated General Assembly income be shared equally by all Permanent Committees in 1983, with 25% allocated to each committee.
- b. The other three Permanent Committees temporarily support the funding of the PCA Foundation and PSCSM through diminishing contributions to the Committee on Administration according to the formula outlined below until normal funding is attained:
  - 1) Any short-fall shall be attributed to PCA Foundation and PSCSM.
  - 2) The short-fall will be deducted from undesignated giving in equal amounts prior to transfer to the other three committees.
  - 3) The deduction will be made each month when required.
  - 4) Any month that the year-to-date income exceeds the current year-to-date budget, the deduction will not take place.
- c. That the funding of the PSCSM and the PCA Foundation be passed on by the COA in an amount equal to the percentage of income to COA after receipt of shortfall funds from the other three committees.

1983, p. 113, 11-48, III.

3. That the unrestricted and undesignated funds received by the PCA Foundation be dispersed equally between the following agencies; the four major Committees of the General Assembly, Covenant College, Covenant Seminary, and Ridge Haven.
8. That the General Assembly direct the PCA Foundation to establish procedures for dispersing funds which were received as restricted but undesignated funds and the donor of such funds dies before a designation for disbursement is given by that donor.

Grounds: The representative of the PCA Foundation advised that the above contingency had not been addressed and a policy established. As certain substantial gifts had been made to the Foundation as restricted but undesignated gifts, this matter needs to be addressed.

1985, p. 131, 13-64, III, 1. That the current funding of the budget (funded equally by the 4 committees and 3 agencies) be continued for another year, through June, 1986. *Adopted*

1986, p. 121, 14-46, III.

7. Ridge Haven was permitted to withdraw from its participation in the PCA Foundation. *Adopted*
8. As per the directives of the 13th General Assembly the Foundation Board of Directors has considered the current method of funding its annual budget by the four committees and two agencies of the PCA. Any undesignated gifts received by the Foundation are distributed equally to the four committees and two agencies. *Adopted*

#### MANUAL

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

#### MEMORIAL GIFT PROGRAM

1977, p. 234, Appendix K. A Memorial Gift Program has been established and materials have been distributed to every church in the Assembly. Designated gifts from this program are distributed to the Committees so named. Undesignated funds received are accumulated and then distributed periodically in the percentage amounts established by the General Assembly for the four standing Committees.

1981, p. 115, 9-56, III, 5. That each church be encouraged to participate in the Memorial Gift Program.

[Note: Reaffirmed in succeeding years.]

#### MINUTES

1982, p. 120, 10-94, III.

3. That the Assembly direct the PCA Foundation to include in their minutes specific descriptions of the recipients to which designated contributions were distributed.
4. That the "Resolutions by Written Consent of the Board of Directors of PCA Foundation, Inc." be approved.

1993, p. 90, 21-40, III, 4. That the PCA Foundation be directed to use in the future promotional literature the policy stated in the August 15, 1992 minutes of the PCA Foundation, Inc. Board Meeting 08-15-3e - that "capital gains or losses for A and C accounts will be tracked independently of original principal contributions in a capital reserve account. Upon termination of the A and C/P account net capital gains will accrue to the Foundation for its use. Net capital losses will be charged against original principal contributions. Investment risk will be borne by the principal of each account." *Adopted*

#### UNDESIGNATED GIFTS

(See also FUNDING)

1986, p. 121, 14-46, III, 8. As per the directives of the 13th General Assembly the Foundation Board of Directors has considered the current method of funding its annual budget by the four committees and two agencies of the PCA. Any undesignated gifts received by the Foundation are distributed equally to the four committees and two agencies.

### PRESBYTERY

#### BOOK OF OBLIGATIONS

1976, p. 72, 4-71, III, C. With respect to the inquiry from Rev. Crowell Cooley regarding the signing of the Book of Obligation, it is the Committee's opinion that it is proper for a candidate to sign at the convenience of Presbytery once he is approved by Presbytery to be ordained or in the case of an incoming pastor when he is received by Presbytery. Until a pastor has signed the Book of Obligation he is not a member of Presbytery.

#### BOUNDARIES

(See also ENROLLMENT; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #42)

1974, p. 62, 2-74. GUIDELINES FOR SIZE OF PRESBYTERIES We might mention here that Communication #3 stated: "1) after the initial formation of the Presbyteries the right of presbytery sovereignty be acknowledged so as to prevent the diminishing or enlarging of Presbyteries' boundaries without the direct consent of those bodies and 2) that it shall be recommended to these courts that a) their size shall be limited, generally to a diameter of 150 miles in order to maintain Elder participation and b) that their number shall be limited, generally, to 40 churches so that genuine fellowship may be had by all the constituting ministers and churches."

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

**PRESBYTERY BOUNDARIES** After each group met separately, their recommendations to the Committee for presbytery boundaries were these:

**TEXAS** - state of Texas.

**LOUISIANA - LOUISIANA PRESBYTERY** (Louisiana west of Mississippi River plus West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, and Livingston parishes.

**GRACE** - Same as PCUS Presbytery of South Mississippi plus Louisiana west to LOUISIANA Presbytery border.

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY** - same as PCUS Presbytery of Central Mississippi

**COVENANT** - Same as PCUS Presbytery of St. Andrew plus state of Arkansas and Tennessee west of Tennessee River.

**EVANGEL** - same as PCUS Presbyteries of North Alabama, Birmingham and East Alabama.

**WARRIOR** - same as PCUS Presbytery of Tuscaloosa plus Washington, Clarke, Monroe, and Conecuh counties.

**GULF COAST** - northwest Florida east to and including Madison and Taylor counties plus Mobile, Baldwin, and Escambia counties in Alabama.

**SOUTHERN FLORIDA** - southern Florida up to Tampa/Orlando area.

**CENTRAL GEORGIA** - central and southern Georgia up to and including Harris, Talbot, Upson, Lamar, Butts, Jasper, Morgan, Greene, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties.

**NORTH GEORGIA** - northern Georgia down to CENTRAL GEORGIA border.

**CALVARY** - state of South Carolina.

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA** - western North Carolina east to and including Allegheny, Wilkes, Alexander, Caldwell, Burkner, and Cleveland counties.

**CAROLINA** - eastern North Carolina, west to WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA border.

**MID-ATLANTIC** - State of Maryland and Virginia west to and including Loudon, Fauquier, Rappahannock, Madison, Greene, Albemarle, Nelson, Amherst, Bedford, and Pittsylvania counties, and Morgan, Jefferson and Berkley counties in West Virginia.

**NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY** - West Virginia except Morgan, Jefferson and Berkley counties and Virginia east to MID-ATLANTIC border and down to and including Giles, Montgomery, Floyd, and Patrick counties in Virginia.

**TENNESSEE VALLEY** - central and southeastern Tennessee up to and including Claiborne, Grainger, Hamblen, and Cocke counties and west to Tennessee River.

**WESTMINSTER** - northeastern Tennessee down to TENNESSEE VALLEY BORDER and southwestern Virginia up to NEW RIVER border.

**\*VANGUARD** - state of Kentucky.

**PACIFIC**

(Names marked by an asterisk are merely suggestions and/or geographical designations; names must be finally determined by each presbytery. Other names are as already determined by existing presbyteries.)

**FURTHER GUIDELINES** We know that other presbyteries will possibly be formed - and there will be certain situations that will need to be handled as individual cases, but in seeking to fulfill the purpose for which this Committee was brought into being - to recommend Presbytery Boundaries - we recommend the following:

1. That the tentative boundaries proposed in the report be approved and the effective date be January 1, 1975 (being flexible or fluid until that time.)

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

2. That the General Assembly recognize and insure the right of any individual church to petition its presbytery to alter presbytery lines to exclude that particular church from the boundaries proposed.

3. Recommend that any new work outside of present Presbytery boundaries begun after the close of the 2nd General Assembly seek the advice of the Mission to the US Committee before uniting with a Presbytery.

4. That, if General Assembly feels it necessary, this Committee continue to work with any problems that might arise in this area of boundaries, until January 1, 1975.

1975, p. 25, 3-5. The [ASCENSION] presbytery recommended the following boundaries be set by the Assembly: Eastern border starting at the northern boundary of Pennsylvania including the following counties: McKean, Elk, Clearfield. Blair and Bedford to the Maryland line: Southern border, westward from the eastern boundary of Bedford County, along the Pennsylvania-Maryland line to West Virginia, then across West Virginia following the southern boundary of Marshall County, thence southwest along the West Virginia-Ohio border to the southernmost tip of Monroe County in Ohio; Western and Northern boundaries combined, including the following Ohio counties: Monroe, Belmont, Harrison, Tuscarawas and Stark, thence north along the western border of Summit County to Interstate Route 271, thence northeast to the intersection with the Ohio Turnpike, thence east and southeast along that state line to Lake Erie, and then east along the Ohio Turnpike to the Ohio Pennsylvania border, thence north along that state line to Lake Erie, and then east along the northern boundary of Pennsylvania to the eastern border of McKean County. These boundaries were approved by the Assembly.

The Presbytery of the Ascension was formally enrolled as a presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America.

1976, p. 63, 4-53, 3, e. That the General Assembly define the boundaries of PACIFIC Presbytery as including only the following counties in the State of California: Imperial, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernadino, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, San Luis, Obispo, Tulare, Inyo, and Kings.

1977, p. 28, 5-5. The General Assembly now hear the report of the formation of a Provisional Presbytery, the Presbytery of Central Florida, and proceed to constitute the Presbytery of CENTRAL FLORIDA, effective this date...Boundaries as follows: Southern boundary be the southern border of Sarasota, Manatee, Hardee, Osceola and Brevard Counties. Northwestern boundary be Florida State Highway 51 from Steinhatchee northeastward to I-75 and then north to the Georgia border. Northern boundary be the Georgia border from I-75 eastward to the Atlantic Ocean.

1977, p. 34, 5-10. Overture 7 ...The Presbytery of the ASCENSION respectfully overtures the Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to amend the respective boundaries by subtracting the counties of Garrett and Allegany, Maryland, from the Presbytery of the MID-ATLANTIC and adding them to the Presbytery of the Ascension.

1978, p. 37, 6-11. Overture 35 PACIFIC Presbytery overtures the Sixth General of the Presbyterian Church in America to incorporate into the boundaries of Pacific Presbytery the States of Arizona, Hawaii, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, as well as all of California.

1978, p. 77, 6-51, III, 15. That Overture 23, requesting a division of CAROLINA Presbytery into CENTRAL CAROLINA Presbytery and EASTERN CAROLINA Presbytery be answered in the affirmative. (See 6-89, p. 102 and map on p. 300)

1980, p. 40, 8-7. Overture 17 ...Pacific Presbytery overture[s] the Eighth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America meeting in June, 1980 to form the states of Arizona and New Mexico as a separate Presbytery effective at the conclusion of the 1980 General Assembly.

[Note: Formation of SOUTHWEST Presbytery.]

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

1980, p. 41, 8-7. Overture 20 ...The Presbytery of CENTRAL FLORIDA does overture the 8th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to correct the southern boundary description of the Presbytery of Central Florida to read as Follows:

Southern boundary be the southern and eastern borders of Sarasota County, the southern portion of the eastern border of Manatee County, the southern and eastern borders of Hardee County, the eastern portion of the southern border of Polk County, the southern border and the southern portion of the eastern border of Osceola County and the Southern border of Brevard County.

1980, p. 42, 8-7. Overture 34 ...Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, meeting in its 22nd Stated Meeting held May 9-10, 1980 in Baltimore, Maryland, in response to the requests of a majority of the churches involved, respectfully overtures the Eighth General Assembly of the Presbytery Church in America to erect a Presbytery [PHILADELPHIA Presbytery] in Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey...

1980, p. 88, 8-40, III, 22. ...The boundaries of the [PHILADELPHIA] presbytery will include the following counties: Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Lehigh, Berks, Lancaster, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Schuylkill, Perry Cumberland, Franklin, Adams and North Hampton in Pennsylvania; the counties of Mercer, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Atlantic, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May in New Jersey; and the county of New Castle in Delaware. The ministers, churches and mission churches of the presbytery are here named; their petitions will be provided to the Committee of Commissioners...

1981, p. 87, 9-35, III, 24. That the boundaries of the Presbytery of SIOUXLANDS are to be the Missouri River on the west and south, the boundary with North Dakota on the north and the boundary with Minnesota on the east.

1982, p. 84, 10-66, III, 2. That Communication #2 from the Presbytery of MID-ATLANTIC concerning the transfer of Clark, Warren and Frederick Counties of Virginia from the Presbytery of NEW RIVER to the Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic be received and that the General Assembly direct the Presbytery of New River to act on this particular action during this current Assembly.

[Clerk's Note: New River Presbytery concurred with this action.]

1982, p. 84, 10-66, III, 3. That Communication #4 from the Presbytery of PHILADELPHIA concerning the rescinding of Overture #6 by the Presbytery of Philadelphia and their following action of

proposed boundaries with the Presbytery of DELMARVA be answered in the affirmative, and that the General Assembly approve the suggested boundaries regarding the Presbytery of the NORTHEAST as contained in Communication #4 from the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

1982, p. 40, 10-12, A. Communication 4: ...That in the event the "joining and receiving" of the RPCES, the Presbytery of PHILADELPHIA consent to the boundaries proposed by the Ninth General Assembly, with the exception that New Castle County, Delaware, be ceded to the proposed DELMARVA Presbytery (PCA) and that presbytery recommend that Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, Sussex, Morris, Essex, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Middlesex, and Monmouth counties in New Jersey be included in the proposed NORTHEAST Presbytery (PCA) with its permission.

1982, p. 84, 10-66, III, 5. That Overture #10 from the Presbytery of LOUISIANA requesting the bounds of Presbytery to include all the State of Louisiana be answered in the affirmative with the exception of St. Tammany, Tangipahoe, and Washington Parishes of the State of Louisiana which are presently in Grace Presbytery.

1982, p. 84, 10-66, III, 7. That Overture #21 from the Presbytery of the SIOUXLANDS to extend its present boundaries to include North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota be answered in the affirmative.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

1982, p. 84, 10-66, III, 9. That Overture #23 from the Presbytery of MID-ATLANTIC concerning the creation of a new presbytery to be known as the DELMARVA Presbytery be answered in the affirmative with the addition of the counties of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, subject to the approval of the combined Mid-Atlantic and Delmarva Presbyteries at their September 10-11, 1982, meeting. Delmarva Presbytery shall consist of the following areas:

- (1) All of the state of Delaware.
- (2) All of the state of Maryland, except for Garrett and Allegheny Counties.
- (3) Washington, D.C.
- (4) The following counties of Virginia: Arromas, Arlington, Clark, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Louden, and Prince William, and the Falls Church and Manassas.
- (5) Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson counties in West Virginia.

[Clerk's note: the combined presbyteries approved the addition of the Eastern Shore Virginia counties to Delmarva Presbytery.]

1983, p. 36, 11-9. Communication 1 ...that the NORTHEAST Presbytery approves the transfer of the Knowlton Presbyterian Church to the NEW JERSEY Presbytery of the PCA.

1983, p. 124, 11-61, III, 18. Overture 18

1. That the counties of Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Pickens, Oconee, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, York, and the portion of Chester County north of South Carolina highway 97 from the York County line to the Chester city limits, and all of Chester County north and west of South Carolina highway 72 from the Chester city limits to the York County line be included in one presbytery [CALVARY].
2. The counties of Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, Williamsburg, and the portion of Chester County lying south of South Carolina highway 97 from the York County line to the Chester City limits, all of the city of Chester and all that portion of Chester County lying south and east of South Carolina highway 72 from the Chester City limits to the York County line to be included in the other presbytery [PALMETTO].

1983, p. 125, 11-61, III, 21. Overture 36 ...we hereby overture the General Assembly to do the following:

Request Assembly to remove West Texas from TEXAS Presbytery, along a line west of Wichita Falls, east of Abilene and San Angelo, west of Kerrville, and west of Del Rio. This will allow (1) Texas Presbytery to concentrate its efforts in a geographic area it can reasonably expect to reach, and (2) Allow the development of churches and a presbytery in West Texas before the Texas Presbytery or its successors can reasonably accomplish it, through the Assembly.

1983, p. 125, 11-61, III, 24. Personal Resolution 2 ...that the Eleventh General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America change the boundary line between EASTERN and CENTRAL CAROLINA Presbytery so that the counties of Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Casewell and Alamance be included in the Central Carolina Presbytery along with the PCA churches and ministers therein. This change is to become effective immediately following the Eleventh General Assembly.

1983, p. 125, 11-61, III, 25. Communication 7 ...that the KOREAN Presbytery in its stated meeting during Feb. 7-11, 1983, took action to divide its presbytery into two, KOREAN EASTERN and KOREAN SOUTHWESTERN presbyteries. The dividing line is the eastern borders of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

1984, p. 62, 12-10, B. Overture 10 ...the NORTHEAST Presbytery overtures the Twelfth General Assembly to restructure the boundaries of the Northeast Presbytery to exclude Northern NEW JERSEY until such time as it becomes apparent that a Metropolitan New York-New Jersey Presbytery is needed and realistically feasible.

Be it therefore further resolved that the churches, mission work, and teaching elders in Northern New Jersey be allowed to be transferred to the New Jersey Presbytery and that all the geographic area in Northern New Jersey be included in the New Jersey Presbytery.

1984, p. 62, 12-10, B. Overture 13 ...the NEW JERSEY Presbytery overtures the Twelfth General Assembly to restructure the boundaries of the New Jersey Presbytery to include Northern New Jersey until such a time as it becomes apparent that a Metropolitan New York-New Jersey Presbytery is needed and realistically feasible,

Be it therefore further resolved that the churches, mission works, and teaching elders in Northern New Jersey be received by the New Jersey Presbytery from the NORTHEAST Presbytery and that all the geographic area in Northern New Jersey be included in the New Jersey Presbytery if so permitted by the General Assembly.

1984, p. 63, 12-10, B. Overture 15 ...that the Presbytery of TEXAS overture the Twelfth General Assembly to divide the Presbytery along a line south of the following counties from west to east: Schleicher, Menard, McCulloch, San Saba, Lampasas, Bell, Falls, Limestone, Freestone, Anderson, Cherokee, Rusk and Shelby.

Be it further resolved that the Administration Committee of Texas Presbytery determine the financial viability of the missions under the Presbytery's Mission to North America Committee in view of the division of the Presbytery's budget; and that it make recommendations for a period of adjustment.

Be it resolved that the two areas be instructed to meet before the October meeting of Texas Presbytery to organize with by-laws and officers, and to decide on names for the new Presbyteries.

Be it further resolved that the division be effective on Jan. 1, 1985.

1984, p. 64, 12-10, B. Overture 21 ...EVANGEL Presbytery respectfully overtures the Twelfth General Assembly to erect another presbytery [SOUTHEAST ALABAMA] from among us, composed geographically of the counties in Evangel Presbytery south of but including Chilton, Coosa, Talapoosa, and Chambers, and that the new presbytery be erected at the January 1985 meeting of Evangel Presbytery.

1984, p. 64, 12-10, B. Overture 53 ...SAINT LOUIS Presbytery overtures the Twelfth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to change the geographic boundaries of the Saint Louis Presbytery to include the entire state of Missouri, and to change its name to the "MISSOURI Presbytery."

1984, p. 150, 12-67, III, 8. That our presbyteries be encouraged to limit their boundaries to those geographic areas for which they are able to take meaningful responsibility in evangelism and church development, leaving other areas for the orchestrated action of all presbyteries working together through the General Assembly.

1985, p. 38, 13-3. Communication 3

The Presbytery of SOUTHEAST ALABAMA, pending the concurrence of the Presbytery of WARRIOR, requests of the General Assembly that the territory of Monroe County (containing no PCA churches) be transferred from Warrior to Southeast Alabama. This county is by trade patterns and highway and air travel habits much more closely related to the Montgomery area, main population center in Southeast Alabama, than population centers in Warrior.

1985, p. 51, 13-3. Overture 11 ...the Presbytery of SOUTHERN FLORIDA unanimously overtures the General Assembly to allow the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Sebring, Florida to be released and placed into the fellowship and jurisdiction of CENTRAL FLORIDA.

Be it further resolved, that we overture the General Assembly that the bounds of Presbytery be changed within Highlands County, Florida to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Central Florida.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

1985, p. 52, 13-3. Overture 41 ...The LOUISIANA Presbytery respectfully overtures the Thirteenth General Assembly to include all the Parishes (Counties) in the State of Louisiana in the boundary of Louisiana Presbytery.

1985, p. 115, 13-49, III, 24. That the Newport, Tennessee Church be allowed to belong to WESTERN CAROLINAS Presbytery, and that the presbyteries be respectfully requested to consider a change in their boundaries and to indicate what the new boundary should be.

1985, p. 116, 13-49, III, 26. That Overture 21 be adopted in order to place the Hawaiian Islands outside the boundaries of PACIFIC Presbytery, so that the work of the PCA there might come under the supervision of the GA Committee on MNA.

1985, p. 116, 13-49, III, 27. That the Assembly proceed at this time to extend the boundaries of NORTHEAST Presbytery to include all of New England, and that action concerning changing boundaries in New York state be deferred until resolution of the issue involving "Joining and Receiving" with the OPC.

1986, p. 117, 14-43, III, 17. That Overtures 9 and 15, p. 54 dealing with Newport, TN be answered in the affirmative.

1986, p. 54, 14-4, B. Overture 9: From TENNESSEE VALLEY Presbytery  
Therefore be it resolved that the Presbytery of Tennessee Valley in stated meeting this 8th day of October, 1985, does hereby overture the Fourteenth General Assembly to restructure the bounds of Tennessee Valley Presbytery and WESTERN CAROLINAS to include Cocke County, Tennessee in the bounds of Western Carolinas Presbytery.

1986, p. 54, 14-4, B. Overture 15: From WESTERN CAROLINAS Presbytery  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Presbytery of the Western Carolinas in stated meeting this 9th day of November, 1985, does hereby overture the Fourteenth General Assembly to restructure the bounds of TENNESSEE VALLEY Presbytery and Western Carolinas Presbytery to include Cocke County, Tennessee, in the bounds of Western Carolinas Presbytery.

1986, p. 117, 14-43, III, 18. That Overtures 22, p. 54, 33, p. 55, and 44, p. 60, dealing with Catawba Co., NC, be answered in the affirmative.

1986, p. 54, 14-4, B. Overture 22: From CENTRAL CAROLINA Presbytery  
The 23rd Stated meeting of Central Carolina Presbytery respectfully requests the 14th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to approve the transfer of Catawba County North Carolina from the jurisdiction of the WESTERN CAROLINAS Presbytery, with the consent of both presbyteries.

Catawba County is home for a mission work begun by Central Carolina Presbytery, the New Covenant Mission of Hickory NC. It is the opinion of the MNA Committee of this presbytery that the New Covenant Church belongs to the Asheville-Black Mountain marketing area. Also, its culture is so dissimilar to the Central Piedmont area of our presbytery that its interests would be better served in the Western Carolinas Presbytery.

So, with the consent of both presbyteries and the mission church, we make this request.

1986, p. 55, 14-4, B. Overture 33: From WESTERN CAROLINAS Presbytery  
We overture the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to (redraw) change the boundaries of Western and CENTRAL CAROLINAS Presbyteries by excluding Catawba County from Central Carolina Presbytery and placing it in the bounds of Western Carolinas Presbytery.

1986, p. 60, 14-4, B. Overture 44: From Western Carolina Presbytery  
We request (overture) the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to redraw the boundaries of CENTRAL and WESTERN CAROLINA Presbytery so as to include Catawba County in Western Carolina Presbytery.

1986, p. 117, 14-43, III, 19. That Overture 39, p. 59 dealing with PHILADELPHIA Presbytery be answered in the affirmative.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

1986, p. 59, 14-4, B. Overture 39: From PHILADELPHIA Presbytery

Therefore, be it resolved that the Philadelphia Presbytery of the PCA meeting on March 14, 1986, in Philadelphia respectfully overtures the Fourteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to divide our presbytery into two. This division would take place on January 1, 1987.

The new western presbytery would be known as the SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY Presbytery. Its territory would include the following counties of Pennsylvania: Centre, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Schuylkill, Berks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Snyder, Juniata, Perry, Cumberland, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Fulton, Franklin, Adams, York, Lancaster, and all that part of Chester County west of a line going south on Route 41, Route 796, and Route 896.

The new eastern presbytery would be known as the Philadelphia Presbytery. Its territory would include the following counties of Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, Bucks, Northampton, Lehigh, Montgomery, Delaware, and all that part of Chester County east of a line going south on Route 41, Route 796, and Route 896.

It is agreed by both Presbyteries that if the Orthodox Presbyterian Church decides to join and be received by the PCA, and if the OPC Philadelphia Presbytery so desires, the territories of both Presbyteries will be expanded to include all of eastern Pennsylvania. This would add Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Sullivan, Lycoming, Clinton, and Cameron counties to the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Lackawanna, and Luzerne counties would be added to the Philadelphia Presbytery.

1986, p. 117, 14-43, III, 21. That Overture 38, p. 58 be answered in the affirmative and TEXAS be added into KOREAN CENTRAL.

[Note: The addition of Texas was not approved by the Presbytery and therefore cannot be added by General Assembly.]

1986, p. 58, 14-4, B. Overture 38: From Korean Eastern Presbytery

Therefore, the Korean Eastern Presbytery respectfully overtures the 14th General Assembly to divide the Korean Eastern Presbytery establishing three presbyteries:

1. KOREAN EASTERN Presbytery

Pennsylvania  
New Jersey  
Metropolitan Wilmington, DE  
New York  
Connecticut

Rhode Island  
New Hampshire  
Massachusetts  
Vermont  
Maine

2. A KOREAN CENTRAL Presbytery

Ohio  
Michigan  
Indiana  
Illinois  
Missouri  
Arkansas

Kansas  
North Dakota  
Nebraska  
Iowa  
Wisconsin  
Minnesota  
South Dakota

3. A KOREAN SOUTH Presbytery

Maryland  
Washington D.C.  
West Virginia  
Virginia  
Delaware (except Wilmington)  
Tennessee

North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Mississippi  
Alabama  
Georgia  
Florida

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

1987, p. 125, 15-60, III, 13. That Presbytery boundaries will continue to be drawn according to policy established by the General Assembly (*MI2GA*, 12-67, III, 8), with the added assurance that the MNA Committee of the General Assembly be expected to continue to work in cooperation and communication with those judicatories that are closest to any new church development project that is outside the boundaries of any presbytery, taking into consideration that regions are formed by such things as economic ties, topography, cultural affinity, traffic patterns, etc. It is also to be recognized that, while the primary responsibility of a presbytery is to develop the church within its own boundaries, a presbytery could feel free to develop works outside their boundaries while working in cooperation and communication with the MNA Committee of the General Assembly.

1988, p. 61, 16-3, B. Overture 4: From CENTRAL CAROLINA Presbytery

Therefore, Central Carolina Presbytery, meeting in its 30th Stated Meeting, July 18, 1987, overtures the 16th GA to transfer Cleveland County to the jurisdiction of Central Carolina Presbytery at the concurrence of WESTERN CAROLINA Presbytery. Answered in the affirmative (p. 143, 16-63, III, 12)

1988, p. 62, 16-3, B. Overture 20: From the Presbytery of NEW RIVER

Therefore be it resolved that the Presbytery of New River does overture the Sixteenth General Assembly to restructure the bounds of New River Presbytery and JAMES RIVER Presbytery to include the counties of Augusta, Rockingham, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren in the bounds of James River Presbytery. Answered in the affirmative (p. 143, 16-63, III, 14).

1988, p. 62, 16-3, B. Overture 21: From the Presbytery of NEW RIVER

Therefore, be it resolved that the Presbytery of New River does overture the Sixteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to redraw the bounds of New River Presbytery and JAMES RIVER Presbytery to include the county of Rockbridge, Virginia in James River Presbytery. Answered in the affirmative (p. 143, 16-63, III, 14).

1988, p. 63, 16-3, B. Overture 26: From MISSOURI Presbytery

Therefore be it resolved, that Missouri Presbytery be reduced in size on 1/1/89 by the transfer of the Missouri counties of Atchinson, Nodaway, Worth, Harrison, Gentry, Holt, Andrew, DeKalb, Daviss, Buchanan, Clinton, Caldwell, Platte, Clay, Ray, Jackson, Lafayette, Cass and Johnson, encompassing the area of Kansas City and St. Joseph, to the new Presbytery of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska;

Be it further resolved, that Missouri Presbytery be further reduced in size on 1/1/89 by the transfer of the Missouri counties of Jasper, Lawrence, Green, Newton, Christian, McDonald, Barry, Stone and Taney, encompassing the area of Springfield and the Ozark region, to the MID-AMERICA (Oklahoma) Presbytery. Answered in the affirmative (p. 144, 16-63, III, 20).

1988, p. 63, 16-3, B. Overture 28: From the KOREAN SOUTHWESTERN Presbytery

Therefore, the Korean Southwestern Presbytery respectfully overtures the 16th General Assembly to divide the Korean Southwestern Presbytery establishing two presbyteries: Korean Southwestern Presbytery to include: California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. KOREAN SOUTHERN Presbytery to include: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Answered in the affirmative (p. 145, 16-63, III, 26).

1988, p. 143, 16-63, III, 13. That Overture 13, p. 61, from NORTHEAST Presbytery be answered in the affirmative with the goal of a future New York Metro Area Presbytery.

1988, p. 143, 16-63, III, 15, B. The churches located in boundary counties be allowed to change membership from the bounds of one presbytery to the bounds of the adjacent presbytery without change of presbytery geographical boundaries, with the consent of both presbyteries involved and that such action be reported to the General Assembly."

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

1988, p. 143, 16-63, III, 16 and 17. That all presbyteries be requested to study their boundaries in FY 89 because:

- a. It is both orderly and cost effective to periodically consider boundary changes in concert with contiguous presbyteries and at a time when other PCA presbyteries are considering changes.
- b. Most presbyteries have not examined their boundaries by applying the following suggested Guidelines for Presbytery Boundaries received by the 15th General Assembly in 1987:
  - (1) A presbytery should have a radius of 2 1/2 hours maximum driving distance.
  - (2) A presbytery should have a minimum of 10 churches.
  - (3) A presbytery should have a total communicant membership of at least 1000.
  - (4) Presbytery boundaries should not partition metropolitan areas.
  - (5) A presbytery should have regional cohesiveness.
  - (6) A presbytery should have at least 3 churches each having a membership of at least 125 communicant members.
  - (7) Presbytery boundaries should such that its member churches have the potential for shared ministries.
  - (8) Presbytery boundaries should be such that its member churches have a common commitment to the region within the boundaries and sense their shared responsibility to cover the region with the gospel.
  - (9) When a presbytery reaches 30 churches, it should consider whether subdivision would lead to more effective ministry.

Reasons:

- (i) It is often to the advantage of very large presbyteries to subdivide for more efficient oversight and closer cooperation.
- (ii) Additional presbyteries are urgently needed in most of the United States, other than the South, and in Canada in order to make the Presbyterian system of government operate efficiently. A presbytery in an area where the PCA is not particularly strong could be viable with as few as ten churches, and even with less. (The first presbytery in this land had but seven.)
- (10) A presbytery should limit its boundaries to that geographic area for which it is able to take meaningful responsibility for evangelism and church development.  
Reason: *M12GA*, 12-67, 111, 8
- (11) We acknowledge the existence of language presbyteries.
- (12) We recognize the "ideal" nature of guidelines such as these and understand that several existing presbyteries do not presently meet all of them.

1988, p. 144, 16-63, III, 19. That Overture 14, p. 61, dealing with presbytery boundaries from SIOUXLANDS Presbytery be answered in the affirmative.

1988, p. 61, 16-3, B. Overture 14: From the Presbytery of SIOUXLANDS

Whereas, the Presbytery of Siouxlands has a desire to work in accord with other brethren of the PCA Presbyteries in the midwestern United States:

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Presbytery of Siouxlands be reduced in size to include only the States of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, effective January 1, 1989; and,

Be It Further Resolved that a new Presbytery [Note: This presbytery took the name HEARTLAND] be authorized, effective January 1, 1989, to include the States of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and the Missouri counties of Harrison, Davies, Caldwell, Ray, Lafayette, Johnson, Cass, Platte, Jackson, Clay, Dekalb, Atchinson, Andrew, Gentry, Holt, Worth, Nodaway, Clinton and Buchanan.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

1988, p. 144, 16-63, III, 21. That COVENANT Presbytery be encouraged to give the Arkansas counties in the northwest corner of the state (Fayetteville, Charleston, Forth Smith) to MID-AMERICA (Oklahoma) Presbytery; and in order that the significant Reformed University Ministries work at the University of Arkansas not be hindered, that jurisdiction for this work be a definite part of this agreement between Covenant and Mid-America (Oklahoma) Presbyteries. (We recommend that the advice of the Subcommittee on Presbytery Boundaries be received and adhered to with concurrence of Covenant Presbytery.)

1988, p. 144, 16-63, III, 22. That Overture 17, p. 61, dealing with presbytery boundaries from the Presbytery of MID-AMERICA (or by whatever name it may be called after January 1, 1989) be answered in the affirmative as amended:

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Presbytery of Mid-America be reduced to include the churches in the state of Oklahoma, effective January 1, 1989, and

Be It Further Resolved, that Presbytery of Mid-America (or by whatever name it may be called after January 1, 1989) be authorized, effective January 1, 1989, to include the southwestern Missouri counties of Green, Christian, Taney, Lawrence, Stone, Barry, Jasper, Newton and McDonald together with the northwestern Arkansas counties of Boone, Newton, Johnson, Logan, Sebastian, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Madison, Carroll and Benton.

Adopted at the Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Mid-America, on February 19, 1988 at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

1992, p. 72, 20-23, II, B, 2. That the General Assembly respond in the affirmative to the request of the Korean Southeastern Presbytery (Overture 9) that the presbytery be divided into two.

- a. KOREAN CAPITAL Presbytery (tentative designation) including Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.
- b. KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN Presbytery (the continuing presbytery) including North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

1992, p. 73, 20-23, II, B, 3. That the General Assembly respond in the affirmative to the request of LOUISIANA Presbytery (Overture 13) to form a new Presbytery of SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA, effective December 31, 1992, to include the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East and West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Point Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Terrebonne, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington. The last three parishes are currently within the bounds of Grace Presbytery, and through Communication 1 that presbytery concurs with Overture 13 from Louisiana Presbytery.

1992, p. 74, 20-23, II, B, 4. That the General Assembly respond in the affirmative to the request of the Presbytery of the ASCENSION (Overture 24) to divide the presbytery into two, with the boundary between them to be along the northern border of the following counties: in Ohio--Tuscarawas, Carroll, and Columbiana; and in Pennsylvania -- Washington, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Indiana, Cambria, and Blair. [Note: Northern portion - Ascension Presbytery; Southern portion - PITTSBURGH Presbytery] This division to be effective January 1, 1993.

1992, p. 75, 20-23, II, B, 5. That the General Assembly respond in the affirmative to the request of the KOREAN SOUTHWEST Presbytery (Overture 26) to divide the presbytery into two:

- a. Korean Southwest Presbytery -- all of the California counties south of and including the counties of Inyo, Kern, and Santa Barbara.
- b. KOREAN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Presbytery [Note: changed to KOREAN NORTHWEST] -- all of the California counties north of and including the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, and Mono.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

#### BOUNDARIES, NONGEOGRAPHICAL

(See KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 11-4, 1982, 10-77)

#### COMMISSION FOR ORDINATION

1979, p. 127, 7-62, III, E. Presbytery granted a session authority to appoint a commission for ordination. A commission for ordination must be appointed directly by the Presbytery, and this authority cannot be delegated. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly inform the Presbytery that a commission for ordination must be appointed directly by the Presbytery.

#### DIACONAL MINISTRIES

(See DEACONS, ADVISORY COUNCILS)

#### ENROLLMENT

(See also BOUNDARIES; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #42)

1973, p. 11, 1-2. (The First Assembly at Birmingham was composed of commissioners from the following 16 presbyteries: Calvary, Central Georgia, Covenant, Evangel, Gold Coast, Grace, Gulf Coast, Mid-Atlantic, Mississippi Valley, North Georgia, Tennessee Valley, Texas, Vanguard, Warrior, Western Carolinas, Westminster.)

1974, p. 42, 2-20. Ruling Elder Robert C. Cannada, member of the Board of Directors presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

For and on behalf of, and as representative of the Board of Directors, I move that the Second General Assembly does hereby formally enroll the following Presbyteries as presbyteries of the National Presbyterian Church in accordance with the resolution of affiliation adopted by each presbytery, and that a copy of each resolution be placed in the Minutes of the Assembly, to wit,

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Calvary            | 11. North Georgia    |
| 2. Carolina           | 12. Pacific          |
| 3. Central Georgia    | 13. Southern Florida |
| 4. Covenant           | 14. Tennessee Valley |
| 5. Evangel            | 15. Texas            |
| 6. Grace              | 16. Vanguard         |
| 7. Gulf Coast         | 17. Warrior          |
| 8. Mid-Atlantic       | 18. Western Carolina |
| 9. Mississippi Valley | 19. Westminster      |
| 10. New River         |                      |

and that any such presbytery that has not formally presented a copy of such resolution of affiliation to the Stated Clerk be authorized to do so, and that if such resolution as submitted is substantially in the form of that recommended by the Board of Directors, pursuant to the Board's Minutes of April 15-16, 1974, appearing on page 12 and following in the Handbook, that same be approved and entered in the Minutes of this Assembly (See Appendix B for Board Minutes, pp. 95-108) (See Appendix C for copies of the Presbytery resolutions, pp. 109-125).

1975, p. 23, 3-5. The Clerk reported that in accord with the instructions of the Second General Assembly the Presbytery of Louisiana was organized on February 7, 1975, at Alexandria, Louisiana. The following Resolution of Affiliation with the Presbyterian Church in America was presented, and the Presbytery of Louisiana was formally enrolled as a presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

1975, p. 25, 3-5. The Clerk yielded the floor to the Rev. David Nicholas, Chairman of the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the United States, who made a partial report for the Committee on the reception of the new Presbytery of the Ascension. The Rev. Larry Mills, Coordinator for the Committee on Mission to the United States reported the formation of the Presbytery of the Ascension on July 29, 1975, at Robert Morris College, temporary home of Providence Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1976, p. 64, 4-56, VII. That the Fourth General Assembly state its intent to form a presbytery generally within the bounds of Northeast and Central Florida at the Fifth General Assembly and that the Fourth Assembly encourage churches and teaching elders within these bounds to meet at least twice before the Fifth Assembly to lay the foundation for organization of the new presbytery. These actions shall be under the guidance of the Permanent Committee of the Mission to the United States.

1977, p. 28, 5-5. The Rev. Harold Patteson, Chairman of the Committee on Administration and of the Board of Directors, presented the following report:

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America met on April 16, 1977, at the Atlanta Airport and took the following action to approve the request from Vanguard and Tennessee Valley Presbyteries that they be united into one Presbytery under the name of Tennessee Valley Presbytery.

1979, p. 69, 7-11. Resolutions were presented from the Central Carolina Presbytery and the Eastern Carolina Presbytery as new presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America as authorized by the Sixth General Assembly (6-51).

1980, p. 88, 8-40, III, 22. That the General Assembly now hear the report of the formation of a Provisional Presbytery in the Northeast, and grant the presbytery, upon the date of its formal organization, September 19, 1980, the right to choose a name and be thereafter a separate presbytery of this Assembly...

1981, p. 69, 9-15.

2. That Communication 2 (9-10, p. 27) from the Provisional Presbytery of the Siouxlands be approved, and that the General Assembly now hear the report of the formation of a Provisional Presbytery called Siouxlands in the State of South Dakota.
3. That Communication 3 (9-10, p. 28) from the Presbytery of the Southwest be approved.
4. That the General Assembly welcome the Presbytery of the Southwest and the Presbytery of Philadelphia, both of which were approved by the Eighth General Assembly, and the Presbytery of the Siouxlands into the family of the Presbyterian Church in America.

1982, p. 90, 10-66, III, 24, a. That the Assembly hear and act upon the requests that a Presbytery of Northern Illinois be established.

1983, p. 124, 11-61, III, 18. Overture 18

...Calvary Presbytery respectfully requests the Eleventh General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, at the meeting in June, 1983, to divide Calvary in the following manner:

(...The southern presbytery has adopted the name of Palmetto. The other presbytery continues to use the name Calvary.)

...3. That the General Assembly authorize these Presbyteries to become effective on January 1, 1984.

### INCORPORATION

(See INCORPORATION, PRESBYTERIES; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Church/State, II, pp. 118-122)



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

#### KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES

(See also BOUNDARIES, 1983, 11-61, 25; 1986, 14-43, 21; 1986, p. 58, 14-4, B; 1988, p. 63, 16-3, B; 1992, 20-23, 2; PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 11-4, 1982, 10-77)

1982, p. 92, 10-66, III, 24, b. That a nongeographical Korean Language Presbytery be now approved. *Adopted*

#### KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERY

That the General Assembly now hear the report of the formation of a provisional presbytery, called the Korean Language Presbytery, and grant that presbytery the right to organize itself in conformity with the *Book of Church Order*. All ministers and churches are at present members of various presbyteries in the PCA, and these presbyteries are requested to transfer the ministers and churches when they apply for transfer to the new presbytery.

##### A. *Conditions*

The following conditions will apply to the Korean Language Presbytery when it is organized:

1. The boundaries of the presbytery will be according to the needs of the Korean churches and will be superimposed on existing presbyteries.
2. The language used in the presbyteries will be Korean but it will be understood that all presbytery minutes and other documents and correspondence which the General Assembly must read will be translated into English for the benefit of the General Assembly.
3. Any Korean church will have the freedom to join the Korean Language Presbytery, or remain in the English-speaking presbytery. Any Korean church applying for membership in the PCA may submit its application to whichever presbytery it prefers.
4. Permission for separate language presbyteries will be for a period of 10 years. At the end of that time, permission can be extended for other 10-year periods as deemed necessary.

##### B. *Requests*

1. General Assembly asks each presbytery that is affected by one presbytery being superimposed on another to grant automatic privilege of the floor, but without vote, to all members of the other presbytery living within its geographical bounds.
2. The General Assembly requests all of these presbyteries that are affected to exchange fraternal delegates for at least one regular meeting each year, these delegates to report on the state of their presbytery, especially pointing out causes for thanksgiving to God for His blessings and likewise causes for which all should together join in fervent prayer to our God for His help.
3. The General Assembly encourages all presbyteries where there are both Korean-speaking and English-speaking congregations to make every effort to have joint participation in leadership training, various other general meetings and seminars, and especially in ministries to the young people and students.

##### C. *Rationale*

1. At present there are over 600,000 Koreans who have immigrated to the United States. Most of them came to this country since 1965. The number is uncertain but estimates of churches among these people range from 1,000 to 1,300.
2. Because the Presbyterian Church is the largest church in Korea, the vast majority of Korean churches in the United States are oriented toward Presbyterianism. However, there is great instability among these churches for various reasons too complicated to enumerate here.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

3. These Korean churches tend to be conservative in theology and evangelical in character. They believe the Bible to be the inerrant Word of God. Furthermore, they accept the Confession of Faith as the standard of doctrine. We wonder why they don't flock to the PCA because of its theological stance, and a careful analysis will show that there is a great amount of frustration among these churches and ministers. They need the stability of a denomination such as the PCA, but language problems make it very difficult for them to participate in the courts of the church. Probably more important, however, are cultural differences which make many of the discussions in the church courts irrelevant to them. On the other hand, these same differences rule out discussions that would be very meaningful to them.
4. There are many situations in this country where work could be started among Koreans, but the effort would be much more successful if the administration of these efforts were in the hands of Koreans. There is no doubt that the funds for such work could be raised if the work were in Korean hands and if Koreans were helping to raise the funds particularly in Korean churches.
5. Leadership is essential to the strength and stability of presbyteries as well as the individual church. A language presbytery will provide the environment necessary for such leadership to develop.
6. An important purpose of this structure is to promote the unity of the church while at the same time making room for the rich diversity which we find among Christians of different cultural heritages. This will help us all to stay close to the Scriptures and the creed while at the same time permit the development of leadership and vision among a group of people who have the same faith but a very different cultural background.
7. In the future as second and third generation Koreans come to positions of leadership in the Korean churches, this structure, with its built-in reconsideration plan, can be phased out if that seems to be needful.

[Clerk's Note: See *BCO* 11-4, 1982, 10-77, p. 107 for advice of the Permanent Sub-Committee on Judicial Business as to the constitutionality of a "nongeographical presbytery." Action on 24. b. was taken in 10-77, p. 107.]

1987, p. 207, 15-96, III, 19, a.

1. A new translation of the *BCO* into Korean be made by the Assembly and each Korean presbytery ratify it prior to the 17th General Assembly. That the translation be funded by designed funds to the Stated Clerk's Office. That CE/P be instructed to make available *BCO* and amendments in Korean at the cost for English versions - any extra being subsidized in CE/P's Budget.
2. Each Korean presbytery should check its current bylaws or standing rules for conformity to the *BCO*.
3. New English translations of each presbytery's rules be submitted to Committee on Review and Control prior to the 17th General Assembly.
4. Each Korean presbytery should appoint a representative to certify the English translation of all Korean minutes submitted to Committee on Review and Control.

1992, p. 70, 20-23, II, B, 1.

Whereas the PCA Korean churches have been uniquely blessed by God and are the most rapidly growing segment of the PCA, and

Whereas the 10th General Assembly approved the organization of nongeographical Korean Language Presbyteries for a ten-year period, subject to extension by the Assembly (Minutes, 9th GA, 10-66 III 24.b p. 92), and

Whereas that ten-year period concludes in 1992, and

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

Whereas God has richly blessed the Korean churches with growth during this decade so that at this ten-year mark there are now five Korean Language Presbyteries with a total of forty-one churches, fifty-three missions, and one-hundred and thirty-nine teaching elders; and

Whereas the existence of language presbyteries has been a most effective means of assisting growth among Korean churches and a primary bridge between the anglo PCA and emerging second and third generation Korean leaders who come into the PCA;

Therefore, the MNA Committee of Commissioners recommends that the General Assembly extend the organization of nongeographical Korean Language Presbyteries with the following conditions (1-4 previously approved by the 10th GA):

1. The boundaries of the presbytery will be according to the needs of the Korean churches and will be superimposed on existing presbyteries.
2. The language used in the presbyteries will be Korean but it will be understood that all presbytery minutes and other documents and correspondence which the General Assembly must read will be translated into English for the benefit of the General Assembly.
3. Any Korean church will have the freedom to join the Korean Language Presbytery, or the English-speaking presbytery. Any Korean church applying for membership in the PCA may submit its application to whichever presbytery it prefers.
4. Permission for separate language presbyteries will be for a period of five years. At the end of that time, permission can be extended for other five-year periods as deemed necessary.
5. Furthermore, the Committee of Commissioners recommends encouraging Presbyteries in close geographical proximity to Korean Language Presbyteries to make a concerted effort to have fellowship with Korean Presbyteries. *Adopted as amended*

#### RATIONALE:

1. Since the Korean Language Presbyteries are composed of mostly first generation Korean churches, there remains a cultural/language need to continue language presbyteries until second generation Korean churches come into being.
2. The five Korean Language Presbyteries themselves are requesting the extension.
3. The first two sections of the *BCO* -- the Form of Government and Rules of Discipline -- have been translated into Korean and time is now needed for Korean presbyteries to adjust to the *BCO* standards.
4. Historically, it has taken churches from other subcultures three generations to assimilate into American church culture. Time and energy is needed to bring the Korean churches to a point where they feel a part of the PCA.

In answer to the concerns of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records (*Minutes* 19th GA, 19-70-III, p. 176) the MNA Committee reports that the translation of both the *BCO* (through the Rules of Discipline) and the RAO have been completed; and the MNA Committee reports that the translation of the minutes of the five Korean presbyteries has been completed.

1992, p. 262, 20-71, IV, 1. Report of Review of Presbytery Records Committee:

Concerning the Korean Language Presbyteries:

The Committee is happy to report that all five of the Korean Language Presbyteries have made a sincere effort to provide translations of all of their Minutes for the past year. The Committee recommends that the Assembly thank and commend these Presbyteries for their effort to comply with the *Book of Church Order*, and the *Rules for Assembly Operation*. They are to be encouraged to continue this good beginning.

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

There are a number of areas in which the Korean Language Presbyteries are not yet in full conformity with our *Book of Church Order*. No doubt this grows out of the fact that the Assembly has not provided a good translation of the *BCO* and of the *Rules of Assembly Operation*. It is our understanding that both have now been translated through the good labors of TE Daniel Kim of MNA staff, TE Do Won Park, TE Hosea Kim, TE Heewan Song, TE Byung Soo Choi, TE Paul Kim, and TE Dwight Linton. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly express its thanks to these men for their good work.

The Committee has chosen to categorize all exceptions to the Korean Language Presbytery minutes as exceptions of form or notations. This decision was viewed as the best vehicle for lovingly and helpfully dealing with errors that may have been rooted in the lack of a Korean translation of the *BCO* and *RAO*. The Committee commends to the General Assembly our specific recommendations regarding how the PCA can further assist our Korean brothers in Christ to document their kingdom work in conformity with PCA guidelines.

To assist the Korean Language Presbyteries to make progress in these areas, the Committee recommends that the Assembly direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to schedule an annual meeting of the Korean Language Presbytery clerks. The cost of this meeting is to be borne by the respective presbyteries. The Assembly further directs that TE Dan Kim of the MNA staff serve as a consultant to this meeting. He is also to be requested to continue to assist the Korean Presbytery Clerks in getting their minutes ready for the Assembly. The responsibility for the translation of the various Presbytery minutes remains with the Presbyteries. TE Dan Kim is encouraged to provide a brief dictionary of technical terms to be used for recording minutes. He is also encouraged to provide a sample set of minutes both in Korean and English in consultation with officers of the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records. Dr. Kim is further asked to develop a training program to assist Korean Language Presbyteries properly to examine candidates.

To provide for better continuity of the record keeping, the Committee recommends that the Korean Language Presbyteries elect their clerks to terms of at least three to five years. The Korean Language Presbyteries should send representatives to the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records.

It is recommended that a Korean translation of this motion be provided the Korean Language Presbyteries.

1993, p. 254, 21-78, IV, 1. The Committee continues to note the progress of the Korean Language Presbyteries as to the review of their minutes. It is believed that translating the Korean minutes into English as done last year, for the first time, is counterproductive due to the excessive expenditure of time and resources involved.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that the minutes of the Korean Language Presbyteries due to be submitted to the Twenty First General Assembly be reviewed in the Korean language by representatives of the Korean Language Presbyteries as considered by the Nineteenth General Assembly. A preliminary review will be accomplished by September of this year, and the review will be completed at the annual meeting of the Korean Language Presbytery stated clerks in November. The completed translation of the *BCO* and *RAO* into the Korean language with mirrored pages in English should greatly facilitate the work.

Encouragement and assistance will be provided by the Stated Clerk of General Assembly, Dr. Daniel Kim, representing Mission to North America Committee, and the Chairman of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. The outcome of this effort will be presented to General Assembly in June of 1994 through the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records.

*Adopted*

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### PRESBYTERY

#### MINUTES

##### Exceptions to

1987, p. 219, 15-96, V, B, 4. That the use of "Rev." in presbytery minutes not be treated as an exception.

1993, p. 255, 21-78, IV, 3. That the General Assembly inform the stated clerks of presbyteries of the following :

The following are exceptions of substance and/or form contained in minutes presented to the 20th General Assembly and frequently repeated in minutes presented to the 21st General Assembly:

- a) Failure to list ministers and churches on presbytery roll who have unexcused absences;
- b) Failure to note the quorum of a commission;
- c) Failure to note that a congregational meeting was held to concur with the request of the pastor to dissolve the pastoral relationship;
- d) Failure to attach minutes of commissions (ordination, installation, organization, adjudication, etc.) and to approve such minutes;
- e) Failure properly to record votes when more than a simple majority is required;
- f) Lack of annual reports of candidates and ministers laboring out of bounds, and of reports of interns at each stated meeting;
- g) Failure to list exceptions to sessional records and responses to such exceptions;
- h) Failure to include changes in terms of calls to ministers.

The Committee has also found that these additional errors frequently appear in presbytery minutes:

- a) The motion to lay on the table is frequently misused (see *Robert's Rules of Order*, § 17);
- b) The minutes of a called meeting should record verbatim the portion of the call stating the purpose of the meeting (RAO 14-10. d. 2.);
- c) A motion to receive a committee report is in error. A motion to adopt a report as a whole indicates that presbytery endorses every word of the report, including the indicated facts and its reasoning, as its own statement; in such a case the entire report should be published with the minutes (*Robert's Rules of Order*, § 50).

The Committee further recommends presbyteries adopt the following practices:

- a) That, when a committee is acting with the power of a commission in accordance with a standing rule, the rule be cited in the text of the minutes where such action is reported.
- b) That each set of minutes be approved before the end of the next stated meeting (RAO 14-10. c. 5.).
- c) That presbyteries follow the recommendation of RAO 14-10. d. 3. to number their paragraphs consecutively and to give a title over each paragraph indicating the content of the business included in that paragraph.

*Adopted*

#### Review of

(See also PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #52)

1981, p. 147, 9-70, V, 2. That Overture 18 from the Presbytery of the Ascension be answered in the affirmative.

1981, p. 45, 9-10. Overture 18

Whereas, the oversight of presbyteries by review of minutes is a very important part of the function of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, this task grows larger and larger each year with the addition of presbyteries and the multiplication of presbytery meetings and business; and

## PCA DIGEST

### PRESBYTERY

Whereas, the utilization of a General Assembly committee of commissioners seems to be less than ideal in several ways, namely,

- a. A lack of adequate time at the annual General Assembly meeting to review these minutes in a deliberate, unhurried manner;
- b. A lack of uniformity due to the complete turnover of members of the committee of commissioners each year and the resultant lack of experience;
- c. A lack of opportunities for questions or apparent problems to be resolved with the presbytery(ies) in question before bringing a report to the floor of the Assembly;
- d. The use of unnecessary time, energy, and printing space of the Assembly as a whole to report and/or consider matters capable of proper resolution in conference; and
- e. An inability to have the most efficient follow-up of those matters sent back to presbyteries for their explanation, correction, or further action;

Therefore, the Presbytery of the Ascension respectfully overtures the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to investigate the possibilities of referring the review of presbytery records to an already-existing standing committee or sub-committee or of creating a new standing committee or sub-committee for this purpose.

1992, p. 262, 20-71, IV, 1. (See KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES, above)

1993, p. 254, 21-78, IV, 1. (See KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESBYTERIES, above)

1993, p. 256, 21-78, IV, 5. That General Assembly instruct stated clerks of presbyteries that minutes of presbyteries relating to examinations must list all specific requirements and trials for licensure and/or ordination which have been accomplished. This does not mean that a separate vote on each item must be recorded. *Adopted*

### MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA COMMITTEE

1973, p. 46, 1-66, 11. That the General Assembly officially ask each Presbytery to elect a Committee on Mission to the United States with responsibilities commensurate with that name and that each local session be asked to appoint a Committee on Mission to the United States.

1981, p. 87, 9-35, III, 13. That the actions A through H of the Presbytery MUS chairmen be approved by the Assembly.

- a. GA M-US should provide standardized forms on which presbytery M-US works can be periodically reported to GA M-US.
- b. Presbytery M-US Committee reports to presbytery should be shared with GA M-US.
- c. The GA M-US should videotape its organizing pastors' conferences and make the videotapes available for use within the presbyteries.
- d. The following definition of a mission church should become standard: "A mission exists when the goal of organizing a particular church is being pursued under the oversight and support of either GA M-US, Presbytery M-US, a mother church or a combination of the above. Where possible a church nearby should hold members on its roll as associate members for the mission work until the day of the mission's organization. In remote areas the presbytery is encouraged to place an evangelist on the scene as organizing pastor for the purpose of receiving members."
- e. The 20-minute slide presentation on the 5 in 5 Campaign should be shown in all the churches of the presbyteries by Presbytery M-US Committees.
- f. The television spots already made available by the GA M-US to churches in two areas should be made available in as many other areas as possible. (The Assembly M-US Committee notes that it will not distribute a spot containing a picture of Christ.)
- g. GA M-US organizing pastors should be itinerated among the churches. The Chairmen of Presbytery M-US Committees would be responsible for arranging this itineration.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### QUIT CLAIM DEED

- h. Each Presbytery M-US Committee should prepare a goals statement, have it approved by the presbytery at its next meeting, and then send it to GA M-US for consolidation and report to the General Assembly. (GA M-US would prepare a goals statement for areas outside presbytery boundaries, and the consolidated report would constitute a master plan for the church.)

### MODERATOR

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 10-3, 1984, 12-53, #51; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #33)

### VISIT CHURCHES

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 13-9, 1985, 13-45, #65; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #48)

### VOTING ON JUDICIAL CASE

(See PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #8, #21)

### PROPHECY

(See SPIRITUAL GIFTS; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #61; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, *Spiritual Gifts*, pp. 543-551)

### PSALM SINGING

(See CE&P, PSALM SINGING)

### PULPIT DRESS

1975, p. 112, 3-89. Recommendation #9 - The Committee recommends that Item 4 be answered as follows:

To item 4 asking for direction as to what constitutes proper pulpit dress for Reformed pastors, the Assembly makes the following response: There is no description in the New Testament of suitable dress for the pulpit, and thus the Church has no warrant to legislate in this area. A general principle can be stated which should govern the individual in his choice of dress for the pulpit. To lead the congregation in worship and to minister the Word and Sacraments are the highest sacred duties of the Minister. The dress of the Minister should be such that it does not detract from the worship of God by calling attention to the man. Simple dignified dress suitable to the cultural setting should be the rule to guide the Minister in his attire.

### QUIT CLAIM DEED

(See also CHURCH, PROPERTY)

1976, p. 72, 4-71, V. The request of Faith Presbyterian Church of Wauchula, Florida, for a quit claim deed be answered by reference to the *BCO* 25-9, 26-10, and that the Directors of the Corporation be authorized to grant a quit claim deed to any congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America that requests it.

1977, p. 79, 5-79, III, 6. That the General Assembly endorse the action of the Committee of Administration on quit claim deeds, and hereafter, it authorize the Moderator and the Stated Clerk to sign such quit claim deeds;

## PCA DIGEST

### RADIO AND TELEVISION

1981, p. 156, 9-80, III, 17. That the Presbyterian Church in America, through the Christian Education/Publications Committee, study ways, means, costs, and possible organizational structure to utilize radio and television under Presbyterian Church in America auspices, and be it further recommended that the results of these actions be reported at the Tenth General Assembly.

[Note: No subsequent actions were reported.]

1986, p. 116, 14-43, III, 13. The Assembly is asked to approve the use of the Bible Study Hour broadcast of Dr. James Boice and recommend that its Committee on Mission to North America, presbyteries and churches sponsor the broadcast as a means of making the PCA known, for the development of the church and of new congregations, and recommend that its Committee on MNA, presbyteries, and churches consider sponsoring the broadcast.

Grounds:

1. To specify the radio ministry of the Bible Study Hour.
2. That sponsorship be left up to the individual judicatories.

### MORALS

1986, p. 187, 14-85, III, 4. Overture 40, p. 45 from Philadelphia

It was moved and recommended that this overture on how to raise the moral standards of television programs be answered by the adoption of the following statement:

"The 14th General Assembly of the PCA goes on record in stating that:

1. It deplores the continued disregard for the name of God and Scriptural values in the entertainment media, and that
2. We encourage our presbyteries, congregations, and members to become active in resisting such trends, and that
3. The *NFD Informer*, published by the National Federation for Decency, be commended to our congregations for resource materials and practical recommendations, and that,
4. A copy of this recommendation be sent to the National Federation for Decency."

### REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

1975, p. 79, 3-65, 19. That Overtures #2, #3, #9 (and a late Overture from Presbytery of South Florida) all be answered as follows:

That representation to the 1976 General Assembly be on the basis as in past and that this procedure be reviewed by the permanent Committee on Administration during the year and that it present a procedure for representation at future assemblies for consideration by the 1976 Assembly.

1976, p. 80, 4-74, III, B. The Committee recommends that there be no change of the structure of future Assemblies until the denomination's membership of churches exceeds 500.

1980, p. 121, 8-103, III, 3. That in view of the likelihood of surpassing 500 churches during 1980, the question of a delegated Assembly be reopened by referring the matter to the Committee on Administration for a report to the 1981 General Assembly.

1981, p. 155, 9-80, III, 7. That the issue of a Delegated Assembly be returned to the Committee on Administration for further study, especially giving attention to a plan for achieving greater parity of representation among teaching and ruling elders within the current structure. It is further recommended that the Committee on Administration, in study, solicit formal advice from each presbytery to consider in its deliberation.

1982, p. 69, 10-33, III, 14. That the Committee on Administration be authorized to continue to study the matter of delegated Assemblies.

1983, p. 80, 11-30, III, 10. That the General Assembly approve the change to representative assemblies. Defeated by a vote of 329 to 412.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### REVIEW OF LOWER COURT RECORDS

1987, p. 105, 15-38, 1. That the Committee's proposed amendment to BCO 14-2, providing for a delegated assembly, be *rejected*, and if the life of the Ad Interim Committee is extended, that the Committee be directed not to pursue the concept of a delegated assembly further.

### REVIEW OF LOWER COURT RECORDS

1982, p. 105, 10-75, III, 35. That the Committee on Administration be given the assignment to study the problem of the review and control of Presbyteries.

Grounds:

1. Overture 18 to the Ninth General Assembly was answered in the affirmative but the responsibility for carrying out the study was not given to a particular committee. Therefore, both the Committee on Administration and the Sub-Committee on Judicial Business have worked on the problem.
2. The Sub-Committee on Judicial Business recognized that one of the solutions to the problem was to assign the task to the Sub-Committee. Wanting to maintain the integrity of the Sub-Committee, the members believed that it should not be involved in a study that might result in greater responsibility for itself.
3. Two separate proposed answers might cause confusion. Only one committee should study the problem and propose a solution.

1982, p. 125, 10-100, IV, 5. That the Committee on Administration consider the future operations of the Committee of Commissioners on Review and Control of Presbyteries and suggest a means to provide a mechanism for continuity in its operations from year to year.

1984, p. 208, 12-97, IV, 2. The Committee was gravely hindered in its work by two factors. First, numerous presbyteries neglected to provide a representative to the Committee. Second, even where men had been named, some who determined that they would be unable to attend the Assembly failed to read and submit reports on minutes mailed to them, thereby forcing the Committee to read the minutes at the Assembly. Recommendations that the General Assembly express strong disapproval of both practices, and encourage both presbyteries and designated representatives to fulfill their responsibilities to cooperate with the Committee.

1985, p. 109, 13-45, III, 48. That the advice regarding Constitutional Inquiry 6 be ratified. (exceptions to Western Carolinas Minutes)

1985, p. 241, Appendix I, 6. Constitutional Inquiry 6: From the Presbytery of the Western Carolinas.

Regarding a disagreement with the action of the Twelfth General Assembly under Review and Control of Presbyteries: "What we are asking for is advice as to how we may present our 'case' in these matters of interpretation before a future General Assembly. Some, if not all of you were present at that Friday afternoon session in Baton Rouge; you can testify how it went. What opportunity was there to study the report, especially when we had no advance notice of its contents, and to frame an argument against its adoption?

ANSWER:

The CJB would point out that exceptions made by the Committee on Review and Control have been approved by the General Assembly, hence, are binding unless rescinded by the General Assembly. Presbytery does have the privilege to appeal to the General Assembly to rescind its previous action, giving appropriate justification.

This committee would further point out that every presbytery has a member on the Committee on Review and Control of General Assembly that should be alert to concerns of his own presbytery. Further, the Stated Clerk of presbytery himself should take the initiative to be available to the Committee on Review and Control to respond to questions raised within committee. Finally, any member of presbytery, including the Stated Clerk, has a right to raise questions in General Assembly when the report of Review and Control is made.

## PCA DIGEST

### REVIEW OF LOWER COURT RECORDS

1985, p. 163, 13-76, III.

1. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly advise the presbyteries that the following errors or omissions, which amount to exceptions, have appeared so generally in the minutes throughout the denomination that to name them as exceptions to the minutes of particular presbyteries would be unfair, but that they will be treated as exceptions by the Review and Control Committee in the future:
  - a. Inasmuch as both Teaching and Ruling Elders vow at ordination to be diligent in the exercise of the duties of the offices to which they are called (*BCO* 21-5 [7] and 24-5 [4]); and it is the responsibility of presbyteries to require their members to be diligent, and to inquire into and censure delinquencies (*BCO* 13-9 and 34-10); and the sessions within each presbytery are charged with appointing diligent representatives to the higher court (*BCO* 12-5); therefore, presbyteries must take appropriate steps to deal with repetitive absences of either individual Teaching Elders or Ruling Elder representatives of specific churches.
  - b. The minutes of each presbytery submitted for review must include a copy of the Guidelines for Keeping Presbytery Minutes and a copy of the report received from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly concerning the minutes reviewed by the Assembly (*RAO* 9-14-10).
2. The Committee, having taken note of the exceptions found in the minutes submitted for the past two years, recommends that the General Assembly advise the presbyteries that the following are repetitive problem areas, to which particular attention should be paid in order that proper procedures may be employed.
  - a. The use of commissions, especially for ordinations;
  - b. Examinations (all varieties);
  - c. Establishment of quorums and of the necessary number of votes where special majorities (i.e. 2/3, 3/4, etc.) are required;
  - d. Failure to attach documents mentioned in the minutes.
4. The Committee was further hindered in two other ways. First, some men who were appointed but determined that they could not attend the Assembly failed to submit reports on minutes assigned to them, thereby forcing the Committee to read the minutes during the Assembly. Second, some men named as Committee members were also named as members of Committees of Commissioners, creating situations where the men were supposed to be in two places at the same time. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly express its strong disapproval of both practices, and encourage both presbyteries and designated representatives to fulfill their responsibilities to cooperate with the Committee.

1986, p. 210, 14-88, IV, B, 1. Recommend that a general reminder be made to all Presbyteries of their obligation to record specific exceptions to Session minutes (*BCO* 40-3).

1988, p. 164, 16-69, V, B, 5. That the General Assembly, on the advice of the Committee on the Review and Control of Presbyteries, note in the minutes of that General Assembly the presbyteries whose representatives have failed to perform the work assigned them; and

in order to assist the committee in completing the work at the Assembly, the new moderator of the General Assembly, on the advice of the Committee on the Review and Control of Presbyteries, shall appoint additional members, as needed, from the presbyteries whose representatives have failed to finish their assignments.

Ground: The Committee on the Review and Control of Presbyteries is hindered severely by the failure of some of its members to complete their reports and forward them to the chairman.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### RIDGE HAVEN

1988, p. 247, 16-104, VI, 5. That the Assembly provide (through the Stated Clerk's Office) services of computer operator and computer in, (a) entering reports of review of presbyteries prior to assembly, and (b) meeting as presbyteries with the committee at the assembly to provide continuous processing.

Grounds: the enormous amount of material which must be processed by this Committee.

1988, p. 247, 16-104, VI, 6. That the Assembly set the time for the convening of this committee two full working days before the start of the Assembly.

1990, p. 190, 18-79, VII.

1. That the Assembly provide (through the Stated Clerk's Office) services of a computer operator and computer in, (a) entering the reports of the review of presbyteries prior to Assembly, and (b) meeting with the committee at the Assembly to provide continuous processing.
2. That the Assembly set the time for the convening of this committee to be in the morning two full working days before the start of the Assembly.
3. That the Assembly extend the term of committee members to three (3) years.
4. That all members of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records be reimbursed for travel expenses; that members who are not delegates to GA be reimbursed for food and lodging until the Committee reports to GA; and that delegates to GA be reimbursed for food and lodging expenses incurred prior to the beginning of the Assembly.

1991, p. 125, 19-61, III, 16, A. Presbytery Records Committee be reimbursed as necessary for food and lodging for the two or three days prior to GA from GA registration fees. Further, that members of Presbytery Records Committee, who are not commissioners, be reimbursed for travel, food and lodging for only as long as they are needed to complete the work. (Note: This policy to be reviewed after 3 years.) *Adopted*

#### AUTHORITY OF HIGHER COURTS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

### RIDGE HAVEN

#### BYLAWS

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT

1977, p. 86, 5-79.

15. That the General Assembly approve the general idea of establishing a Conference Center when funds are available for that purpose.
17. That the General Assembly authorize the expenditure of any funds designated for the Conference Center that are not needed to consummate the purchase of the site for any preliminary work that needs to be done in connection with the development of the center.
18. That the General Assembly appoint a permanent Sub-Committee to work under the Committee on Administration to be charged with the responsibility of acquiring a suitable site and developing the Center, said Committee to consist of 11 men elected by the Assembly, the Coordinators of the four Committees and the Stated Clerk to serve as Advisory Members without vote.
19. That the General Assembly authorize this Committee:
  - a. To solicit and receive additional gifts designated for the Center.
  - b. To purchase a site, either by paying cash for the site or by accepting terms offered by the sellers.

## PCA DIGEST

### RIDGE HAVEN

- c. To expend funds given for the development of the Center, limiting its spending to funds actually in hand. The Committee is not authorized to borrow money without the express approval of the General Assembly, except as in "b".
- d. To develop land not needed for the Center itself and to sell lots to members of PCA and others.
- e. To bring to the 1978 General Assembly a long range plan for the development and financing of the Center.
- f. That other sites across the nation be considered by the Committee, to insure that the best interests of the PCA in other parts of the country, and also allows the Committee to receive a gift of a site in other than the Southeast.

1978, p. 70, 6-34, III.

- 6. That the Assembly authorize the Sub-Committee to hire staff members for the Conference Center as and when it deems necessary.
- 7. That the Assembly approve a Board of Trustees of the Conference Center in accord with the following Plan:
  - That the General Assembly establish a Board of Trustees for the Conference Center in place of the present Conference Center Sub-Committee.
  - That this Board be empowered to incorporate the Center in the state of North Carolina and according to its laws pertaining to non-profit religious organizations.
  - That the initial Board consist of nine (9) members in three (3) classes as follows...
  - That the Nominating Committee submit names for each new class beginning in 1981 for the Class of 1984.
  - That the Board of Trustees prepare and submit bylaws and policy recommendations for consideration and approval by the 1979 General Assembly.
- 9. That the Assembly receive this report as a progress report and authorize the Sub-Committee to continue:
  - a. To solicit and receive additional gifts designated for the Center.
  - b. To expend funds given for the development of the Center, limiting its spending to funds actually in hand.
  - c. To bring to the 1979 General Assembly a long range plan for the development and financing of the Center.
  - d. To consider other sites across the nation, to insure that the best interests of the PCA are served. This is with a view toward the future development of the PCA in other parts of the country and also allows the Sub-Committee to receive a gift of a site in other than the southeast.

1990, p. 96, 18-33, III, 4. That North Carolina Ridge Haven continue its authorized development and encouragement be given to the development of other Ridge Havens, all to be under the authority of the Ridge Haven Board elected by General Assembly.

### FUNDING

1978, p. 70, 6-34, III, 8. That in order to protect the Conference Center project against financial crises resulting from uncertain and fluctuating cash flow, the Sub-Committee is to retain, from this point, an account of \$100,000.00 to cover the first three (3) years of interest payments as well as the fourth year's principal and interest payment. Thereafter, the account will be maintained at a level sufficient to make at least one year's combined payment.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### RIDGE HAVEN

1979, p. 121, 7-58, IV, 8. That the following recommendations regarding reserve account be approved:

Whereas, The Conference Center Committee reported to the Sixth General Assembly that a reserve account of \$85,000 would be set up to cover the first three annual payments on the mortgage on the property and the fourth year's interest and principal payments, and this was approved by the Assembly, and

Whereas, with increasing inflation, costs of every kind are escalating more rapidly than the interest that could be earned on funds held in reserve, and the purchasing power of the money today will probably be much greater than it will be three years from now, and

Whereas, the adoption of this recommendation will enable Ridge Haven to use approximately \$68,000 to build roads and construct facilities this year, and in the Board's opinion be better stewardship of the Lord's money, The Board of Directors of Ridge Haven, Inc., recommends that only a sum sufficient to cover the next year's payment be held in reserve.

1981, p. 95, 9-38, III, 8. That sessions and churches be encouraged to include Ridge Haven Conference Center in their annual budgets.

1981, p. 93, 9-38, III, 3. That the following resolution be adopted:

Whereas, RIDGE HAVEN, INC., is engaged in the construction of a conference center for the Presbyterian Church in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Transylvania County in North Carolina; and

Whereas, the said RIDGE HAVEN, INC., is in immediate need of funds to proceed with the construction of additional elements of said conference center in accordance with the Master Plan for the conference center; and

Whereas, The Keyes Company of Miami has executed and delivered to the Presbyterian Church in America its promissory note in the original principal sum of \$806,079.14, dated the 11th day of January, 1980, and payable in annual installments of \$161,215.83, as a donation and has stipulated that it should be assigned to RIDGE HAVEN, INC., to be used by it to assist in the construction of the conference center in Transylvania County, and the Presbyterian Church in America is now in the process of assigning said note to RIDGE HAVEN, INC., as directed by the donor; and

Whereas, it appears that the only feasible way to obtain the funds needed by RIDGE HAVEN, INC., in the near future is through a term loan; and

Whereas, RIDGE HAVEN, INC., has secured from Flagship National Bank of Miami a commitment for a term loan of \$400,000 upon the following terms and conditions:

1. The loan shall be a four-year term loan and evidenced by a promissory note of RIDGE HAVEN, INC. Draws may be made in amounts as required by the borrower up to a total of \$400,000 until January 11, 1982, at which time the loan shall begin to amortize in \$100,000 increments on a yearly basis.
2. The interest rate shall be the Prime Rate of Flagship National Bank of Miami plus one-fourth (1/4) of one per cent (1%). The rate shall be adjusted quarterly and the interest payable quarterly. RIDGE HAVEN, INC., will be required to open an account at Flagship National Bank of Miami and authorize the automatic deduction of interest therefrom.
3. The Keyes Company note payable to the Presbyterian Church in America in the original principal sum of \$806,079.14 shall be assigned to RIDGE HAVEN, INC., and further assigned by it to Flagship National Bank of Miami. In addition, certain additional collateral which the Keyes Realty Companies of Miami have agreed to pledge as security to the note of RIDGE HAVEN, INC., shall be delivered to the lender.
4. Yearly financial statements prepared by RIDGE HAVEN's auditor as provided for in Article IX, Paragraph 3, of its Bylaws shall be furnished to Flagship National Bank of Miami.

## PCA DIGEST

### RIDGE HAVEN

5. Copy of resolution of the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America authorizing RIDGE HAVEN, INC., to incur the indebtedness to Flagship National Bank of Miami on the foregoing terms and the securing of said loan by the reassignment of The Keyes Company note hereinabove referred to, to be furnished said bank; and

Whereas, the directors of RIDGE HAVEN, INC., have approved the making of said loan by proper resolution and have authorized the execution and delivery of the promissory note and other documents necessary to obtain and secure said loan, subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America; and

Whereas, this Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America desires to approve the proposed loan set out above and to authorize the assignment of The Keyes Company note hereinabove referred to;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America as follows:

1. That the note of The Keyes Company to Presbyterian Church in America in the original sum of \$806,079.14, dated the 11th day of January, 1980, and payable in five (5) equal, annual installments be assigned to RIDGE HAVEN, INC., in accordance with the stipulation of the maker of said note to be used by it in the construction of the conference center in Transylvania County, North Carolina, and the proper officers of the Presbyterian Church in America are hereby authorized and directed to make such assignment.
2. That RIDGE HAVEN, INC., is hereby authorized to obtain a term loan of \$400,000 from Flagship National Bank of Miami on the following terms and conditions:
  - a. The loan shall be a four-year term loan and evidenced by a promissory note of RIDGE HAVEN, INC. Draws may be made in amounts as required by RIDGE HAVEN, INC., up to a total of \$400,000 until January 11, 1982, at which time the loan shall begin to amortize in \$100,000 increments on a yearly basis.
  - b. The interest rate shall be the Prime Rate of Flagship National Bank of Miami, plus one-fourth (1/4) of one percent (1%). The rate shall be adjusted quarterly and the interest payable quarterly. RIDGE HAVEN, INC., is authorized to open an account at Flagship National Bank of Miami and authorize the automatic deduction of interest from said account.
  - c. RIDGE HAVEN, INC., is authorized to reassign The Keyes Company note referred in Paragraph 1. above to Flagship National Bank of Miami as collateral to its promissory note referred to in Paragraph 1. above. In addition, certain additional collateral which The Keyes Realty Companies of Miami have agreed to pledge as security to the note of RIDGE HAVEN, INC., shall be delivered to the lender upon such terms as may be agreed upon between said Companies and the lender.
  - d. RIDGE HAVEN, INC., is authorized to deliver yearly financial statements prepared by its auditor as provided for in Article IX, Paragraph 3, of its Bylaws to Flagship National Bank of Miami, so long as it may be indebted to said bank on the note hereinabove referred to.
  - e. That a copy of this resolution be certified by the Stated Clerk and delivered to RIDGE HAVEN, INC., for delivery to Flagship National Bank of Miami in accordance with its requirements for making the proposed loan to RIDGE HAVEN, INC.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### RIDGE HAVEN

#### STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF TRANSYLVANIA

I, MORTON H. SMITH, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in a regular session on June 16th, 1981, at which a quorum was present and a majority thereof voted for said Resolution, and that the same has not been altered, amended or rescinded, and is still in full force and effect.

This the 16th day of June, 1981.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stated Clerk,

Presbyterian Church in America

1989, p. 131, 17-80, III, 4. That Ridge Haven be allowed to conduct a capital funds campaign during 1992-93.

#### INCORPORATION

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### LEASING LOTS

1979, p. 121, 7-58, IV, 5. That the following recommendation regarding leasing of lots be approved;

Whereas, when the Fifth General Assembly authorized the Conference Center Committee to proceed with the purchase of a site, it was understood that the Committee planned to raise part of the funds needed for the development of the Center by the sale of lots to PCA members and others, and

Whereas, discussion on the floor of the Sixth General Assembly indicated that some commissioners felt that the Church should not become involved in the development of the Center by the sale of lots to PCA members and others, and

Whereas, interest already shown indicates that many PCA members would like to acquire sites adjacent to the Center, and the reason for purchasing 710 acres instead of only 200 was to develop such lots, and such lots will be in easy walking distance to the Center and will provide a significant increase in housing capacity without cost to the Center, and

Whereas, the development of the Center will increase the desirability of adjoining properties, the Board feels that the Center should benefit financially from the lease or sale of lots rather than allow this financial benefit to accrue to independent investors, and

Whereas, the former authority regarding lots was not rescinded, the board believes it has the authority to develop and lease or sell lots, but to eliminate all doubt,

The Board recommends that the Seventh General Assembly specifically authorize the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven, Inc., to develop and lease lots on the Conference Center property.

Explanation: The Church is not in the real estate business. The provision of lots is for the benefit of the Conference Center, which benefit is best preserved by the greater control which leasing allows.

#### MASTER PLAN

(See PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES)

#### NAME

1978, p. 70, 6-34, III, 4. That the Assembly approve the name "Ridge Haven" for the official title of the Conference Center site.

## PCA DIGEST

### RIDGE HAVEN

#### PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

1981, p. 95, 9-38, III.

6. That sessions and churches be encouraged to have a Ridge Haven representative present the Conference Center to their congregations.
7. That churches, presbyteries, and General Assembly Committees be encouraged to use the facilities of Ridge Haven for retreats, conferences, and other meetings whenever possible.
9. That all Committees of the General Assembly be encouraged to use the facilities at Ridge Haven.

#### RESTRICTIVE AND PROTECTIVE COVENANTS

1979, p. 121, 7-58, IV, 7. That the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven, Inc., be authorized to prepare a declaration of restrictive and protective covenants for Ridge Haven, Inc., in conformity with state and local laws.

#### USE

1979, p. 121, 7-58, IV, 9. That the following policy concerning the use of the Center be approved:

It shall be the policy of Ridge Haven, Inc., to give primary consideration for use of grounds and facilities to PCA groups and members and other evangelical Christians.

#### ROTATION OF ELDERS

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BCO 3-1, 1986, 14-52, 16, 2; BCO 24-1, 1986, 14-52, 17; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #8)

#### SABBATH

(See also INTERCHURCH RELATIONS, LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #23, #28, #37)

1976, p. 65, 4-57, 3, b. Overture 5 with amendment as follows:

Whereas, the Word of God clearly instructs men to observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy and to set aside this one day out of seven as being consecrated to the Lord: (Genesis 21:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58: 13-14)

And Whereas, the Sabbath day has fallen into widespread profanation and disuse in American society today, and various athletic, commercial, and social enterprises and activities have all but obliterated our former national reverence for this holy day.

Therefore, we the members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America reaffirm our unwavering stand against all unnecessary encroachments upon the Lord's Day, and exhort all citizens everywhere to worship God and to properly set aside and sanctify the Sabbath of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that we exhort each pastor and session to study the positive application of Sabbath observance to their congregation in order to bring our practice into greater conformity with the Church's Standards.

1981, p. 149., 9-71, III, 3.

Whereas, a bill has been prefiled in the Congress of the United States of America to change the day of national elections from Tuesday to Sunday, and

Whereas, the Lord of the Sabbath has instructed his people to, "Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's.",

Be it therefore resolved that the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, on clear Scriptural principles, opposes this proposed usurpation of God's prerogatives by the civil magistrate.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### SESSION

#### Grounds:

1. *BCO* 11:2.1; 14:6.
2. *WCF* Chapter 21, paragraph 7.
3. A change in national election day to Sunday would force many PCA members to violate their consciences in matters of obedience to God's Word.

By motion duly seconded, the Stated Clerk was directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the President and to the Congress of the United States of America.

### SALARY FOR COORDINATORS

(See COMPENSATION FOR COORDINATORS)

### SECRET SOCIETIES

(See FREEMASONRY; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Freemasonry, pp. 300-377)

### SEMINARY

(See CE&P, THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES)

### SESSION

#### BUDGETS

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 10-2)

#### MANUALS

1975, p. 74, 3-55. Moved that the Judicial Business Committee be asked: (1) to give a decision as to whether or not the Session of the Church can legally devise additional rules supplemental to those set forth in our *Book of Church Order* concerning the procedures governing the election of officers in the local church; (2) to decide the legality of local churches Operational manuals and/or Sessions' books of church order for local Churches which are in conformity with, but supplemental to the denomination's *Book of Church Order*.

1975, p. 113, 3-89. In response to the Resolution of John Holmes (See paragraph 3-55) regarding additional rules and operational manuals for sessions and congregations, the Committee recommends it be answered as follows: Since no case is before us, no ruling can be made, but it is the opinion of the Assembly that such manuals are in order, as long as there is no conflict with the Constitution.

#### MINUTES

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 13-9, 1986, 14-52, 46)

#### MODERATOR

#### Stated Supply

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 12-3, 1987, 15-83, III, 11)

#### Voting Rights

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 4-3, 1985, 13-45, 49, 52; 1986, 14-52, 45)

## PCA DIGEST

### SESSION

#### QUORUM

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 12-1, 1984, 12-53, 62)

#### RECEIVING AND TRANSFERRING MEMBERS

1993, p. 118, 21-56, III, 2. "Request Prompt Notification when Transferring Members"  
...in the matter of receiving and transferring members, that member congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America be exhorted,

1. that the Session of a receiving congregation notify the former congregation, if that congregation be evangelical, and request release of members desiring to transfer when appropriate, and,
2. that the Session of a former congregation promptly transfer members in good standing when asked to do so, and,
3. that when a member whose transfer is requested is not in good standing in the former congregation, the Session of that congregation should so inform the requesting Session and may explain why the member is not in good standing, and,
4. where problems of discipline or known unrepented sin exist with persons desiring to transfer, the Sessions of both congregations should work together to bring about restoration of the individual and purity of the body.
5. Caution should be exercised in sending records of judicial proceedings without the consent of the parties.

#### STATED SUPPLY

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 12-3, 1987, 15-83, III, 11)

#### VOTING RIGHTS

(See PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *BCO* 4-3, 1985, 13-45, 49, 52; 1986, 14-52, 45)

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(See IAR, SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM)

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(See also PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #61; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Spiritual Gifts, pp. 543-551)

1973, 1-50. Report of Special Committee on Setting up Charismatic Gift Committee

1. That the special committee to study the charismatic gifts be appointed by the Moderator, the Stated Clerk, and the Chairman of the Constitutional Documents Committee, and
2. That this committee be composed of seven elders-four teaching elders and three ruling elders-and that it be representative of the spectrum of convictions on this matter in the National Presbyterian Church.
3. That it be charged as follows:
  - a. To recommend to the 1974 General Assembly wording for *BCO* 7-1 that is faithful to the principles of the Reformed Faith while not expressing views representing just one segment of Reformed Christians; and

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

- b. To study thoroughly questions regarding spiritual gifts, such as: the extent to which any must certainly have permanently ceased, the possibility that any may perhaps exist today and, if so, the nature of such gifts as they may be practiced today. Such study should include the Bible, the writings of different Reformed theologians through history, and the views of members of the National Presbyterian Church; and
- c. To recommend to the 1974 General Assembly guidelines indicating at what points we ought to be agreed and at what points liberty to hold differing viewpoints should exist among us.

### STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

1987, p. 106, 15-43. Ad Interim Committee on the General Assembly - Judicial Procedures....Recommendation 2 of the Majority Report was adopted as follows:

- 2. That the General Assembly approve and send to the Presbyteries for action the proposed amendment to the Book of Church Order Chapter 15 as set out in Exhibit "B" to this report.

#### 1987, p. 477, Appendix S. JUDICIAL BUSINESS PROCEDURE

Your Committee submits Exhibit "B" attached as the recommendation of the entire Committee, with the exception of one matter therein on which 2 members submit a minority report. This minority report deals with the issue of whether or not a court should "debate" the judgment of its Commission which tried the case or just accept or reject the judgment "without debate". Otherwise all the Ad Interim Committee members concur in this recommendation.

In the 14th General Assembly, Rev. Don Clements proposed that the idea of regional panels be incorporated in the Rules of Assembly Operations rather than in the Book of Church Order. This suggestion was made so that the procedure could be more easily modified as experience mandated. There were not enough commissioners on the floor to meet requirements of the RAO and thus amend the rules. But there seemed to be overwhelming support for the idea. Your Committee has incorporated this change in its recommendation.

At the presbytery level, this proposal would allow the presbytery the option of trying a judicial case as a whole or submitting it to a commission. The Committee felt that presbytery was small enough to be able to try the case as a whole, if it so desired. But if the presbytery elected to assign the case to a commission, which would hear all the witnesses and try the case, then the presbytery should approve or disapprove the commission's judgment without debate. Why have a commission if the presbytery wants to debate the case? The presbytery does have the right to disapprove the commission's judgment and try the case itself or refer it to another commission. If the presbytery thinks that the commission's judgment raises a constitutional issue, it may refer the constitutional issue to a study committee to report so that the members might be enlightened on the constitutional matter. This Study Committee report would be for information only and not binding on the Court. But to allow the presbytery to debate the case when it did not hear the witnesses, have all the facts and exhibits, nor hear the arguments of the parties, would be very frustrating to presbytery members who would be asked to make a judgment on the subjective arguments of presbyters without hearing the case. Such a debate would open the presbytery to the persuasive arguments of eloquent presbyters rather than having the protection of the checks and balances in the Rules of Discipline.

At the General Assembly level, the Committee's recommendations would require the commitment of every judicial case to the Standing Judicial Commission. The Standing Judicial Commission would consist of 24 members elected in the same manner as all General Assembly Committees, except no person could be elected if there already is a member from the same presbytery.

## PCA DIGEST

### STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

In an effort to get as much information on each case to the Commissioners at General Assembly, the Standing Judicial Commission shall submit a report of each case which contains:

1. A summary of the facts.
2. A statement of the issues.
3. Any written briefs of the parties.
4. Any recommended judgment of a judicial panel.
5. The reasoning of the Commission.
6. Its recommended judgment.

This report must be mailed to the Clerk of Session of each church at least 30 days prior to the meeting of General Assembly at which it is considered. Thus the Commissioners will have ample opportunity to study the report before coming to General Assembly.

The General Assembly would then approve or disapprove the judgment without question or debate or discussion. Again, if debate is permitted, the Commissioners will be asked to make a decision without hearing the witnesses or the arguments of the parties. This would be frustrating and could open the case to persuasive arguments of eloquent commissioners who have a particular interest in the case. Your Committee's recommendation does provide that if the General Assembly feels that a sufficient constitutional issue is raised by a case, the General Assembly may submit that constitutional issue to a study committee for report and hold its decision until such a study is reported. This Study Committee report would be for information only and not binding on the court. The majority of your Ad Interim Committee believes that the full report, above mentioned, of the Standing Judicial Commission will give commissioners sufficient information to allow them to vote, without debate, to either approve or disapprove the judgment. If the General Assembly disapproves the judgment, it may resubmit the case to the Standing Judicial commission, appoint another commission to try the case, or in an extremely critical matter try the case in the General Assembly as a whole.

Your Committee's recommendation provides for RAO changes (if the BCO changes are approved) which would permit the Standing Judicial Commission to appoint a panel of not less than three of its members to hear the case. Such a panel shall be chosen from its members who are geographically nearest to the locus of the case. Such a panel shall propose to the Standing Judicial Commission a recommended decision. We believe this will enable a panel to hear the case quickly when it arises and while all the facts are fresh on the minds of the witnesses. We believe it will work for quicker and fairer judgment.

As a protection to the parties and the Church, any proposed decision of a panel shall be circulated to the entire 24 members of the Standing Judicial Commission. Any party to the case or any commission member may request a review of the case as a whole. Such a review must be granted if requested by a dissenting member of the panel which heard the case or by at least four members of the commission.

Finally, your Ad Interim Committee unanimously recommends that we return the Judicial Business Committee to its original function of providing non-binding advice on constitutional matters. it would be re-named to "Committee on Constitutional Business". Since its advice would be non-binding, it would not need to report to a Committee of Commissioners nor to General Assembly, except when so requested. This would eliminate the time consuming reports to General Assembly. If the party receiving this non-binding advice is not satisfied, your Committee believes the proper procedure to get a binding opinion is through the courts of the church by overtire, judicial case, or other permissible procedures.

Your Committee believes the procedures outlined in Exhibit "B" will give quick and just answers to all parties interested in a judicial case or complaint and provides adequate safeguards that the ultimate decision must be made by a court of the Church.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### STEWARDSHIP

#### STATED CLERK

##### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1973, p. 52, 1-72, 5. The Convention in Asheville defined the duties of the Stated Clerk for the General Assembly but did not make him answerable to anybody except the General Assembly. Since the General Assembly meets only annually it is our recommendation that the Stated Clerk be made answerable to the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly in the same fashion as the Business Administrator.

1974, p. 82, 2-106, IV, 4. That the Committee on Administration be empowered to hire a provisional Stated Clerk if the need should arise between assemblies.

1975, p. 91, 3-81, 22. That the General Assembly encourage each local session to compile and maintain a history of the church and that the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly be directed to supervise the collection and deposition of such material at the direction of the Assembly.

1988, p. 139, 16-58, 3. That the Stated Clerk elected by this 16th General Assembly serve as Coordinator of COA until the 17th General Assembly and that he have authority to appoint a business manager/treasurer with the approval of COA.

1988, p. 249, 16-104, VI, 13. That the General Assembly direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to hold regional workshops for presbytery Stated Clerks during the year.

##### PRESBYTERY

1974, p. 83, 2-106, IV, 13. That the General Assembly direct the Stated Clerks of Presbyteries to report all changes in their rolls to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly within one week after such changes have been made.

1978, p. 123, 6-116, III, D. That the Stated Clerks of Presbyteries or an appointed representative meet annually at the General Assembly with the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly at his discretion for the purpose of instruction pertaining to any matters deemed necessary.

#### STATISTICS

1983, p. 80, 11-30, III, 12. That the General Assembly request each PCA church to participate in the completion of a congregational profile questionnaire and census form entitled "Session's Annual Survey and Statistical Report for the Office the General Assembly, PCA."

#### STEWARDSHIP

(See also GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FINANCIAL POLICIES)

##### PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

1975, p. 122, 3-93, III, A, 8. That the CMTW be encouraged to continue the development of materials and methods that will encourage churches in faithful stewardship that will lead to obedience to the Great Commission. *Further, that individuals, Sessions and Presbyteries be encouraged to contribute to the development of materials and methods for financing world evangelization.*

1978, p. 124, 6-117, II, 7. That presbyteries encourage each church to participate in the stewardship seminars when they are offered in their area.

1981, p. 120, 9-61, III.

3. That presbyteries encourage the session of each local church to appoint a Stewardship Key-Man.
4. That presbyteries encourage each church to participate in a Stewardship Seminar when it is offered in its area.

## PCA DIGEST

### STEWARDSHIP

5. That each church be encouraged to use the 1981 Stewardship Materials, "Giving Yourself First."
6. That churches and presbyteries be urged to complete the report on the 1982 Assembly Askings promptly upon request of the Sub-committee on Stewardship Ministries.
7. That the paper entitled "Theology of Stewardship" be received for information and that presbyteries and sessions be encouraged to study it as a guideline for stewardship planning.

1983, p. 104, 11-43, III, 8. That all churches review carefully their giving to PCA causes in comparison with their giving to non-PCA Benevolences, and that all churches be encouraged to increase their support of PCA needs.

### SEASON FOR COMMITMENT

1974, p. 81, 4-75, II, B, 7. That the General Assembly designate for future years as special Stewardship Season for Commitment with the last Sunday in said season being designated as "Commitment Sunday."

### STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

1974, p. 83, 2-106, IV, 20. That the responsibility for preparing and distributing stewardship materials for use in the local churches be placed in the hands of the Committee of Christian Education and Publications.

1983, p. 108, 11-43, 32, Attachment K, III, A. That all present functions and personnel of the PSCSM be assigned to the Committee on Administration.

1988, p. 210, 16-91, III, 29. That CE/P undertake the Stewardship and Week of Prayer responsibilities for 1989.

1992, p. 83, 20-36, III, 10. That the 20th General Assembly assist CE&P in encouraging and recommending the stewardship program and materials developed and coordinated by CE&P in order to promote the one work of the church concept (*Book of Church Order* 14:1-13).

*Adopted*

### TITHING

1978, p. 124, 6-117, II, 4. That the General Assembly exhort the pastors and sessions of the Presbyterian Church in America to practice, preach, and teach tithing in each of the PCA congregations; and that the Sub-Committee for Stewardship Ministries be instructed to convey this exhortation to the sessions and pastors of the PCA when it reports on the 1979 budget and interpret it to the congregations.

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (PSCSM)

(See also PCA FOUNDATION, FUNDING; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, PCA Structure, pp. 516-541)

### ADVISORY MEMBERSHIP

1979, p. 76, 7-22. The Special Advisory Committee to the Committee on Stewardship Ministries, in compliance with the mandate of the Sixth General Assembly relating to development of systematic budgeting and funding procedures, makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. That the Bylaws be amended by adding Section 10 to Article IV as follows:  
Section 10. The Committee on Stewardship Ministries

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This Committee shall operate administratively as a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Administration. The Committee will make direct report to each Assembly. This Sub-Committee shall be considered as a Permanent Sub-Committee as to continuity; but it shall not be considered as a Permanent Sub-Committee under *Book of Church Order*, Section 15-1-12, as it relates to nominations and service. This Committee shall consist of one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder from the active or alternate members of each of the following four permanent committees, to wit: Mission to the World, Mission to the United States, Administration, and Christian Education and Publications. These committee members shall be assigned by each of the four permanent committees, above named, and shall serve at the pleasure of such permanent committee. The Coordinators of said four permanent committees and the Director of Stewardship Ministries shall be advisory members of this Committee.

1981, p. 115, 9-56, III, 8, a. That the advisory membership of the Stewardship Committee be enlarged to include the Managing Director of the PCA Foundation, the Moderator and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly; and that the Chairman of the Committee be elected annually from among its voting members. This requires a change in the Bylaws, Article IV, 10, next to the last line, following the words "four permanent committees" to read "the Director of the Stewardship Committee, the Managing Director of the PCA Foundation, the Moderator and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly shall be advisory members of this Committee."

### BUDGET

1978, p. 98, 6-87, III, 5. That the Stewardship Sub-Committee receive a percentage of their approved budget equal to the percentage of each Permanent Committee's budget received in the year beginning with the year 1979.

### DIRECTORS

1981, p. 116, 9-56, III, 9. That the PCA Foundation and the Stewardship Committee eventually shall have separate full-time directors. Each organization will be responsible to prepare a job description and qualifications for its own Director which shall be approved by the General Assembly. Each organization will nominate its own Director for Assembly's approval. The salary of the Directors shall not exceed that of the Coordinators of the permanent committees.

1982, p. 115, 10-90, III, 12. That the following job description for the Director of Stewardship Ministries be approved as amended.

#### JOB DESCRIPTION FOR DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP

The responsibilities of the Director of Stewardship must reflect the assignment of the Stewardship Committee. That assignment includes three major functions:

- I. Goals and Guidelines
- II. Budget Review
- III. Coordination of the Promotional Work of the Program Committees

#### I. GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The Director of Stewardship will:

- a. Receive from each committee its proposed short and long range goals and their estimate of the costs for the coming year.
- b. Present these goals to the Stewardship Committee at its January meeting each year.
- c. Correlate these committee reports according to a uniform format for the Stewardship Committee, so it will be able to make comparisons easily.
- d. Prepare guidelines for local congregations expressing the Stewardship Committee's recommendations concerning goals and their priorities. These guidelines will be part of the Stewardship Committee's report to General Assembly (and subsequently distributed to the congregations).

## PCA DIGEST

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- e. Prepare the formal report for General Assembly based on the Committee's decisions. The report will be approved by the Committee together with recommendations for General Assembly deliberation and decision.
- f. Develop and promote a system of "askings" for the General Assembly budget from local congregations.

### II. BUDGET REVIEW

The Director of Stewardship will:

- a. Gather budget proposals from all organizations.
- b. Prepare whatever statistical information is needed and gather necessary data to assist the Stewardship Committee to review, evaluate, and recommend an overall budget to the General Assembly. This review is to be finalized at the March meeting of the Stewardship Committee.
- c. Encourage the use of a uniform budget by all committees to be introduced at the January meeting of the Stewardship Committee.
- d. Prepare and distribute to all local congregations statistical information that will keep them abreast of the financial condition of the four permanent committees.

### III. COORDINATION OF THE PROMOTIONAL WORK OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEES

The Director of Stewardship will:

- a. Report to and be responsible to the Stewardship Committee.
- b. Establish an office and staff within income limits at the same location used by the permanent committees of General Assembly.
- c. Work with the four permanent committees and the coordinators to reflect their concerns to the people of our denomination. This will involve his attendance at all meetings of the permanent committees of the denomination.
- d. Meet with the four coordinators at least quarterly, and act as chairman of that meeting.
- e. Receive promotional information from all committees including publications, conferences or seminars, itineration schedules, meetings with Presbyteries, Sessions, etc.
- f. Distribute this information via computer print-outs to all committees as an aid in their promotional planning.

### IV. GENERAL DUTIES:

The Director of Stewardship will:

- a. Oversee a program to develop stewardship within all the Presbyteries that will involve each Session in the PCA to stimulate the giving of tithes and offerings.
- b. Set up and regulate a Stewardship Speakers Bureau.
- c. Endeavor to visit each Presbytery at least once every three years.
- d. Provide general oversight to the Director of the PCA Foundation and to promote its work wherever possible.
- e. Supervise the Stewardship staff personnel and assist them wherever needed.
- f. Oversee the development of a presbytery and congregational stewardship network of "key men."
- g. Set up a system to educate incoming churches regarding PCA budgeting proposals and stewardship.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

#### DUTIES

1979, p. 76, 7-22, 1. This Committee shall promote Biblical Stewardship at all levels of the church; and it shall be charged with the responsibility of developing for, recommending to, and implementing for the General Assembly systematic budgeting and funding procedures for all the General Assembly approved causes. It is recognized that it would be unwise to ask this Committee to undertake all these responsibilities at once. This Committee would assume these specific responsibilities as it is willing and able to accept the responsibility for funding them. Until this Committee assumes a specific responsibility, the four Permanent Committees will continue their responsibility in this specific area in the manner assigned by previous General Assemblies.

Such budgeting and funding procedures shall be governed by the following rules:

- (1) Committee budgets shall be divided into a "committed" and a "growth" budget. "Committed" shall include all administrative and program commitments approved by the General Assembly for this committee. "Growth" shall include those programs projected by the committee, approved by the General Assembly, and which allow for the unusual demands and opportunities which cannot be accurately envisioned during the budgeting process. Funding for such "growth" budget shall be the responsibility of the permanent committee which proposes the same.
- (2) It is to be understood that the "growth" budget is not to be a part of the "committed" budget, thus giving each committee the flexibility to project a high "growth" budget not to be included in the General Assembly's "askings" of the local churches.
- (3) There will be no change in processing designated funds. All of the committees will continue to receive gifts both "committed" and "growth".
- (4) All funds received by any of the four committees not designated as "growth" will be assumed to be "committed".
- (5) Said four permanent committees shall be encouraged to submit revised budgets, if necessary, to this Committee prior to the General Assembly each year for submission to the General Assembly for approval.

*Adopted*

1979, p. 77, 7-22, 2. That this new Stewardship Committee supplant the prior Stewardship Committee; and that this new Committee be constituted as soon as possible after this General Assembly by the assignment of its members by said four permanent committees. That said Committee immediately embark upon its task which shall include a system for "askings" of each local church for the support of the "committed" budgets of the four permanent committees as approved by the General Assembly. That this Committee be funded in 1980 as an item in the "committee" budgets of the four permanent committees.

*Adopted*

1980, p. 110, 8-80, III, 15. That the annual budget requests of all agencies whose budgets must be approved by the Assembly be referred to the Committee on Stewardship Ministries for evaluation and comment rather than merely as information.

1980, p. 110, 8-80, III, 16. Any permanent committee or other agency of the Presbyterian Church in America desiring for good reasons to revise a budget previously approved by the Assembly shall submit such budget revisions to the Sub-Committee on Stewardship.

1981, p. 363, Appendix N, II.

- c. That the General Assembly affirms its intention that the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee shall do "preliminary" planning and goal-setting studies for the denomination, and shall recommend its findings annually for Assembly's deliberation and decision.
- d. That the General Assembly further clarifies the function of the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee by affirming its responsibility to review and evaluate the budget requests of all agencies whose budgets must be approved by the Assembly (M8GA, 8-80-III-15), and recommend an annual budget to General Assembly.

## PCA DIGEST

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- e. That the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee is to coordinate the interpretive work of all committees of the General Assembly, and is itself the primary interpreter of the One Mission of the Church at every level of the denomination. It is responsible for developing and promoting a system of "askings" for congregational support of the budget of the General Assembly.
- f. That the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee continues to be a sub-committee of the Committee on Administration, as provided for in the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 10, for review and evaluation, but reporting directly to the General Assembly through its own Committee of Commissioners. That the PCA Foundation continues to be a sub-committee of the Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee, reporting through this Committee to the Committee on Administration for its review and approval. It will then report directly to the General Assembly through its own Committee of Commissioners.

1982, p. 116, 10-90, III, 14. Recognizing that our denomination is in a period of transition, such as, Joining and Receiving, and that our entire denominational structure and coordination need to be studied, and believing that the following recommendations are necessary to enable the Stewardship Committee to fulfill its responsibilities in line with the above needs as mandated by the Ninth General Assembly, the Committee of Commissioners on Stewardship recommends:

- a. That the General Assembly direct all boards and committees to send any recommendations concerning long-range planning and goal-setting to the PSCSM for review and submission to the General Assembly in accordance with item 9-56(8) Ninth General Assembly.
- b. That all boards and committees also be permitted to present any recommendations concerning long-range planning and goal-setting to the General Assembly through their respective committees of commissioners.
- c. That the PSCSM clarify the role of the Director of Stewardship Ministries in all fund raising activities related to the four permanent committees, and that their recommendation as to the role of fund raising be submitted to the Eleventh General Assembly for approval.
- d. That the PSCSM be directed to study its function, organization, and position in the organizational structure of the General Assembly, and report its recommendations through its Committee of Commissioners to the Eleventh General Assembly.
- e. That the Committee be permitted to secure competent consultation in making this study.

1983, p. 108, 11-43, 32, Attachment K, III, A. That all present functions and personnel of the PSCSM be assigned to the Committee on Administration.

1983, p. 131, 11-75, III, 12, b. That PSCSM, which is responsible for coordinating, planning and budgetary review, seek to develop a method which will better coordinate both the appeals and promotional materials which are sent to the local churches for each calendar year.

### NAME

1981, p. 363, Appendix N, II, 3, a. That the Sub-Committee on Stewardship Ministries be renamed the "Coordinating, Planning and Stewardship Committee". This requires a change in the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 10, changing the name of the Committee, wherever it appears, to conform with this recommendation.

### PROMOTIONAL WORK

1981, p. 116, 9-56, III, 8, d. That the Stewardship Committee is to coordinate the promotional work of all committees of the General Assembly, and is itself the primary communicator of the one mission of the Church at every level of the denomination. It is responsible for developing and promoting a system of "askings" for congregational support of the budget of the General Assembly.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### TONGUES

#### SUBSCRIPTION

(See CONFSSIONAL SUBSCRIPTION)

#### TAX GROUP EXEMPTION

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Tax Group Exemption, pp. 553-554)

#### TELEVISION

(See RADIO)

#### THANKSGIVING

1991, p. 172, 19-67, III, 19.

Whereas, Almighty God has graciously granted a swift end to the war in the Persian Gulf, and Whereas, in the providence of God the casualties of this war were kept to a minimum:

Therefore, Be it resolved that the 19th General Assembly of the PCA in accord with Scriptural example and *BCO* Chapter 62, calls for a general day of thanksgiving to God on July 7, 1991; and

That thanksgiving specifically focus on the graciousness of God for answering the prayers of his people for peace; and

That thanksgiving be tempered with intercessory prayer on behalf of the many individuals and families who suffered loss during the war, as well as for restoration from devastation caused to the environment in that region.

Be it further resolved that the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly be instructed to communicate this resolution to the churches by the most expedient as well as economical means.

#### THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Candidacy, *Uniform Curriculum*; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, *Uniform Curriculum*, pp. 557-560; *Guidelines for Theological Education*, pp. 561-565)

#### THEONOMY

(See also PART II: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, *WCF* 19-4, 1983, 11-36, 29; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #16, #86; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, *Theonomy*, pp. 555-556)

1978, p. 74, 6-45. Resolution 4

Be it resolved that the General Assembly appoint an Ad-Interim Committee for the purpose of studying the subject of Theonomy and to report back to the Seventh General Assembly.

1978, p. 81, 6-63, II, D. Resolution 4, Your Committee recommends that this matter be referred to the General Assembly Committee on Christian Education and Publications for a definition of Theonomy and that the CE/P Committee make recommendations to the Seventh General Assembly regarding disposition of this matter. (See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, *Theonomy*, pp. 555-556)

#### TONGUES

(See SPIRITUAL GIFTS; PART III: JUDICIAL CASES, #61; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, *Spiritual Gifts*, pp. 543-551)

## PCA DIGEST

### TRUSTEE

(See CHURCH, TRUSTEE)

### UNIFORM CURRICULUM

(See MINISTER, PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY, Candidacy; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Uniform Curriculum, pp. 557-560; Guidelines for Theological Education, pp. 561-565)

### VISIBLE REPRESENTATION OF CHRIST

1983, p. 117, 11-50, II, 7. Personal Resolution 12, was answered as follows: That the General Assembly reminds its churches that in our understanding of Scripture we would reject any visible representation of Christ or the use of religious symbols as objects of worship, but that the particulars in this resolution do not warrant the type of action requested.

### WESTMINSTER STANDARDS

1973, p. 31, 1-31. Doctrinal Standards Adopted

The General Assembly of the national Presbyterian Church adopted the following doctrinal standards as the bond of union:

1. The *Westminster Confession of Faith* as proposed by the Steering Committee for the Continuing Presbyterian Church.
2. The unamended *Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms*

[Note: See Appendix A, pages 76-126, for the text of these doctrinal standards.]

1973, p. 64, 1-81, 5. [Authority granted to correspond with other Churches on updating the language of the Westminster Standards, and to work on Scripture proofs.] The Constitutional Documents Committee was granted authority to work with corresponding committees of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America on both an updating of the language of the Westminster Standards, and on Scripture proof texts of the same.

1976, p. 66, 4-57, 4. In light of the discussion of the Bills and Overture Committee, the Fourth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America reaffirms its commitment to the *Confession of Faith*, especially chapter 31, paragraph 4 on all related matters.

1977, p. 64, 5-33, d. The Assembly adopted the following recommendation regarding Scripture proofs: That the General Assembly give tentative approval of the Scripture proofs found in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland edition of the *Westminster Confession and Catechisms*, with the substitution of those texts found in the Orthodox Presbyterian edition for the chapter on Civil magistrates. That the Assembly authorize the Committee for Christian Education and Publication to print a study edition of the *Confession* and *Catechisms* with these Scriptural proofs, with the understanding that they may be amended and receive final approval at a subsequent Assembly. That the Assembly adopt the position that such proof texts should not become a formal part of the Constitution.

### WILLS

1981, p. 115, 9-56, III, 4. That each church in the Assembly be encouraged to participate in a Wills Seminar for the benefit of its members.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### WOMEN IN THE CHURCH (WIC)

#### BYLAWS

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Women in the Church, p. 566)

#### FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT

(See PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Women in the Church, p. 566)

#### LOVE GIFT

1973, p. 58, 1-77, 16. That the WIC take an annual offering in February to be given to some Assembly approved project.

1974, p. 77, 2-102, IV, 9. That the Assembly approve the Production of Radio Programs by the Mission to the US Committee as the object for the 1975 Love Gift of the WIC;

1975, p. 89, 3-77, 12. That the General Assembly approve the Tuberculosis Clinic and Rehabilitation Center, Korea--a ministry of the Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Linton, as the object for the 1976 Love Gift offering of the Women in the Church.

1976, p. 84, 4-80, 8. The approval of the preparation of a Youth Ministries Manual as the object for the 1977 Love Gift of the WIC.

1977, p. 77, 5-72, III, 17. That the project sponsored by the MUS Committee, namely, "The Mobile Church Project", be the object for the 1978 Love Gift of the WIC.

1978, p. 85, 6-75, III, 5. That the 1979 Love Gift for MTW, special church building projects in Mexico and Ecuador, be approved.

1979, p. 113, 7-49, III, 9. That the Assembly approve the project of the Conference Center (Ridge Haven) for the 1980 Love Gift.

1980, p. 73, 8-29, III, 17. That the 1981 Love Gift of the Women in the Church be designated for Christian Education and Publications to be used in the developing of an audio-visual training department by the committee, and that they be commended for the support for the 1980 Love Gift.

1981, p. 90, 9-36, III, 8. That the Assembly approve designation of the 1982 WIC Gift for a center city ministry in New York City, through Mission to the United States.

1982, p. 65, 10-31, III, 14. That the 1983 WIC Love Gift project for MTW be designated for an audiovisual presentation for radio station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador.

1983, p. 131, 11-75, III, 9. That the WIC be thanked for their generous support of the 1982 Love Gift, and that the 1984 Love Gift project be designated for Covenant College.

1984, p. 105, 12-36, III, 8. That the 1985 WIC Love Gift be designated to the COA project of establishing a denominational archives.

1985, p. 86, 13-30, III, 2. That the 1986 WIC Love Gift be designated for Covenant Theological Seminary and that the WIC be thanked for their gift of \$60,000 to Covenant College for 1984.

1986, p. 137, 14-57, III, 8. That the General Assembly thank the Women In the Church for their 1986 Love Gift, and accept the \$75,000 challenge to be matched by a \$25,000 gift, if met by December 31, 1986.

1986, p. 146, 14-67, III, 11. That the General Assembly join together in expressing gratitude to the WIC for their generous support of the 1985 COA (Archives) Love Gift. A total of \$55,321 was contributed.

1987, p. 148, 15-66, III.

4. That the Women In the Church be commended for their generous contribution to the 1986 Love Gift for Covenant Seminary. They raised \$100,000 dollars for the seminary wives project, which set a new record.
5. That the General Assembly urge sessions to encourage their local WIC to view the 1987 WIC Love Gift program and consider making a contribution before the end of the year. The 1987 Love Gift will go to CE/P for expanding the WIC ministry in the PCA.

## PCA DIGEST

### WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

6. That the 1988 WIC Love Gift project be directed to Mission to North America and their cross-cultural ministries project.

1988, p. 121, 16-33, III, 5. That the 1989 WIC Love Gift designated for Ridge Haven Conference Center be approved.

1989, p. 81, 17-47, III, 5. That the WIC be thanked for their support and commitment of the 1988 Love Gift for MNA for its church planting effort in New York City (over \$100,000 was contributed). *Adopted*

1989, p. 81, 17-47, III, 6. That the 1990 WIC Love Gift be designated to MTW. *Adopted*

1990, p. 98, 18-34, III, 3. That the Assembly be aware of the outstanding support of the Assembly's committees and agencies from the Women in the Church annual Love Gift noting with thanksgiving that the 1989 Love Gift to Ridge Haven Conference Center was \$79,249 plus a matching gift for a total of \$125,032. *Adopted*

1990, p. 98, 18-34, III, 4. That the Assembly concur with the recommendation of the Women in the Church and the CE/P Committee that the 1991 Love Gift be given to Insurance and Annuities and Relief for ministerial relief. *Adopted*

1991, p. 72, 19-27, III, 4. That the PCA WIC be commended for their 1990 Love Gift of \$103,000 to Mission to the World. *Adopted*

1991, p. 73, 19-27, III, 6. That the 1992 Love Gift, according to the WIC rotation schedule, be designated to CE/P and its Women in the Church ministry. *Adopted*

1992, p. 82, 20-36, III, 1. That the 20th General Assembly express gratitude to the Women in the Church for their generous support of the 1991 Love Gift designated to IAR (over \$94,000 was contributed). *Adopted*

1992, p. 82, 20-36, III, 2. That the 20th General Assembly approve the 1993 WIC Love Gift designation for Investor's Fund. *Adopted*

1992, p. 82, 20-36, III, 3. That the 20th General Assembly encourage local churches to participate in the 1992 WIC Love Gift, designated to CE&P and its WIC ministry. (The video presentation is also part of the WIC's curriculum for local churches regarding WIC ministries.) *Adopted*

1993, p. 74, 21-24, III, 5. That the PCA express thanks to the Women in the Church for their generous Love Gift contribution in the amount of \$110,000 to CE/P's WIC to expand their ministry. *Adopted*

1993, p. 74, 21-24, III, 7. That the 1994 WIC Love Gift be given to Covenant College. *Adopted*

### MANUAL

1973, p. 59, 1-77, 35. The *Suggested Manual, Women in the Church* (Local) was approved. (See *Minutes of the First General Assembly*)

### ORGANIZE

1983, p. 131, 11-75, III, 8. That local churches and presbyteries desiring to organize WIC groups be encouraged to contact the CE/P office for materials and consultation.

### WOMEN'S SERVICE ON ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

1989, p. 183, 17-95.

1. Constitutional Inquiry 1  
May a non-ordained person serve in a voting capacity on a General Assembly committee?
2. Constitutional Inquiry 2  
In what appropriate manner may a woman function with or on an ad-interim committee of the General Assembly?

## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### WORSHIP

The following answers were adopted:

1. No. BCO 14 and Bylaws Article IV, Section 10.F;
2. There is no provision for a woman to function on an ad interim committee. The Assembly might allow women to serve in an advisory capacity with a committee. Examples of such approval might be found in the *Minutes* of the First General Assembly approving the establishment by Christian Education and Publications of the Women's Advisory Committee and in the permanent Committee on Judicial Business Manual. TE Rick Tyson requested his negative vote be recorded (in opposition to the Committee's recommendation).

### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (See INTERCHURCH RELATIONS)

### WORLD PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS, INC.

(See also PART IV: BYLAWS, MANUALS AND GUIDELINES, Mission to the World; PART V: POSITION PAPERS, Joint Statement on Joining & Receiving, pp. 411-413)

1982, p. 76, 10-48, III, 24. That in line with the request of the Board of World Presbyterian Missions, Inc., the subcommittee representing the WPM ministries be enlarged to eight members and two alternates.

1982, p. 76, 10-48, III, 25. That the General Assembly issue a call for a special offering for World Presbyterian Missions, Inc., on the third Sunday in September.

1982, p. 76, 10-48, III, 27. That Personal Resolution #5 from TE Nelson Malkus be answered as follows: That we express our love and appreciation for the people and testimony of World Presbyterian Missions, and recognize the great worldwide witness for Christ which has been given in His Name in the past decades; and yet, that there is no definite or compelling reason to continue the name World Presbyterian Missions in view of the similar and yet distinctive witness of Mission to the World in the past decade; we express our desire to retain the name Mission to the World for our combined foreign missions committee.

1983, p. 84, 11-30, III, 37. That the 501 (3)(C) corporate entity of WPM and any other remaining 501 (3)(C) corporations of the RPCES should be continued under Committee of Administration as corporate entities in cooperation with the permanent committees. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these corporations shall remain inactive corporations under the Committee of Administration.

### WORSHIP

1974, p. 74, 2-99, II, 3. That Overture 6, p. 24, proposing preparation of a service book of liturgical forms, be answered as follows;

It is our understanding that this matter is under consideration by the Committee on Constitutional Documents, and we call attention also to the fact that optional forms for special worship occasions are available from such sources as *The Book of Common Prayer*.

1986, p. 178, 14-81. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee Appointed by the Moderator to Draft a Response to the Protest of Certain Members of the Fourteenth General Assembly Who Protested Over the Monday and Tuesday Worship Services (June 23 and 24, 1986)

The protest (14-61, p. 141) lodged concerns the character of the Monday and Tuesday evening programs alleging that they did not represent the worship of reformed character with which the General Assembly usually begins its morning sessions.

## PCA DIGEST

### WORSHIP

In answer it may at first be said that the usual morning worship services are not long - about twenty minutes. The evening programs were intended to combine a worship time with programs which would illustrate and advance the great commission through the committees of the General Assembly. The programs were to include worship, but were not intended to be exclusively worship.

The protest said that the programs were not reformed in character, and that the preaching of the Word of God occupied a minor place in the worship. We reply that the proper elements of reformed worship were included: On Monday, after two well-known hymns from the *Trinity Hymnal* came a Scriptural anthem, the sermon text was presented, and was followed by a full expository sermon by Dr. Clowney on that Scripture passage. On Tuesday, likewise, there were hymns, prayer, sermon, and benediction. The parts of the programs that presented choral and instrumental music were Biblical in character, and the films were instructive in the work of the great commission.

Exception was taken to the clapping during some of the singing and the applause after some performances. It should be remembered that these were part of the program emphasizing ethnic missions. If the tempo would be not attractive to some, our tempo and customs may not be attractive abroad where bongo drums may be the usual accompaniment, (BCO 47-6).

The applause was a natural response of appreciation for a good presentation of Scripture truth. The human singing voice is a marvelous gift of God and to applaud it when used in Scriptural song is both to show appreciation to the singer and thanks to God the author of all our gifts. To show respect and appreciation of fellow Christians is a debt of honor and respect. Romans 13:8 commands us not to leave such a debt outstanding. The Psalmist, after having listed many instruments and various modes of worship, including dancing in the assembly of his people, invites his people to join the Lord in delighting in his people's worship (Psalm 149). One mode by which the Psalmist expressed this "delight," elsewhere, was to join in clapping with the assembled people of God (Psalm 47).

The programs included the appropriate elements of reformed worship and added to the appreciation and understanding of the work of the Great Commission through our committees.

Insofar as the evening program contained worship, that worship was agreeable to Scripture, was a Biblical expression of the Regulative Principle of Worship, and conformed to BCO 47 & 49.

### YEARBOOK

1973, p. 46, 1-66, 10. That the General Assembly ask the Stated Clerk to make available as soon as possible to all member churches of this denomination not only a list of member churches but also a list of those areas in which this denomination is beginning mission churches and that the General Assembly encourage all pastors and churches who have families leaving their area and moving into an area where there is a church or mission work of this denomination to affiliate with the church or mission church in the area where they are moving.

1979, p. 113, 7-49, III, 12. That the Stated Clerk be instructed to include the names of the Chairmen of the Boards of Deacons in the local churches in the *Yearbook*, along with the Clerks of the Sessions.

1982, p. 69, 10-33, III, 13. That hereafter, the *Yearbook* of the PCA not be distributed free of charge to ministers, clerks of sessions, etc., but be sold at prices set by the office of the Stated Clerk. Rationale: prices may fluctuate.

1986, p. 172, 14-74, III, 35. That the publication of a list of PCA churches and/or ministers including the *Yearbook* contain a statement restricting its use to PCA congregations, presbyteries, and agencies be approved.



## ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

1988, p. 172, 16-77, III, 8. That the advice of the Committee on Judicial Business regarding the Committee's Advice to the Stated Clerk be ratified.

Advice requested concerning the listing of disciplinary action in *Yearbook*.

#### ADVICE:

1. In the year disciplined the *Yearbook* should show what happened, and it should remain in the *Yearbook* until his name is dropped from the Presbytery rolls, or the censure is removed.
2. In the year restored it should show what happened.
3. In subsequent years, use brackets showing the dates and a reference to the two yearbooks that included the record, e.g. [74-79 See Ybk 75, Ybk 80].

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

(See CE&P, PIONEER CLUBS; YOUTH MINISTRIES; EDUCATION, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS; MNA, COLLEGE CAMPUS WORK)

