

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
of the  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**IN AMERICA**

Part I  
DIRECTORY  
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES

Part II  
JOURNAL

Part III  
APPENDICES

Part IV  
CORRECTIONS TO  
PREVIOUS MINUTES

Part V  
REFERENCES AND INDEX

**June 21-23, 2016**  
**Mobile, Alabama**

**FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS  
SENT DOWN TO PRESBYTERIES**

Proposed amendments to *BCO*: 5-3; 13-2

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

June 12-16, 2017  
Greensboro, North Carolina

**FUTURE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

June 12-15, 2018  
Atlanta, Georgia

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***Minutes of the Forty-fourth General Assembly***

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Lawrenceville, Georgia

2016

# MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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**\*Note – re:** Recommendations in Reports of Committees of Commissioners

Double underlining in CoC Recommendations indicates that the Committee of Commissioners added or changed the wording from the original Permanent Committee or Agency Recommendation. (Where the original Permanent Committee or Agency Report has proposed a change in the *BCO* or *RAO*, that change is indicated by single underlining.)

## SUCCESSION OF MODERATORS

ASSEMBLY	YEAR	NAME	PLACE OF ASSEMBLY
1 <sup>st</sup>	1973	RE W. Jack Williamson	Birmingham, AL
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1974	TE Erskine L. Jackson	Macon, GA
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1975	RE Leon F. Hendrick	Jackson, MS
4 <sup>th</sup>	1976	TE William A. McIlwaine	Greenville, SC
5 <sup>th</sup>	1977	RE John T. Clark	Smyrna, GA
6 <sup>th</sup>	1978	TE G. Aiken Taylor	Grand Rapids, MI
7 <sup>th</sup>	1979	RE William F. Joseph Jr.	Charlotte, NC
8 <sup>th</sup>	1980	TE Paul G. Settle	Savannah, GA
9 <sup>th</sup>	1981	RE Kenneth L. Ryskamp	Fort Lauderdale, FL
10 <sup>th</sup>	1982	TE R. Laird Harris	Grand Rapids, MI
11 <sup>th</sup>	1983	RE L. B. Austin III	Norfolk, VA
12 <sup>th</sup>	1984	TE James M. Baird Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA
13 <sup>th</sup>	1985	RE Richard C. Chewning	St. Louis, MO
14 <sup>th</sup>	1986	TE Frank M. Barker Jr.	Philadelphia, PA
15 <sup>th</sup>	1987	RE Gerald Sovereign	Grand Rapids, MI
16 <sup>th</sup>	1988	TE D. James Kennedy	Knoxville, TN
17 <sup>th</sup>	1989	RE John B. White, Jr.	La Mirada, CA
18 <sup>th</sup>	1990	TE Cortez A. Cooper Jr.	Atlanta, GA
19 <sup>th</sup>	1991	RE Mark Belz	Birmingham, AL
20 <sup>th</sup>	1992	TE W. Wilson Benton Jr.	Roanoke, VA
21 <sup>st</sup>	1993	RE G. Richard Hostetter	Columbia, SC
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1994	TE William S. Barker II	Atlanta, GA
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1995	RE Frank A. Brock	Dallas, TX
24 <sup>th</sup>	1996	TE Charles A. McGowan	Fort Lauderdale, FL
25 <sup>th</sup>	1997	RE Samuel J. Duncan	Colorado Springs, CO
26 <sup>th</sup>	1998	TE Kennedy Smartt	St. Louis, MO
		TE Donald B. Patterson (Honorary)	
27 <sup>th</sup>	1999	RE Thomas F. Leopard	Louisville, KY
28 <sup>th</sup>	2000	TE Morton H. Smith	Tampa, FL
29 <sup>th</sup>	2001	RE Stephen M. Fox	Dallas, TX
30 <sup>th</sup>	2002	TE Joseph F. "Skip" Ryan	Birmingham, AL
31 <sup>st</sup>	2003	RE Joel Belz	Charlotte, NC
32 <sup>nd</sup>	2004	TE J. Ligon Duncan III	Pittsburgh, PA
33 <sup>rd</sup>	2005	RE Howard Q. Davis Jr.	Chattanooga, TN
34 <sup>th</sup>	2006	TE Dominic A. Aquila	Atlanta, GA
35 <sup>th</sup>	2007	RE E. J. Nusbaum	Memphis, TN
36 <sup>th</sup>	2008	TE Paul D. Kooistra	Dallas, TX
37 <sup>th</sup>	2009	RE Bradford L. "Brad" Bradley	Orlando, FL
38 <sup>th</sup>	2010	TE Harry L. Reeder III	Nashville, TN
39 <sup>th</sup>	2011	RE Daniel A. Carrell	Virginia Beach, VA
40 <sup>th</sup>	2012	TE Michael F. Ross	Louisville, KY
41 <sup>st</sup>	2013	RE Bruce Terrell	Greenville, SC
42 <sup>nd</sup>	2014	TE Bryan S. Chapell	Houston, TX
43 <sup>rd</sup>	2015	RE James W. Wert Jr.	Chattanooga, TN
44 <sup>th</sup>	2016	TE George W. Robertson Jr.	Mobile, AL

## SUCCESSION OF STATED CLERKS

### YEARS

1973 - 1988

1988 - 1998

1998 -

### NAME

TE Morton H. Smith

TE Paul R. Gilchrist

TE L. Roy Taylor Jr.

## **PART I**

# **DIRECTORY OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES 2016-2017**

### **I. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Moderator**

TE George W. Robertson  
First Presbyterian Church  
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TE L. Roy Taylor Jr.  
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## II. MINISTRIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Administration**

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1700 North Brown Road, Suite 105  
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[www.covenant.edu](http://www.covenant.edu)

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12330 Conway Road  
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[www.ridgehaven.org](http://www.ridgehaven.org)



DIRECTORY

**III. PERMANENT COMMITTEES  
(2016-2017)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN:** TE Robert Brunson **VICE CHAIRMAN:** TE Rod S. Mays  
**SECRETARY:** RE W. Todd Carlisle

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RE Jack L. Watkins, Nashville

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RE W. Todd Carlisle, Evangel  
TE Timothy LeCroy, Missouri

**Class of 2018**

TE Rod Mays, Calvary  
RE Brad Bradley, North Texas  
RE Tim Persons, Chesapeake

**Class of 2017**

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RE Jon A. Ford, Central Indiana

**Alternates**

TE Sean M. Lucas, Grace  
RE William L. Hatcher, Savannah River

**Advisory**

TE S. James Bachmann, Nashville

**Chairman of Committee or Board, or Designate**

TE David L. Stewart, Northern New England  
RE Martin A. Moore, Georgia Foothills  
Committee on Discipleship Ministries  
Covenant College

TE Douglas C. Domin, Eastern Carolina  
RE Miles Gresham, Evangel  
Mission to North America  
Covenant Theological Seminary

TE Richard P. Wiman, Mississippi Valley  
RE Robbin W. Morton, C. Georgia  
Mission to the World  
PCA Foundation

RE Will Huss, Calvary  
TE Jonathan Medlock, Northern California  
Reformed University Ministries  
PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.

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Ridge Haven

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**SECRETARY:** RE William Stanway

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TE Bernard A. Lawrence, Central Carolina

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RE Marshall Rowe, Tennessee Valley

**Class of 2019**

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TE James Edward Norton, Covenant

**Class of 2018**

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RE Steve Manley, Calvary

**Class of 2017**

TE Ronald N. Gleason, South Coast      RE Donald Guthrie, Chicago Metro  
TE David L. Stewart, N. New England

**Alternates**

TE Joel Eunil Kim, Korean SW Orange County      RE Bill Bolling, Chesapeake

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RE Robert Sawyer, S. New England

**Class of 2020**

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TE Thurman L. Williams, Missouri

**Class of 2019**

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RE William A. Thomas, North Texas

**Class of 2018**

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TE Dave H. Schutter, Ohio

**Class of 2017**

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RE Kenneth Pennell, Grace

**Alternates**

TE Jae Ryong Lee, Korean Southeastern      RE Ed McDougall, Central Florida

DIRECTORY

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 RE Oliver Trimiew, Tennessee Valley

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 RE David B. Rouse, Southeast Alabama

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 TE Kenneth Foster, Heritage

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 TE Walter G. Mahla, S. New England

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**Class of 2017**

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 RE William H. Porter, Rocky Mountain

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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	RE Bradley M. Harris, Covenant
	RE Gordon Sluis, Mississippi Valley
	RE J. Allen Wright, Metro Atlanta

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	RE Duncan Highmark, Missouri
	RE Martin A. Moore, Georgia Foothills

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TE A. Craig Troxel, OPC	

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TE Robert E. Davis, Blue Ridge	RE Gary A. Haluska, Northern Illinois
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	RE Robert F. Wilkinson, Missouri

DIRECTORY

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TE Fredric Ryan Laughlin, Missouri RE Edward S. Harris, Missouri  
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**Class of 2019**

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RE Daniel M. Wykoff, Tennessee Valley

**Class of 2018**

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RE Robert Bryant, Palmetto

**Class of 2017**

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RE Robbin W. Morton, Central Georgia  
RE Andrew M. Schmidt, Central Carolina

**Advisory**

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TE Jerry Schriver, Metro Atlanta RE Will A. Trapp, Providence  
TE L. Roy Taylor Jr., Georgia Foothills

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC.**  
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**SECRETARY:** RE John Mardirosian    **TREASURER:** RE Bruce Jenkins

**Class of 2020**

TE Jonathan B. Medlock, Northern California    RE John Mardirosian, New Jersey  
RE John E. Steiner, Southeast Alabama

**Class of 2019**

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RE J. Kenneth McCarty, North Texas  
RE John A. Williamson, Evangel

**Class of 2018**

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RE William L. Spitz, Central Carolina  
RE James W. Wert Jr., Metro Atlanta

**Class of 2017**

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RE M. Ross Walters, Calvary

**Advisory**

L. Roy Taylor Jr., Georgia Foothills    RE Randy Kirkland, Missouri

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**SECRETARY:** RE J. Randall Berger

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TE David Sasser Hall, Fellowship    RE Tom A. Cook Jr., Gulfstream

**Class of 2020**

TE Richard O. Smith Jr., Susquehanna Valley    RE James Blaine Hicklin, Metro New York

**Class of 2019**

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**Class of 2018**

RE J. Randall Berger, Eastern Carolina  
RE Pete Austin IV, Tennessee Valley

**Class of 2017**

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TE J. Andrew White, Westminster

**Advisory Members**

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TE Stephen T. Estock, Georgia Foothills  
TE Lloyd Kim, South Coast  
TE L. Roy Taylor Jr., Georgia Foothills

DIRECTORY

**V. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

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**Class of 2019**

TE Luke Kyungmoon Kim, Korean Central      RE Terry Eves, Calvary

**Class of 2018**

TE Guy Prentiss Waters, Mississippi Valley      RE William Blake Temple, Providence

**Class of 2017**

TE Eric R. Dye, Palmetto      RE William D. Cranford Jr., Fellowship

**Alternates**

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**CHAIRMAN:** TE Larry Hoop      **SECRETARY:** RE Edward L. Wright

**Class of 2020**

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**Class of 2019**

TE Joshua Anderson, North Texas      RE Flynt Jones, Central Carolina

**Class of 2018**

TE Robert Browning, Covenant      RE Richard Dolan, Georgia Foothills

**Class of 2017**

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**Alternates**

TE David Christopher Florence, Fellowship      RE C. Thompson Harley, Savannah River

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**CHAIRMAN:** TE E. Bruce O'Neil      **SECRETARY:** RE James C. Richardson

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TE Brian V. Janssen, Iowa      RE Dennis W. Baker, Pittsburgh

**Class of 2018**

TE Hoochan Paul Lee, Korean NE      RE Philip Graybeal, Calvary

**Class of 2017**

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**Alternate**

TE Christopher Morgan Peters, Evangel      RE Knox Tabb, Metro Atlanta

**Ex-Officio Member**

TE L. Roy Taylor Jr., Georgia Foothills

**Advisory Member**

William Goodman, Georgia Foothills

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**VI. STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

**CHAIRMAN:** TE Fred Greco      **VICE CHAIRMAN:** RE John B. White  
**SECRETARY:** RE R. Jackson Wilson      **ASST. SECRETARY:** RE D. Steven Meyerhoff

**Class of 2020**

TE Paul L. Bankson, Central Georgia	RE Steve Dowling, Southeast Alabama
TE David F. Coffin Jr., Potomac	RE Frederick Neikirk, Ascension
TE Paul D. Kooistra, Warrior	RE R. Jackson Wilson, Georgia Foothills

**Class of 2019**

TE Brad D. Evans, Southern New England	RE Howie Donahoe, Pacific Northwest
TE Paul B. Fowler, North Texas	RE Samuel J. Duncan, Grace
TE D. Steven Meyerhoff, Chesapeake	RE Terry L. Jones, Missouri

**Class of 2018**

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TE Charles E. McGowan, Nashville	RE Bruce Terrell, Metropolitan NY
TE George W. Robertson, Savannah River	RE John B. White Jr., Metro Atlanta

**Class of 2017**

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TE Raymond D. Cannata, Southern Louisiana	RE E.J. Nusbaum, Rocky Mountain
TE Fred Greco, Houston Metro	RE John Pickering, Evangel

**Clerk of the Commission**

TE L. Roy Taylor, Georgia Foothills



DIRECTORY

**VII. AD-INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES**

**WOMEN SERVING IN THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

**CONVENER:** TE Irwyn L. Ince Jr.

**Voting Members**

TE Jeffrey Choi, Metropolitan New York  
TE J. Ligon Duncan III, Mississippi Valley  
TE Irwyn L. Ince Jr., Chesapeake  
Mrs. Kathy Keller  
Mrs. Mary Beth McGreevy  
TE E. Bruce O'Neil, Chesapeake  
TE Harry L. Reeder III, Evangel

**Advisory Members**

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TE Leon M. Brown, James River  
TE William Castro, Calvary  
TE Daniel M. Doriani, Missouri  
Mrs. Kimberly Jones  
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**RACIAL AND ETHNIC RECONCILIATION**

**CONVENER:** TE Kevin M. Smith

**Voting Members**

TE Carl F. Ellis Jr., Tennessee Valley  
RE Alexander Jun, Korean SW Orange County  
TE Sean M. Lucas, Grace  
TE Jonathan P. Seda, Heritage  
TE Richie Sessions, Nashville  
TE Alexander Myron Shipman, Providence  
TE Kevin M. Smith, Tennessee Valley

**Advisory Members**

RE Sylvester Brown, Savannah River  
Dr. Otis Pickett  
TE Russell Douglas Whitfield, Potomac

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**PART TWO**  
**JOURNAL**  
**MINUTES**  
**OF THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**First Session - Tuesday Evening**  
**June 21, 2016**

**44-1 Assembly Called to Order and Opening Worship**

The Forty-Fourth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America gathered for the opening worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at the Mobile Convention Center in Mobile, Alabama. Moderator RE James W. Wert, Jr. called the Assembly to order for worship (see Appendix X, p. 715).

Following worship, the Assembly recessed at 9:20 p.m. to reconvene at 9:30 p.m.

**44-2 Declaration of Quorum and Enrollment**

The Moderator reconvened the Assembly at 9:36 p.m. for business. After leading in prayer, the Moderator declared a quorum present, with 275 Ruling Elders and 977 Teaching Elders (1252 total) enrolled (see Appendix S, p. 463, for complete roll).

**44-3 Election of Moderator**

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for Moderator of the Forty-Fourth General Assembly. TE Paul D. Kooistra placed in nomination TE George W. Robertson. The Moderator declared nominations closed, and TE Robertson was elected Moderator.

Moderator Robertson assumed the chair. He spoke of the influence of the PCA on his spiritual life and calling to the pastoral ministry, and of his sense that God has both prepared and blessed him for such a time as this. He also shared lessons learned from previous Moderators, and pledged to follow their advice.

TE Jerry Schriver, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, presented retiring Moderator Wert a plaque in token of the Assembly's appreciation for his year of service as Moderator.

**44-4 Election of Recording and Assistant Clerks**

On nomination by the Stated Clerk, the following were elected: TEs David Dively, Robert S. Hornick, Hoochan Paul Lee, and D. Steven Meyerhoff, recording clerks; RE William R. Stanway, timekeeper; RE Robert Berman and TE Steven Jeantet, computing clerks; Frank M. Barker III (Barker Productions), Seminar Audio Visual and Media Center; Initial Production Group (IPG), Production Engineers; RE Ric Springer, Chairman of the floor clerks; and RE Tom Taylor, Vice Chairman of the floor clerks.

**44-5 Appointment of Assistant Parliamentarians**

RE Samuel J. Duncan and RE John B. White Jr. were appointed assistant parliamentarians by the Moderator.

**44-6 Assembly Recessed**

The Assembly recessed at 9:56 p.m. with prayer by TE Mike Hearon to reconvene at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday morning.

**Second Session - Wednesday Morning  
June 22, 2016**

**44-7 Assembly Reconvened**

The Assembly reconvened at 10:45 a.m. on June 22, 2016, with the singing of “Great is Thy Faithfulness” and prayer by TE Andrew M. Sigenthaler. The Moderator read I Corinthians 1:2 and encouraged listeners to follow Paul in seeing one another as we are in Christ.

**44-8 Docket**

The Third Draft of the Docket was declared **adopted**, with the following items being added to the report of the Stated Clerk slated for Wednesday morning: a partial report of the Committee on Constitutional Business regarding proposed amendments to the *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)* from the Administrative Committee, and a partial report of the Administrative Committee regarding proposed amendments to the *RAO*.

**44-9 Report of the Stated Clerk**

TE L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk, presented his report (Appendix A, p. 95). He reviewed his report, including the statistical portions. Representatives of churches who had been particularized in the last year were recognized by the Assembly, including churches inadvertently omitted from the list. The clerk reported on Communications, which were **received** (Appendix W, p. 706). He reported on the referral of Overtures (Appendix V, p. 570).

The Stated Clerk reminded the Assembly that no proposed *BCO* Amendments were sent down by the Forty-Third General Assembly for approval.

Electronic voting was explained by Jonathan Calloway, and several test votes were taken.

#### **44-10 Partial Report of CoC on Administrative Committee**

TE Roland S. Barnes, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Partial Report, offering a substitute recommendation (*RAO* 14-6.h) for the Permanent Committee Recommendation 1 (see 44-38, p. 57). He deferred to TE Jerry Schriver, Chairman of the Permanent Committee, who led the Assembly in prayer. TE Schriver yielded his time to TE John Robertson, who spoke against the substitute. TE Barnes then spoke in favor of the substitute recommendation.

**Recommendation 1** of the CoC was **adopted as a substitute** (483-292), **then adopted as the main motion** (525-208).

TE David Coffin raised a **point of order** as to how the electronic voting is reported. He requested that the votes be reported as an actual vote count rather than as percentages. The Moderator **ruled** the point of order **well taken** and instructed that the actual vote counts be reported.

#### **44-11 Appointment of Committee on Thanks**

The Moderator appointed the following men to serve as the Committee on Thanks: TE Henry Lewis Smith and RE Melton Duncan.

#### **44-12 Welcome from the Host Committee**

TE Malcolm M. (Mack) Griffith, Chairman, welcomed the Assembly to Mobile.

#### **44-13 Report of Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations and Fraternal Greetings**

TE Murray W. Lee, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the CoC report (see 44-16, p. 20). For the full report of the Interchurch Relations Committee, see Appendix N, p. 337.

**Recommendations 1-2** were **adopted**.

The Chairman yielded to TE E. Bruce O'Neil, Chairman of the Permanent Committee. He introduced the following men who brought greetings: Rev. Davi Gomes, Presbyterian Church in Brazil (also representing World Reformed Fellowship); Rev. David Monroy, Iglesia Nacional

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Presbyteriana de Mexico (Rafael Rodriguez translating); Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn, Orthodox Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Douglas Field, United Reformed Churches in North America.

The report was interrupted for the order of the day. For continuation of the report, see 44-16 (below).

### **44-14 Assembly Recessed**

The Assembly recessed with prayer by TE Richard D (Rick) Phillips at 12:02 p.m. to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

### **Third Session - Wednesday Afternoon June 22, 2016**

### **44-15 Assembly Reconvened**

The Assembly reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

### **44-16 Report of CoC on Interchurch Relations and Fraternal Greetings (continued)**

The Moderator called on Rev. Douglas Field to continue his report, which had been cut short by the recess.

Chairman O'Neil then resumed the report, introducing the following men who brought greetings: Rev. Bruce Backensto, Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America; Mr. Tony Bracefield, Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand; Dr. Gerald McDermott, The Anglican Church in North America; and Rev. David Meridith, Free Church of Scotland.

**Recommendations 3 (567-40) and 4 (532-26) were adopted.**

The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

### **I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. IRC Permanent Committee Report
- B. IRC Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - September 24, 2015
  - April 19, 2016
- C. IRC Permanent Committee Recommendations

### **II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. IRC Permanent Committee Report

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B. IRC Permanent Committee Minutes from:

September 24, 2015

April 19, 2016

C. IRC Permanent Committee Recommendations

**III. Recommendations**

1. That Fraternal Delegates, Corresponding Delegates, and Ecclesiastical Observers be welcomed and invited to address the General Assembly. *Adopted*
2. That visiting ministers be introduced to the General Assembly (BCO 13-3). *Adopted*
3. That the minutes of September 24, 2015, be approved with one notation. *Adopted*
4. That the minutes of April 19, 2016, be approved with one notation. *Adopted*

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Ascension  
Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake  
Covenant  
Evangel  
Georgia Foothills  
Grace  
Great Lakes  
Gulf Coast  
Heartland  
Iowa  
Metro Atlanta  
Mississippi Valley  
Northern Illinois  
Northwest Georgia  
Ohio Valley  
Piedmont Triad  
Pittsburgh  
Potomac

**Commissioner**

TE Larry R. Elenbaum  
RE Michael Swart  
TE Charles McKnight  
TE John Charles Kinser  
TE Thomas L. Wenger  
TE Andrew Paul Coburn  
TE Murray W. Lee  
TE Jeff Wreyford  
TE Matthew L. Schilling  
RE Tim McCormick  
RE Ben Brown  
RE Brad Hansen  
TE Brian Dansson  
TE Chris Talley  
TE Charles M. Wingard  
TE Scott Paul Killy II  
RE Robert Whitaker  
TE Larry C. Hoop  
TE Austin David Pfeiffer  
RE L. Stanley Jenkins  
TE William Evan Boyce

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Savannah River	TE Mark A. Scholten
South Texas	TE Scott L. Floyd
Southeast Alabama	RE George R. McCurdy III
Southern Louisiana	TE Joshua A. Martin
Southern New England	RE Mark Slater
Suncoast Florida	RE Dennis Royall
Tennessee Valley	TE T. Calhoun Boroughs III
Tidewater	TE Jeffrey T. Elliott
Wisconsin	TE Benjamin Sinnard

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ TE Murray Lee, Chairman

/s/ TE Austin Pfeiffer, Secretary

#### **44-17 Report of Review of Presbytery Records Postponed**

TE David Coffin questioned the lack of adequate time to review this lengthy report. The Moderator ruled that the Report of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records would be postponed so that the printed report might be distributed and the commissioners given time to review the report.

#### **44-18 Cooperative Ministries Committee Report**

RE Jim Wert, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report as information (Appendix M, p. 327). He spoke briefly of the purpose and composition of the committee, and explained that the CMC does not have authority to make recommendations directly to the Assembly (*RAO* 7-6), but rather refers matters requiring General Assembly action to “the appropriate Committee or Agency for its consideration and recommendation” (*RAO* 7-3.c).

#### **44-19 Committee on Review of Presbytery Records**

TE Per Almquist, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report (Appendix Q, p. 385).

**Recommendations III.1-2** were **adopted** (654-22).

**Recommendations IV.1-13** were **adopted** in gross (743-9).

**Recommendations V.1-56, 58-82** were **adopted** in gross (709-29).

**Recommendation V.57** was taken up. The Assembly allowed a Minority Report, presented by TE Lane B. Keister, to add an exception of substance under 57.c (see p. 434). Time having expired, the Assembly **defeated** (361-514) an extension of debate. The **Minority Report recommendation** was **defeated** (357-500). **Recommendation 57** was **adopted** (628-251).

The Chairman led the Assembly in prayer, including intercession for a commissioner who is dealing with a health matter.



**44-20 Report of the Theological Examining Committee**

TE Guy Prentiss Waters, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer. He presented the Report (Appendix R, p. 460), noting that the Committee had examined two nominees: Mr. Jeff Sandhoff, for Vice President of Development at Covenant College, and TE Paul Hahn, for Coordinator of Mission to North America. The Committee sustained and unanimously approved all areas of both examinations. The Chairman closed the informational report with prayer.

The Assembly **amended the Docket without objection** to take up the Report of the Committee of Commissioners on PCA Foundation.

**44-21 PCA Foundation (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

RE Randel N. Stair, President, presented the Informational Report of the Foundation. (For the full report of the Board of Directors of the PCA Foundation, see Appendix I, p. 286).

TE Martin Wagner, CoC Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1, 3, and 4** were **adopted** in gross (536-10).

**Recommendation 2**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to the CoC on Administrative Committee. TE Wagner read the resolution of the Board of Directors honoring TE David Clelland for twenty years of service to the PCA Foundation. The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. PCAF Board of Directors Report
- B. PCAF Board of Directors Minutes  
August 14, 2015, and March 4, 2016
- C. 2015 Audit of PCAF by Capin Crouse, LLP
- D. Recommendations of the PCA Foundation, Inc., Board

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. The work of the PCA Foundation as presented in the PCA Foundation Board Minutes and report
- B. PCAF Board of Directors Minutes  
August 14, 2015, and March 4, 2016

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- C. Audited Financial Statements of the PCA Foundation
- D. Recommendations of the PCA Foundation, Inc., Board

**III. Recommendations**

1. That the financial audit for the PCA Foundation, Inc. for the calendar year ended December 31, 2015, by Capin Crouse, LLP, be adopted. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly approve the proposed 2017 Budget of the PCA Foundation, Inc., with the understanding that it is a spending plan and will be modified as necessary by the PCA Foundation's Board of Directors to accommodate changing circumstances during the year. *Deferred to CoC on AC*
3. That the Minutes of Board meetings of August 14, 2015, and March 4, 2016, be approved. *Adopted*
4. That the resolution of the Board of Directors from the March 4, 2016, meeting be read by the Chairman. *Adopted*

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Calvary  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake  
Evangel  
Grace  
Metro Atlanta  
Metro Atlanta  
Mississippi Valley  
Northern Illinois  
Northwest Georgia  
Southeast Alabama  
Southwest Florida

**Commissioner**

RE Bill Boney  
TE Elliott Everitt  
TE Jesse M. Crutchley  
TE Martin Wagner\*  
TE Brian H. Davis  
RE William G. Kuh  
TE Erik Veerman  
TE Eric Mabbott  
TE David Keithley  
TE Clif Daniell  
RE Dennis Crowe  
TE Brent Allen Bergman

Respectfully submitted,  
TE Martin Wagner, Chairman

TE David Keithley, Secretary

On a **point of personal privilege**, TE Andrew Barnes requested that the option to abstain be added to the electronic voting procedure. The Moderator responded that the point was **well taken** and the option was added.

**44-22 PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc. (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE Jonathan B. Medlock, member of the Board of Directors of RBI, prayed for RE Gary D. Campbell and presented the Informational Report. (For the full report of the Board of Directors of RBI, Inc., see Appendix J, p. 290).

TE James Spitzel, Chairman, presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1-4, 6** were **adopted** in gross (501-6-28).

**Recommendation 7** was **adopted** (437-21-40).

**Recommendation 5**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee. The Chairman closed the report with prayer, again interceding for RE Campbell.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC.**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. RBI Board of Directors Minutes:  
August 14, 2015; November 13, 2015; March 4, 2016
- B. Review of Auditor's Report
- C. Review of the Proposed 2017 Budget
- D. Review of Board of Directors Recommendations

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. TE Jonathan Medlock gave an informational report and presentation of the work of RBI. He discussed significant events that have occurred at RBI and focus areas for RBI efforts and programs. Specific topics in the presentation included:
  - 1) Announcement of the retirement of RBI's Accounting Manager, Terry Aiello, and the hire of Cindi Finn, RBI's Chief Financial Officer
  - 2) Discussed investment returns in the PCA Retirement Plan
  - 3) Overview of the work by the RBI Investment Committee
  - 3) Provided update on group insurance benefits for PCA employees
  - 4) Summarized RBI's Ministry Partner Services
- B. TE Medlock introduced TE Robert Clarke, RBI's Director of Ministerial Relief, to discuss the PCA Ministerial Relief programs.

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TE Clarke began with an informational report and presentation. He discussed current annual costs to provide assistance to those in need within the PCA. He reviewed the current offerings and donations. Reviewed what future offerings and donations are needed to continue the proper support. He discussed the following programs/initiatives:

- 1) ServantCare program
- 2) Emergency Counseling
- 3) Ministerial Relief program and funds
- 4) Wise Planning
- 5) Widowcare

- C. TE Clarke opened up the floor for a question and answer session. TE Clarke and other RBI staff answered several commissioners' questions.

### III. Recommendations

1. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the board meetings dated August 14, 2015, November 13, 2015, and March 4, 2016;  
*Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly adopt the 2015 audit report dated April 30, 2016, by Capin Crouse LLP;  
*Adopted*
3. That the General Assembly approve the use of Capin Crouse LLP to conduct the 2016 audit;  
*Adopted*
4. That the General Assembly approve the 34th Amendment to the 403(b)(9) PCA Retirement Plan Document;  
*Adopted*
5. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 budget with the understanding that it is a spending plan and will be adjusted as necessary by the Board of Directors to accommodate changing conditions during that fiscal year;  
*Deferred to CoC on AC*
6. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 Trustee Fee Agreements for the Retirement Plan Trust and the Health & Welfare Benefits Trust;  
*Adopted*
7. And, that the General Assembly urge member churches to participate in the annual Relief Ministry Christmas Offering or to budget regular benevolence giving to support relief activities through the Ministerial Relief Fund.  
*Adopted*

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Calvary  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake  
Eastern Carolina  
Fellowship  
Gulf Coast  
James River  
Mississippi Valley  
Nashville  
North Texas  
Pittsburgh  
South Texas  
Southeast Alabama  
Southern New England  
Susquehanna Valley  
Tennessee Valley

**Commissioner**

TE Roger Sowder  
RE George Rountree  
TE Joshua Sillaman  
TE David Osborne  
TE Lewis Ward, Jr.  
TE Richard A. Fennig  
TE William Daniel Lipford  
RE Crane D. Kipp  
TE Christopher Donnelly  
TE Brent Corbin  
RE James Spitzel  
TE Benjamin Hailey  
TE Bruce Bowers  
TE Brad D. Evans  
TE Robert P. Eickelberg  
TE Corby Shields

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ TE James Spitzel, Chairman

/s/ TE Corby Shields, Secretary

**44-23 Ridge Haven (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

RE Dan Neilson, Chairman of the Board, presented the Informational Report on the work of Ridge Haven. (For the full report of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven, see Appendix L, p. 323).

TE Sean M. Lucas, CoC Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendation 1**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee.

**Recommendations 2-5** were **adopted** in gross (454-9-19).

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
RIDGE HAVEN**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. RH Permanent Committee Report
- B. RH Permanent Committee Minutes From:
  - February 2-3, 2015
  - May 4-5, 2015
  - October 5-6, 2015

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- C. RH 2017 Proposed Budget
- D. 2014 RH Audit
- E. RH Permanent Committee Recommendations

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. RH Permanent Committee Report
- B. RH Permanent Committee Minutes From:
  - February 2-3, 2015
  - May 4-5, 2015
  - October 5-6, 2015
- C. RH 2017 Proposed Budget
- D. 2014 RH Audit
- E. RH Permanent Committee Recommendations

**III. Recommendations**

1. That the Ridge Haven 2017 Budget, as presented through the AC Budget Review Committee, be approved. *Adopted*
2. That the 2014 audit dated May 27, 2015, performed by Robins, Smith & Jordan, be received. *Adopted*
3. That the minutes of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven be approved: 2/2/2015-2/3/2015; 5/4/2015-5/5/2015; 10/5/2015-10/6/2015 with notations. *Adopted*
4. That February 26, 2017, be a day our churches pray for the ministries of Ridge Haven. *Adopted*
5. That the General Assembly give praise to the Lord for the ministry of Wallace Anderson and the Ridge Haven staff, offer thanksgiving for the initial success of the recent capital campaign and encourage churches to continue to support Ridge Haven. *Adopted*

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Central Florida  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake  
Eastern Carolina  
Fellowship  
Grace

**Commissioner**

TE Dan Dodds  
RE Jim Sutton  
TE Neal Canzel  
RE Douglas Pohl  
TE John Arch Van Devender  
TE James Sutton  
TE Jeremy Tobin Pope  
TE Sean M. Lucas

Gulf Coast  
Heritage  
North Florida  
North Texas  
Pittsburgh  
Potomac  
Providence  
Savannah River  
Southeast Alabama  
Southeast Alabama  
Southern New England  
Tennessee Valley

TE William H. Tyson  
TE Jason B. Shelton  
TE Thomas John Park Jr.  
TE David M. Frierson  
TE Allan Edwards  
TE Jerry C. Mead  
TE Brian Russ  
TE John Barrett  
TE Kevin Corley  
TE Caleb Galloway  
TE Andrew S. Holbrook  
TE Doyle Allen

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ TE Sean Lucas, Chairman

/s/ TE James Sutton, Secretary

#### **44-24 Partial Report of Committee of Commissioners on Administrative Committee**

TE Roland Barnes, CoC Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer. He yielded to TE Jerry Schriver, Chairman of the Permanent Committee, who yielded in turn to TE Will Barker, Chairman of the Historical Center. TE Barker presented the Partial Report, taking up Recommendation 31 regarding a PCA logo (see 44-38, p. 50).

After reviewing the history of the research concerning the choosing of a PCA logo, TE Barker yielded to Mr. Steve Beaver of Beaver Design Group, who explained the procedures followed in developing the logo options and presented graphics of the two options being proposed to the Assembly.

A procedural motion was made by TE Arch Van Devender to vote on a logo at this General Assembly, then send the logo down for Presbyteries to consider, and then formally vote on the logo at the next General Assembly. The Moderator **ruled the procedural motion out of order** since it would effectively function as a substitute to the main motion (*RAO* 14-9.e).

TE Van Devender asked for a constitutional inquiry as to whether this Assembly would be in order adopting a logo that would be binding the denomination. The Moderator ruled that a constitutional inquiry was not in order (*RAO* 14-9.e), and that the only options were to vote the main motion up or down or to recommit.

A vote was taken, and **Recommendation 31** was **adopted** (527-85-13), approving the selection a PCA logo.

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A second vote was then taken to choose one of the two options presented. The logo option shown below was **adopted** (325-277-11).



The Chairman closed the partial report with prayer.

**44-25 Report of Committee on Constitutional Business**

TE Larry C. Hoop, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer, thanking God for the ill commissioner's good progress. TE Hoop presented the CCB report (Appendix O, p. 346) as information and closed with prayer.

**44-26 Assembly Recessed**

The Assembly recessed at 4:45 p.m., with the singing of "To God Be the Glory" and prayer by TE Kenneth McHeard, to reconvene for worship at 7:30 p.m. and for business Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

**Fourth Session - Thursday Morning  
June 23, 2016**

**44-27 Assembly Reconvened**

The Assembly reconvened at 9:30 a.m. on June 23, 2016, with the singing of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," the reading of II Corinthians 11:30, and prayer by TE H. Andrew Silman.



The Moderator reminded commissioners that they must be seated in the commissioners' section to have voting privileges. Electronic voting was explained and several test votes taken.

**44-28 Report of the Standing Judicial Commission**

TE Fred Greco, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Report of the SJC (Appendix T, p. 497). Proposed SJC Manual changes (p. 556) were **adopted with the following requisite majorities: A., 658-11-35; B., 652-4-30; C., 656-5-31; D., 685-21-28; E., 704-13-31.**

**44-29 Committee on Discipleship Ministries (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE Stephen T. Estock, Coordinator, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Informational Report of the Committee. (For the full report of the CDM Permanent Committee, see Appendix D, p. 200).

TE Walter H. Henegar, CoC Chairman, presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 13** were **adopted** in gross (686-11-14).

**Recommendation 11** was **adopted** (549-319-18), authorizing CDM “to work with other Committees, Agencies, and Reformed ministries to develop a training and certification program, specifically for [certain] non-ordained ministry leaders.”

**Recommendation 3**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee. The Chairman led the Assembly in prayer.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. CDM Permanent Committee Report
- B. CDM Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - September 2015
  - March 2016
- C. CDM 2017 Proposed Budget
- D. 2015 CDM Audit
- E. CDM Permanent Committee Recommendations

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. CDM Permanent Committee Report

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- B. CDM Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - September 2015
  - March 2016
- C. CDM 2017 Proposed Budget
- D. 2015 CDM Audit
- E. CDM Permanent Committee Recommendations

### III. Recommendations

1. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Permanent Committee for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries in September 2015 and March 2016. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly receive the 2015 Audit performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith, and Jordan, and approve the same firm for the 2016 Audit. *Adopted*
3. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 CDM budget as presented by the Administrative Committee. *Deferred to CoC on AC*
4. That the General Assembly give thanks to God and express appreciation to the churches and individuals who contributed to the 2015 Women's Love Gift given to benefit Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). The gift totaled over \$52,700. *Adopted*
5. That the General Assembly encourage churches and individuals to contribute generously to the 2016 Women's Love Gift designated to benefit the work of Parakaleo, which is a ministry of Mission to North America (MNA). *Adopted*
6. That the General Assembly designate the 2017 Women's Love Gift to benefit the ministry of Covenant College (CC). *Adopted*
7. That the General Assembly encourage individuals, local churches, and presbyteries to utilize the many resources available on the CDM website (pcacdm.org), as well as the many books and resources offered through the PCA Bookstore (pcabookstore.com). *Adopted*
8. That the Assembly encourage individuals and local churches to utilize the excellent curricula from Great Commission Publications (GCP), e.g., *Show Me Jesus*, *Kids' Quest*, and *So What?* youth Bible studies, particularly the newest material—*So What? A Study of Philippians* for teens and *G2R (Genesis to Revelation) Bible Survey*, an 8-study series for preteens to young teens. (See Attachment 1 of Permanent Committee Report to GA, p. 209.) *Adopted*
9. That the General Assembly give thanks to TE Bernie Lawrence, RE William Stanway, and RE Gary White for their faithful service as members of the Permanent Committee. *Adopted*

10. That the General Assembly re-elect TE Stephen Estock to serve as the Coordinator for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM). *Adopted*
11. That the General Assembly authorize CDM to work with other Committees, Agencies, and Reformed ministries to develop a training and certification program, specifically for non-ordained ministry leaders (paid or volunteer) serving in discipleship ministries in the local church (e.g., ministry to children, youth, men and women). This certification will recognize developed competencies and serve as a helpful tool to churches as they seek trained staff personnel to serve in their local ministries. *Adopted*
12. That the General Assembly recognize Reformed Youth Ministries (RYM) as a valuable ministry partner to CDM in equipping and training students and youth staff (ordained and non-ordained) in local PCA churches. *Adopted*
13. That the General Assembly encourage women in local PCA churches to participate in one of the five remaining Transformed Conferences in 2016: Birmingham, AL (September 9-10); Philadelphia, PA (September 30-October 1); Hamilton, Ontario (October 21-22); Charlotte, NC (October 28-29); and Dallas, TX (November 11-12). *Adopted*

#### **IV. Commissioners Present:**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
Blue Ridge	TE William B. Leach
Calvary	RE Joe Harris
Central Carolina	TE Stanley E. Layton
Central Georgia	TE Justin Leslein
Chesapeake	TE Hansoo Jin
Coastal Carolina	TE Stan Layton
Covenant	TE Ashley Dusenbery
Eastern Carolina	RE Bruce Wells
Evangel	RE Dave Wood
Georgia Foothills	TE Alan H. Johnson
Great Lakes	RE Allan Knapp
Gulf Coast	RE Clark Furlong
Heartland	TE Richard E. Franks
Heritage	RE Thomas Michael Harr Jr.
Houston Metro	TE Mitch Welborn
James River	TE Joseph E. Brown

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Lowcountry	RE Richard Wyly
Metro Atlanta	TE Walter H. Henegar
Mississippi Valley	TE Christopher Wright
New York State	TE Marc Swan
North Texas	TE Dan Smith
Northern Illinois	TE Steve Jones
Northwest Georgia	TE Bob W. Burns
Ohio	TE Dave Schutter
Philadelphia	TE Mark Moser
Piedmont Triad	TE Jeffrey David Miller
Pittsburgh	RE James Partridge
Potomac	TE Daniel Edwards-Luce
Savannah River	TE David A. Vosseller
South Coast	TE Ron Gleason
Southeast Alabama	RE Mark Anderson III
Southern Louisiana	TE Josiah Carey
Southwest Florida	TE Thomas G. Schneider
Suncoast Florida	RE David Greenwald
Tennessee Valley	TE John McKenzie
Western Carolina	TE Chad Watkins

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ TE Walter H. Henegar, Chairman      /s/ TE Alan H. Johnson, Secretary

**44-30 Special Order: Report of the Nominating Committee**

TE Fred Greco, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer, including prayer for the victims of an ongoing shooting event in Germany. He presented the report (Appendix P, p. 351) and the supplemental report (p. 379).

On motion, all **uncontested nominees** were **elected**. The **following nominees** were **elected**:

Constitutional Business Committee, Class of 2020:

TE Per Almquist (501-274-74)

Constitutional Business Committee, Alternate

RE C. Thomson Hurley (451-354)

Committee on Interchurch Relations, Class of 2019:

TE Brian V. Janssen (423-371)

Committee on Interchurch Relations, Alternate:

RE Knox Tabb (349-467)

Committee on Mission to North America, Alternate:

RE Ed McDougal (462-221-117)

Committee on Mission to the World, Class of 2021:

TE Kyle Hackman (427-413)

Reformed University Ministries, Class of 2021:

TE Russ Whitfield (486-342)

Standing Judicial Commission, Class of 2020:

TE Paul Bankson (550-294)

The committee's **Recommendation** (p. 353), amending RAO 8-4.i., was **adopted by the requisite majority** (851-10-17).

The Moderator administered the oath of office to all the newly elected members of the Standing Judicial Commission present, and the Assembly **declared** the Standing Judicial Commission to be the Judicial Commission of this Assembly in accord with BCO 15-4.

The following members took their vows: Ruling Elders Steve Dowling and R. Jackson Wilson, and Teaching Elders Paul Bankson, David Coffin, Paul Kooistra, and Frederick Neikirk.

The Chairman closed the report in prayer.

#### **44-31 Reformed University Ministries (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE Thomas K. Cannon, Coordinator, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Informational Report. (For the full report of the RUM Permanent Committee, Appendix K, p. 299).

TE Jason M. Helopoulos, CoC Chairman, presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1-2, 4-6** were **adopted** in gross (686-4-24).

**Recommendation 3**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee.

The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES**

#### **I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. RUM Permanent Committee Report
- B. RUM Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - October 6, 2015
  - January 28, 2016
  - March 15, 2016
- C. RUM 2015 Audit
- D. RUM 2017 Proposed Budget
- E. RUM Permanent Committee Recommendations

## II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed

- A. RUM Permanent Committee Report
- B. RUM Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - October 6, 2015
  - January 28, 2016
  - March 15, 2016
- C. RUM 2015 Audit
- D. RUM 2017 Proposed Budget
- E. RUM Permanent Committee Recommendations

## III. Recommendations

1. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Committee on Reformed University Ministries for October 6, 2015, January 28, 2016, and March 15, 2016 as amended without exception. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly adopt the financial audit for Reformed University Ministries for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP. *Adopted*
3. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 budget of Reformed University Ministries. *Deferred to CoC on AC*
4. That the General Assembly receive as information Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Permanent Committee Report to GA. *Adopted*
5. The General Assembly approve the name change from Reformed University Ministries to Reformed University Fellowship. *Adopted*
6. That the General Assembly re-elect TE Thomas K. Cannon as Coordinator of Reformed University Fellowship for 2016/1207 term and commend him for his faithful service. *Adopted*

## IV. Commissioners Present:

### Presbytery

Ascension  
Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Central Georgia  
Covenant  
Fellowship  
Georgia Foothills  
Grace  
Great Lakes

### Commissioner

RE Steven Morley  
TE W. Lawrence Ferris Jr.  
TE John Chandler Black  
RE Jason Churchwell  
TE Nathan C. Tircuit  
TE John M. McArthur Jr.  
RE Robert Jackson Wilson  
TE Joseph Henry Steele III  
TE Jason M. Helopoulos

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Gulf Coast	TE Thomas Robert Rubino
Mississippi Valley	RE Bill Moore
Missouri	TE Jason Polk
Nashville	TE Jeff Wilkins
Northern California	TE Daniel P. Katches
Northern Illinois	RE Rob Vock
Pacific Northwest	TE Nate Walker
Piedmont Triad	RE Dan Rhodes
Pittsburgh	TE Jared Havener
Potomac	TE Robert Ernest Binion Jr
Providence	TE William Alan Spink
Rocky Mountain	TE Shawn Young
Savannah River	TE Brad Waller
Southeast Alabama	TE Henry H. Morris
Southern Louisiana	RE Aaron Collier
Southern New England	TE Kevin Nelson
Tennessee Valley	TE Brian Salter
Warrior	RE Jason McBride

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ TE Jason Helopoulos, Chairman

/s/ TE Brian Salter, Secretary

**44-32 Mission to the World (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE Lloyd Kim, Coordinator, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Informational Report. (For the full report of the MTW Permanent Committee, see Appendix H, p. 265.)

TE H. Wallace Tinsley, Jr., CoC Chairman, presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1-4, 6-8** were **adopted** in gross (671-4-12).

**Recommendation 5**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee.

**Recommendation 9** was **adopted** (644-3-23), **answering in the affirmative Overture 20**, to erect a provisional presbytery in Nicaragua.

**Recommendation 10** was **adopted** (611-55-21), amending 3.1.1.2 of the MTW Missions Policy Manual. The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
MISSION TO THE WORLD**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. CMTW minutes from:  
March 11-12, 2015  
September 23-24, 2015
- B. Recommendations from 2016 Permanent Committee
- C. The Financial Audit for the year ending December 31, 2014
- D. Proposed 2017 CMTW Budget
- E. Overture 2016-20 from Southwest Florida Presbytery

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. Review of CMTW minutes from:  
March 11-12, 2015  
September 23-24, 2015
- B. Review of Recommendations from 2016 Permanent Committee
- C. Review of the Financial Audit for 2014
- D. Review of 2017 Proposed CMTW Budget
- E. Review of Overture 2016-20 from Southwest Florida Presbytery

**III. Recommendations**

1. That the General Assembly urge churches to set aside the month of November 2016 as a month of prayer for global missions, asking God to send many more laborers into His harvest field. (Contact MTW to ask for copies of “30 Days of Prayer” to be sent to your church in the fall and to learn about other prayer resources MTW can provide); *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly urge churches to set aside a portion of their giving for the suffering peoples of the world; to that end, be it recommended that a special offering for relief and mercy (MTW Compassion offering) be taken during 2016 and distributed by MTW; *Adopted*
3. That the General Assembly urge churches to set aside Sunday, November 6, 2016, as a day of prayer for the persecuted church worldwide; *Adopted*
4. Having performed a review of Dr. Lloyd Kim’s work to date, we express our gratitude to Almighty God for Dr. Kim’s humble,



- visionary leadership; leadership affirmed in the exceptionally smooth transition that has taken place at Mission to the World during his first full year as coordinator. CMTW wholeheartedly recommends that Dr. Kim be re-elected as Coordinator; *Adopted*
5. That the proposed budget of MTW, as presented through the Administrative Committee, be approved; *Deferred to CoC on AC*
  6. That the minutes of the meeting of CMTW of March 11–12, 2015, be accepted with notations; *Adopted*
  7. That the minutes of the meeting of CMTW of September 23–24, 2015, be accepted; *Adopted*
  8. Regarding MTW's 2014 Financial Audit: That the Committee of Commissioners reviewed the financial audit for calendar year ending December 31, 2014. They also noted per CMTW's minutes that CMTW had accepted the audit; *Adopted*
  9. That **Overture 20** from Southwest Florida Presbytery regarding "Erect Provisional Presbytery in Nicaragua" **be answered in the affirmative** with the following grounds recorded as a part of the motion.

MTW recommends that the Southwest Florida Presbytery, because of their history of close relations with the Reformed and covenantal ministry in Nicaragua, form, as a presbytery, a provisional commission to prepare, examine, and ordain candidates for the offices of Teaching and Ruling Elder until sufficient men have been ordained and churches established to form their own presbytery and a new Reformed and covenantal denomination in Nicaragua.

#### Rationale and Operational Recommendation

By way of testimonial, in the 40 years that the PCA has been in existence, the provision in *BCO* 15-6 has rarely been exercised by the MTW community. It has become our working model over the years to:

- a. Make every attempt to discover and develop working relationships with congregations, presbyteries, and Reformed denominations within a country rather than to multiply the number of denominations within a particular nation through the formation of provisional presbyteries. MTW has experienced numerous

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

situations over the years where factions have wanted to begin their own denominations for no compelling theological reasons nor for reasons rooted in the desire to pursue the peace and purity of the church.

- b. In cases where no Reformed and covenantal churches and/or denominations are present, to develop and recognize local leadership and to form local congregations and presbyteries in partnership with Reformed and covenantal denominations in neighboring countries in the region. This is an attempt to honor the guiding principles of locality (local resources, local community, local collaboration, etc.) and indigenization and to foster regional teamwork and partnerships. These principles have become increasingly meaningful to our international colleagues and partners over the years.

*Adopted*

10. That 3.1.1.2 of the MTW Missions Policy Manual be changed (*change bolded and italicized*) to read:

Church Involvement. Prior to approval, long-term missionary candidates will be expected to be members of a congregation or presbytery of the PCA, the exception being acceptance of a candidate from a NAPARC agency, ***or a member of a church or agency of the World Reformed Fellowship***, and covered by a mutually approved On-Loan Agreement.

*Adopted*

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Central Florida  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake  
Covenant  
Eastern Canada  
Eastern Carolina  
Evangel  
Fellowship

**Commissioner**

TE Andrew Paul Dionne  
RE Brent Andersen  
TE Joseph L. Creech  
RE Rush Utley  
RE Ronnie E. Tallent  
RE Prentice L. House  
TE Ben Jolliffe  
TE Nathanael James Wilks  
RE Paul Golden  
TE H. Wallace Tinsley Jr.

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Georgia Foothills	TE Brandon L. Meeks
Grace	TE Timothy R. Horn
Great Lakes	TE Kevin Chen
Gulf Coast	TE Cory Dean Colravy
Illiana	TE Tom Rayborn
Lowcountry	TE Jon D. Payne
Metro Atlanta	RE Dan Case
Mississippi Valley	RE Alan Walters
North Texas	TE Benjamin Wheeler
Northern California	TE John Douglas McNutt
Northern Illinois	RE Fred Winterroth
Northwest Georgia	RE Clay David
Ohio	TE Rhett Dodson
Piedmont Triad	RE Paul Koeppel
Pittsburgh	TE LeRoy Capper
Potomac	TE Robert L. Amsler
Providence	TE Joel Hugh Linton
Savannah River	TE Alexander Brown
Southeast Alabama	TE Parker Johnson
Southern Louisiana	RE James Boring
Southern New England	TE Lawrence Bowlin
Southwest Florida	TE Daniel A. Dalton
Suncoast Florida	TE Philip Woods
Susquehanna Valley	TE David J. Fidati
Tennessee Valley	RE Jim Sparks
Tidewater	RE Scott Mericle
Westminster	RE Frank McCollum

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ TE H. Wallace Tinsley, Jr.  
Chairman

/s/RE Alan Walters  
Secretary

**44-33 Mission to North America (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE James C. Bland III, Coordinator, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Informational Report. He specifically thanked the Assembly for the privilege of serving in this role and ministry. He then yielded to TE Doug Domin, who introduced TE Paul Hahn as candidate for Coordinator. TE Hahn began by leading the Assembly in expressing appreciation for the ministry of TE Bland. TE Hahn spoke of his points of emphasis moving forward. (For the full report of the MNA Permanent Committee, see Appendix G, p. 239.)

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TE Lyle Caswell, CoC Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the CoC report (44-36, below).

**Recommendations 1, 3, 5, 6** were **adopted** in gross (553-5-6).

**Recommendation 4**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee.

**Recommendation 7** was **adopted** (518-21-7), **answering in the affirmative Overture 24** to form Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery out of Ohio Presbytery.

See 44-36 (below) for continuation of report.

**44-34 Assembly Recessed**

The order of the day having arrived, the Assembly recessed at 12:00 p.m. with prayer by TE Lyle Caswell to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

**Fifth Session – Thursday Afternoon  
June 23, 2016**

**44-35 Assembly Reconvened**

The Assembly reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with the singing of “Come Thou Fount” and prayer by TE Sam Belz.

**44-36 Committee of Commissioners on Mission to North America (continued)**

TE R. Lyle Caswell, Jr., CoC Chairman, resumed the CoC report.

**Recommendation 8** was **postponed until action would be taken on Overtures 43 and 45** (483-183-14). (For action on these overtures, see 44-44, p. 70.)

**Recommendation 9** was **adopted** (528-12-43) and **Recommendation 10** was **adopted** (529-7-31), **answering in the affirmative Overtures 61 and 62** respectively, which restructured the boundaries of Illiana and Northern Illinois presbyteries.

The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. MNA Permanent Committee Report
- B. MNA Permanent Committee Minutes for May 11, 2015, September 17, 2015, and March 3 & 4, 2016.
- C. MNA 2017 Proposed Budget
- D. MNA Permanent Committee Audit

- E. Overtures referred to MNA Committee: Overtures 24, 44, 61, 62
- F. Permanent Committee Recommendations

## II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed

- A. MNA Permanent Committee Report
- B. MNA Permanent Committee Minutes for May 11, 2015, September 17, 2015, and March 3 & 4, 2016.
- C. MNA Permanent Committee Audit
- D. Overtures referred to Committee: Overtures 24, 44, 61, 62
- E. MNA Permanent Committee Recommendations

## III. Recommendations

1. That the General Assembly accept the resignation of TE James C. Bland III from his service as MNA Coordinator effective June 30, 2016, with thanksgiving to God for his faithful leadership of MNA and the progress of MNA ministry from 1999 to 2016, and asking God's blessing upon TE Bland in his retirement. **Attachment 3 of the Permanent Committee Report**, p. 253, provides a complete list of MNA staff; see **Attachment 4 of the Permanent Committee Report**, p. 256, for the list of MNA Permanent Committee members.

*Adopted*

2. That the General Assembly, being well satisfied with his testimony and qualifications, and upon recommendation of the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America, elect TE J. Paul Hahn, Jr., as Coordinator of Mission to North America.

*Adopted*

3. That the General Assembly express thanks to God for the long and effective ministry of Bethany Christian Services in the area of pregnancy counseling and adoption, reaffirm its endorsement of Bethany for another year, and encourage continued support and participation by churches and presbyteries. See **Attachment 5 of the Permanent Committee Report**, p. 257, for Bethany's Report.

*Adopted*

4. That the General Assembly adopt the 2017 MNA Budget as presented through the Administrative Committee and commend it to the churches for their support. **Deferred to CoC on AC**

5. That the General Assembly adopt the 2015 MNA Audit with the recommendation that the MNA Audit information be provided in the CoC material for study prior to the committee meeting. *Adopted*

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6. That TE Michael Stewart, be appointed to serve as PCA member of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC) for the Class of 2020, replacing TE Charlie Rector. TE Ken Bush, be re-appointed to serve as PCA member of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC) for the Class of 2020. *Adopted*
7. That the MNA Committee recommend to the General Assembly that **Overture 24** from Ohio Presbytery to “Form Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery,” **be answered in the affirmative.** See **Attachment 6 of the Permanent Committee Report**, p. 259. *Adopted*
8. That **Overture 44** to the 44th General Assembly, “Creation of PCA Unity Fund,” **be answered in the affirmative with the following amendments** (Single underlining indicates changes made by MNA Permanent Committee; double underlining indicates CoC change back to language of original overture.):

That the underlined words be inserted at the end of this paragraph:

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as “The PCA Unity Fund” to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives, based on the availability of designated funds given to the Unity Fund:

That the following paragraph be amended as follows:

- a) Establishing a board that reports to MNA and is comprised of African American and other minority teaching and ruling elders of the PCA;
- b) Receiving, receipting and disbursing monies;
- c) Approving the seminaries to which support can be directed;
- d) Encouraging individuals, churches and presbyteries to donate to the fund.

And further, that the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America be directed to proceed with implementation of both sets of items a) through d) of the Overture, reporting that implementation to the General Assembly in future years through the customary Permanent Committee and Committee of Commissioners procedures. (See Attachment 1, p. 46, for original overture.)

[Vote Postponed; see p. 71]

9. That **Overture 61** from Illiana Presbytery, in concurrence with the expressed desire of Presbytery of Northern Illinois, “Restructure Boundary of Iliana Presbytery,” by transferring Sangamon County to Presbytery of Northern Illinois, **be answered in the affirmative.** (See Appendix V, p. 703.) *Adopted*
10. That **Overture 62** from Presbytery of Northern Illinois, “Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Northern Illinois,” by transferring Sangamon County to Presbytery of Northern Illinois, with the concurrence of Illiana presbytery, **be answered in the affirmative.** (See Appendix V, p. 704.) *Adopted*

#### IV. Commissioners Present:

##### **Presbytery**

Blue Ridge  
Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Central Florida  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake  
Covenant  
Evangel  
Fellowship  
Grace  
Great Lakes  
Gulf Coast  
Gulfstream  
Heartland  
Metro Atlanta  
Metropolitan New York  
Mississippi Valley  
New York State  
North Texas  
Northern Illinois  
Northwest Georgia  
Pittsburgh  
Potomac  
Savannah River  
Siouxlands  
Southeast Alabama  
Southern Louisiana

##### **Commissioner**

TE Donald H. Ward Jr.  
TE Paul Lambert Sanders  
TE Harrison Spitler  
TE Robert Frank Barnes  
TE Randy Saye  
TE Stan J. Long  
TE Todd Matocha  
TE Jeph Guinan  
RE Joseph B. Glenn  
TE Allen Stanton  
RE Peeter Lukas  
RE Lawrence Howell  
TE Peter A. Bartuska  
TE Paul Reynolds  
TE Dale Zarlenga  
TE Reyn Cabinte  
TE Jack M. Owens III  
TE Jonathan Ernest Hood  
TE David J. Rogers  
TE Daren S. Dietmeier  
TE David Gilbert  
RE Thomas Marshall  
TE J. Walter Nilsson  
TE Logan Patrick Almy  
TE Ethan Sayler  
RE David Smith  
TE J. Scott Lindsay

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Southwest Florida  
Suncoast Florida  
Tennessee Valley  
Tidewater  
Westminster

TE Lyle Caswell \*  
TE Justin Chappell  
TE Hutch Garmany  
TE Jeffrey Daniel Ferguson  
TE James Andrew Moehn

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ TE Lyle Caswell, Chairman

/s/ TE Ethan Sayler, Secretary

**Attachment 1**

**OVERTURE 44** from Potomac Presbytery

(to MNA)

"Creation of PCA Unity Fund"

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on racial reconciliation and referred the matter to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, so that lower courts could perfect and propose a resolution encouraging heartfelt repentance; and

**Whereas**, presbyteries have responded to this appeal "to prayerfully consider any and all sins of racial prejudice" by submitting overtures on racial reconciliation that call us to individual and corporate repentance; and

**Whereas**, repentance is an essential first step of racial reconciliation, but not the only one; and

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly also encouraged sessions and presbyteries to "pursue a proper course of action humbly, sincerely and expeditiously"; and

**Whereas**, a proper course of action would include actively welcoming minority brothers called to pastoral ministry and encouraging their representation as Ruling and Teaching Elders in the PCA;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as "The PCA Unity Fund" to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives:

- a) Provide tuition to approved Reformed seminaries for minority PCA seminarians;
- b) Pay expenses for minority Ruling and Teaching Elders to attend General Assembly;
- c) Support the compensation expenses of minorities serving as an Assistant Pastor in a PCA church, for the first two years of their ministry in churches that pledge to provide full support by the third year;



- d) Provide means for historians to explore the role that Reformed minority pastors and theologians have played in our country's history.

**Be it further resolved**, that this Unity Fund would be managed by Mission to North America, which would be responsible for:

- a) Establishing a board that reports to MNA and is comprised of African American and other minority teaching and ruling elders of the PCA;
- b) Receiving, receipting and disbursing monies;
- c) Approving the seminaries to which support can be directed;
- d) Encouraging individuals, churches and presbyteries to donate to the fund.

*Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*

#### **44-37 Covenant Theological Seminary (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE Mark Dalbey, President of the Seminary, presented the Informational Report of the work of the Seminary. (For the full report of CTS, see Appendix F, p. 217.)

In response to an inquiry from TE James Almond, Dr. Dalbey explained the reasoning behind the department name change from Systematic Theology to Missional Theology.

TE Robert Rienstra, CoC Chairman, presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1-7** were **adopted** in gross (794-89-43).

**Recommendation 8**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administration. In response to Recommendation 5, TE Andrew Barnes led the Assembly in prayer. TE Reinstra, CoC Chairman, closed the report with prayer.

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

#### **I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. CTS Permanent Committee Report
- B. CTS Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - April 2015
  - September 2015
  - January 2016

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- C. CTS Executive Committee Minutes from:
  - January 2015
  - March 2015
  - July 2015
  - September 2015
  - December 2015
  - January 20 and 29, 2016
  - April 2016
- D. CTS 2017 Proposed Budget
- E. 2015 CTS Audit
- F. CTS Permanent Committee Recommendations

### **II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. CTS Permanent Committee Report
- B. CTS Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - April 2015
  - September 2015
  - January 2016
- C. CTS Executive Committee Minutes from:
  - January 2015
  - March 2015
  - July 2015
  - September 2015
  - December 2015
  - January 20 and 29, 2016
  - April 2016
- D. CTS 2017 Proposed Budget
- E. 2015 CTS Audit
- F. CTS Permanent Committee Recommendations

### **III. Recommendations**

1. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the ministry of Covenant Theological Seminary; for its faithfulness to the Scriptures, the Reformed faith, and the Great Commission; for its students, graduates, faculty, staff, and trustees; and for those who support the Seminary through their prayers and gifts. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly encourage the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America to support the ministry of Covenant Theological Seminary by contributing the Partnership Shares approved by the Assembly, and by recommending Covenant Seminary to prospective students. *Adopted*

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3. That the General Assembly ask the Lord to bless Covenant Seminary's President, Dr. Mark Dalbey, and grant him and the Seminary's leadership team, faculty, and Board of Trustees great wisdom and clear vision as they seek to lead the institution into a new era of ministerial fruitfulness. *Adopted*
4. That the General Assembly ask God to guide Covenant Seminary's ongoing efforts at recruiting new students, evaluating and strengthening our programs, and seeking to make the Seminary a greater resource for the church both locally and globally. *Adopted*
5. That the General Assembly pray for unity among the brethren of the PCA and ask the Lord to work in all our hearts to foster a deeper desire to engage with one another and the world in compassionate and gospel-centered ways, that we might bear strong witness to the truth and power of God's redeeming grace. *Adopted*
6. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the stated meetings of the Seminary's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for the year as follows:
  - a. Without Exception. Board of Trustees: September 25-26, 2015; January 29-30, 2016. Stated Meetings of the EC: March 6, 2015; December 4, 2015. Called Meetings of the EC: January 30, 2015; September 25, 2015; January 20, 2016; January 29, 2016; April 28, 2016.
  - b. Notations. Board of Trustees April 24-25, 2015 meeting; Executive Committee Minutes July 29, 2015
  - c. Exception of Substance. Board of Trustees April 24-25, 2015 meeting (opening prayer not recorded)*Adopted*
7. That the financial audit for Covenant Theological Seminary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, by Capin Crouse LLC, be received. *Adopted*
8. That the proposed 2016-17 budget of Covenant Theological Seminary be approved. *Deferred to CoC on AC*

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Ascension  
Blue Ridge  
Calvary  
Central Georgia  
Chesapeake

**Commissioner**

TE Jeffrey Zehnder  
TE Tag Tuck  
RE Philip Temple  
TE Joshua Garrett  
TE Glenn R. Parkinson

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Covenant	TE Thomas L. Mirabella
Eastern Carolina	TE Todd Gwennap
Evangel	TE Howard A. Eyrich
Fellowship	RE Randy Gieselmann
Georgia Foothills	TE Daniel Henderson
Gulf Coast	RE Mark Koch
Heartland	TE James A. Baxter
Illiana	TE Craig Frazier
James River	TE Dennis Bullock
Korean Central	TE Luke Kim
Metro Atlanta	TE Robert S Rienstra
Metropolitan New York	TE Daniel Ying
Mississippi Valley	TE Christopher Lee Hutchings
Missouri	TE Tim Jackson
Northern California	TE Nathaniel Thompson
Northern Illinois	TE Justin Coverstone
Northwest Georgia	TE James Ted Lester Jr.
Ohio Valley	RE Floyd Johnson
Philadelphia	TE Stephen Smallman
Piedmont Triad	TE Kirk Mitchell Blankenship
Pittsburgh	RE Craig D. Felton
Platte Valley	TE Michael Roland Gordon
Potomac	RE Robert Mattes
Savannah River	TE Geoffrey Thomas Gleason
South Coast	TE Peter Ronald Jones
South Texas	RE Jeremy Whitley
Southeast Alabama	RE David B. Rouse
Southern Louisiana	TE R. Woodson Markert
Southwest Florida	TE William Wesley Holland Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ TE Robert Rienstra, Chairman

/s/ TE Geoff Gleason, Secretary

**44-38 Administrative Committee (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

TE L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Informational Report. (For the full report of the AC Permanent Committee, see Appendix C, p. 111.)

TE Daniel Jarstfer led the Assembly in prayer for former Stated Clerk TE Morton Smith and his wife.

TE Roland Barnes, CoC Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 5-7, 9-24, 26-30, 32** were **adopted** in gross (959-11-25).

(For action on Recommendation 1, see 44-10, p. 19; for Recommendation 31, see 44-24, p. 29.)

**Recommendation 2** was **adopted** (871-53-36).

**Recommendation 4** was **adopted** (815-124-34).

**Recommendation 8** was **adopted** (1005-17-15).

**Recommendation 25** was **adopted as a substitute** (843-95-78), and **adopted as the main motion** (886-93-48).

**Recommendation 3**, regarding the formation of a study committee on the issue of women serving in the ministry of the church, was brought to the Assembly.

TE David Coffin raised a **point of order** that Recommendation 3 was not properly before the Assembly for consideration because the matter at hand did not fall within the limits of the Cooperative Ministries Committee's responsibilities (*RAO* 7-3) nor did the Administrative Committee have subject matter jurisdiction. The Moderator **ruled** the point of order **not well taken**, stating that the Permanent Committee Recommendation was in order and that the CMC had acted properly and referred the matter appropriately. The ruling was **appealed**, and the Moderator's ruling was **sustained** (582-466-36).

The following commissioners registered their agreement with the point of order and disagreement with the Moderator's ruling:

TE Scotty Anderson	Calvary
TE Adrian Armel	Pittsburgh
TE Chad Bailey	Metro Atlanta
TE Andrew Barnes	Heartland
TE Deryck Barson	Philadelphia
TE Bruce P. Baugus	Mississippi Valley
RE Gary Beaudreau	Savannah River
TE Brent Bergman	Southwest Florida
TE Ryan Biese	Mississippi Valley
TE Matthew Bradley	Nashville
RE Bud Bratley	Mississippi Valley
TE Bob Brubaker	Southwest Florida
TE Nicholas S. Bullock	Mississippi Valley
TE Charles L. Byrd	Great Lakes
TE Robert D. Cathcart, Jr.	Calvary
RE Tom Chapman	Northwest Georgia

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TE Ken Christian	Tidewater
TE Cameron D. Clausing	Nashville
TE Stephen Coleman	Potomac
TE Brian Cosby	Tennessee Valley
TE Jeremy J. Coyer	Ascension
TE Jesse M. Crutchley	Chesapeake
TE J.C. Cunningham	Gulf Stream
TE Clif Daniell	Northwest Georgia
TE Brian H. Davis	Grace
TE Matthew DeLong	Southeast Alabama
TE Andrew Dionne	Calvary
TE Michael Dixon	Fellowship
TE Dan Dodds	Calvary
TE Rhett P. Dodson	Ohio
RE Steve Dowling	Southeast Alabama
TE Thomas A. Eddy	Potomac
TE Allan Edwards	Pittsburgh
TE Robert Eickelberg	Susquehanna Valley
TE Dennis Eide	Gulf Coast
TE Matt Eide	Rocky Mountain
TE Brad D. Evans	S. New England
TE Stephen Fix	Potomac
RE Shay Fout	Ohio Valley
TE Rick Franks	Heartland
TE Donny Friederichsen	Metro New York
TE Freddy Fritz	Southwest Florida
TE Aaron P. Garber	Pittsburgh
TE David B. Garner	Philadelphia Metro W.
RE Nathan George	Nashville
RE Randy Gieselmann	Fellowship
TE Matt Giesman	Rocky Mountain
TE David Gilbert	Northwest Georgia
TE Geoff Gleason	Savannah River
RE Joseph B. Glenn	Fellowship
TE Fred Greco	Houston Metro
TE Timothy J. Gwin	Metro Atlanta

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RE Vaughn R. Hamilton	Tennessee Valley
RE Joe Harris	Calvary
TE Joseph Hatcher	North Florida
TE Mitchell L. Haubert Jr.	Warrior
TE Jared Havener	Pittsburgh
TE Jason Helopoulos	Great Lakes
TE Charles Hickey	Ohio Valley
TE W. Ross Hodges	Lowcountry
RE Steven Hollidge	Potomac
RE Ray O. Holton	Metro Atlanta
RE George Hopson	Calvary
RE Jeremiah Horner	Chesapeake
TE Jason Housewright	Warrior
TE Mark Howard	Eastern Pennsylvania
TE Carl Howell	Westminster
TE Don Hulsey	Southern Louisiana
TE Paul Hurst	South Florida
RE Stephen Iler	Wisconsin
David T. Irving	Mississippi Valley
TE Daniel J. Jarstfer	S. New England
TE James A. Jones, Jr	Southern Louisiana
TE Steve Jones	Northern Illinois
TE William F. Joseph, III	Southeast Alabama
TE Ben Kappers	Chicago Metro
TE Lane B. Keister	Palmetto
TE Ralph Kelley	Mississippi Valley
TE Matthew R. Kerr	S. New England
RE Bashir Khan	Potomac
TE Scott Paul Killy, II	Northern Illinois
RE Crane D. Kipp	Mississippi Valley
RE Allan Knapp	Great Lakes
TE Albert Kona	Calvary
TE George E. Lacy, Jr	South Texas
TE Eddie Lim	Korean Southeastern
TE Joel H. Linton	Providence
TE Dan Lipford	James River

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TE Jonathan Loerop	Suncoast Florida
RE Peeter W. Lukas	Great Lakes
TE Jerry Maguire	Potomac
RE C.F. Marcinak	Calvary
RE John M. Mardirosian	New Jersey
RE Forrest L. Marion	Southeast Alabama
TE Roland Mathews	Blue Ridge
RE Robert J. Mattes	Potomac
TE John M. McArthur, Jr	Fellowship
RE Jason McBride	Warrior
TE Perry M. McCall	Mississippi Valley
TE Jonathan D. McGuire	Mississippi Valley
TE John Eric McKenzie	Tennessee Valley
RE Donal McNeill (Britt)	Potomac
TE Tim McQuitty	Western Carolina
TE Brandon Meeks	Georgia Foothills
TE Brad Mills	Northern California
RE Greg Molin	Great Lakes
RE Allen Monroe	Western Carolina
TE Aaron Morgan	Fellowship
TE Sean Morris	Blue Ridge
RE David B. Morris	Houston Metro
TE Adam Mumpower	Catawba Valley
RE Terry Murdock	South Florida
RE Mark Myhal	Fellowship
RE Thomas Neagle	Fellowship
RE Frederick Neikirk	Ascension
TE Mark O'Neill	Houston Metro
TE Jon Payne	Lowcountry
TE Richard Phillips	Calvary
RE Jerry Pierce	Ohio Valley
TE Joseph A. Pipa	Calvary
TE Todd Pruitt	Blue Ridge
TE W. Duncan Rankin	Houston Metro
TE Scott Reiber	Mississippi Valley
RE Wes Reynolds	Great Lakes



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RE Troy Richards	Mississippi Valley
RE Stephen Richman	Pittsburgh
TE Jim Richwine	Warrior
TE Jeremiah Rivera	Palmetto
TE Jim Roberts	Calvary
TE Mark E. Robinson	Metro New York
TE Timothy Rott	Gulf Coast
TE Mark Rowden	Southwest
TE Robert Rumbaugh	James River
RE Henry N. Russell	Gulf Coast
TE Robert Schwanebeck	Mississippi Valley
TE William M. Schwitzer	Lowcountry
TE Daniel Srock	Philadelphia
TE Chris Sewell	Metro Atlanta
RE Chris Shoemaker	S. New England
RE Mark Slater	S. New England
TE Joshua Sparkman	Gulf Coast
TE Allen Stanton	Grace
TE John Stoval	New York State
TE David Strain	Mississippi Valley
TE Graham Svendsen	Western Carolina
RE Thomas H. Taylor, Jr	Savannah River
TE Christopher Thomas	North Texas
TE Richard M. Thomas	Calvary
TE Benjamin Thomas	Northwest Georgia
RE Will Thompson	Mississippi Valley
TE H. Wallace Tinsley, Jr	Fellowship
RE Jim Tohill	Mississippi Valley
TE Ted Trefsgar	New Jersey
TE Charlie Turner	Savannah River
TE Jason Van Bommel	Chesapeake
TE John A. Van Dvender	Chesapeake
TE Bernie Van Eyk	Gulf Stream
TE Lou Veiga	Houston Metro
TE Paul Vroom	Chicago Metro
TE Clay Walkup	Tennessee Valley

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TE Brad Waller	Savannah River
RE Alan Walters	Mississippi Valley
TE Guy Waters	Mississippi Valley
TE Chad Watkins	Western Carolina
TE Richard Wheeler	Fellowship
RE Ronald Whitley	Ohio Valley
TE Alan R. Wiley	Fellowship
TE C.N. Willborn	Tennessee Valley
RE Mark J. Windham	Mississippi Valley
TE Vincent Wood	Susquehanna Valley
TE Chris Wright	Mississippi Valley
RE Edward Wright	Chesapeake
TE Julian Zugg	Houston Metro

TE Mike Ross addressed the Assembly, representing the Administrative Committee in favor of the AC recommendation. TE Roland Barnes, CoC Chairman, addressed the Assembly regarding the CoC Substitute Motion. TE Ross was given the opportunity to respond to the CoC Chairman (*RAO* 19-4.b).

TE Chuck Hickey raised a **point of order** as to whether it was permissible to appoint members to the study committee who were not members of the court. RE Frederick Neikirk raised the question of whether a point of order must cite something in the constitution or rules as the basis for the point, and the point of order was **withdrawn**.

TE Wes Reynolds raised a **point of order**, based on *BCO* 14-1.9-10, that committees ought to be representative of the presbyteries and therefore the recommendation should be found out of order. The Moderator **ruled** the point of order **not well taken**, stating that this reference in the *BCO* is not applicable to study committees, and that *Roberts Rules of Order* allows for non-members to be appointed to committees (*RONR* [11<sup>th</sup> ed.], p. 174, ll. 31-34; p. 489, ll. 24-25).

The question was called (947-170-12). The Chairman of the AC was given a last word, followed by the Chairman of the CoC. **CoC Recommendation 3** was **defeated as a substitute** for the main motion (447-699-8). The question was called (912-182-3). The Chairman was given the last word (*RAO* 19-4.b). After prayer, the **Permanent Committee Recommendation 3** was **adopted** (767-375-12), approving the formation of a study committee on the issue of women serving in the ministry of the church (*RAO* 9-1; 9-3).

The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. AC Permanent Committee Report to GA
- B. Minutes of the 2015-2016 meetings of the AC and Board of Directors
  - 1. AC – June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, April 28, 2016
  - 2. BD – June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, April 28, 2016
- C. Budgets for the Permanent Committees and Agencies
- D. Overtures Referred to the AC
- E. Recommendations of the AC Committee

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. AC Permanent Committee Report to GA
- B. Minutes of the 2015-2016 meetings of the AC and Board of Directors
  - 1. AC – June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, April 28, 2016
  - 2. BD – June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, April 28, 2016
- C. Budgets for the Permanent Committees and Agencies
- D. Overtures related to the AC
- E. Recommendations of the AC Committee including a significant amount of time discussing Recommendation #3.

**III. Recommendations**

**1. Permanent Committee Recommendation:**

That *RAO 13-2* be amended by adding the following words: “No overture proposed by a commissioner which is a memorial resolution honoring a deceased officer or member of the Presbyterian Church in America shall be considered by the General Assembly, unless the resolution deals with a person who has died within 60 days of the convening of the General Assembly.”

Grounds: The Forty-third Assembly requested this change. The proposal allows for recent deaths to be memorialized through Personal Resolutions brought on the floor, but requires that memorial resolutions for less-than-recent deaths come via the usual overture process.

**Committee of Commissioners Substitute Motion:**

That the Assembly refer Recommendation 1 back to the Administrative Committee in order that the Administrative Committee might

comply with Recommendation 10 from the Overtures Committee of the 43rd General Assembly that the Administrative Committee consider means whereby such memorials may be received in the future. *Adopted*

2. That the Assembly renew the call to TE L. Roy Taylor as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly (RAO 4-9). *Adopted*

3. **Permanent Committee Recommendation:**

That –

- The Assembly form a study committee on the issue of women serving in the ministry of the church (RAO 9-1; 9-3). The Assembly authorizes the Moderator to appoint the study committee. The study committee should be made up of competent men and women representing the diversity of opinions within the PCA (RAO 9-1; *Robert's Rules of Order* [11<sup>th</sup> edition], §13, pp. 174-175, §50, pp.495-496, §50, pp. 497-498 §56, p. 579)].
- The committee should give particular attention to the issues of:
  - (1) The biblical basis, theology, history, nature, and authority of ordination;
  - (2) The biblical nature and function of the office of deacon;
  - (3) Clarification on the ordination or commissioning of deacons/deaconesses;
  - (4) Should the findings of the study committee warrant *BCO* changes, the study committee will propose such changes for the General Assembly to consider.
- The committee will have a budget of \$15,000 that is funded by designated donations to the AC from churches and individuals (RAO 9-2).
- A Pastoral Letter to be proposed by the ad interim study committee and approved by the General Assembly be sent to all churches, encouraging them to (1) promote the practice of women in ministry, (2) appoint women to serve alongside elders and deacons in the pastoral work of the church, and (3) hire women on church staff in appropriate ministries.

Grounds: The Cooperative Ministries Committee may not make recommendations directly to the General Assembly but must do so through an appropriate committee or agency (RAO 7-3 c; 7-6). The CMC has had a subcommittee on the role of women and has sent several recommendations to the AC (including a proposal

for a study committee on the issue women serving in the church) and CDM to bring to the Assembly.

**Committee of Commissioners Substitute Motion:**

That Recommendation 3 of the Permanent Committee (p. 306, lines 34-43; p307, 1-16) be answered in the negative.

Grounds: The action of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is clear on this subject: “Unlike most issues for which past General Assemblies have erected study committees, the question of the role of women in the Church is not a new or unstudied issue. As such, the proposed study committee is unlikely to break new ground or shed new insights.” (M37GA, 296)

Further the decisions of the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies, “That presbyteries are reminded that appropriate ways to bring these issues before the Assembly are through presbytery overtures to amend the BCO, or by way of reference (BCO 41)” (M36GA, 205; M37GA, 297) remind the Assembly that the preferred method of bringing changes to the BCO and the calling of study committees should be through the Presbyteries. *Adopted*

4. In the event that the Assembly approves the formation of an ad interim Committee on Racial Reconciliation (Overture 45 from Potomac Presbytery), that the budget for the committee be \$15,000, with funds derived from contributions to the AC designated for that purpose (RAO 9-1). *Adopted*
5. That the Building Occupancy Cost charged to each ministry be kept at \$12 per square foot for 2017. (This reflects no increase from the previous year.) *Adopted*
6. That the plan outlined below for the payment of the required contribution from the PCA Committees and Agencies to the PCA Administrative Committee be approved (RAO 5-4 a.). *Adopted*

**PLAN:** Committees and Agencies are asked to pay in one of the following three options:

- (1) Semiannual – one half paid in January and one half paid in July.
- (2) Quarterly – one fourth paid the first month of each quarter: January, April, July, and October.
- (3) Monthly – one twelfth paid the first of each month.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NOTE: The following chart shows the agreed upon amounts for 2017:

PCA Ministry	Contribution Amount
AC	
CDM	\$9,000
CC	\$11,500
CTS	\$11,500
MNA	\$11,500
MTW	\$11,500
PCAF	\$11,500
RBI	\$11,500
RH	\$9,000
RUM	<u>\$11,500</u>
	\$98,500

7. That the Annual Administration Fee for Ministers be set at \$100 for 2017 (*RAO 5-4 c.*). [This reflects no increase from the previous year.] *Adopted*
8. That the General Assembly set the request to Presbyteries for GA Host Committee assistance at \$500 for 2017 (*RAO 10-9*). [This reflects no increase over the previous year. We hope an increasing number of Presbyteries will make the requested contribution.] *Adopted*
9. That the Administrative Committee (AC) budget for 2017 of \$2,557,800 Operating Budget and \$1,496,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
10. That the PCA Building budget for 2017 of \$270,200 Operating Budget be approved. The PCA Building does not participate in Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
11. That the CDM budget for 2017 of \$1,578,000 Operating Budget and \$730,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
12. That the CC budget for 2017 of \$28,811,000 Operating Budget and \$2,200,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
13. That the CTS budget for 2017 of \$8,006,436 Operating Budget and \$2,100,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
14. That the MNA budget for 2017 of \$12,502,948 Operating Budget and \$4,559,645 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
15. That the MTW budget for 2017 of \$52,344,686 Operating Budget and \$8,154,996 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
16. That the PCAF budget for 2017 of \$1,097,000 Operating Budget. The PCAF does not participate in Partnership Shares. *Adopted*

17. That the RBI budget for 2017 of \$2,923,490 Operating Budget. RBI does not participate in Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
18. That the RUM budget for 2017 of \$11,267,111 Operating Budget and \$4,576,975 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
19. That the RH budget for 2017 of \$2,010,000 Operating Budget and \$800,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved. *Adopted*
20. That the Assembly note for the record that 2015 Audit performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan on the Administrative Committee has been received (RAO 14-8 h.). *Adopted*
21. That the Assembly note for the record that the 2015 Audit performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan on the PCA Building has been received (RAO 14-8 h.). *Adopted*
22. That the General Assembly approve Capin, Crouse, & Company as auditors for the Committee on Mission to the World and the Committee on Mission to North America for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016. *Adopted*
23. That the General Assembly approve Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP, as auditors for the Committee on Reformed University Ministries for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016. *Adopted*
24. That the General Assembly approve Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan, PC, as auditors for the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Discipleship Ministries for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016. *Adopted*
25. That the minutes of the AC for June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, and April 28, 2016, be approved.

**Committee of Commissioners Substitute Motion:**

That the minutes of the AC for June 9, 2015 and October 8, 2015 be approved without exception, but with notation that was reported to the Administrative Committee. *Adopted*

To approve the April 28, 2016 minutes, with notations and the following Exception of Substance: Item PM-04/16-12, proposes amendments to PCA governing documents which would open permanent committees and agency boards to the inclusion of any "members in good standing in the PCA who are of age legal majority" would result in the possibility for unordained members of the PCA to be placed on such committees and/or agencies in a voting capacity. This would have the effect of placing unordained persons in positions of authority within the church, and therefore, proposing these amendments would fail to conform with the Standards of the Presbyterian Church in America, (WCF 1:2,4; WLC 3, WSC 2; WCF 31:1) and the Scriptures (1 Timothy 2:11-12). *Adopted*

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26. That the minutes of the Board for June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, and April 28, 2016, be approved without exception, but with one notation that was reported to the Administrative Committee. *Adopted*
27. That the General Assembly accept the charts below as the acceptable response to the GA requirement for an annual report on the cost of the AC's mandated responsibilities.

**2015 Unfunded Mandates**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY COSTS**

Year	# of Commissioners	Total Costs	Cost per Commissioner	Amount of Fee Alloted to GA	Total Standard Fee
2011	1183	480,932	\$407	\$300	\$400
2012	1120	417,719	\$373	\$300	\$400
2013	1327	470,145	\$354	\$350	\$450
2014	1123	492,720	\$439	\$350	\$450
2015	1394	511,833	\$367	\$350	\$450

**AC GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Description	2015 Total <sup>2</sup>	Per Commissioner
Committee on Constitutional Business	\$11,419	\$8
General Assembly with Minutes <sup>1</sup>	\$541,833	\$389
Interchurch Relations Committee	\$18,591	\$13
Nominating Committee <sup>2</sup>	\$19,755	\$14
Standing Judicial Commission	\$145,775	\$105
Theological Examining Committee <sup>3</sup>	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$737,373</b>	<b>\$529</b>

<sup>1</sup> Review of Presbytery Records is included in the General Assembly Total. In 2015, RPR cost \$43,309; production and delivery of the General Assembly Minutes cost at least \$30,000 and is included in this "Total".

<sup>2</sup> The expense of the Nominating Committee is shared by the PCA Committees and Agencies.

<sup>3</sup> The Theological Examining Committee did not incur any material expenses in 2015 as per their report to the AC.

*Adopted*



28. That the registration fee remain at \$450 for the 2017 General Assembly with \$350 allocated to the GA expenses, \$25 for publication of the GA Minutes, and \$75 allocated to the Standing Committee cost center for the expenses of the Standing Judicial Commission. Honorably retired or emeritus elders would continue to pay 1/3 of the regular registration (\$150). Elders coming from churches with annual incomes below \$100,000, as per their 2016 statistics, may register for \$300. *Adopted*
29. That the “2017 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks of PCA Ministry Partners by the Participating General Assembly Ministries” (p. 466) be approved. *Adopted*
30. That the minutes of the AC adjourned meeting of June 7, 2016 be approved. *Adopted*
31. That the General Assembly consider both logo presentations that have been approved by the Historical Center Subcommittee and the AC and that the Assembly vote to make a selection between the two proposed logos.

**Rationale:** The Historical Center Subcommittee concurred that both logos were worthy proposals and the HC Subcommittee had an equally split vote between the two after much research, deliberation, and debate. The General Assembly’s instruction to the HC Subcommittee included bringing two options before the General Assembly when reporting (*M34 GA*, p. 162). *Adopted*

32. That the Assembly commend the AC staff for their dedicated and professional service and sacrifice: Dr. Roy Taylor, John Robertson, Richard Doster, Sherry Eschenberg, Wayne Herring, Larry Hoop, Robert Hornick, Priscilla Lowrey, Angela Nantz, Wayne Sparkman, Karen Cook, Anna Eubanks, Amy Hoxter, Monica Johnston, Erika Derr, Margie Mallow, and Billy Park. *Adopted*

#### IV. Commissioners Present

##### **Presbytery**

Ascension  
Blue Ridge  
Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Chesapeake  
Chicago Metro  
Covenant

##### **Commissioner**

TE Stephen B. Tipton  
TE Todd Pruitt  
RE Melton Duncan  
TE Brian Joseph Peterson  
RE Jeremiah Horner  
TE Ben Kappers  
TE John Edgar Eubanks Jr.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Evangel	TE Robbie L. Hendrick
Fellowship	RE Tom Neagle
Georgia Foothills	TE Charles Garland
Great Lakes	RE Wes Reynolds
Gulf Coast	RE Gordon Eldridge
Heartland	TE D. Timothy Rackley
Houston Metro	TE Luis Veiga
Iowa	TE James Hakim
James River	RE Daniel A. Carrell
Lowcountry	TE Ross Hodges
Metro Atlanta	TE Peter E. Jackson
Mississippi Valley	TE David T. Irving
Nashville	TE Matthew Todd Bradley
New York State	TE John Stovall
North Florida	TE Jim McCarthy
North Texas	TE Christopher Thomas
Northwest Georgia	TE Benjamin Thomas
Ohio	TE James Kessler
Ohio Valley	RE Shay Fout
Philadelphia	TE Deryck Barson
Pittsburgh	RE Dale McLane
Potomac	TE Joel Craig St. Clair II
Providence	RE Frank Cohee
Rocky Mountain	TE Matt Giesman
Savannah River	TE Roland S. Barnes
Siouxlands	TE Arthur Sartorius
South Florida	TE Paul C. Hurst
South Texas	TE George E. Lacy Jr.
Southeast Alabama	RE William F. Joseph Jr.
Southern Louisiana	TE Don Hulsey
Southern New England	TE Daniel Jarstfer
Southwest Florida	TE Robert Brubaker
Suncoast Florida	RE Bruce Stanley
Susquehanna Valley	TE Peter James Rowan
Western Carolina	TE William Hill
Westminster	RE Joe Neumann

/s/ TE Roland Barnes, Chairman

/s/ TE Joel St. Clair, Secretary

**44-39 Covenant College (Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports)**

RE Derek Halvorson, President of the College, presented the Informational Report of the College (For the full report of the Covenant College, see Appendix E, p. 211).

TE Matthew David Frey, CoC Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the CoC report (below).

**Recommendations 1-2, 4-7** were **adopted** in gross (492-3-11). **Recommendation 3**, addressing the budget, was **deferred** to CoC on Administrative Committee.

**Recommendation 8** was **adopted** (550-2-7), directing the college “to maintain policies in keeping with a biblical understanding of sexual identity.”

Recommendation 9, as amended by the CoC was presented. TE David Coffin raised a **point of order** that the “Whereas” clauses may not be amended by the Assembly or the Committee. The Moderator ruled that the **point of order** was **well taken**.

**Recommendation 9** was **adopted without amendment** (488-31-25), answering **Overture 54** from Calvary Presbytery in the affirmative as amended only in the “resolution” portion of the overture.

The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COMMISSIONERS ON  
COVENANT COLLEGE**

**I. Business Referred to the Committee**

- A. CC Permanent Committee Report
- B. CC Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - August 31, 2015
  - October 8-9, 2015
  - March 17-18, 2016Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees Minutes from:
  - Sept 9, 2015
  - March 2, 2016
- C. CC 2015 Audit
- D. CC 2017 Proposed Budget
- E. CC Permanent Committee Recommendations
- F. Overture 54 from Calvary Presbytery

**II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

- A. CC Permanent Committee Report

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- B. CC Permanent Committee Minutes from:
  - August 31, 2015
  - October 8-9, 2015
  - March 17-18, 2016
- Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees Minutes from:
  - Sept 9, 2015
  - March 2, 2016
- C. CC 2015 Audit
- D. CC 2017 Proposed Budget
- E. CC Permanent Committee Recommendations
- F. Overture 65 from Calvary Presbytery

**III. Recommendations**

1. That the General Assembly thank and praise God for the excellent work and faithfulness of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff of Covenant College in serving the Presbyterian Church in America by shaping students for lives of service in the Kingdom of God.

*Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly encourage congregations of the PCA to support the ministry of Covenant College through encouraging prospective students to attend, through contributing the Partnership Shares approved by the General Assembly, and through prayer.

*Adopted*
3. That the General Assembly approve the budget for 2016-2017, as submitted through the Administrative Committee.

*Deferred to CoC on AC*
4. That the General Assembly adopt “The Covenant College and Supporting Foundation Financial Report” dated June 30, 2015, and prepared by Capin Crouse LLP.

*Adopted*
5. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees for August 31, 2015, October 8-9, 2015, and March 17-18, 2016, with notations, and the minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for Sept 9, 2015 and March 2, 2016, with notations.

*Adopted*
6. That the General Assembly receive as information the foregoing Annual Report, recognizing God’s gracious and abundant blessing and commending the College in its desire to continue pursuing excellence in higher education for the glory of God.

*Adopted*

7. That the General Assembly encourage churches to designate a Sunday in the coming year to highlight the ministry of Covenant College and to pray specifically for the College in its mission and ministry. *Adopted*
8. That the General Assembly direct the College to maintain policies in keeping with a biblical understanding of sexual identity. *Adopted*
9. That the General Assembly answer Overture 54 from Calvary Presbytery in the affirmative, as amended.

**Vote to Amend:** *Adopted*

**Vote to Recommend Amended Overture:** *Adopted*

**OVERTURE 54** from 1 Calvary Presbytery (to CC)

“Commend Covenant College for Forfeiting Championship Tennis Match Scheduled on a Lord’s Day”

**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 2:1-3; 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, be it resolved** that the 44th General Assembly express its appreciation to Covenant College for electing to forfeit with the Women’s Tennis USA South Conference championship match, scheduled for April 17, 2016, because it was scheduled on the Lord’s Day.

~~**And moreover,** we remind our congregations of the resolution adopted by the 4th General Assembly in 1976:~~

~~**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 great conformity with the Church’s Standards. (MAGA [1976], p. 65)~~

**IV. Commissioners Present:**

**Presbytery**

Ascension  
Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Chesapeake  
Eastern Carolina  
Fellowship  
Georgia Foothills  
Grace  
Great Lakes  
Gulf Coast  
Mississippi Valley  
Missouri  
Nashville  
New York State  
North Texas  
Northwest Georgia  
Ohio Valley  
Pittsburgh  
Potomac  
Southeast Alabama  
Southern Louisiana  
Susquehanna Valley  
Tennessee Valley  
Western Canada

**Commissioner**

RE Towner B. Scheffler  
TE Mark Auffarth  
RE Timm Dazey  
TE Jason Van Bommel  
TE Timothy Sharpe  
TE Aaron Matthew Morgan  
RE Steve Bennett  
TE Randy H. Kimbrough  
TE Jonathan Saunders  
TE Joseph C. Grider  
TE Robert G. Schwanebeck Jr.  
TE Jacob A. Bennett  
TE J. Stephen Robertson  
TE Tom Kristoffersen  
TE Matthew David Fray\*  
RE Tom Chapman  
TE Charles Hickey  
TE Samuel D. DeSocio  
TE John F. Armstrong Jr.  
TE Matthew Jay DeLong  
RE Jeff Moore  
TE Erik David Swanson  
RE David Peterson  
TE Mark Swanson

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ TE Matthew David Fray  
Chairman

/s/ TE Jason Van Bommel  
Secretary

**44-40 Report of Overtures Committee**

TE David Richter asked whether a standing vote might be requested on some votes, citing a concern for a visible sign of unity in the body. The Moderator said the point was well taken, and that he would wait for the Spirit to guide.

TE Irwyn L. Ince, Jr., Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report (see 44-44, p. 72).

The following recommendations were **adopted** in gross (545-4-8): **Recommendations 2** (Overture 3), **4** (Overture 7), **6** (Overture 21), **7** (Overture 22), **8** (Overture 25), **9** (Overture 26), **10** (Overture 32), **12** (Overture 37 – adopted as amended), and **13** (Overture 38 – adopted as amended).

**Recommendation 3** was **adopted** (466-43-18), answering Overture 5 in the negative.

See 44-44, p. 70, for continuation of the report.

**44-41 Assembly Recessed**

The Assembly recessed at 5:30 p.m. with the singing of “How Firm a Foundation” and prayer by RE Sylvester Brown to reconvene after worship at 9:00 p.m.

**Sixth Session – Thursday Evening  
June 23, 2016**

**44-42 Assembly Reconvened**

The Assembly reconvened at 9:10 p.m. with the prayer by TE Kevin Smith.

**44-43 Protest**

TE Joseph Pipa presented the following protest regarding AC Recommendation 3 (see 44-38, p. 56), which on motion was found by the Assembly to be in temperate language, and therefore ordered spread upon the Minutes:

We, the undersigned, humbly protest the establishment of a committee to study the issue of woman serving in the ministry of the church based on the following grounds:

1. The committee having women as well as men, contrary to 1 Timothy 2:12-13.
2. The committee is to reflect the diversity of opinion in the denomination with no apparent respect to Scriptural or *Confessional* parameters.
3. It appears, with the suggestion of a pastoral letter, that there is a goal already in mind prior to the study committee being formed.
4. Hebrews 6:1-2 states that the laying on of hands (ordination) has been established and further study hinders the progress of the gospel.

The following commissioners added their names to the protest:

TE Andrew Barnes	Heartland
TE Ryan Biese	Mississippi Valley
TE Bob Brubaker	Southwest Florida
TE Andrew P. Dionne	Calvary

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TE Ben Duncan	North West Georgia
RE Shay Fout	Ohio Valley
TE Geoff Gleason	Savannah River
RE Vaughn R. Hamilton	Tennessee Valley
RE Brad Hansen	Heartland
TE Mitchell L. Haubert, Jr	Warrior
TE William F. Hill, Jr	Western Carolina
TE James A. Jones, Jr	Southern Louisiana
TE Lane Keister	Palmetto
TE George E. Lacy, Jr	South Texas
TE Joel H. Linton	Providence
TE Dan Lipford	James River
TE Jim McCarthy	North Florida
TE Jonathan McGuire	Mississippi Valley
TE John Eric McKenzie	Tennessee Valley
TE Tim McQuitty	Western Carolina
TE Aaron Morgan	Fellowship
TE Mark O'Neill	Houston Metro
TE Ryan Speck	Missouri
RE Thomas H. Taylor, Jr	Savannah River
TE Ben Thomas	North West Georgia
TE Lou Veiga	Houston Metro
TE Brad Waller	Savannah River
TE C.N. Willborn	Tennessee Valley

RE Joel Belz requested that the Moderator rule out of order the following words in the Protest: “with no apparent respect to the Scriptures.” The Moderator ruled that the Protest had already been received by the Assembly, but he accepted the sentiments of RE Belz “with all due deference.”

**44-44 Report of Overtures Committee (continued)**

TE Irwyn Ince, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and continued the report (below).

**Recommendation 1** (Overture 43) was introduced by the Chairman. TE Joel Linton made a motion to **recommit**, the question was called (881-98-4), and the motion to recommit was **defeated** (150-828-16). Time having expired for debate on the main motion, a motion to **extend debate** 5 minutes was **defeated** (263-730-10).

**Recommendation 1** was **adopted** (861-123-23), **answering Overture 43 in the affirmative as amended**, with the **following overtures**



being **answered with reference to Overture 43**: Overtures 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 63.

The Assembly paused for prayer by RE Sylvester Brown and RE William Joseph, and to sing “It Is Well.”

TE David Sarafolean, on a point of personal privilege, recognized RE Jay Neikirk for his assistance in guiding this matter in Overtures Committee.

The Moderator, at the request of TE Daniel Jarstfer and in the interest of time limitations, reminded the Assembly of the limited purpose of points of personal privilege.

TE David Coffin, Potomac Presbytery, requested (*BCO* 45-2) that his **dissent** with respect to Overture 43 be recorded in these words: “With respect to the otherwise laudable resolutions adopted by the Assembly, I dissent from the use of the word ‘repent’ in the first two paragraphs. I do not believe one can repent of the sins of another.”

**Recommendation 16** was introduced by the Chairman. The question was called (912-34-5), and the recommendation was **adopted** (814-87-15), **answering in the affirmative Overture 45**, to form a study committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation.

**Recommendation 8 from MNA Committee of Commissioners Report** (see p. 42) was moved by TE Andy Hunt on behalf of the CoC, the question was called (817-98-4), and the recommendation was **adopted** (728-149-36), **approving as amended Overture 44** to create a “‘PCA Unity Fund’ to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders. . . .”

Overtures Committee **Recommendation 17** was **adopted** (817-28-37), answering **Overture 60 by reference to Overture 43**.

**Recommendation 5** (Overture 14) was introduced by Committee member RE John Bise. A **Minority Report** (p. 89) was presented by RE Howie Donahoe, representing the Minority. The Committee representative responded.

TE Ed Eubanks moved that the **Assembly rules be suspended and debate** be limited to 20 minutes. TE David Coffin raised a **point of order** that the rules for consideration of the Overtures Report do not allow for limitations on debate. The Moderator ruled that the point of order was **well taken** and that the motion was **out of order**.

The question was called (664-120-8), and the **Minority Report** was **adopted as a substitute motion** (503-269-24).

The question of the **Minority Report as the Main Motion** was called (711-54-4), and the motion was **adopted** (561-191-18), **answering Overture 14 in the negative** and thereby defeating the proposed amendment to *BCO* 35-1.

**Recommendation 11** (Overture 36) **failed to obtain the requisite majority** (619-20-38).

The question on **Recommendation 15** (Overture 40) was called (567-102-5), and **defeated** (227-427-25), thereby defeating the proposed amendment to *BCO* 43-1.

On a **point of order**, TE Per Almquist stated that Recommendation 14 had not been dealt with. The Moderator ruled the point **well taken**.

**Recommendation 14** was **adopted** (527-63-55), **answering Overture 39 in the negative** and thereby defeating proposed amendments to *BCO* 38-1 and 42-2.

The Chairman closed the report with prayer.

## REPORT OF THE OVERTURES COMMITTEE

**I. Business Referred to the Committee** – 56 Overtures: 1, 3-19, 21-23, 25-43, 45-53, 55-60, 63.

Four other overtures (#s 24, 44, 61, 62) were referred by the Stated Clerk to MNA, one (# 20) to MTW, and one (# 2) to the SJC. These were not considered by the OC. One overture (#45) was referred to the AC as well as the OC.

### **II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed**

Each overture and personal resolution was discussed and recommendations were made. If the OC did not recommend any amendment, then the overture is not reprinted, and we included only the Clerk’s Summary Title. In instances where the OC proposed amendments, the Presbytery’s proposed action is reprinted, noting the changes proposed by the OC (~~double strike through~~ for deletions, double underline for insertions).

The full text of the Overtures as originally submitted is found in Appendix V, pp. 570-705.

### **III. Summary of Recommendations**

Overture Number, Presbytery and Description	Disposition	Vote
1. Heartland – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
3. Chesapeake – Amend <i>BCO</i> 15-3	Refer back	81-3-1
4. Missouri – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
5. Pittsburgh – Amend <i>BCO</i> 15-5 and <i>RAO</i> 17-1	Negative	69-18-2
6. Chesapeake – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
7. Grace – Petition Government on SCOTUS Ruling	Refer to AC	76-3-1

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8. Eastern Carolina – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
9. Tennessee Valley – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
10. Metropolitan New York – Support Overture 4	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
11. Calvary – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
12. Pacific Northwest – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
13. Providence – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
14. Providence – Amend <i>BCO</i> 35-1	Affirmative	51-36-2
15. Covenant – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
16. Blue Ridge – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
17. Metro Atlanta – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
18. Heritage – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
19. Chicago Metro – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
21. Southwest Florida – Memorial for RE Evans	Affirmative	89-0-2
22. Southwest Florida – Memorial for RE Darden	Affirmative	89-0-2
23. Nashville – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
25. Rocky Mountain – Amend <i>BCO</i> 15-1, 2, 4	Negative	93-0-0
26. Rocky Mountain – Memorial for TE Leonard	Affirmative	89-0-2
27. Rocky Mountain – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
28. North Texas – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
29. Pittsburgh – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
30. Suncoast Florida – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
31. Southern New England – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
32. James River – A Day of Prayer and Fasting	Refer back	88-1-0
33. New York State – Support Overture 4	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
34. Westminster – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
35. New Jersey – Support Overture 4	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
36. Pacific Northwest – Amend <i>RAO</i> 13-2	Affirmative	83-0-3
37. Pacific Northwest – Amend <i>BCO</i> 13-2	Affirmative as amended	91-0-1
38. Pacific Northwest – Amend <i>BCO</i> 5-3	Affirmative as amended	91-0-0
39. Pacific Northwest – Amend <i>BCO</i> 38-1, 42-2	Negative	42-40-7
40. Pacific Northwest – Amend <i>BCO</i> 43-1	Affirmative as amended	80-2-0
41. Korean SW Orange Co. – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
42. Philadelphia – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
43. Potomac – Racial Reconciliation	Affirmative as amended	84-3-0
45. Potomac – Form Study Committee	Affirmative as amended	89-2-1
46. Northern California – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
47. Savannah River – Support Overture 4	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
48. Susquehanna Valley – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
49. James River – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
50. North Florida – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
51. Platte Valley – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
52. Lowcountry – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
53. Northwest Georgia – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
55. Mississippi Valley – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
56. Evangel – Support Overture 55	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
57. Central Indiana – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
58. Piedmont Triad – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
59. Gulf Coast – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0
60. Session Auburn Rd. PC – Racial Reconciliation	Ref. Overture 43	73-2-2
63. Ohio Valley – Support Overture 4	Ref. Overture 43	84-3-0

#### IV. Recommendations

1. That **Overture 43** from **Potomac** ("Pursuing Racial Reconciliation and the Advance of the Gospel," p. 646) be answered in the **affirmative as amended** and that the following overtures be answered **by reference to this action**:

**Overture 1** from **Heartland** ("Steps Toward Racial Reconciliation," p. 570);

**Overture 4** from **Missouri** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 578);

**Overture 6** from **Chesapeake** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 584);

**Overture 8** from **Eastern Carolina** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 590);

**Overture 9** from **Tennessee Valley** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 592);

**Overture 10** from **Metropolitan New York** ("In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery," p. 594);

**Overture 11** from **Calvary** ("Call for Repentance and Reconciliation," p. 594);

**Overture 12** from **Pacific Northwest** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 596);

**Overture 13** from **Providence** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Providence Presbytery Version," p. 598);

**Overture 15** from **Covenant** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Covenant Presbytery Version," p. 602);

**Overture 16** from **Blue Ridge** ("Repentance, Racial Reconciliation, and Reformation," p. 604);

**Overture 17** from **Metro Atlanta** ("In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery," p. 607);

**Overture 18** from **Heritage** ("Confessing Covenantal and Generational Sins during the Civil Rights Period," p. 608);

**Overture 19** from **Chicago Metro** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 611),

**Overture 23** from **Nashville** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Nashville Presbytery Version," p. 617);

**Overture 27** from **Rocky Mountain** ("Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity," p. 624);

- Overture 28** from **North Texas** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 626);
- Overture 29** from **Pittsburgh** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Pittsburgh Presbytery Version,” p. 628);
- Overture 30** from **Suncoast Florida** (“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery,” p. 630);
- Overture 31** from **Southern New England** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 630);
- Overture 33** from **New York State** (“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery,” p. 633);
- Overture 34** from **Westminster** (“Call for Repentance and Reconciliation, p. 633);
- Overture 35** from **New Jersey** (“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery,” p. 635);
- Overture 41** from **Korean Southwest Orange County** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Korean Southwest Orange County Presbytery Version,” p. 642);
- Overture 42** from **Philadelphia** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 644);
- Overture 46** from **Northern California** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 650);
- Overture 47** from **Savannah River** (“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery,” p. 652);
- Overture 48** from **Susquehanna Valley** (“Confession and Commitment to Action,” p. 653);
- Overture 49** from **James River** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, James River Presbytery Version,” p. 655);
- Overture 50** from **North Florida** (“Steps Toward Racial Reconciliation, North Florida Presbytery Version,” p. 658);
- Overture 51** from **Platte Valley** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 660);
- Overture 52** from **Lowcountry** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Lowcountry Presbytery Version,” p. 662);
- Overture 53** from **Northwest Georgia** (“Leading by Example in Repentance First,” p. 664);
- Overture 55** from **Mississippi Valley** (“Confession of the Sin of Racism, and Commitment to Christian Unity,” p. 669);

**Overture 56** from **Evangel** (“In Support of Overture 55 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery,” p. 695);  
**Overture 57** from **Central Indiana** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 696);  
**Overture 58** from **Piedmont Triad** (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” p. 698);  
**Overture 59** from **Gulf Coast** (“Acknowledgment of Sin and Recommitment to Model our Unity in Christ,” p. 700); and  
**Overture 63** from **Ohio Valley** (“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery,” p. 705). *Adopted*

**Overture 43 (as amended)**

(~~double strike through~~ for deletions, double underline for insertions):

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize, confess, ~~and~~ condemn, and repent of these past corporate and historical sins, including those committed during the Civil Rights era, and continuing racial sins of ourselves and our fathers such as the segregation of worshipers by race; the exclusion of persons from Church membership on the basis of race; the exclusion of churches, or elders, from membership in the Presbyteries on the basis of race; the teaching that the Bible sanctions racial segregation and discourages inter-racial marriage; the participation in and defense of white supremacist organizations; and the failure to live out the gospel imperative that “love does no wrong to a neighbor” (Romans 13:10); and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly does recognize, confess, ~~and~~ condemn and repent of past failures to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires, as well as failures to lovingly confront our brothers and sisters concerning racial sins and personal bigotry, and failing to “learn to do good, seek justice and correct oppression” (Isaiah 1:17); and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly praises and recommits itself to the gospel task of racial reconciliation, diligently seeking effective courses of action to further that goal, with humility, sincerity and zeal, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it ~~finally~~ further resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to make this resolution known to their members in order that they may prayerfully confess their own racial sins as led by the Spirit and strive towards racial reconciliation for the advancement of the gospel, the love of Christ, and the glory of God; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly call the attention of churches and presbyteries to the pastoral letter contained in Overture 55 as an example of how a presbytery might provide shepherding leadership for its churches toward racial reconciliation; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly remind the churches and presbyteries of the PCA that BCO 31-2 and 38-1 provide potent and readily available means for dealing with ones who have sinned or continue to sin in these areas.

The amended version now reads:

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize, confess, condemn and repent of corporate and historical sins, including those committed during the Civil Rights era, and continuing racial sins of ourselves and our fathers such as the segregation of worshipers by race; the exclusion of persons from Church membership on the basis of race; the exclusion of churches, or elders, from membership in the Presbyteries on the basis of race; the teaching that the Bible sanctions racial segregation and discourages inter-racial marriage; the participation in and defense of white supremacist organizations; and the failure to live out the gospel imperative that “love does no wrong to a neighbor” (Romans 13:10); and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly does recognize, confess, condemn and repent of past failures to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires, as well as failures to lovingly confront our brothers and sisters concerning racial sins and personal bigotry, and failing to “learn to do good, seek justice and correct oppression” (Isaiah 1:17); and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly praises and recommits itself to the gospel task of racial reconciliation, diligently seeking effective courses of action to further that goal,

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

with humility, sincerity and zeal, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to make this resolution known to their members in order that they may prayerfully confess their own racial sins as led by the Spirit and strive towards racial reconciliation for the advancement of the gospel, the love of Christ, and the glory of God; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly call the attention of churches and presbyteries to the pastoral letter contained in Overture 55 as an example of how a presbytery might provide shepherding leadership for its churches toward racial reconciliation; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly remind the churches and presbyteries of the PCA that *BCO* 31-2 and 38-1 provide potent and readily available means for dealing with ones who have sinned or continue to sin in these areas.

2. That **Overture 3** from **Chesapeake** (“Amend *BCO* 15-3 to Allow Judicial Commission Minority Reports,” p. 575) be **referred back** to Chesapeake Presbytery without prejudice in order to perfect the language. *Adopted*
3. That **Overture 5** from Pittsburgh (“Amend *BCO* 15-5.a and *RAO* 17-1, Paragraph 4, to Allow the General Assembly to Give Directions to the SJC in Judicial Decisions and Reasoning and Opinions,” p. 580) be **answered in the negative**. *Adopted*

Grounds: The overture would undermine the judicial process established by the Constitution of our church.

Justice would be delayed. The Standing Judicial Commission was established to conclude the matters assigned. With the proposed overture, a matter that had been adjudicated by the SJC would not be final until the General Assembly acted on the report of the Committee on Constitutional Business. For example, if the SJC adjudicated a matter concerning the views of a Teaching Elder on July 1st, the status of the calling and livelihood of the Teaching Elder would not be finally settled until the General Assembly met the next summer.



The term "Constitutional Matters" does little to limit the matters that are subject to review. The *Constitution* of the PCA consists of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, *The Larger and Shorter Catechisms* and the *Book of Church Order*. Therefore, exceptions could be raised about not only doctrine, but also personal conduct, judicial procedures, and evidentiary matters. The entire Assembly would need to be familiar with the details of the case, as contained in the Record of the Case, in order to evaluate the judgment of the SJC and give guidance to the SJC.

4. That **Overture 7** from Grace ("Petition Government Leaders to Insure Religious Liberty in Light of SCOTUS Ruling on Same-sex Marriage," p. 586) be **referred** to the AC with instructions to report back to the 45th GA. *Adopted*
5. That **Overture 14** from Providence ("Amend *BCO* 35-1 to Require Accused Officers to Testify," p. 600) be **answered in the affirmative**. *Adopted*

For **Minority Report** on Overture 14, see p. 89.

6. That **Overture 21** from Southwest Florida ("Memorial for Ruling Elder W. Diehl Evans," p. 615) be **answered in the affirmative**. *Adopted*
7. That **Overture 22** from Southwest Florida ("Memorial for Ruling Elder Henry Richard 'Rip' Darden," p. 616) be **answered in the affirmative**. *Adopted*
8. That **Overture 25** from **Rocky Mountain** ("Amend *BCO* 15-1; 15-2; Add new 15-4 and Renumber Subsequent Paragraphs," p. 620) be **answered in the negative**. *Adopted*

Grounds: This amendment is not necessary. The power to appoint a commission is a power that is inherent to a session.

9. That **Overture 26** from Rocky Mountain ("Memorial for TE Bill Leonard," p. 623) be **answered in the affirmative**. *Adopted*

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10. That **Overture 32** from James River (“A Day of Prayer and Fasting,” p. 632) be **referred back** to James River Presbytery without prejudice. *Adopted*

Grounds: The Overture provides neither a rationale for the Day nor instructions to the Churches concerning its conduct.

11. That **Overture 36** from Pacific Northwest (“Amend *RAO* 13-2 on the Procedure for Considering New Business at GA,” p. 635) be **answered in the affirmative**. *Adopted*
12. That **Overture 37** from Pacific Northwest (“Amend *BCO* 13-2 to Add Requirement for Annual Reports from Ministers Without Call,” p. 637) be **answered in the affirmative as amended**: *Adopted*

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 13-2 by the addition of a final sentence as follows (addition underlined):

*BCO* 13-2. A minister shall be required to hold his membership in the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he resides, unless there are reasons which are satisfactory to his Presbytery why he should not do so. When a minister labors outside the geographical bounds of, or in a work not under the jurisdiction of his Presbytery, at home or abroad, it shall be only with the full concurrence of and under circumstances agreeable to his Presbytery, and to the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he labors, if one exists. When a minister shall continue on the rolls of his Presbytery without a call to a particular work for a prolonged period, not exceeding three years, the procedure as set forth in *BCO* 34-10 shall be followed. A minister without call shall submit at least one make or file a report to his Presbytery at least once each calendar year and it shall be recorded in the minutes.

The amended version now reads:

*BCO* 13-2. A minister shall be required to hold his membership in the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he resides, unless there are reasons which are satisfactory to his Presbytery why he should not do so. When a minister labors outside the geographical bounds of, or in a work not under the jurisdiction of

his Presbytery, at home or abroad, it shall be only with the full concurrence of and under circumstances agreeable to his Presbytery, and to the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he labors, if one exists. When a minister shall continue on the rolls of his Presbytery without a call to a particular work for a prolonged period, not exceeding three years, the procedure as set forth in *BCO* 34-10 shall be followed. A minister without call shall make or file a report to his Presbytery at least once each year.

Grounds: The OC amended the overture by allowing the TE report to be “made” or “filed.” In other words, the minister without call does not necessarily need to be present at a Presbytery meeting to deliver his report. OC also changed “calendar year” to “year,” because many ministers without call enter that status at different months in the calendar. OC also deleted the final clause of the original overture - “it shall be recorded in the minutes.” This is already understood, because anytime the *BCO* places a requirement on a Presbytery, the Presbytery needs to reflect the accomplishment in its minutes.

13. That **Overture 38** from **Pacific Northwest** (“Amend *BCO* 5-3 to Add an Explicit Requirement for Reporting and Reviewing Minutes of a Mission Church Temporary System of Government,” p. 638) be answered in the **affirmative as amended**. *Adopted*

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 5-3 by the addition of a final sentence as follows (added sentence underlined):

5-3. The mission church, because of its transitional condition, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances and at its own discretion, Presbytery may provide for such government in one of several ways:

- a. Appoint an evangelist as prescribed in with *BCO* 8-6.
- b. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.
- c. Appoint a *BCO* 15-1 commission to serve as a

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

temporary Session of the mission church. When a minister of the Presbytery has been approved to serve as pastor of the mission church, he shall be included as a member of the commission and serve as its moderator.

The temporary system of government shall record and submit its ~~minutes~~ records to Presbytery for annual review in the same manner as Sessions of particular churches.

The amended version now reads:

5-3. The mission church, because of its transitional condition, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances and at its own discretion, Presbytery may provide for such government in one of several ways:

- a. Appoint an evangelist as prescribed in with *BCO* 8-6.
- b. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.
- c. Appoint a *BCO* 15-1 commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church. When a minister of the Presbytery has been approved to serve as pastor of the mission church, he shall be included as a member of the commission and serve as its moderator.

The temporary system of government shall record and submit its records to Presbytery for annual review in the same manner as Sessions of particular churches.

Grounds: The OC amended the overture by replacing “minutes” with “records” to address concerns expressed by CCB regarding an evangelist serving as the mission church temporary system of government. He would not have minutes, *per se*, but he would maintain church “records,” and these should be reviewed annually by Presbytery.

14. That **Overture 39** from Pacific Northwest (“Amend *BCO* 38-1 and 42-2 to Allow an Appeal Instead of a Complaint in a Case Without Process,” p. 639) be **answered in the negative**. *Adopted*

Grounds: Allowing an appeal instead of complaint in a case without process, would introduce process to a judicial case that, by definition, was not intended to have it.

15. That **Overture 40** from Pacific Northwest (“Amend *BCO* 43-1 to Clarify the Timing of Higher Court Review of Complaints in Judicial Cases,” p. 641) be **answered in the affirmative as amended**.

*Adopted*

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 43-1 as follows (~~strike through~~ for deletions; underlining for additions):

43-1. A complaint is a written representation made against some act or decision of a court of the Church. It is the right of any communing member of the Church in good standing to make complaint against any action of a court to whose jurisdiction he is subject, ~~except that no complaint is allowable in a judicial case in which an appeal is pending.~~

During the process of a judicial case, a higher court shall not consider a timely-filed complaint against an action or ruling of the lower court in that case until a judgment has been rendered, and:

- there is an acquittal or a dismissal of all charges,
- the deadline for filing an appeal has expired,
- the accused has abandoned his appeal, or
- an appeal has been adjudicated.

However, by a 2/3 vote the higher court may consider a pre-judgment complaint, and it shall record a reason why the circumstances warrant doing so.

The amended version now reads:

43-1. A complaint is a written representation made against some act or decision of a court of the Church. It is the right of any communing member of the Church in good standing to make complaint against any action of a court to whose jurisdiction he is subject.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During the process of a judicial case, a higher court shall not consider a timely-filed complaint against an action or ruling of the lower court in that case until a judgment has been rendered, and:

- there is an acquittal or a dismissal of all charges,
- the deadline for filing an appeal has expired,
- the accused has abandoned his appeal, or
- an appeal has been adjudicated.

However, by a 2/3 vote the higher court may consider a pre-judgment complaint, and it shall record a reason why the circumstances warrant doing so.

Grounds: The OC amended the overture by adding three words - “in that case” - to address concerns raised by the CCB. This clarifies that complaints unrelated to the specific judicial case are certainly allowable.

16. That **Overture 45** from Potomac (“Form Racial Reconciliation Study Committee,” p. 649) be **answered in the affirmative as amended.**

*Adopted*

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

1. Authorize the Moderator to appoint a Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation study committee, comprised of multiple ethnicities, with—and a ruling elder participation, that would use available resources and consult knowledgeable persons, in order to~~majority with research and analytical skills that would:~~
  - a. Assess the current situation in the PCA concerning racial and ethnic reconciliation;
  - b. Identify specific problems the PCA needs to address to promote racial reconciliation and ethnic diversity;
  - c. Develop constructive guidelines and suggest ~~Recommend~~ concrete steps for the use of the PCA, including all presbyteries and sessions, in order~~Sessions—and Presbyteries~~ to make progress toward in ~~the work of racial reconciliation—and diversity;~~
  - d. The Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation Study Committee shall report to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly—~~Establish~~

- ~~reliable criteria for discerning successful progress in reconciliation;~~
- e. ~~Set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived from gifts to the Administrative Committee designated for that purpose Report to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and each successive Assembly through the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, with updates regarding our progress in meeting these criteria.~~
2. Recognizing the particular circumstances that exist at the local level, the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly urges each presbytery and session to form similar study committees to consider how to make progress toward racial reconciliation within their context~~Set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived from gifts to the Administrative Committee designated for that purpose.~~

The amended version now reads:

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

1. Authorize the Moderator to appoint a Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation study committee, comprised of multiple ethnicities, with ruling elder participation, that would use available resources and consult knowledgeable persons, in order to:
  - a. Assess the current situation in the PCA concerning racial and ethnic reconciliation;
  - b. Identify specific problems the PCA needs to address to promote racial reconciliation and ethnic diversity;
  - c. Develop constructive guidelines and suggest concrete steps for the use of the PCA, including all presbyteries and sessions, in order to make progress toward the work of racial reconciliation;
  - d. The Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation Study Committee shall report to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly;
  - e. Set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived from gifts to the Administrative Committee designated for that purpose.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. Recognizing the particular circumstances that exist at the local level, the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly urges each presbytery and session to form similar study committees to consider how to make progress toward racial reconciliation within their context.

Grounds: While the Overtures Committee is encouraged by the unity expressed around Overture 43, we also believe that there is much work still to be done at denominational, presbytery, and local church levels.

17. That **Overture 60** from the Session of Auburn Road Presbyterian Church, Venice, Florida (“Resolution of Gospel Supremacy and the Work of the Church,” p. 702) be **answered by reference to Overture 43**. *Adopted*

**V. Commissioners Present**

**Presbytery**

Ascension  
Ascension  
Blue Ridge  
Blue Ridge  
Calvary  
Calvary  
Central Carolina  
Central Florida  
Central Florida  
Central Georgia  
Central Indiana  
Chesapeake  
Chesapeake  
Covenant  
Eastern Canada  
Eastern Carolina  
Eastern Carolina  
Evangel  
Evangel  
Fellowship  
Fellowship  
Georgia Foothills  
Georgia Foothills  
Grace

**Commissioner**

RE Frederick Neikirk  
TE Thomas J. Stein Jr.  
TE Taylor Rollo  
RE Donald Weyburn  
RE Fredric Marcinak  
TE Richard D. Phillips  
TE Howard A. Brown  
TE Cornelius J. Ganzel Jr.  
RE John Maynard  
TE Andrew Lee Wyatt  
TE James M. MacGregor  
TE Irwyn L. Ince Jr.\*  
RE Edward L. Wright  
TE Hunter M. Bailey  
TE Kyle Hackmann  
RE William Haynes  
TE Crawford Michael Stevener  
RE Miles E. Gresham  
TE Will Spokes  
RE Mark Myhal  
TE Dieter Paulson  
TE Hal Farnsworth  
RE Matt Siple  
RE Grant Bennett



JOURNAL

Great Lakes	RE Greg Molin
Great Lakes	TE David M. Sarafolean
Gulf Coast	TE Dennis Louis
Gulf Coast	RE Mike M. McCrary
Gulfstream	RE Bernie Van Eyk
Heartland	TE Andrew J. Barnes
Heritage	TE Kenneth Foster
Heritage	RE William Zinkand
Houston Metro	TE Dennis Hermerding
Houston Metro	RE Danny McDaniel
Iowa	TE Wayne Larson
James River	TE Leon M. Brown
James River	RE Richard E. Leino
Korean Northeast	TE Hoochan Paul Lee
Korean SE	TE Eddie Lim
Lowcountry	RE Dean Ezell
Metro Atlanta	TE Dave Lindberg
Metro Atlanta	RE James W. Wert Jr.
Metropolitan New York	TE John V. D. Yenchko
Metropolitan New York	RE Peter Ong
Mississippi Valley	TE David Strain
Mississippi Valley	RE Will Thompson
Missouri	TE Timothy LeCroy
Nashville	RE Bryce Sullivan
Nashville	TE Kevin J. Twit
New Jersey	TE Brent Kilman
New Jersey	RE John Mardirosian
New River	TE Mark Kozak
New River	RE Barry Sheets
New York State	TE Kenneth McHeard
North Texas	TE Ryan Clark Anderson
North Texas	RE Steven Vanderhill
Northern California	TE Lance E. Lewis
Northern Illinois	TE Brad Lucht
Northern New England	TE Sean J. S. Roberts
Northwest Georgia	RE Rodney Pritchett
Northwest Georgia	TE Ben Duncan
Ohio	TE Mike Sloan
Ohio Valley	RE Ronald Whitley
Pacific Northwest	RE Howie Donahoe
Pacific Northwest	TE Jerid Krulish
Palmetto	TE Lane Benton Keister

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Philadelphia Metro West	TE Michael Quillen
Piedmont Triad	TE Chris Bitterman
Pittsburgh	TE Jonathan Price
Pittsburgh	RE David Snoke
Potomac	RE Charles D. Robinson
Potomac	TE Russell Douglas Whitfield
Providence	RE John R. Bise
Providence	TE Alexander Myron Shipman
Rocky Mountain	TE Doug Thap
Rocky Mountain	RE E. J. Nusbaum
Savannah River	RE Sylvester Brown
Savannah River	TE Charles A. Stakely IV
Siouxlands	TE John Irwin
South Coast	TE David Juelfs
South Texas	TE Michael A. Singenstreu
Southeast Alabama	TE Patrick W. Curles
Southeast Alabama	RE Steven Dowling
Southern Louisiana	TE Kelly Dotson
Southern New England	TE David Richter
Southern New England	RE Chris Shoemaker
Southwest	TE Mark A. Rowden
Southwest Florida	RE Barry Bennett
Southwest Florida	TE Jonathan Winfree
Suncoast Florida	TE Jonathan Loerop
Suncoast Florida	RE Andy Mitchell
Susquehanna Valley	TE Vincent L. Wood
Tennessee Valley	RE Vaughn R. Hamilton
Tennessee Valley	TE Kevin M. Smith
Tidewater	TE David Dickson
Warrior	TE Mitchell Lee Haubert
Western Canada	TE Bradley Jones
Western Canada	RE Paul Mandry
Western Carolina	TE Jonathan D. Inman
Westminster	RE Steve Leutbecher
Westminster	TE Jeffrey Neikirk
Wisconsin	TE Chad Baudhuin
Wisconsin	RE Steve Iler

Respectfully submitted,  
TE Irwyn L. Ince, Jr., Chairman

RE Edward L. Wright, Secretary

**OVERTURES COMMITTEE  
MINORITY REPORT – OVERTURE 14**

The OC Minority recommends the Assembly answer **Overture 14** in the **Negative**.

By a vote of 51-36-2 (58% - 42%), the Overtures Committee adopted a motion to recommend that GA answer Overture 14 in the Affirmative. The undersigned recommend it be answered in the Negative, and some rationale follows.

RE Barry Bennett	Southwest Florida
RE Howie Donahoe	Pacific Northwest
TE Kenneth Foster	Heritage
TE Kyle Hackman	Eastern Canada
TE Dennis Hermerding	Houston Metro
TE Brent Kilman	New Jersey
TE Jerid Krulish	Pacific Northwest
TE Tim LeCroy	Missouri
TE Lance Lewis	Northern California
TE Dave Lindberg	Metro Atlanta
TE Brad Lucht	Northern Illinois
TE Jonathan Price	Pittsburgh
TE Dave Richter	Southern New England
TE Sean Roberts	Northern New England
TE Mike Sloan	Ohio
TE Charles Stakely	Savannah River
RE Bryce Sullivan	Nashville
TE Kevin Twit	Nashville
RE Jim Wert	Metro Atlanta
TE Russell Whitfield	Potomac
TE Jonathan Winfree	Southwest Florida
RE Ed Wright	Chesapeake

**Our Rationale**

**A. Not Wise**

1. Our current Church protection against compelling a defendant to testify goes back at least to the 1879 *BCO*: “*The accused party may be allowed, but shall not be compelled, to testify.*” In addition to

being a fundamental of our American legal system, the right to decline to testify against yourself has been a fundamental principle in American Presbyterian jurisprudence for at least 140 years. Before we remove such a long-respected right, there should be more clear demonstration of the need to do so.

2. The *BCOs* of other NAPARC denominations, such as the ARP, RPCNA and OPC, do not compel ministers to testify against themselves.
3. By focusing only on doctrine, the Overture unwisely divides doctrine and practice, and elevates the importance of doctrine, over behavior and character – or at least gives the appearance of doing such.
4. A court, rightly, already has more power than a defendant, but this Overture could exacerbate that “delicate imbalance” making the abuse of power perhaps more likely.

## **B. Not Necessary**

1. In three recent trials related to doctrine, two ministers voluntarily took the stand (Leithart in Pacific NW and Myers in Missouri) and one declined (Lawrence in Siouxlands). The two that voluntarily testified were acquitted. The Siouxlands Case where the minister declined to testify resulted in an SJC annulled acquittal and a remand for retrial. In other words, a defendant taking the stand is no guarantee of a successful prosecution.
2. Most of the Scripture citations in the Overture’s Grounds – perhaps all of them - are not very germane to the specific question of compelling defendant testimony. For example:  
Gen. 4:9 Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?’  
Prov. 25:1 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.  
Ps. 15:1-2 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;
3. If false teaching is “industriously spread” (*BCO* 34-5), there is no need to put the accused on the stand. There will be plenty of material to enter into evidence.
4. If a court has determined there is a strong presumption of guilt, and is proceeding to an indictment, there is already has enough evidence to prove the indictment – or they shouldn’t be proceeding to a trial.

### C. Not Best Solution

1. This Overture could actually make it less likely that men will divulge information if they are ever the subject of a *BCO* 31-2 investigation, or even if they receive a friendly visit from the Shepherding or Ministers & Churches Committee.
2. This Overture could actually make it less likely that officers will come forward and inform their Presbytery or Session if they find themselves “out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine” (*BCO* 21-5 and 24-6).
3. If an officer is required to testify in his own trial, then perhaps *BCO* 32-19 should be broadened to allow him to recruit defense counsel from anywhere in the PCA, and not just his own church or his own Presbytery.
4. There are probably better ways to revisit the doctrinal views of an officer, particularly a Teaching Elder. Perhaps it would be wiser to consider a revision to *BCO* 21-4 and 24-1, adding some provision whereby the Presbytery or Session could revisit some portion of an ordination or transfer exam. We should not be reaching for an ax, when a scalpel is really what’s needed.

Conclusion - Last year, the Chattanooga GA answered a similar Overture in the Negative, by a 56% majority. But it’s still not in the form that would be most helpful to our Church. It should again be answered in the Negative, and then men with passion, experience and gifts should work to find a wiser solution.

#### **44-45 Answer to Protest of TE Joseph Pipa**

The following **answer to the Protest** was proposed, and **adopted** by the Assembly (452-148-28).

The 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly recognizes the right of a member of a minority to bear testimony against what he deems an improper action on any issue before the court (*BCO* 45-5), and therefore receives the protest filed by TE Joseph Pipa regarding the action of the Assembly in establishing the study committee on the issue of women serving in the ministry of the church and records the protest in the minutes. However, the Assembly challenges his assertion in the protest that it showed “no apparent respect to scripture or confessional parameters” in its action to reflect the diversity of opinion in the denomination as being a grave mischaracterization.

**44-46 Report of the Committee on Thanks**

RE Melton L. Duncan, Secretary, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report for the committee by reading the Resolution of Thanks (Appendix U, p. 568), which was adopted by acclamation. RE Duncan closed the report with prayer.

**44-47 Election of a Commission to Review the Minutes of the 2016 General Assembly**

TE L. Roy Taylor made a motion that the following men serve as a commission to review the minutes of the 2015 General Assembly: Ruling Elders John Dunahoo and John White; Teaching Elders Robert Hornick and L. Roy Taylor.

**44-48 Moderator's Committee Appointments**

The Moderator reported his appointments to the Ad Interim Study Committee on Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church and the Ad Interim Study Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation. For a listing of the members of these committees see Part I, General Assembly Directory, p. 15.

**44-49 Conclusion and Adjournment**

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly at 11:30 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 133, and the pronouncement of the Apostolic benediction by the Stated Clerk, to convene in Greensboro, NC, on June 13, 2017.

## PART III

### APPENDICES

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Appendices include the Reports of the Permanent Committees and Agencies as originally submitted to the General Assembly. The recommendations in this section are those originally submitted by the Permanent Committees and Agencies and may not have been adopted by the Assembly. See the report of the Committee of Commissioners for each of the respective Committees and Agencies in Part II, Journal, to find the recommendations as they were adopted by the Assembly

Appendix V presents the Overtures as originally submitted by the presbyteries. See the Overtures Committee report and other Committee of Commissioner reports for Assembly action on these overtures, including any amendments.

The PCA Committee and Agency budgets, as approved by the Assembly, are found in Appendix C, Attachment 2, beginning on p. 127.



## **APPENDIX A**

### **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

#### **STATEMENT ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Shortly after our 2015 Assembly the Supreme Court of the United States issued its ruling on same-sex marriage. I issued the following statement (*RAO 3-2.t.*):

The Supreme Court of the United States has issued a 5-4 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. The Office of the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) has received numerous inquiries regarding the position of the PCA on this issue. The PCA, like other evangelical, conservative, orthodox, and traditional Christians from many denominations, believes that from creation God ordained the marriage covenant to be a bond only between one man and one woman. That understanding is what the Church has always believed, taught, and confessed. It is based upon the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and is clearly stated in the doctrinal standards of the PCA.

Over the last 2,000 years, changing cultures and secular legal perspectives have differed on significant occasions from that of Christians and the Church because the Church bases her ethical and moral positions on timeless truths divinely revealed in the Bible. The ancient and undivided Church disagreed with abortion and infanticide, practices that were acceptable in Roman culture and legal under Roman law. In 1973 the Supreme Court of the United States legalized abortion. Though abortion became legal, we cannot regard it to be moral. Though same-sex marriage is now legal, the PCA, like many others, does not regard it to be in keeping with God's intentions for marriage. We hope that the recent Supreme Court ruling does not become the occasion for limiting the religious and free-speech rights of believers and churches who, like others for thousands of years, sincerely believe in traditional marriage.

## **INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

- I serve on the Interchurch Relations Committee as part of my responsibilities (*RAO 3-2 j.*).
- I attend meetings of the Common Ground Christian Network in as an observer. The CGCN is a network of evangelical denominations, networks, and individuals that have emerged from mainline denominations.
- I serve on the Board of the World Reformed Fellowship. I was unable to attend the March 2016 board meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, due to a schedule conflict. I serve on the Strategic Planning Committee and Committee on Denominational Involvement.
- I continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Evangelicals. I chaired board meetings on October 15 and March 10.
- I serve on the Board of Directors of the World Relief Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals by virtue of my being Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Evangelicals

## **COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS**

- Since the last General Assembly I have not sought the advice of the CCB on any matters (*RAO 8-2 b.[1]*).
- I have received two non-judicial references to the CCB (*RAO 8-2 b.[2]*).
- I also referred to the CCB all proposed amendments to the *BCO* (*RAO 11-5*).

## **THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

- Mr. Jeff Sandhoff was examined and approved by the Theological Examining Committee on October 13, 2015 (*BCO 14-1.14*) to serve as Vice-President for Advancement at Covenant College.
- TE Paul Hahn was examined and approved by the Theological Examining Committee on April 26, 2016 (*BCO 14-1.14*) to serve as Coordinator-elect of Mission to North America.

## **REFERENCE OF OVERTURES**

I have received sixty-three overtures and have referred them to the appropriate committee or commission (*RAO 3-2 g.; 11-5; 14-1*).

## APPENDIX A

Forty-three presbyteries have submitted overtures responding to the issue of racial reconciliation and the need for confession of sin and commitment to action. In addition, there are overtures dealing with the institution of marriage, the formation of a new presbytery and a provisional presbytery, a call to prayer, and proposed *BCO* and *RAO* amendments, as well as three memorials.

For a complete listing, and the text of the overtures, see Appendix V, pp. 570-705. Overtures may also be accessed, as they are submitted, on the AC web site [www.pcaac.org](http://www.pcaac.org), click on General Assembly/Commissioners/Overtures. The deadline for submitting overtures to this year's Assembly (if they do not require CCB review) is May 23.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE 44<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

I have received six Communications to the General Assembly – from the National Association of Evangelicals, the Presbyterian Church in Australia, Église réformée de Québec, the Free Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Japan, and the Reformed Church in the Netherlands. (See Appendix W, p. 706).

### **PRESBYTERY VOTES ON THE *BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER* AMENDMENTS**

No proposed amendments to the *BCO* were approved by the Forty-third General Assembly to be sent to the Presbyteries for approval.

### **LAWSUITS**

The PCA is not currently party to any lawsuits.

### **STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

I serve as clerk of the Standing Judicial Commission. The Standing Judicial Commission has held several meetings since the adjournment of the Forty-third General Assembly: a web conference special meeting on August 12, 2015; a web conference stated meeting on October 15, 2015; and an in-person annual meeting on March 3-4, 2016 in Atlanta. A web conference special meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2016. The SJC has had nineteen cases over the last assembly year.

## COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The CMC is composed of the six most recent moderators of the General Assembly, the chairmen of the General Assembly Committees and Agencies, and the coordinators and presidents of the General Assembly Committees and Agencies. The CMC met January 12-13, 2016, for its annual meeting. As secretary of the CMC, I worked with the current moderator to prepare the agenda (*RAO 7-4 c.*). Matters requiring Assembly action were referred to the appropriate Committees or Agencies (*RAO 7-3 c.*).

## DOCKET

I have prepared the docket for the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and submitted it to the Administrative Committee (*RAO 3-2.m*).

## RESIGNATIONS AND DEATH

Resignations by men elected to General Assembly Committees and Agency Boards are to be submitted to the Stated Clerk (*RAO 8-4 k.*) I have received and accepted on behalf of the General Assembly four resignations and one death and informed the Nominating Committee.

- TE Don Clements from CDM, Class of 2016, resignation
- RE Keith Bucklen from MTW, Class of 2017, resignation
- TE David H. Clelland, PCAF, Class of 2017, resignation
- RE Steven Dowling from CCB, Class of 2019, resignation
- RE Ed Harris, CTS Class of 2017, death

## STATISTICS

Approximately 60% of our churches report statistics. Comparing reported statistics from 2014 and 2015, in 2015:

- We had 1,534 churches, an increase of 35.
- We had 327 Mission churches, a decrease of five.
- We had a total membership of 370,332, an increase of 11,816
- We had a Sunday School attendance of 97,719, an increase of 1,096, which is the first increase in SS in a number of years.
- We had a total of 9,679 professions of faith, an increase of 254.
- Giving was up in all categories.

With virtually all mainline and some evangelical denominations plateaued or declining, our growth, though not as spectacular as in our early years, is noteworthy.

APPENDIX A

**CHURCHES ADDED TO THE DENOMINATION IN 2015**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date Rec.</b>	<b>Source</b>
Ascension	Christ Cov Fell	Franklin, PA	12/06/15	Organized
Blue Ridge	Christ Covenant	Culpeper, VA	05/25/15	Organized
	Providence	Christianburg, VA	03/01/15	Organized
Calvary	Living Hope	Anderson, SC		Organized
C. Carolina	E. Charlotte	Charlotte, NC	09/06/15	Organized
	Lake Tillery	Mt Gilead, NC	03/08/15	Organized
C. Indiana	Christ Comm	Indianapolis, IN	11/12/15	Organized
	Midtown			
E. Carolina	Midtown Comm	Raleigh, NC	02/22/15	Organized
GA Foothills	Resurrection	Athens, GA		Organized
Great Lakes	New City	Royal Oak, MI	05/03/15	Organized
	University Ref	E. Lansing, MI	09/20/15	RCA
Gulf Coast	Grace Redeemer	Crestview FL	01/18/15	Organized
James River	Evident Grace	Fredericksbg, VA	10/20/15	Organized
North Florida	Christ Ch East	Jacksonville, FL	10/08/15	Organized
North Texas	Ethos	Tulsa, OK		Organized
Philadelphia	Grace and Peace	Philadelphia, PA	02/15	Organized
Potomac	Christ Comm	Germantown, MD	05/31/15	Organized
Savannah R.	New Covenant	Richmd Hill, GA	05/31/15	Organized
S. New Engl	Christ, Shepherd	Danbury, CT	05/31/15	Organized
TN Valley	Mtn Fellowship	Signal Mtn, TN	10/04/15	Organized
Tidewater	Redeemer	VA Beach, VA	11/19/15	Organized

**CHURCHES LOST FROM THE DENOMINATION IN 2015**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>To</b>
Covenant	New Life Ref	Munford, TN	10/15	Dissolved
Evangel	Providence	Birmingham, AL	03/28/15	Dissolved
Metro Atlanta	All Souls	Decatur, GA	09/15/15	Transferred
	Ch All Nations	Stone Mtn, GA		Merged w/Grace Stn. Mtn., GA
	Grace North	Alpharetta, GA		
Savannah River	Providence	Savannah, GA	07/18/15	Mission status
South Texas	Ch of the Cross	San Marcos, TX	01/15	Dissolved
Susq Valley	Ch of the Servant	Palmyra, PA	07/15	Dissolved
Warrior	Crescent Hill	Selma, AL	10/15/15	Dissolved

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**MINISTERS ADDED TO THE DENOMINATION IN 2015**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Name of Minister</b>	<b>Date Rec.</b>	<b>Source</b>
Ascension	David O'Leary	08/23/15	Ordained
Blue Ridge	Lewis Lovett	06/07/15	Ordained
	Sean Morris	05/24/15	Ordained
Calvary	Scott Cook	11/22/15	Ordained
	Jeff Downs	08/25/15	Ordained
	Richard Winston	10/22/15	FPCNA
C. Carolina	Charles McKnight	10/11/15	Ordained
	Darol Timberlake	06/14/15	Ordained
	Stewart Neely	09/13/15	Ordained
	Curtis Shields	08/16/15	Ordained
C. Georgia	Justin Leslein	09/27/15	Ordained
C. Indiana	David Peters	03/08/15	Ordained
Chesapeake	Anthony Lombardo		
Chicago Metro	Brandon Acheson	07/15	Ordained
	Brent Stutzman	08/30/15	Ordained
	Daniel Svendsen		Ordained
Covenant	Daniel Anderson	03/08/15	Ordained
	Michael Ford	11/08/15	Ordained
	James Grant	10/06/15	SBC
	Brad Robson	02/22/15	Ordained
	Christopher Taylor	11/02/15	Ordained
	Benjamin Winkler	10/18/15	Ordained
E. Carolina	Charles Jacob	07/01/15	EPC
E. PA	Anthony Gammage	03/22/15	Ordained
Evangel	Matthew Goodman	08/11/15	Ordained
	Hunter Twitty	05/15/15	Ordained
	Adam Venable	05/27/15	Ordained
GA Foothills	Keedai Kim		
	Matt Siple		Ordained
	Jeff Wreyford		Ordained
Great Lakes	Kevin Chen	11/01/15	Ordained
	Kevin DeYoung	05/02/15	RCA
Gulf Coast	Knox White	06/25/15	Ordained
Gulfstream	Andrew Jacobson	05/08/15	Ordained
Heritage	Nicholas Owens	06/15	Ordained
Houston Metro	Mike Kuo		
Illiana	Jason Knox	01/17/15	Ordained
Iowa	Sam Belz	08/15	Ordained

APPENDIX A

**Ministers Added, continued**

James River	James Passmore	10/24/15	Ordained
Metro Atlanta	Matthew Abel	10/08/15	Ordained
	Mike Boland		Ordained
	Carl Wilhelm		AssocGospCan
	Daniel Yang		KAPC
Metro NYC	Christopher Basile	11/07/15	Ordained
MS Valley	Gabe Fluhrer	02/07/15	OPC
	David Irving	05/28/15	Ordained
	Mike McKelvey	08/04/15	Ordained
Missouri	Daniel Doriani	01/20/15	EPC
	Sam Haist	05/31/15	Ordained
	Tim Jackson		Ordained
North Florida	Tim Carper	07/11/15	Ordained
	Raymond Clotaire	04/09/15	Ind Jamaican
	Jim McCarthy	07/11/15	Ordained
	Keith Snow	04/09/15	Ordained
North Texas	Zach Pummill	02/15/15	Ordained
N. Illinois	Timothy Trouten	05/12/15	Ordained
Ohio	Justin Grimm	05/31/15	Ordained
Ohio Valley	Will Witherington		Ordained
Pacific NW	Andrew Allen		Ordained
Palmetto	Timothy Pitzer	02/15/15	Ordained
	Andrew Shank	05/03/15	Ordained
	Brooks Willet	02/01/15	Ordained
Philadelphia	Ryan Egli	01/15	Ordained
	Mark Moser	09/15	Ordained
	Nate Shannon	09/15	Ordained
	Jinan Zhang	05/15	Ordained
Phil Metro W	Benjamin Falconer	05/16/15	RCA
	Jeff Rendell	12/20/15	Ordained
Piedmont Triad	Seth Young	10/11/15	Ordained
Pittsburgh	Jason Leist	05/31/15	Ordained
Potomac	Casey Bedell	06/28/15	Ordained
	Robert Binion	01/04/15	Ordained
	Joshua Diack	06/28/15	Ordained
	John Lizhou Tan	12/13/15	
	Benjamin Wikner		Ordained
Rocky Mtn	Scott Herron	02/22/15	Ordained
	Joseph McCormick	02/15/15	Ordained
	Jeremy Reeves	06/15/15	Ordained

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Ministers Added, continued**

Siouxlands	Nathan Lee	04/12/15	Ordained
	Philip Postma	10/18/15	Ordained
	Ethan Sayler	01/23/15	PCUSA
South Florida	Sam Kastensmidt	08/23/15	Ordained
	Daniel Levi	03/08/15	Ordained
	Jordan Lorow	11/22/15	Ordained
S. New Engl	Jason Paugh	12/06/15	Ordained
	Nathan Barczy	10/04/15	Ordained
	Nathan Dicks	06/27/15	Ordained
	Robert Mills	03/15/15	Ordained
South Texas	Moses Park		Ordained
	Manuel Alaniz	09/13/15	Ordained
	John Bennett	10/31/15	SBC
SE Alabama	Gama Pozos	01/31/15	NPC Mexico
	Tim Beauchamp	08/25/15	OPC
S. Louisiana	Brandon Bernard	09/27/15	Ordained
Southwest	Steven Ingino	09/24/15	non-denom
	Jack Unangst	04/23/15	OPC
SW Florida	Justin Chappell	03/15/15	Ordained
Suncoast FL	Byron West	01/18/15	Ordained
Susq Valley	Mark Mathews		
TN Valley	Pablo Ayllon	02/08/15	Ordained
	Charles Barrett		
	John Blevins	11/15/15	Ordained
	Jesse Pirschel		
Tidewater	Cameron Smith		Ordained
Warrior	Timothy Schley	06/14/15	Ordained
W. Carolina	Stewart Swain	11/05/15	Ordained
	David Hina	11/04/15	Ordained
	Graham Svendsen	09/23/15	Ordained
Wisconsin	Chad Baudhuin	05/31/15	Ordained
	Chris Steinbarger	05/17/15	Ordained

**MINISTERS DISMISSED TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS IN 2015**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Name of Minister</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>To</b>
Blue Ridge	Nathan Scholl	10/15	ARP
C. Florida	John Gullet		
E. Canada	Stephen Welch		RPCNA
Evangel	Adam Young	08/11/15	



APPENDIX A

**Ministers Dismissed, continued**

Fellowship	Russel H. Wilson	10/15	ARP
Great Lakes	Shawn Newsome	01/10/15	PC Australia
Houston Metro	Quique Autrey		EPC
Korean SE	Jun Ho Kim	04/06/15	PCUSA
	Kwen Oh	04/06/15	KAPC
	Sang Kyu Park	04/06/15	Korea
Metro Atlanta	Shayne Wheeler		
MS Valley	PD Mayfield		OPC
North Florida	George Felton	01/24/15	RPCUS
	Randy Wilding	01/24/15	Independency
Pacific NW	Steve Hall	03/24/15	PC Rwanda
	Peter Leithart	03/24/15	CREC
Platte Valley	Alan Mallory	03/15	Sandhills
	Nicholas Tubbs	04/15	Independency
Rocky Mtn	Jang K. Kim	01/22/15	EPC
	Shane Sunn	01/15/15	EPC
Savannah R	Noah Kiser		EPC
Siouxlands	Lyke Wynja	04/23/15	CRC
SE Alabama	Jason Crenshaw	08/25/15	ARP
	S. Jake McCall	04/28/5	EPC
S. New Engl	Chris. Bear	01/15	EPC
TN Valley	Scott Parsons		
Warrior	Eric Venable		

**MINISTERS REMOVED FROM OFFICE IN 2015**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Name of Minister</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cause</b>
Ascension	Michael Harvey	11/07/15	Removed
Calvary	James O'Brien	04/23/15	Deposed
C. Carolina	Louis Quievryin	08/22/15	Demitted
Chicago Metro	Chris. Ribauda	01/21/15	Divested
Heartland	Eric Adams		Removed
Metro Atlanta	William Bratley	01/15/15	Divested
	Aaron Jeffrey	09/15	Demitted
Metro NYC	Matthew Buccheri	11/07/15	Demitted
	Ron Choong	09/15/15	Demitted
MS Valley	Kenneth Pierce	09/22/15	Deposed
Missouri	John Allgaier	05/29/15	Divested
North Texas	Gregory Fields	08/15	Divested
	Richard Lambert	08/15	Divested
	John McCracken	02/07/15	Divested

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Ministers Removed, continued**

Pamletto	Gregory Lee	04/23/15	Divested
Rocky Mtn	Eric Anderson	01/15/15	Divested
	Norm Kjellsen	10/01/15	Divested
South Coast	Vincent Ortiz		Removed
South Florida	Tullian Tchiviidjian	08/11/15	Deposed
S. New Engl	Naama Mendes	01/15	Removed
SW Florida	Darrell Arnold	02/15	Removed
Susq Valley	Gary Griffith	01/15	Deposed
	David Longacre	03/15	Demitted
TN Valley	Patrick Cook	1/11/15	Removed
	Andry Pontyar	07/14/15	Removed
Warrior	Jeffrey McClendon		Divested
Westminster	Mike Gant	01/10/15	Removed

**MINISTERS DECEASED IN 2015**

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Name of Minister</b>	<b>Date</b>
Blue Ridge	Riley Ware	10/03/15
Calvary	John Crawford	11/19/15
	Alfred Mersman	06/16/15
C. Carolina	Jack Eubanks	12/16/15
C. Florida	James Sherwood	04/12/15
E. Carolina	James Ransom	12/01/15
Fellowship	Rick Lindsay	04/07/15
GA Foothills	Alan Dan Orme	08/27/15
Gulf Coast	Charles Sledge	04/29/15
NY State	Kenneth Thompson	07/08/15
N. California	David George	09/14/15
Ohio	Arnold Frank	07/12/15
Palmetto	Hugh Powlison	01/24/15
Philadelphia	John D. Evans	06/29/15
Rocky Mtn	Wm. Leonard, Jr.	09/21/15
SE Alabama	William H. Bell	09/10/15
Susq Valley	Earl Pinckney	11/10/15
W. Carolina	Harold Borchert	08/16/15

## APPENDIX B

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS Presbyterian Church in America Minutes, April 23, 2015

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) held a scheduled meeting on April 23, 2015 at the MTW Conference Room in Lawrenceville, GA. President RE Danny McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:26 p.m. TE Roy Taylor opened with prayer.

In attendance:

TE Jim Bachmann, Nashville, <b>Advisory</b>	RE Todd Carlisle, Evangel, <b>Alternate</b>
TE Bob Brunson, Suncoast Florida	RE Jon Ford, Central Indiana
TE Doug Domin, N. New England, <b>MNA</b>	RE Mark Griggs, Tennessee Valley, <b>CC</b>
TE Ed Dunnington, Blue Ridge, <b>RUM</b>	RE Pat Hodge, Calvary
TE David Hall, Northwest Georgia	RE Danny McDaniel, Houston Metro
TE Steve Jeantet, Southwest Florida, <b>Adv</b>	RE Bill Mitchell, Ascension
TE Timothy LeCroy, Missouri, <b>Alternate</b>	RE Tim Persons, Chesapeake
TE Rod Mays, Calvary	RE Dan Wykoff, TN Valley, <b>PCAF</b>
TE Jon Medlock, N. California, <b>RBI</b>	
TE Jerry Schriver, Metro Atlanta	
TE David L. Stewart, N. New Engl, <b>CDM</b>	
TE Rod Whited, North Florida	
TE Patrick Womack, W. Carolina, <b>MTW</b>	

The following men were excused: RE Brad Bradley, North Texas; RE Miles Gresham, Evangel, **CTS**.

Staff present:

TE L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk  
TE John Robertson, Business Administrator  
TE Wayne Herring, Church Relations Officer  
TE Bob Hornick, Assistant to the Stated Clerk  
RE Richard Doster, *byFaith Magazine* Editor  
Ms. Angela Nantz, Operations Manager

Guests present:

TE James Bland, MNA Coordinator; RE Gary Campbell, RBI President;  
TE Tom Cannon, RUF Coordinator; TE Stephen Estock, CDM Coordinator;  
TE Lloyd Kim, MTW Provisional Coordinator; RE Randy Stair, PCAF  
President.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**BD-04/15-1 MSP** to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2014, meeting.

**BD-04/15-2 MSP** That the corporate minutes reflect that the annual corporate filings have been accomplished where required in a timely manner in all states where the corporation is registered to conduct business.

The Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) is registered in the state of Delaware and is registered as a foreign corporation in Georgia, Missouri, Mississippi, and Washington. The annual registrations in Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, and Washington have been completed. Mississippi requires no annual registration.

**BD-04/15-3 MSP** that the AC Minutes reflect, as a Board of Directors, that the annual RPCES corporate filings have been accomplished in a timely manner where required.

Delaware Corporations:

World Presbyterian Missions, Inc.  
National Presbyterian Missions, Inc.  
Christian Training, Inc.

Michigan Corporation:

Board of Home Ministries

Pennsylvania Corporation:

Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod

**BD-04/15-5** Dr. Taylor gave an update on the current legal situation. We are involved in one legal matter – the Davis case in Nashville, TN. We have been dismissed from the original suit and the amended suit. The court has awarded \$10,000 in legal fees to be paid by the plaintiff to the PCA, a Corporation, and Nashville Presbytery. The deadline for further appeal has passed. Plaintiff's lawyer, however, continues to file groundless and vexatious motions for reconsideration or reversal.

**MSP** to adjourn.

The board adjourned at 3:38pm with prayer from TE Bob Brunson.

Respectfully Submitted,

RE Danny McDaniel, President

TE L. Roy Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Presbyterian Church in America**  
**June 9, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) held a scheduled meeting on June 9, 2015 at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, TN. President Danny McDaniel called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. and TE Steve Jeantet opened with prayer.

In attendance:

TE Robert F. Brunson, Suncoast Florida	RE Jon Ford, Central Indiana
TE Steve Jeantet, SW Florida, Advisory	RE Miles Gresham, Evangel, <b>CTS</b>
TE Tim LeCroy, Missouri, Alternate	RE Mark Griggs, Tennessee Valley, <b>CC</b>
TE Rod Mays, Calvary	RE Danny McDaniel, Houston Metro
TE Jerry Schriver, Metro Atlanta	RE Tim Persons, Chesapeake
TE Rod Whited, North Florida	
TE Patrick Womack, W. Carolina, <b>MTW</b>	

Staff present:

TE L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk  
TE John Robertson, Business Administrator  
TE Bob Hornick, Assistant to the Stated Clerk  
Ms. Angela Nantz, Operations Manager

Guests present:

TE Mark Dalbey, Missouri, CTS President  
TE Stephen Estock, Georgia Foothills, CDM Coordinator

A quorum was declared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**BD-06/15-1 MSP** to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting.

Dr. Taylor updated the board that there was no new information to report on our current legal cases.

MSP to adjourn.

The meeting was closed in prayer by RE Danny McDaniel at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

RE Danny McDaniel, President

TE L. Roy Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Presbyterian Church in America**  
**October 8, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) held a scheduled meeting on October 8, 2015 at the MTW Conference Room in Lawrenceville, GA. President Jerry Schriver called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and opened with prayer.

In attendance:

TE Bob Brunson, Suncoast Florida	RE Brad Bradley, North Texas
TE Doug Domin, N. New England, <b>MNA</b>	RE Todd Carlisle, Evangel
TE Ed Dunnington, Blue Ridge, <b>RUM</b>	RE Jon Ford, Central Indiana
TE Steve Jeantet, Southwest Florida	RE Pat Hodge, Calvary
TE Timothy LeCroy, Missouri	RE Rob Morton, C. Georgia, <b>PCAF</b>
TE Jerry Schriver, Metro Atlanta	RE Tim Persons, Chesapeake
TE David Silvernail, Potomac, Alternate	RE Jack Watkins, Nashville, Alternate
TE David L. Stewart, Suncoast FL, <b>CDM</b>	
TE Rod Whited, North Florida	
TE Richard Wiman, MS Valley, <b>MTW</b>	

The following men were excused: TE Rod Mays, Calvary; TE Jonathan Medlock, Northern California, **RBI**; RE Martin Moore, Georgia Foothills, **CC**; RE Craig Stephenson, Eastern Carolina, **CTS**

Staff present:

TE L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk  
TE John Robertson, Business Administrator  
TE Wayne Herring, Church Relations Officer  
TE Bob Hornick, Assistant to the Stated Clerk  
TE Billy Park, Korean Relations Representative  
RE Richard Doster, *byFaith* Editor  
Ms. Angela Nantz, Operations Manager

Guests present:

TE James Bland, MNA Coordinator; TE Tom Cannon, RUF Coordinator;  
TE Stephen Estock, CDM Coordinator; TE Lloyd Kim, MTW Coordinator;  
RE Randy Stair, PCAF President.

A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**BD-10/15-1 MSP** to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting with corrections.

**BD-10/15-2** Dr. Taylor gave an update on the current legal situation. We are currently out of all legal cases, having been dismissed from our most recent case of Austin Davis in Nashville, TN.

**BD-10/15-3 MSP** to approve the resolution (see Attachment 1) and authorize the PCA Administrative Committee staff to provide the documentation necessary for the implementation of the sale to the “authorized representatives” herein designated to do so.

MSP to adjourn.

The board adjourned at 12:46pm with prayer from RE Jack Watkins.

Respectfully Submitted,

TE Jerry Schriver, President

TE L. Roy Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer

### **Attachment 1**

#### **Resolution of the Board of Directors of**

#### **Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation)**

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2012 William W. Brooke and Margret W. Brooke gave the Reformed University Ministries improved land located in Lafayette County, Mississippi, the detailed description of which is contained in the Warranty Deed attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by this reference (referred to hereafter as, “the Property”); and

WHEREAS, this Board has received from the Committee of the Reformed University Ministries (referred to herein as “the Committee) a request that it be authorized to sell the Property and to use the proceeds for the mission of the Reformed University Ministries; and

WHEREAS, this Board has considered the request of the Committee and believes that the sale of the Property would be in the best interests of this Church and the mission of the Committee.

NOW, THEREFOR, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee be, and it is hereby, authorized to cause the Property to be sold upon the following terms:

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. That the following individuals, acting together, (referred to herein as the “authorized representatives”) be, and they are hereby, authorized on behalf of the Committee, and under its supervision, to carry out the sale of the Property in accord with this Resolution;
  - a. Thomas K. Cannon
  - b. John S. Stone
  - c. William L. Newsom
2. That the authorized representatives be, and they are hereby, authorized, at their election, to retain the services of a licensed real estate broker;
3. That the authorized representatives be, and they are hereby, authorized to accept a sales price, after considering local applicable comparable sales at or near the time of the sale, which shall in no event be less than 90%, or greater, of the appraised value;
4. That the authorized representatives be, and they are hereby, authorized to pay total broker commissions on sale no greater than 6% of the sales price;
5. That the authority of the authorized representatives to approve the terms of sale shall be limited to a requirement that the total sales price shall be delivered in cash at the closing, less reasonable and customary closing costs in addition to broker commissions which in total do not exceed the authority set forth in paragraph 4 above;
6. That the authority under this Resolution shall expire if the Property has not been listed for sale by May 15, 2016; and

RESOLVED, that the authorized representatives be, and they are hereby, authorized to take all steps necessary and to execute all documents as may be required to carry out the sale of the Property; and

RESOLVED, that the Officers of this Church be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to provide to the Committee and its authorized representatives with such documentation as they may require to evidence their authority to carry out the sale of the Property; and

RESOLVED, that the proceeds of the sale be delivered to the Committee and that the Committee be, and it is hereby, authorized to direct the use of the proceeds for the mission of Reformed University Ministries; and

RESOLVED, that the Committee, be, and it is hereby, directed to report to this Board at its next meeting on the actions of the Committee taken to carry out the terms of this Resolution.



## **APPENDIX C**

### **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

#### **MEETINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (A CORPORATION)**

The Administrative Committee handles the ecclesiastical matters committed to it by the General Assembly (*BCO* 14-1.12; *RAO* 4-2; V). The Administrative Committee of the General Assembly also serves as the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) [PCA “Corporate Bylaws,” Article II Section 2]. “The purpose of the corporation is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under the general Corporation Law of Delaware” (PCA Certificate of Incorporation). Matters requiring civil actions are handled by the PCA Board of Directors. The Board of directors meets immediately following the meetings of the Administrative Committee to deal with civil actions and activities. The last stated meetings were:

June 9, 2015 – General Assembly, Chattanooga, TN  
October 8, 2015 – MTW Building, Lawrenceville, GA  
April 28, 2016 – MTW Building, Lawrenceville, GA

#### **OFFICERS FOR THE 2016-2017 ASSEMBLY YEAR**

The AC, at its spring meeting (*RAO* 4-16), elected the following as its officers for the 2016-2017 Assembly year commencing at the adjournment of the Forty-fourth General Assembly:

- Chairman – TE Robert F. Brunson
- Vice Chairman – TE Rod S. Mays
- Secretary – RE W. Todd Carlisle

#### **SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

These actions of the Board of Directors are reported to the General Assembly. No action of the General Assembly is required.

1. All required corporate filings of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) have been filed in the relevant states. The Presbyterian

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Church in America (A Corporation) is a registered Delaware corporation. The Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) is currently registered as a foreign corporation in Georgia, Missouri, Mississippi, and Washington.

2. All required corporate filings of the corporations of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (acquired in the “Joining and Receiving of 1982) have been filed in the relevant states.  
**Delaware Corporations:** World Presbyterian Missions, Inc.; National Presbyterian Missions, Inc.; Christian Training, Inc.  
**Michigan Corporation:** Board of Home Ministries. **Pennsylvania Corporation:** Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod.
3. The current Officers of the Corporation (through the end of this Assembly) are: **President**, TE Jerry Schriver; **Secretary and Treasurer**, TE L. Roy Taylor, (Stated Clerk); **Assistant Secretaries/Treasurers**, TE John W. Robertson (Business Administrator), Mrs. Sherry Eschenberg (Meeting Planner), Miss Angela Nantz, (Operations Manager) [RAO 3-2.o., PCA “Corporate Bylaws,” Article IV].
4. The Stated Clerk updated the Board of Directors regarding the status of lawsuits. See Stated Clerk’s Report to the General Assembly.

### PERSONNEL

- We appreciate the faithful and diligent service of all of the Staff of the Office of the Stated Clerk and the Administrative Committee. The PCA Historical Center (see Attachment 1, p. 123) and *byFaith* magazine operate under the AC. We have both full- and part-time staff. Some work in the AC office suite; others work from other locations. The AC staff presently includes TE L. Roy Taylor, TE John W. Robertson, RE Richard Doster, Mrs. Sherry Eschenberg, TE Wayne C. Herring, TE Larry C. Hoop, TE Robert Hornick, Mrs. Priscilla Lowrey, Miss Angela Nantz, RE Wayne Sparkman, Mrs. Karen Cook, Mrs. Erika Derr, Mrs. Anna Eubanks, Miss Amy Hoxter, Mrs. Monica Johnston, and Mrs. Margie Mallow, and TE Billy Park.
- Wayne Sparkman, Director of the PCA Historical Center, continues to recover well from surgeries and treatment for cancer originating in his mouth. We are grateful to the Lord for his improved health. A CTS seminarian, Jody Van Dyke, is helping Wayne on a part-time basis at the Historical Center.
- The AC evaluated the job performance of the Stated Clerk (RAO 3.3d) and recommends his re-election (RAO 4-9).

## **ASSIGNMENT TO THE AC FROM THE PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly directed the Administrative Committee to prepare a proposal for an amendment to the *Rules of Assembly Operations* regarding memorials concerning deceased elders. See Recommendation 1, p. 306.

## **OVERTURE REFERRED TO THE AC**

**Overture 45** from Potomac Presbytery, “Form Racial Reconciliation Study Committee,” was referred to the Administrative Committee. See Recommendation 4, pp. 51, 59, regarding the budget of the study committee, if it is formed.

## **MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AC FROM THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (CMC)**

Part of the CMC’s charge is to “facilitate long-range planning that supports progress toward the overall mission and ministry of the PCA [and] . . . Any matters requiring General Assembly action shall be referred to the appropriate Committee or Agency for its consideration and recommendation” (*RAO 7-3 c.*).

The CMC has had several subcommittees addressing issues touching on the overall mission and ministry of the PCA. One of those subcommittees has been dealing with the role of women in the PCA. Given that we do not ordain women to ecclesiastical office, the issue is how we may better encourage and utilize the gifts, insights, perspectives, and experiences of women in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The CMC made several recommendations to the AC for its consideration and recommendation to the Assembly. The AC considered those recommendations at its spring meeting and is making some recommendations to the Assembly. One recommendation is to form an ad interim study committee on the role of women in our churches.

## **FUTURE ASSEMBLIES**

- June 13-16, 2017 – Greensboro, North Carolina, hosted by Piedmont Triad Presbytery. A contract has been signed with the Joseph S. Cory Convention Center and the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel. A competitive room rate of \$128 plus tax per night is available for 985 rooms. The

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Assembly Hall and Exhibit Hall are adjacent to each other. The hotel is next to a mall with both shopping and restaurants.

- June 12-15, 2018 – Atlanta, Georgia, hosted by Metro Atlanta Presbytery. This will be the first Assembly with the shortened schedule that was approved by the Assembly in 2015, including the following adjustments:
  - All Committee of Commissioner briefings and meetings on Tuesday. (No Monday meetings).
  - Overtures Committee meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. This will give the OC about seventeen hours available for deliberations.
  - CCB, AC Permanent Committee, TEC, and SJC meetings on Wednesdays.
  - Reduction in the number of seminars offered. Fewer limited-interest seminars.
  - Convening of the Assembly on Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., for worship, communion, preliminary business, election of Moderator, and some initial reports (IRC and RPR).<sup>1</sup>
  - Wednesday evening open for fellowship, family time, or constituency group dinners and meetings.
  - Retaining of Friday, noon (12 m.), as adjournment goal.
- 2019 – Columbus, Ohio, is a possibility. No recommendation is yet in the offing.
- 2020 – Birmingham, Alabama, is a possibility. No recommendation is yet in the offing.

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The annual audits of the AC and the PCA Office Building were completed as required.
- The AC is recommending to the General Assembly that all C&A budgets for 2017 be approved as presented (*RAO* 4-11). Budgets are approved annually. Approved budgets are spending ceilings.
- The AC evaluated the Committee and Agency Chief Administrative Officer compensation guidelines as required (*BCO* 14-1.13). The Committees and Agencies state CAO compensation as separate line items in their respective proposed budgets presented to the Assembly. The AC annually reviews CAO guidelines. Every four years the

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<sup>1</sup> *RAO* 1-1 presently requires that the Assembly begins with a worship service to include a sermon or exhortation by the retiring Moderator and communion. A possible change would be to have the worship service on Wednesday evening, but that would require a change to *RAO* 1-1, which could be done by one Assembly in 2017.

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Committees and Agencies do an in-depth study of comparable CAO compensations. This will be done for the 2016-2017 Assembly year.

- The AC reviewed the General Assembly Commissioner's Registration fee as required (*RAO 9-4*) and is recommending no increase this year.<sup>2</sup>
- The AC reviewed the required contributions of other General Assembly Committees and Agencies to the AC (*RAO 5-4 a.*) and is recommending no increase this year. Concessions were made to CDM and RH due to their adverse circumstances.
- The AC reviewed the requested Annual Administrative Fee of Teaching Elders to the AC and is (*RAO 5-4 c.*) recommending no increase this year.
- Theoretically, SJC costs would be funded by a portion of General Assembly Registration Fees being reserved for SJC Operations. SJC costs have sometimes exceeded Assembly Fee funding, and the AC has had to subsidize the costs of SJC Operations. The SJC now conducts many of its panel hearing and some of its full commission meetings via audio-visual Internet connections. Internet availability of documents also is a cost-control measure.
- The AC received and approved a recommendation from the Building Management Committee regarding the space cost fees for Committees and Agencies occupying the PCA Office Building. No increase is recommended
- The AC approved auditors for the various Committees and Agencies as requested.
- "Certificate of Compliance" forms were signed by AC members and collected for the file (as part of the Conflict of Interest Policy, per *M21GA*, 1993, 21-64, p. 174ff).

### DEVELOPMENT

- The AC ended 2015 in the black, for which we praise God and thank the PCA churches, General Assembly Committee and Agencies, Teaching Elders, and individual donors that support the ministry of the AC. About

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<sup>2</sup> Commissioners should note that the General Assembly Registration fees do not fully cover all the costs associated with the General Assembly, that not all commissioners have paid the full fee, and that the AC Funding Plan Adopted by the General Assembly in 2012 recommended that the General Assembly Registration fees more realistically cover costs. Moreover, some of the changes in General Assembly logistics and amenities that are being enacted and are being proposed will increase Assembly costs, which the AC has been absorbing. About one-third of the costs of the Assembly's annual meeting are underwritten by exhibitors. Moreover, the larger costs to commissioners are usually not the registration fee but travel, hotel, and meals expenses.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

45% of PCA churches contributed to the AC in 2015. About 1/3 of PCA Teaching Elders paid the “Annual Administration Fee for Ministers” in 2015 as a voluntary payment. The General Assembly Committees and Agencies contribute to the AC annually.

- Since the adoption of the AC Funding Plan by the General Assembly in 2012, AC funding has improved. That AC Funding Plan includes six income streams for the AC from contributions and fees.
- A financially stable support services hub (the Administrative Committee) is essential for the operation of the PCA. Most denominations and para-church agencies include administrative costs as overhead deducted from contributions. The PCA is very unusual in that we do *not* include administrative costs as overhead deducted from contributions but rather make the AC a separate funding request to the PCA constituency. So the AC has a significant development challenge. We are grateful to God and our supporters for progress.

### **IMPROVING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

The AC has the responsibility for General Assembly arrangements (*RAO* 3-2; 3-3; 10:1). Some of the changes improving the General Assembly meetings include:

- Electronic Voting – We used electronic voting in 2015 and plan to continue it.
- Interesting, informative, and ministry-related seminars –Seminars covering current topics or “hot button” issues will continue to be offered. Assembly-wide seminars on particularly significant issues will continue.
- Welcoming New Commissioners – A “GA 101” or “Rookie” seminar is provided to help educate commissioners to what are perhaps unfamiliar practices at GA. Arenas for connecting, fellowship, and networking are available. A New Commissioners Banquet is hosted by the AC.
- Scholarships – Funds are being developed and maintained by the AC for support of TEs and REs from churches that need some financial assistance.
- In 2018 we will reduce the meeting by one day.

### **THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK SERVE THE ENTIRE PCA CONSTITUENCY**

The Administrative Committee is a service committee connecting entire PCA constituency: people, churches, and ministries. The AC and Office of the Stated Clerk have been combined since 1988, joining both the administrative, civil, and business functions of the Assembly with its broader ecclesiastical

## APPENDIX C

functions. The AC is more of a generalist committee than a specialist committee. The AC serves and connects in a number of ways.

- The AC has a broad focus as the service committee for the entire PCA constituency.
- The composition of the AC is different from the other nine Committees and Agencies in that while eleven of its twenty members are directly elected by the General Assembly, each of the nine other Committees and Agencies has a designated representative as a voting member of the AC.
- The AC serves as the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America, a Corporation, and is responsible for the civil and legal affairs of the corporation.
- The AC is responsible for the arrangements and logistics of the annual General Assembly meeting and works with the local Host Committee.
- The AC provides logistical, clerical, and financial support for the Standing Judicial Commission.
- The AC provides support services for the Cooperative Ministries Committee.
- The AC assists churches and ministers in pastoral placement.
- The AC helps preserve the ongoing story of the PCA through the PCA Historical Center.
- The AC informs the PCA on current issues and news through *byFaith* magazine and *byfaithonline.com*.
- The Stated Clerk and his staff advise Presbyteries, Sessions, church officers, and members on controversial and sensitive issues.
- The AC provides support services for Special Committees such as Interchurch Relations as we relate with other denominations, the Review of Presbytery Records as the Assembly ensures that Presbyteries are operating according to our Constitution, Theological Examining as we certify the orthodoxy of first- and second-level Committee or Agency employees, Constitutional Business as overtures are reviewed for conformity to the Constitution, Nominating as Presbyteries' nominees for Assembly-level positions on Committees and Agencies are proposed, and Study Committees that the Assembly may create for particular issues.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That RAO 13-2 be amended by adding the following words: "No overture proposed by a commissioner which is a memorial resolution honoring a deceased officer or member of the Presbyterian Church in America shall be considered by the General Assembly, unless the

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resolution deals with a person who has died within 60 days of the convening of the General Assembly.”

Grounds: The Forty-third Assembly requested this change. The proposal allows for recent deaths to be memorialized through Personal Resolutions brought on the floor, but requires that memorial resolutions for less-than-recent deaths come via the usual overture process.

2. That the Assembly renew the annual call to TE L. Roy Taylor as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly (*RAO* 4-9).

3. That –

- The Assembly form a study committee on the issue of women serving in the ministry of the church (*RAO* 9-1; 9-3). The Assembly authorizes the Moderator to appoint the study committee. The study committee should be made up of competent men and women representing the diversity of opinions within the PCA (*RAO* 9-1; *Robert’s Rules of Order* [11<sup>th</sup> edition], §13, pp. 174-175, §50, pp.495-496, §50, pp. 497-498 §56, p. 579).
- The committee should give particular attention to the issues of:
  - (1) The biblical basis, theology, history, nature, and authority of ordination;
  - (2) The biblical nature and function of the office of deacon;
  - (3) Clarification on the ordination or commissioning of deacons/deaconesses;
  - (4) Should the findings of the study committee warrant *BCO* changes, the study committee will propose such changes for the General Assembly to consider.
- The committee will have a budget of \$15,000 that is funded by designated donations to the AC from churches and individuals (*RAO* 9-2).
- A Pastoral Letter to be proposed by the ad interim study committee and approved by the General Assembly be sent to all churches, encouraging them to (1) promote the practice of women in ministry, (2) appoint women to serve alongside elders and deacons in the pastoral work of the church, and (3) hire women on church staff in appropriate ministries.

Grounds: The Cooperative Ministries Committee may not make recommendations directly to the General Assembly but must do so through an appropriate committee or agency (*RAO* 7-3 c; 7-6). The CMC has had a subcommittee on the role of women and has sent several recommendations to the AC (including a proposal for a study



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committee on the issue women serving in the church) and CDM to bring to the Assembly.

4. In the event that the Assembly approves the formation of an ad interim Committee on Racial Reconciliation (Overture 45 from Potomac Presbytery), that the budget for the committee be \$15,000, with funds derived from contributions to the AC designated for that purpose (*RAO 9-1*).
5. That the Building Occupancy Cost charged to each ministry be kept at \$12 per square foot for 2017. (This reflects no increase from the previous year.)
6. That the plan outlined below for the payment of the required contribution from the PCA Committees and Agencies to the PCA Administrative Committee be approved (*RAO 5-4 a.*).

**PLAN:** Committees and Agencies are asked to pay in one of the following three options:

- (1) Semiannual – one half paid in January and one half paid in July.
- (2) Quarterly – one fourth paid the first month of each quarter: January, April, July, and October.
- (3) Monthly – one twelfth paid the first of each month.

NOTE: The following chart shows the agreed upon amounts for 2017:

PCA Ministry	Contribution Amount
AC	
CDM	\$9,000
CC	\$11,500
CTS	\$11,500
MNA	\$11,500
MTW	\$11,500
PCAF	\$11,500
RBI	\$11,500
RH	\$9,000
RUM	\$11,500
	\$98,500

7. That the Annual Administration Fee for Ministers be set at \$100 for 2017 (*RAO 5-4 c.*). [This reflects no increase from the previous year.]
8. That the General Assembly set the request to Presbyteries for GA Host Committee assistance at \$500 for 2017 (*RAO 10-9*). [This reflects no increase over the previous year. We hope an increasing number of Presbyteries will make the requested contribution.]

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9. That the Administrative Committee (AC) budget for 2017 of \$2,557,800 Operating Budget and \$1,496,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
10. That the PCA Building budget for 2017 of \$270,200 Operating Budget be approved. The PCA Building does not participate in Partnership Shares.
11. That the CDM budget for 2017 of \$1,578,000 Operating Budget and \$730,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
12. That the CC budget for 2017 of \$28,811,000 Operating Budget and \$2,200,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
13. That the CTS budget for 2017 of \$8,006,436 Operating Budget and \$2,100,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
14. That the MNA budget for 2017 of \$12,502,948 Operating Budget and \$4,559,645 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
15. That the MTW budget for 2017 of \$52,344,686 Operating Budget and \$8,154,996 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
16. That the PCAF budget for 2017 of \$1,097,000 Operating Budget. The PCAF does not participate in Partnership Shares.
17. That the RBI budget for 2017 of \$2,923,490 Operating Budget. RBI does not participate in Partnership Shares.
18. That the RUM budget for 2017 of \$11,267,111 Operating Budget and \$4,576,975 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
19. That the RH budget for 2017 of \$2,010,000 Operating Budget and \$800,000 Partnership Shares budget be approved.
20. That the Assembly note for the record that 2015 Audit performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan on the Administrative Committee has been received (*RAO 14-8 h.*).
21. That the Assembly note for the record that the 2015 Audit performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan on the PCA Building has been received (*RAO 14-8 h.*).
22. That the General Assembly approve Capin, Crouse, & Company as auditors for the Committee on Mission to the World and the Committee on Mission to North America for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016.
23. That the General Assembly approve Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP, as auditors for the Committee on Reformed University Ministries for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016.
24. That the General Assembly approve Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan, PC, as auditors for the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Discipleship Ministries for the calendar year ending December 31, 2016.
25. That the minutes of the AC for June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, and April 28, 2016, be approved.
26. That the minutes of the Board for June 9, 2015, October 8, 2015, and April 28, 2016, be approved.

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27. That the General Assembly accept the charts below as the acceptable response to the GA requirement for an annual report on the cost of the AC's mandated responsibilities.

**2015 Unfunded Mandates**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY COSTS**

Year	# of Commissioners	Total Costs	Cost per Commissioner	Amount of Fee Alloted to GA	Total Standard Fee
2011	1183	480,932	\$407	\$300	\$400
2012	1120	417,719	\$373	\$300	\$400
2013	1327	470,145	\$354	\$350	\$450
2014	1123	492,720	\$439	\$350	\$450
2015	1394	511,833	\$367	\$350	\$450

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Description	2015 Total <sup>2</sup>	Per Commissioner
Committee on Constitutional Business	\$11,419	\$8
General Assembly with Minutes <sup>1</sup>	\$541,833	\$389
Interchurch Relations Committee	\$18,591	\$13
Nominating Committee <sup>2</sup>	\$19,755	\$14
Standing Judicial Commission	\$145,775	\$105
Theological Examining Committee <sup>3</sup>	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$737,373</b>	<b>\$529</b>

See chart notes on next page.

<sup>1</sup> Review of Presbytery Records is included in the General Assembly Total. In 2015, RPR cost \$43,309; production and delivery of the General Assembly Minutes cost at least \$30,000 and is included in this "Total".

<sup>2</sup> The expense of the Nominating Committee is shared by the PCA Committees and Agencies.

<sup>3</sup> The Theological Examining Committee did not incur any material expenses in 2015 as per their report to the AC.

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28. That the registration fee remain at \$450 for the 2017 General Assembly with \$350 allocated to the GA expenses, \$25 for publication of the GA Minutes, and \$75 allocated to the Standing Committee cost center for the expenses of the Standing Judicial Commission. Honorably retired or emeritus elders would continue to pay 1/3 of the regular registration (\$150). Elders coming from churches with annual incomes below \$100,000, as per their 2016 statistics, may register for \$300.
29. That the “2017 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks of PCA Ministry Partners by the Participating General Assembly Ministries” (p. 466) be approved.
30. That the minutes of the AC adjourned meeting of June 7, 2016 be approved.
31. That the General Assembly consider both logo presentations that have been approved by the Historical Center Subcommittee and the AC and that the Assembly vote to make a selection between the two proposed logos.  
**Rationale:** The Historical Center Subcommittee concurred that both logos were worthy proposals and the HC Subcommittee had an equally split vote between the two after much research, deliberation, and debate. The General Assembly’s instruction to the HC Subcommittee included bringing two options before the General Assembly when reporting (*M34 GA*, p. 162).

## Attachment 1

### Report of the PCA Historical Center to the PCA Administrative Committee April, 2016

#### **Fathers and brothers:**

With great praise to our Lord, I am humbled and blessed to be able to report that I have now had a third clear CAT scan. The end of radiation and chemo treatments was just about a year ago, and the doctors have said that 85-90% of the time, if the cancer were to return, it would have been by now. My energy level and stamina are, if anything, better now, due to the weight loss incurred during radiation treatments a year ago, and I've been able to maintain that lower weight since that time. I do greatly appreciate your prayers on my behalf, and know you will rejoice with me in this evidence of His sustaining grace.

Facing your own mortality tends to bring a focus on getting the house in order, and that has been the case with my work at the Historical Center. As stated in my last report, I am striving to work through each of the Center's many collections to make sure that all is in order and that what is preserved is indeed of enduring value. Additionally, a group of ancillary collections, gathered over the last dozen or so years, will soon be made public. The collections at the Historical Center can be thought of as the four legs of a stool:

1. **Organizational Records** - the Center houses the records of the PCA, its agencies, and the records of four other conservative Presbyterian denominations.
2. **Manuscript Collections** - the Papers of over one hundred individuals associated with these denominations.
3. **Congregational Histories** - materials on the history of some seven hundred local churches.
4. **A research library**, with holdings on all aspects of American Presbyterian history. I estimate that at present, the Center's research library stands in excess of about 6000 volumes. Of these, almost 2000 have been entered into an online public access catalog.

The ancillary collections mentioned above, properly called "miscellany" collections, are materials gathered by the Archives staff, and these are intended to bolster the Center's other collections, filling in gaps in our information base and providing additional resources for patrons. At present there are about ninety of these miscellany collections. For example, we have a modest collection of original materials—about 1.5 cu. ft. each--by or about Samuel Miller; J. Gresham Machen; Cornelius Van Til; James H. Thornwell;

and B.B. Warfield. Most of the miscellany collections are smaller, ranging from 0.25 cu. ft. to 0.50 cu. ft. in size. Many of the materials in these collections might be readily available elsewhere, but there is also much that is scarce, rare, or even unique. Together, these miscellany collections serve to augment the Center's primary collections, and it is this body of material which will finally be publicized on the Center's web site in coming months as part of a general improvement of the web site.

### **Collection Development**

Among the many materials received at the PCA Historical Center over the past year, a few highlights include:

A recent and important accrual to the Henry G. Welbon Manuscript Collection. While a student at Princeton Seminary, Henry surveyed his classmates over the summer of 1929, asking them if they would stay at Princeton or leave to join the founding class at Westminster. His survey questions and the resulting replies from fellow students were recently discovered in a storage shed at the church Rev. Welbon attended in Tucson, AZ. This group of correspondence is now preserved at the Historical Center, and we have plans to better publicize the collection later this year.

A substantial acquisition [and a lengthy run, 1924-1948], of *The Presbyterian*, a Philadelphia-based periodical that was a journal of record for the modernist controversy in the 1920s and 1930s. Work is underway to index the primary articles that appeared in this journal, thus making it more accessible to researchers. The index for the first half of 1927 has already been completed.

### **Research Library**

Several hundred "new" titles have been added to the Center's research library. A comprehensive list of these accessions for 2015-2016 can be viewed here: <http://www.pcahistory.org/HCLibrary/accessions/2015-2016.pdf>

### **Web Site [ <http://www.pcahistory.org> ] and Blogs**

Our web site continues to get good traffic, and I receive some occasional feedback on how the content presented is proving helpful to many in the PCA and beyond. The Historical Center also hosts two blogs currently: *This Day in Presbyterian History* [[www.thisday.pcahistory.org](http://www.thisday.pcahistory.org)] and *The Continuing Story* [<http://continuing.wordpress.com>]. The former is a daily devotional and the latter blog offers more occasional postings on various aspects of American Presbyterian history. TE David T. Myers and I share the duties of writing the entries on the former blog. Daily subscribers to the blog now total 497, with

typically another 150-200 visitors to the blog site per day. Additional people are reached through Facebook, Twitter and Linked-In. In all, I calculate that we may be reaching as many as 1,000 people per day with our daily blog entries.

### **Patronage:**

As might be expected, most of the patronage of the Historical Center comes by way of e-mail these days, with some by phone and/or postal mail. I've found that generally only the most serious researchers will go to the trouble of visiting in person. And in evidence of some of that serious research, a number of collections at the PCA Historical Center were specifically utilized and cited in two recent publications: *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America*, by Dr. Sean Lucas (P&R, 2015) and *Fighting Fundamentalism: Carl McIntire and the Politicization of American Fundamentalism*, by Dr. Markku Ruotsila (Oxford, 2016).

### **Professional Development**

I continue to maintain my standing as a Certified Archivist, while also remaining active with two professional archival organizations – the Midwest Archives Conference and the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists (ASLAA).

### **General Assembly Exhibits and Related Work**

Under the title “When Catechism Was King,” an exhibit has been prepared which focuses on the many and various printed editions of the Westminster Shorter Catechism available in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. An additional display on Alabama Presbyterians is being considered, if time permits the inclusion of this material.

### **Historical Center Staffing**

Mr. Jody Van Dyke, now in his final year as a Covenant Seminary student, continues to be an excellent assistant in the work of the Historical Center. His primary duties have been in processing local church history materials. Mr. Van Dyke will be pursuing a pastoral call upon graduation, and he will be a hard man to replace. Additionally, Mr. Derek Tamm, another third-year student, has been earning some of the field education requirement for his seminary degree through volunteer work at the Center.

### **Changes in the Sub-Committee for the Work of the PCA Historical Center:**

In the summer of 2014, Dr. David B. Calhoun relocated from St. Louis to be near his daughter and her family. About a year later, he made the difficult decision to resign from our Subcommittee, naming Dr. David C. Jones as his replacement. Dr. Calhoun is enjoying a richly deserved retirement, while continuing to publish some very valuable works. Banner of Truth will soon publish a work of his on Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

Then late last year, our Subcommittee also suffered the loss of Mr. Ed Harris, who had served both as a long-time Board member for Covenant Theological Seminary and concurrently as a member of our Subcommittee. He passed away on November 5, 2015. Both men are dearly missed from our number, and with that thought we would also remember another long-serving member of our Subcommittee, Mr. John E. Spencer, who passed away in 2012. He served for so many years as a faithful ruling elder at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, while also serving concurrently both as a Trustee for Covenant Seminary and as a member of the Historical Center's Subcommittee.

Lastly, in addition to Dr. David C. Jones, the Subcommittee is also pleased to welcome the addition of Dr. Sean M. Lucas to our number. Please do keep these men and women in your prayers as they seek to promote the work of our PCA Historical Center:

**Historical Center Sub-Committee:**

The members of the Historical Center Sub-Committee include:

Dr. Will S. Barker II, past President of Covenant Seminary and past Professor of Church History at Westminster Theological Seminary.

Dr. David C. Jones, emeritus professor of Ethics at Covenant Theological Seminary.

Dr. Sean M. Lucas, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, MS.

Rev. Henry Lewis Smith, pastor and Professor at the Birmingham Theological Seminary.

Mr. David Cooper, Ruling Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN, and former Wire Editor at the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

Miss Lannae Graham, former archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Foundation, Montreat, NC

Mrs. Shirley Duncan, previously co-owner of A Press, Greenville, SC, and now wonderfully enjoying retirement!

Mr. Melton Duncan, Ruling Elder and church administrator at the Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC. He is particularly notable as one of Shirley Duncan's sons, and serves as an alternate for Mrs. Duncan.

**Ex-officio members of the Subcommittee include:**

Dr. L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Rev. John Robertson, Business Administrator for the Presbyterian Church in America.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RE Wayne Sparkman

Th.M., C.A., and Director of the PCA Historical Center



**Attachment 2**

**PROPOSED BUDGETS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
2017 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

**Budget philosophy**

The budget is built primarily on the job description of the Stated Clerk in the *R.A.O.*, which determines the services that are to be provided by the Office of the Stated Clerk to churches, presbyteries, Committees and Agencies, and to the General Assembly. The General Assembly has also placed the Historical Center and *byFaith* Magazine under the general oversight and in the budget of the AC.

**General Comments**

Many of the activities and responsibilities of the Administrative Committee are directly affected by the activity and growth of the PCA, which in turn are reflected in annual budget increases for many line items. The economic inflation rate also affects many budget items.

The budgets are presented in a format to comply with the standards for not-for-profit organizations adopted by the Financial Accounting Standards (FASB). The FASB standards provide a definition of “supporting activities” which they call “management and general.” Therefore, compensation for the stated Clerk and his staff is allocated according to the estimated time spent by each person in “program,” administration, and fund raising areas.

The U.S. economy appears stronger, especially in relation to the rest of the globe. Job recovery is reported to be on the move bringing, of course, more competition for employees, and that leads to higher wages. Energy is now more available and less expensive than anyone conceived it would be based on the experience of the previous three decades. Disposable income is estimated to rise 2.9% in 2016 from 3.4% in 2015 after adjusting for inflation. All these factors argue for a stronger economy. (See *Kiplinger Letter*, March 18, 2016.)

The stock market remains very nervous and the least negative piece of information can cause the market to turn down for a day or two. Threats have to do with various types of government and political action, any report of unexpected revenue downturns, negative news of financial difficulties anywhere in the world and news of war and rumors of war. In the PCA Business Administrator's opinion, the moral decline in our own nation and many other parts of the globe is and will be a contributing economic difficulty.

All of this being said, the PCA Administrative Committee 2017 budget is planned with modest growth in 2017. The 2017 budget will be quite similar to the 2016 budget, but some growth in expenditures is anticipated to cover a needed edition of the digest of the General Assembly minutes, electronic voting at General Assembly and additional costs for enhancing the General Assembly for ruling elders and younger pastors.

### **Economic Assumptions**

#### **A. Stated Clerk/Administration**

- 2.0% PCA Growth Rate (2015 was 3.295%).
- 0.7 % National Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2015 and estimated 2.4% for 2016 – *Kiplinger Letter*, March 18, 2016.
- 5% (or better) Unemployment in 2015; Kiplinger predicted a year end rate of 4.6% for 2016 – *Kiplinger Letter*, March 18, 2016.
- The full time equivalent (FTE) employees budgeted for 2017 is 16.2.

#### **B. PCA Office Building**

- Rent will be at \$12.00 per square foot for 2017.
- The full time equivalent (FTE) employees budgeted at the beginning and end of the year will be 0.5.

**NOTE:** The international political instability and the terrorist activity along with the catastrophic acts of nature (God) are great unknowns in predicting future economies.

## **II. Major Changes in the Budget**

The main changes in the PCA Administrative Committee budgets for 2017 over 2016 are expected to be the income and expenses of the General Assembly.

### **III. Income Streams and Development Plans**

The PCA Administrative Committee staff is working to maintain or exceed the level of giving in 2016 that we received in 2014 and to have earned income which will challenge the 2015 financial performance. (2014 Earned Income was down in 2014 versus 2013 and 2015; GAs at Greenville, Houston, and Chattanooga being the main difference respectively.)

### **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

Because of the economic downturn and its effect on income streams, several proposed ministry efforts were omitted from the PCA Administrative Committee plans from 2008 through 2011. We are gradually addressing these postponed ministries.

- A new PCA Digest Volume is underway having been delayed for several years during the “Great Recession”. Completion should occur in 2017. Our Documents Manager does not expect to finish this year.
- A proposal to prepare a new edition of the *Book of Church Order* is postponed at least until 2017 based on staff load and an effort toward realistic expectations.
- Progress on a “logo” for the PCA is under way. We hope to take a final product to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to be approved by the AC and by the 2016 Commissioners.

### **Present & Future**

- We are continuing our efforts to provide Korean translations of our more important documents.
- The digitized GA Minutes are complete and available on the Historical Center’s website.
- In 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 we have budgeted for the production of a Digest of Minutes for the years 1999 through 2015. We believe this will be completed in 2017.

### **V. Notes to Line Items**

General Notes:

1. The net change in the 2017 budget from the 2016 budget is a 4.17% increase in Revenue and a 4.30% increase in Expenses; or

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

expressed in raw dollars \$104,250 increase in Revenue and a \$105,565 increase in Expenses. (See Budget Comparison Statement.)

2. The 2017 General Assembly will be in Greensboro, North Carolina. We are not sure how well the deep South will travel for that location in this particular year.

Notes to Line Items:

1. Salaries and Benefits are estimated to be up 6.14% or \$84,750 allowing for a 10% to 15% increase in health expenses and more moderate percentage increase in raises. (Budget Comparison Line 6)
2. Travel is estimated for a modest increase of \$5,750 or about 2.9%. (Line 7)
3. Telephone Expense is estimated to drop based on some trend experience. This expense varies with the reality of the Internet charges at convention centers. (Line 12)
4. Printing is up based on estimates of cost increases and the printing of the GA Information Brochure, which until 2015 was a Host Committee expense, but now is part of the AC Budget. (Line 18)
5. Professional Services are down another \$17,000 which may be “the bottom” for this expense. Legal fees vary each year; the byFaith Editor is now an employee, and a great deal of GA setup is done by outside vendors. (Line 23)
6. Contingencies are up allowing for cost variations in every department or cost center. (Line 26)

APPENDIX C

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE						
PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET						
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>						
1 Contributions (1)	1,536,000	-	-	-	1,536,000	58.91%
2 Fees	1,071,250	-	-	-	1,071,250	41.09%
3 Interest	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
4 Others	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
<b>5 TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,607,250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,607,250</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>						
6a Coordinator Sal & Hsng	193,800	10,750	10,750	-	215,300	8.26%
6b Coordinator Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
6c Staff Salary & Benefits	1,150,750	40,750	51,700	-	1,243,200	47.68%
6 Total Staff Salary & Benefits	1,344,550	51,500	62,450	-	1,458,500	55.94%
7 Travel	197,500	2,000	1,500	-	201,000	7.71%
8 Rent	54,800	3,000	2,000	-	59,800	2.29%
9 Janitor/Grounds	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
10 Mail/Ship	102,700	600	2,000	-	105,300	4.04%
11 Office Supplies	13,500	6,000	500	-	20,000	0.77%
12 Telephone	16,200	2,000	100	-	18,300	0.70%
13 Maintenance	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	0.04%
14 Leased Equipment	94,000	7,000	100	-	101,100	3.88%
15 Dues/Subscription	29,000	9,000	200	-	38,200	1.47%
16 Insurance	23,500	3,500	800	-	27,800	1.07%
17 Interest	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
18 Printing	188,700	1,600	2,000	-	192,300	7.38%
19 Staff Training/Develop.	1,200	5,000	-	-	6,200	0.24%
20 Promotion/Appeals	6,200	-	-	-	6,200	0.24%
21 Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
22 Planning	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
23 Professional Services	252,000	18,000	2,000	-	272,000	10.43%
24 Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
25 Utilities	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	0.19%
26 Contingencies	20,500	5,000	1,000	-	26,500	1.02%
28 Depreciation	17,400	800	400	-	18,600	0.71%
<b>29 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,366,750</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>75,050</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,557,800</b>	<b>97.39%</b>
<b>30 Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>240,500</b>	<b>(116,000)</b>	<b>(75,050)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,450</b>	<b>1.90%</b>
31 LESS Depreciation	17,400	800	400	-	18,600	0.71%
<b>32 NET OPERATING EXP.</b>	<b>2,349,350</b>	<b>115,200</b>	<b>74,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,539,200</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS:</b>						
33 Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
<b>34 TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>26 TOTAL NET BUDGET EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,349,350</b>	<b>115,200</b>	<b>74,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,539,200</b>	<b>97.39%</b>
<b>36 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>257,900</b>	<b>(115,200)</b>	<b>(74,650)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,050</b>	<b>2.61%</b>
(1) Partnership Shares --- (contributions required from churches to fulfill responsibilities)						

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE								
BUDGETS COMPARISONS STATEMENT								
FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET								
DESCRIPTION	2014	2015	2016	PROPOSED BUDGET		2016 TO 2017		
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED	% OF TOTALS	CHANGE IN BUDGET \$	%	
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>								
1 Contributions (1)	\$1,510,645	\$1,457,000	\$1,458,000	\$1,536,000	58.91%	\$78,000	5.35%	
2 Fees	\$690,750	\$893,000	\$1,045,000	\$1,071,250	41.09%	\$26,250	2.51%	
3 Investments					0.00%	\$0		
4 Others	\$150,000	\$150,000		\$0	0.00%	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>								
5 <b>&amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,351,395</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,503,000</b>	<b>\$2,607,250</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$104,250</b>	<b>4.17%</b>	
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>								
6 News Office	\$364,040	\$409,840	\$468,080	\$472,320	18.12%	\$4,240	0.91%	
7 Historical Center	\$116,710	\$121,120	\$128,340	\$130,460	5.00%	\$2,120	1.65%	
8 Committees & Agencies	\$109,750	\$152,750	\$114,800	\$114,100	4.38%	(\$700)	-0.61%	
9 Churches & Presbyteries	\$397,040	\$441,900	\$496,750	\$532,450	20.42%	\$35,700	7.19%	
10 Stats & Publications	\$272,720	\$289,590	\$262,130	\$284,920	10.93%	\$22,790	8.69%	
11 Standing Comm.	\$294,300	\$287,850	\$259,500	\$265,150	10.17%	\$5,650	2.18%	
12 Gen. Assembly	\$492,720	\$527,525	\$548,585	\$567,350	21.76%	\$18,765	3.42%	
<b>TOTAL</b>								
13 <b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$2,047,280</b>	<b>\$2,230,575</b>	<b>\$2,278,185</b>	<b>\$2,366,750</b>	<b>90.78%</b>	<b>\$88,565</b>	<b>3.89%</b>	
14 Management & General	\$93,910	\$108,450	\$109,200	\$116,000	4.45%	0.00%		
15 Fund Raising	\$60,205	\$60,975	\$64,950	\$75,050	2.88%	0.00%		
<b>TOTAL MGMT. &amp;</b>								
16 <b>FUND RAISING</b>	<b>\$154,115</b>	<b>\$169,425</b>	<b>\$174,150</b>	<b>\$191,050</b>	<b>7.33%</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	<b>9.70%</b>	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>								
17 <b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,201,395</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>	<b>\$2,452,335</b>	<b>\$2,557,800</b>	<b>98.10%</b>	<b>\$105,465</b>	<b>4.30%</b>	
18 <b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$50,665</b>	<b>\$49,450</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>(\$1,215)</b>		
19 <b>LESS Depreciation</b>	<b>\$17,155</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>	<b>\$18,700</b>	<b>\$18,600</b>	<b>0.71%</b>	<b>(\$100)</b>		
<b>NET OPERATING</b>								
20 <b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,184,240</b>	<b>\$2,380,500</b>	<b>\$2,433,635</b>	<b>\$2,539,200</b>	<b>97.39%</b>	<b>\$105,565</b>	<b>4.34%</b>	
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS:</b>								
21 Capital Expenditures					0.00%			
22 Principal Loan Pmts					0.00%			
23 Building Loss/(Gain)					0.00%			
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
25 <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,184,240</b>	<b>\$2,380,500</b>	<b>\$2,433,635</b>	<b>\$2,539,200</b>	<b>97.39%</b>	<b>\$105,565</b>	<b>4.34%</b>	
26 <b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>								
<b>EXCLUDING DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$167,155</b>	<b>\$119,500</b>	<b>\$69,365</b>	<b>\$68,050</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$1,315)</b>	<b>(\$0)</b>	
27 Equity Transfer Profit/(Loss)								
28 <b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$167,155</b>	<b>\$119,500</b>	<b>\$69,365</b>	<b>\$68,050</b>	<b>2.61%</b>	<b>(\$1,315)</b>		
(1) Partnership Share --- (contributions required from churches to fulfill responsibilities)								

APPENDIX C

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE</b>					
<b>FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL HISTORY</b>					
<b>FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET</b>					
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>					
1 Contributions (1)	\$1,172,760	\$1,087,458	\$1,086,230	\$1,097,020	\$1,053,536
2 Fees	\$733,873	\$698,332	\$1,100,588	\$1,036,945	\$1,260,799
3 Investments	\$83	\$124	\$98	\$2,327	\$3,266
4 Others					
<b>5 TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,906,716</b>	<b>\$1,785,914</b>	<b>\$2,186,916</b>	<b>\$2,136,291</b>	<b>\$2,317,601</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
7 News Office	\$307,275	\$312,201	\$331,724	\$394,478	\$399,872
8 Historical Center	\$87,836	\$91,366	\$93,259	\$107,675	\$115,656
9 Committees & Agencies	\$98,061	\$86,875	\$90,405	\$96,778	\$95,666
10 Churches & Presbyteries	\$276,495	\$256,235	\$322,362	\$385,842	\$396,066
11 Stats & Publications	\$228,065	\$232,699	\$228,340	\$242,647	\$252,131
12 Standing Comm.	\$237,992	\$236,469	\$244,650	\$252,494	\$245,339
13 Gen. Assembly	\$479,528	\$407,719	\$468,780	\$476,855	\$510,379
<b>14 TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$1,715,252</b>	<b>\$1,623,564</b>	<b>\$1,779,520</b>	<b>\$1,956,768</b>	<b>\$2,015,109</b>
15 Management & General	\$84,499	\$90,852	\$96,607	\$103,303	\$114,552
16 Fund Raising	\$44,617	\$42,898	\$42,070	\$63,242	\$70,732
<b>17 TOTAL MGMT. &amp; FUND RAISING</b>	<b>\$129,116</b>	<b>\$133,750</b>	<b>\$138,677</b>	<b>\$166,545</b>	<b>\$185,283</b>
<b>18 OPERATING EXPENSES BEFORE DEPR.</b>	<b>\$1,844,368</b>	<b>\$1,757,314</b>	<b>\$1,918,197</b>	<b>\$2,123,313</b>	<b>\$2,200,392</b>
19 Depreciation & Dispositions	\$14,001	\$11,148	\$18,053	\$17,724	\$17,800
<b>20 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,858,369</b>	<b>\$1,768,462</b>	<b>\$1,936,250</b>	<b>\$2,141,037</b>	<b>\$2,218,192</b>
<b>21 INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$48,347</b>	<b>\$17,452</b>	<b>\$250,666</b>	<b>(\$4,745)</b>	<b>\$99,409</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>					
23 Equity Transfer	\$1,500	\$8,030	\$17,492	\$3,293	(\$6,412)
24 Realized Gains (Losses)	(\$5,199)	\$8	\$351	\$4,918	\$3,579
25 Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(\$151)	\$244	\$515	\$181	(\$7,519)
<b>26 NET OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$3,850)</b>	<b>\$8,282</b>	<b>\$18,357</b>	<b>\$8,392</b>	<b>(\$10,351)</b>
<b>27 NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$44,497</b>	<b>\$25,734</b>	<b>\$269,023</b>	<b>\$3,647</b>	<b>\$89,058</b>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PCA OFFICE BUILDING PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET							
	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>							
1	Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
2	Investments	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
3	Interest	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
4	Rent	-	298,884	-	-	298,884	100.00%
<b>5</b>	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>298,884</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>298,884</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
6	Staff Salary & Benefits	-	49,800	-	-	49,800	16.66%
7	Travel	-	800	-	-	800	0.27%
8	Rent	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
9	Janitor/Grounds	-	36,000	-	-	36,000	12.04%
10	Mail/Ship	-	300	-	-	300	0.10%
11	Office Supplies	-	2,200	-	-	2,200	0.74%
12	Telephone	-	1,300	-	-	1,300	0.43%
13	Maintenance	-	35,000	-	-	35,000	11.71%
14	Leased Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
15	Dues/Subscription	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
16	Insurance	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	10.04%
17	Interest	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
18	Printing	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
19	Staff Training/Develop.	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
20	Promotion/Appeals	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
21	Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
22	Planning	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
23	Professional Services	-	35,000	-	-	35,000	11.71%
24	Taxes	-	2,800	-	-	2,800	0.94%
25	Utilities	-	65,000	-	-	65,000	21.75%
26	Contingencies	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	1.67%
27	Depreciation	-	7,000	-	-	7,000	2.34%
<b>28</b>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270,200</b>	<b>90.40%</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 28,684</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 28,684</b>	<b>9.60%</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>LESS Depreciation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>2.34%</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>NET OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>263,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>263,200</b>	<b>88.06%</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS:</b>							
32	Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
32a	Loss (Gain) on Investments	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
33	Depreciation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
<b>34</b>	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>TOTAL NET BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 263,200</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 263,200</b>	<b>88.06%</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 35,684</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 35,684</b>	<b>11.94%</b>



APPENDIX C

PCA OFFICE BUILDING							
BUDGETS COMPARISON STATEMENT							
for PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET							
DESCRIPTION	2014	2015	2016	2017	%	2016 TO 2017	
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	OF TOTALS	\$	%
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REV</b>							
1 Contributions	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
2 Fees	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
3 Investments	6,000	6,000	6,000	-	0.00%	(6,000)	-100.00%
4 Rent	298,884	298,884	298,884	298,884	100.00%	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>304,884</b>	<b>304,884</b>	<b>304,884</b>	<b>298,884</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>	<b>-1.97%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXP</b>							
6 Capital Fund	55,981	55,981	55,981	-	0.00%	(55,981)	-100.00%
7 TOTAL PROG	55,981	55,981	55,981	-	0.00%	(55,981)	-100.00%
8 Mgmt & Gen'l	253,050	261,850	264,900	270,200	90.40%	5,300	2.00%
9 Fund Raising	-	-	-	-	\$0	-	0.00%
10 TOTAL MGMT& FUND RAISING	253,050	261,850	264,900	270,200	90.40%	5,300	2.00%
11 TOTAL OPER EXPENSES	309,031	317,831	320,881	270,200	90.40%	(50,681)	-15.79%
12 Operating Surplus/(Def)	(4,147)	(12,947)	(15,997)	28,684	9.60%	44,681	0.00%
13 Depreciation	70,981	70,981	61,981	7,000	2.34%	(54,981)	-88.71%
14 NET OPERATING EXPENSES	238,050	246,850	258,900	263,200	88.06%	4,300	1.66%
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>							
15 Capital Additions							
16 TOTAL OPER & CAPITAL EXP	238,050	246,850	258,900	263,200	88.06%	4,300	1.66%
16 Loss (Gain) from Investments	(\$6,000)	(\$6,000)	(\$6,000)			6,000	0.00%
17 SURPLUS/(DEF)	\$72,834	\$64,034	\$51,984	\$35,684	11.94%	(\$10,300)	-19.81%

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

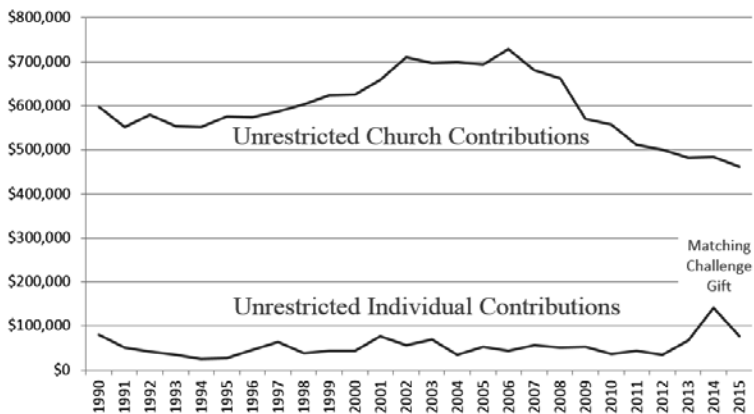
PCA OFFICE BUILDING					
FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL HISTORY					
for PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>					
1 Contributions	400	25	100		100
2 Fees		20	2	3	
3 Investments	1,763	49,438	118,431	33,623	(1,759)
4 Rent	298,884	298,884	298,884	298,884	298,884
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>301,047</b>	<b>348,367</b>	<b>417,417</b>	<b>332,510</b>	<b>297,225</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
6 Capital Fund	56,712	56,756	55,732	58,263	58,263
<b>7 TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>56,712</b>	<b>56,756</b>	<b>55,732</b>	<b>58,263</b>	<b>58,263</b>
8 Management & General	233,889	235,695	239,876	251,317	283,614
9 Fund Raising					
<b>## TOTAL MGMT &amp; FUND RAISING</b>	<b>233,889</b>	<b>235,695</b>	<b>239,876</b>	<b>251,317</b>	<b>283,614</b>
<b>## TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>290,601</b>	<b>292,451</b>	<b>295,608</b>	<b>309,580</b>	<b>341,877</b>
<b>## OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>10,446</b>	<b>55,916</b>	<b>121,809</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>(44,652)</b>
<b>## Less Depreciation and Dispositions</b>	<b>69,531</b>	<b>65,824</b>	<b>64,888</b>	<b>63,760</b>	<b>65,148</b>
<b>## NET OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>221,070</b>	<b>226,627</b>	<b>230,720</b>	<b>245,820</b>	<b>276,729</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS</b>					
	**	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**	**
	**	**	**	**	**
<b>## Other Items</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>## TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>221,070</b>	<b>226,627</b>	<b>230,720</b>	<b>245,820</b>	<b>276,729</b>
<b>## EQUITY TRANSFER</b>					
<b>## NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>79,977</b>	<b>121,740</b>	<b>186,697</b>	<b>86,690</b>	<b>20,496</b>
**					
Equity Transfer	55,916	68,266		22,930	(44,652)
<b>Investments Include:</b>					
3 Realized Gain(Loss) on Investments	6,133	13,660	29,482	34,644	21,002
3 Unrealized Gain(Loss) on Investments	(11,360)	17,612	64,024	(17,519)	(44,852)
3 Investment Income	6,989	18,166	24,925	16,498	22,091

**COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES  
2017 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Focus:**

The attached budget represents the anticipated financial activities associated with the ministry to connect and equip those in the PCA who plan and conduct discipleship ministry in the denomination. The staff of CDM works to consult with and train practitioners in the local church, particularly through local, regional, and national training events. Participants include ministers of discipleship, Bible teachers, small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, and the staff and volunteers who work in ministries to children, youth, and adults. CDM also provides resources for those in the local church by providing helpful materials on the CDM website, by publishing the work of PCA members, by recommending resources available in the broader Church, and by operating the PCA Bookstore.

CDM is working to recover from the decline in giving from PCA churches during and after the economic recession of 2008. A number of supporting churches experienced a sharp decline in membership, which also affected giving to denominational causes. In addition to the economy, changes in the Partnership Share calculation adversely affected giving and, in some cases, changes in local church leadership resulted in a change in giving priorities.



Only 28% of PCA churches contributed to CDM in 2015, and there is great potential to see more churches partner with the ministry. CDM is prayerful and hopeful that PCA churches will join to support financially the ministry of discipleship throughout the denomination. CDM staff have increased travel to churches and presbyteries to raise awareness of the ministry and seek financial support.

Underlying budget assumptions include:

- General economic uncertainty.
- Excluding medical care, overall inflation rate is assumed to be approximately 2%.
- The 2017 budget maintains the salary levels as budgeted in 2016. However, actual salaries have not been increased in over six years due to the decrease in church giving. So, current actual salaries average 8% less than budget.
- Due to uncertainty related to health care costs and legislation, insurance premiums are expected to increase 15% from the rates being paid in 2016.
- Occupancy cost in the PCA Building will remain at \$12 per square foot.
- In an effort to decrease costs, CDM anticipates employing 9.65 FTE employees, which is a reduction of .6 FTEs from what was budgeted for 2016.
- CDM provides mailroom and technology services and rents a significant portion of its floor space to Reformed University Fellowship and an outside tenant. CDM reports these [fully reimbursed] services as a separate line item under “Management and General.”

## **II. Major Changes in Budget:**

The budget for 2017 decreases 3.5% as compared to 2016. This decrease reflects an effort to bring projections of Contributions and Support more in line with recent actual performance. Three years ago the staff and Permanent Committee were optimistic that church giving would begin a steady increase—supplemented by generous support from individuals. While individual giving has increased, church giving has continued to decline. Consequently, CDM has scaled back its estimates on personnel and related expenses.

### III. Income Streams:

CDM depends on contribution income, as well as revenue earned from sales and fees. CDM's primary source of gift income for the ministry is contributions from PCA churches. In light of the ministry responsibilities given to CDM by the General Assembly, the "Ministry Ask" is set at \$7 per communicant member. If every PCA congregation was able to give at that level, CDM would be fully funded to accomplish what the Assembly has directed.

Since a majority of PCA congregations do not contribute to the ministry of CDM, and others are unable to give the \$7 "Ministry Ask," the staff of CDM works to solicit donations from individuals, local church women's groups, and the PCA Foundation. In other words, the staff of CDM strives to "raise support" from PCA members in order to further the work of discipleship ministry. Additionally, the staff seeks to find creative ways to enhance revenue through sales of products, attendance at events, and the sale of advertising where possible. These revenues do not contribute significantly to the overall program cost (staff and office expenses) of CDM, but they do cover much of the out-of-pocket costs associated with delivering the training and resources.

### IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year:

In order to bring the scope of the ministry of CDM in line with the giving from PCA churches, the staff and permanent committee have focused on the areas of ministry to women, children, and resource development. Currently, the revenue generated by the sales of books and resources more than covers the expenses of operating the PCA Bookstore; however, there are limited resources to enhance and grow the ministry of the bookstore. The ministry to youth is limited to the work of a part-time coordinator, and the ministry to men and seniors relies on the work of unpaid consultants.

### V. Notes to Budget "line items":

- **Contributions and Support** (Budget Comp., line 1) represents all donated funds by churches, individuals, and organizations. As previously noted, CDM has reduced the projection for this from that budgeted for 2016 to an amount more in line with actual giving in 2014.
- **Other Revenue** (Budget Comp., line 2) consists of book sales, conference fees, membership fees, subscriptions, advertising, and

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

reimbursements for postage and other services. CDM anticipates this income source to remain fairly consistent since: 1) the seven women's regional conferences held in 2016 will be replaced by six regional discipleship conferences in 2017, and 2) Bookstore sales appear to have stabilized (even increased in 2015) warranting an increase from the original projection for 2016.

- **Seminars, Conferences, and Consulting** (Budget Comp., line 3) include several general discipleship and leadership training events. The increase in this line item is indicative of a more ambitious conference itinerary for the staff in 2017. As previously noted, CDM is anticipating conducting 6 regional conferences focusing on a variety of discipleship topics, including next generation ministries.
- The **Women's Ministry** (Budget Comp., line 4) represents the cost of related staff, the annual Women's Leadership Training Conference, the women's program at General Assembly, and local seminars conducted in churches by the Women's Ministry Trainers. The decrease of -57% almost completely represents the absence of costs associated with the seven regional conferences held in 2016.
- CDM continues, in a limited way, to help local churches that request assistance in developing **Men's Ministries** (Budget Comp., line 5). This area of ministry has languished due to lack of funding. CDM continues to refer needs and inquiries to Gary Yagel of Forging Bonds for Brotherhood.
- **Youth Ministry** (Budget Comp., line 6) Due to prolonged downturn of church giving, CDM has not been able to staff a full-time Youth Ministries staff person since 2009. In previous budgets the majority of the expenses related to this ministry were dollars earned and spent to sponsor the YXL conference hosted at Covenant College. The increase projected from the 2016 budget reflects a greater time commitment on the part of the CDM's Youth Ministries Consultant.
- **Children's Ministry** (Budget Comp., line 7) is projected to decrease as attempts made to grow the staff in this ministry through designated contributions have not provided the funds necessary to sustain a part-time associate to the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Consequently, this part-time position (.2 FTE) has been removed from the budget.
- **Seniors Ministry** (Budget Comp, line 8) represents the possibility of conducting one or two seminars in 2017. Registration fees would fund these potential events.
- **Publications and Curriculum** (Budget Comp., line 9) includes the periodicals *Equip & Connect* and *Staying Connected*. It also includes the costs associated with developing and producing other

annual materials for various seasons such as Advent, Easter, and Reformation Sunday, as well as several Bible study books.

- The increase of budgeted expenses for the **Bookstore** (Budget Comp., line 10) reflects the projected increase in revenue (sales) noted above. While sales in recent years have declined significantly, CDM saw an increase in 2015. Consequently, sales are projected to maintain the levels realized in 2015. **Inventory Purchases** (Proposed, 6) are likewise anticipated to increase by a proportional amount.
- Expenses to operate the **Multi-media Library** are based on number of church members and volume of activity.
- **Management and General** (Budget Comp., line 12) In addition to staff, this line item includes the **Audit Fees** (Proposed, line 26), and CDM's share of **Liability Insurance** (Proposed, line 17) as well as fees that are mandated to CDM by the General Assembly such as Nominating Committee and Administrative Committee fees. See **General Assembly Shared Expenses** (Proposed, line 25)
- The line item **Committee/Agency Services** (Budget Comp., line 13) represents mailroom and technology services to the other committees and agencies in the building. In 2013, CDM also began leasing over 2,500 square feet of office space to RUF. Since these expenses represent over 8% of CDM's total budget and are 100% reimbursed to CDM, they have been separated so that the Management and General expenses associated with operating CDM are more fairly stated.
- **Depreciation** (Budget Comp., line 15) represents the anticipated depreciation on CDM assets such as computer equipment, software, copiers, postage equipment, etc.
- **Fund Raising** (Budget Comp., line 16) represents the costs associated with contacting churches, presbyteries and individuals and informing them about the ministry of CDM and their potential role in supporting the ministry. This item includes 20% of the CDM Coordinator and his associated expenses. This line item includes a part time staff person to assist the Coordinator in this area, which is a reduction from the full time position originally budgeted for 2016. Also, the Permanent Committee desires to engage a consultant to work with the staff in this area (see Proposed, line 18).
- The Coordinator, his part time assistant and related expenses are allocated to the various expense categories as follows: Training 15%, Fund Raising 20%, Administration 15%, Bookstore 5%, Women's Ministry 10%, Youth Ministry 5%, Children's Ministry 10%, and Publications and Curriculum 20%

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Committee on Discipleship Ministries  
Proposed 2017 Budget**

	<u>Total Programs</u>	<u>Management &amp; General</u>	<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>Capital Assets</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>% of Totals</u>
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>						
1 Contributions and Support	\$371,383	\$225,862	\$117,755	\$15,000	\$730,000	46.06%
2 Other Revenues	\$701,950	\$152,450	\$600	\$0	\$855,000	53.94%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,073,333</b>	<b>\$378,312</b>	<b>\$118,355</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$1,585,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>						
3 Coordinator Salary and Housing	\$78,130	\$18,030	\$24,040	\$0	\$120,200	7.58%
4 Coordinator Benefits	\$16,055	\$3,705	\$4,940	\$0	\$24,700	1.56%
5 Staff Salary and Benefits	\$378,768	\$171,695	\$41,637	\$0	\$592,100	37.36%
6 Inventory Purchases	\$297,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$297,000	18.74%
7 Supplies	\$4,169	\$815	\$115	\$0	\$5,100	0.32%
8 Telephone & Internet	\$3,230	\$4,865	\$305	\$0	\$8,400	0.53%
9 Computer Expense	\$10,503	\$2,713	\$383	\$0	\$13,600	0.86%
10 Printing	\$23,600	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$26,600	1.68%
11 Postage & Shipping Materials	\$55,383	\$49,608	\$1,510	\$0	\$106,500	6.72%
12 Miscellaneous	\$765	\$2,815	\$520	\$0	\$4,100	0.26%
13 Subscriptions, Books, Materials	\$430	\$130	\$40	\$0	\$600	0.04%
14 Equipment Rental/Maint.	\$371	\$11,613	\$16	\$0	\$12,000	0.76%
15 Depreciation	\$5,932	\$1,812	\$256	\$0	\$8,000	0.50%
16 Occupancy Cost	\$45,302	\$44,820	\$1,078	\$0	\$91,200	5.75%
17 Liability Insurance	\$0	\$17,000	\$0	\$0	\$17,000	1.07%
18 Consultants, Prof. Services, Reps	\$4,800	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$39,800	2.51%
19 Travel	\$49,400	\$1,600	\$4,500	\$0	\$55,500	3.50%
20 General Assembly Expense	\$9,680	\$680	\$1,240	\$0	\$11,600	0.73%
21 Staff Development / Book Allowa	\$248	\$223	\$30	\$0	\$500	0.03%
22 Graphics/Design	\$10,800	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$11,100	0.70%
23 Promotion and Advertising	\$3,600	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	\$7,100	0.45%
24 Video Acquisition and Production	\$6,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,800	0.43%
25 G.A. Shared Expenses	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	0.88%
26 Audit Fees	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$0	\$13,000	0.82%
27 Facilities, Events and Activities	\$54,000	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$55,200	3.48%
28 Committee Meetings	\$6,000	\$16,000	\$0	\$0	\$22,000	1.39%
29 Honorariums	\$13,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,300	0.84%
30 Vehicles	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	0.06%
31 Account Write-offs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
32 Extraordinary Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,079,265</b>	<b>\$380,124</b>	<b>\$118,611</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,578,000</b>	<b>99.56%</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from operations</b>	<b>(\$5,932)</b>	<b>(\$1,812)</b>	<b>(\$256)</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	
<b>LESS DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>(\$5,932)</b>	<b>(\$1,812)</b>	<b>(\$256)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$8,000)</b>	<b>-0.50%</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH OUTLAYS</b>	<b>\$1,073,333</b>	<b>\$378,312</b>	<b>\$118,355</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,570,000</b>	<b>99.05%</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS</b>						
33 Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	0.95%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL NET BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,073,333</b>	<b>\$378,312</b>	<b>\$118,355</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$1,585,000</b>	



APPENDIX C

Committee on Discipleship Ministries  
Budget Comparisons Statement  
for Proposed 2017 Budget

	Unaudited 2015 <u>Actual</u>	Approved 2015 <u>Budget</u>	Approved 2016 <u>Budget</u>	Proposed 2017 <u>Budget</u>	Budget % of Totals	2015 - 2016 Change in Budget in \$ in %	
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>							
1 Contributions and Support	\$585,432	\$791,910	\$796,450	\$730,000	48.50%	(\$66,450)	-8.3%
2 Other Revenues	\$799,529	\$850,100	\$845,700	\$855,000	51.50%	\$9,300	1.1%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,384,962</b>	<b>\$1,642,010</b>	<b>\$1,642,150</b>	<b>\$1,585,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(\$57,150)</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
<b>TRAINING</b>							
3 Seminars, Conferences, Consulting	\$58,638	\$69,672	\$46,232	\$83,182	2.82%	\$36,951	53.0%
4 Women's Ministries	\$159,199	\$174,407	\$288,175	\$188,529	17.59%	(\$99,646)	-57.1%
5 Men's Ministries	\$0	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$1,500	0.42%	(\$5,300)	-77.9%
6 Youth Ministries	\$35,202	\$62,375	\$26,773	\$43,399	1.63%	\$16,626	26.7%
7 Children's Ministries	\$118,179	\$147,593	\$135,187	\$118,285	8.25%	(\$16,902)	-11.5%
8 Seniors Ministry	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	0.09%	\$0	0.0%
<b>RESOURCES</b>							
9 Publications and Curriculum	\$129,139	\$156,997	\$149,360	\$132,223	9.12%	(\$17,137)	-10.9%
10 Bookstore	\$493,296	\$594,080	\$479,247	\$502,906	29.26%	\$23,659	4.0%
11 Multi-media Library	\$3,636	\$11,257	\$11,224	\$7,740	0.69%	(\$3,484)	-31.0%
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>\$997,291</b>	<b>\$1,224,680</b>	<b>\$1,144,497</b>	<b>\$1,079,265</b>	<b>69.87%</b>	<b>(\$65,232)</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>
12 Management & General	\$192,061	\$198,744	\$200,695	\$201,955	12.25%	\$1,260	0.6%
13 Committee/Agency Services	\$153,598	\$130,321	\$138,885	\$154,170	8.48%	\$15,285	11.7%
14 CDM Committee	\$14,826	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	0.98%	\$0	0.0%
15 Depreciation	\$5,297	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.49%	\$0	0.0%
16 Fund Raising	\$52,669	\$62,265	\$130,073	\$118,611	7.94%	(\$11,463)	-18.4%
<b>Total Management / Fund Raising</b>	<b>\$418,453</b>	<b>\$414,330</b>	<b>\$493,653</b>	<b>\$498,735</b>	<b>30.13%</b>	<b>\$5,082</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,415,744</b>	<b>\$1,639,010</b>	<b>\$1,638,150</b>	<b>\$1,578,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(\$60,150)</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>(\$30,782)</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>		<b>\$3,000</b>	
<b>LESS DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>(\$5,297)</b>	<b>(\$7,000)</b>	<b>(\$8,000)</b>	<b>(\$8,000)</b>		<b>\$0</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASH OUTLAYS</b>	<b>\$1,410,446</b>	<b>\$1,632,010</b>	<b>\$1,630,150</b>	<b>\$1,570,000</b>		<b>(\$60,150)</b>	
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS</b>							
17 Capital Expenditures	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$15,000		\$3,000	30.0%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ITEMS</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>30.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL NET BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,415,446</b>	<b>\$1,642,010</b>	<b>\$1,642,150</b>	<b>\$1,585,000</b>		<b>(\$57,150)</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Committee on Discipleship Ministries  
Five Year Summary  
for Proposed 2017 Budget

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>					
1 Contributions and Support	\$647,603	\$598,562	\$597,462	\$664,868	\$585,432
2 Other Revenues	\$1,233,535	\$908,621	\$817,562	\$745,295	\$799,529
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,881,138</b>	<b>\$1,507,183</b>	<b>\$1,415,024</b>	<b>\$1,410,163</b>	<b>\$1,384,962</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
<b>TRAINING</b>					
3 Seminars, Conferences, Consulting	\$79,876	\$80,777	\$61,588	\$58,394	\$58,638
4 Women's Ministries	\$393,260	\$126,029	\$131,063	\$148,879	\$159,199
5 Men's Ministries	\$6,150	\$6,300	\$800	\$300	\$0
6 Youth Ministries	\$90,298	\$77,032	\$34,107	\$46,297	\$35,202
7 Children's Ministries	\$109,479	\$109,745	\$113,836	\$117,300	\$118,179
8 Seniors Ministries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>RESOURCES</b>					
9 Publications and Curriculum	\$161,300	\$157,112	\$127,534	\$140,070	\$129,139
10 Bookstore	\$668,825	\$622,181	\$571,018	\$480,035	\$493,296
11 Video Lending Library	\$20,306	\$13,877	\$8,574	\$7,082	\$3,636
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>\$1,529,494</b>	<b>\$1,193,054</b>	<b>\$1,048,522</b>	<b>\$998,355</b>	<b>\$997,291</b>
12 Management & General	\$288,119	\$308,634	\$324,291	\$188,423	\$192,061
13 Committee/Agency Services				\$153,719	\$153,598
14 CE Committee	\$13,825	\$16,188	\$14,219	\$11,773	\$14,826
15 Depreciation	\$18,289	\$4,078	\$4,984	\$6,673	\$5,297
16 Fund Raising	\$31,820	\$31,878	\$34,083	\$49,978	\$52,669
<b>Total Management / Fund Raising</b>	<b>\$352,052</b>	<b>\$360,778</b>	<b>\$377,577</b>	<b>\$410,566</b>	<b>\$418,453</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,881,546</b>	<b>\$1,553,832</b>	<b>\$1,426,099</b>	<b>\$1,408,921</b>	<b>\$1,415,744</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>(\$408)</b>	<b>(\$46,649)</b>	<b>(\$11,075)</b>	<b>\$1,242</b>	<b>(\$30,782)</b>
<b>LESS DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>(\$18,289)</b>	<b>(\$4,078)</b>	<b>(\$4,984)</b>	<b>(\$6,673)</b>	<b>(\$5,297)</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH OUTLAYS</b>	<b>\$1,863,257</b>	<b>\$1,549,753</b>	<b>\$1,421,114</b>	<b>\$1,402,247</b>	<b>\$1,410,446</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS</b>					
17 Capital Expenditures	\$3,633	\$9,754	\$7,642	\$1,865	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ITEMS</b>	<b>\$3,633</b>	<b>\$9,754</b>	<b>\$7,642</b>	<b>\$1,865</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,866,890</b>	<b>\$1,559,507</b>	<b>\$1,428,757</b>	<b>\$1,404,112</b>	<b>\$1,415,446</b>

**COVENANT COLLEGE  
PROPOSED BUDGET  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

Covenant College operates as an institution of higher education in a highly competitive market. Since the College is largely dependent on tuition for its revenues, attracting qualified students is essential to sustainable operations. In recent years, the cost of higher education has come under increased scrutiny, and changing enrollment patterns have created challenges for accurately projecting student enrollment.

Despite these challenges, Covenant College has been able to maintain a relatively stable and sustainable business model. Two factors are especially important to the College's future: missional faithfulness and affordable net costs.

First, Covenant College remains faithful to its missional standards. Its professors subscribe to the Westminster Standards and faithfully embrace work in their scholarly disciplines. The entire college community, including the support staff, the residence life, the chapel program, as well as the academic program, embodies a commitment to the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things. In addition, this missional faithfulness leads to seriousness about academic endeavors and a commitment to a rigorous program of study for every student. The College is passionate about Jesus, about learning, and about students. This faithfulness attracts dedicated and gifted students.

Second, the college strives for affordable net costs for families. The pricing structure of higher education is confusing and creates challenges during the admissions process. Typically there is a significant difference between the "sticker price" and the final bill that a student receives each semester. Students who complete the admissions process generally find an affordable net cost. Financial aid is awarded to nearly every student. Last year, the College awarded nearly \$14 million in financial aid. A student can estimate the cost of attendance by visiting the "net price calculator" on the college website. We encourage anyone interested in the affordability of a Covenant College education to visit our website at [affordability.covenant.edu](http://affordability.covenant.edu).

## **II. Major Changes to Budget**

The attached budget proposes a modest 2.9% increase in tuition and a 5% increase in room and board fees for the coming year. These increases allow the College to maintain its low student-to-teacher ratio of 14:1 and to provide high quality, residential programs. Covenant College is committed to sound financial planning and good stewardship of its resources.

The proposed FY17 budget includes primarily marginal increases in expenses. No significant changes in programs or operations are expected in the coming year. We plan to add two new faculty positions (including one that is a replacement of a professor who retired a year ago) and two new staff positions. We've also included a 3% raise pool effective January 1, 2017 after not providing raises for calendar year 2016.

The College has been blessed to have a stable financial position for many years. Covenant has adopted the practice of not spending all of the marginal increase from year to year until the revenue has been verified by fall enrollment in the traditional program. It is the goal of the College to have at least a 2% gain to net assets from the operating budget each year. The proposed budget accomplishes that goal.

## **III. Income Streams**

Tuition and fees charged to students, gifts from donors (individuals and churches), fees for services, and gains from investing the college and foundation endowment constitute the four primary streams of income for the College.

The majority of College costs are paid by the students and their families, who are the direct beneficiaries. The College works with each family in an attempt to find an affordable path to attendance. The attraction and retention of students is essential to the financial health of the College.

Gifts from churches and individuals make up \$2.2 million dollars of the operating budget. Churches historically have given about \$1 million of that amount each year. Churches that participate in the Church Scholarship Promise program secure an award of 12.8% of annual tuition for their students.

The College provides other services for fees as well. Offering housing in its residential rental properties, operating the college bookstore, and delivering conference services provide for a modest income stream that nets about \$250,000 each year.

Finally, the combined endowment of the College and the Covenant College Foundation provide modest resources directly to the annual operating budget of the College. In fiscal year 2016, around \$1.2 million came from these investments.

#### **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Last Year**

There were no major ministry items not implemented in the last year.

#### **V. Accounting Format & Other Notes**

The College uses the NACUBO (National Association of College and University Business Officers) definitions of revenue and expense categories. This insures that the College will be able to directly compare various ratios with other colleges and assess our effectiveness in accordance with our assessment systems. While the categories do not exactly parallel the definitions used by the Accounting and Financial Reporting Guide for Christian Ministries, there is some similarity. NACUBO categories including Instructional, Academic Support, Library, Student Services, Public Service and Student Aid could be broadly considered "Program Services." Maintenance of Plant, Institutional Support and Fund Raising could be considered "Supporting Activities."

Compensation for the College's President for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 totals \$274,749, which consists of a salary of \$235,620 and benefits of \$39,129.

#### **Notes for Specific Budget Line Items**

##### **1. Depreciation and Maintenance and Operation of Plant**

Covenant accounts for depreciation and for the maintenance and operation of plant (M&O) as operating expenses. Under generally accepted accounting principles, at year end, the actual depreciation and M&O expenses are divided among the various expense

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

categories rather than being displayed as separate figures. This means the budget sheets below will display depreciation and M&O as budget figures without any actual expense being displayed for prior years.

### 2. Capital Gifts

Covenant accounts for capital gifts as revenue in the year an unconditional pledge is made as accounting rules dictate. Capital gifts are released to unrestricted revenue annually in an amount equal to the capital asset's depreciation cost.

### 3. Changes in Net Assets (Net Income)

Industry standards for private higher education institutions is that the unrestricted portion of the budget (which is shown in the following pages) should result in a change in net assets (commonly referred to as net income) of 2% to 4% of budgeted revenues. The proposed budget shows a change in net assets within this range.

APPENDIX C

**Covenant College  
Proposed Budget for FYE June 30, 2017**

	FYE 06/30/17 DRAFT
<b>Revenues:</b>	
Net tuition & fees	\$ 17,968,000
Auxiliary services	7,048,000
Gifts	2,200,000
Independent operations	950,000
Endowment spending	315,000
Other income	80,000
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>900,000</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 29,461,000</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Instruction	\$ 10,245,358
Academic Support	1,164,815
Student Services	6,189,800
Institutional Support	3,501,959
Library	776,543
Public Service	263,023
Auxiliary Services	4,080,609
Independent Operations	1,088,413
Fundraising	<u>1,500,482</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,811,000</b>
 <b>Change in Net Assets</b>	 <b>\$ 650,000</b>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Covenant College  
Three Year Comparison**

	FYE 06/30/17 DRAFT	FYE 06/30/16 BUDGET	FYE 06/30/15 ACTUAL
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Net tuition & fees	\$ 17,968,000	\$ 17,256,236	\$ 17,661,578
Auxiliary services	7,048,000	6,717,267	6,974,549
Gifts	2,200,000	2,200,000	1,601,523
Independent operations	950,000	932,526	992,880
Endowment spending	315,000	307,500	260,084
Other income	80,000	80,650	371,290
Net assets released from restrictions	900,000	847,472	1,452,210
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 29,461,000</b>	<b>\$ 28,341,651</b>	<b>\$ 29,314,114</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Instruction	\$ 10,245,358	\$ 9,861,240	\$ 9,606,148
Academic Support	1,164,815	1,117,985	1,165,853
Student Services	6,189,800	5,914,194	5,541,015
Institutional Support	3,501,959	3,376,316	3,390,924
Library	776,543	859,641	967,138
Public Service	263,023	246,528	245,645
Auxiliary Services	4,080,609	4,024,373	4,699,968
Independent Operations	1,088,413	1,073,904	1,759,467
Fundraising	1,500,482	1,367,470	1,243,825
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,811,000</b>	<b>\$ 27,841,651</b>	<b>\$ 28,619,983</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 650,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 694,131</b>



APPENDIX C

**Covenant College  
Five Year Budget Comparison**

	FYE 06/30/17 DRAFT	FYE 06/30/16 BUDGET	FYE 06/30/15 ACTUAL	FYE 06/30/14 ACTUAL	FYE 06/30/13 ACTUAL
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Net tuition & fees	\$ 17,968,000	\$ 17,256,236	\$ 17,661,578	\$ 17,316,926	\$ 17,278,056
Auxiliary services	7,048,000	6,717,267	6,974,549	7,015,996	6,346,226
Gifts	2,200,000	2,200,000	1,601,523	2,194,364	1,878,017
Independent operations	950,000	932,526	992,880	1,033,797	1,219,714
Endowment spending	315,000	307,500	260,084	163,342	123,087
Other income	80,000	80,650	371,290	491,032 [1]	281,791
Net assets released from restrictions	900,000	847,472	1,452,210	1,567,136	1,528,812
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 29,461,000</b>	<b>\$ 28,341,651</b>	<b>\$ 29,314,114</b>	<b>\$ 29,782,593</b>	<b>\$ 28,655,703</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Instruction	\$ 10,245,358	\$ 9,861,240	\$ 9,606,148	\$ 9,815,212	\$ 9,072,783
Academic Support	1,164,815	1,117,985	1,165,853	1,262,911	1,302,988
Student Services	6,189,800	5,914,194	5,541,015	6,089,030	6,256,187
Institutional Support	3,501,959	3,376,316	3,390,924	3,470,609	3,536,163
Library	776,543	859,641	967,138	1,040,536	791,937
Public Service	263,023	246,528	245,645	228,049	327,223
Auxiliary Services	4,080,609	4,024,373	4,699,968	4,033,705	3,247,511
Independent Operations	1,088,413	1,073,904	1,759,467	1,647,973	1,410,703
Fundraising	1,500,482	1,367,470	1,243,825	1,545,943	1,853,304
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,811,000</b>	<b>\$ 27,841,651</b>	<b>\$ 28,619,983</b>	<b>\$ 29,133,968</b>	<b>\$ 27,798,799</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 650,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 694,131</b>	<b>\$ 648,625</b>	<b>\$ 856,904</b>

**COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016-17**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

- a. Ministry Impact: Covenant Theological Seminary's more than 3,000 alumni serve in all 50 states and 40 other countries. People all over the world continue to download Covenant's free online materials.
- b. Budget Summary: FY17 operating budget of \$8,157,475 in net revenues and \$8,006,436 in net cash expenses results in a net cash basis income of \$151,040. (This does not include depreciation or results of endowment gains or losses). The net revenue of \$8,157,475 reflects an increase of \$28,120 compared to original FY16 budget of \$8,129,355. This increase is comprised of approximately \$73,000 in increased tuition and fees, \$32,000 increase in auxiliary services, offset by a decrease of \$80,000 in giving for restricted purposes such as the Francis Schaeffer Institute. The FY17 budgeted net expenses of \$8,006,436 reflect an increase of \$129,516 compared to original budgeted expenses for FY16 of \$7,876,920. This increase is primarily related to a 3% cost of living compensation increase for all full time personnel.
- c. Credit Hours Taken: At 10,685 credit hours taken, the Seminary is projecting a decrease of 1% in FY17 from budgeted hours of 10,810 from FY16. We currently anticipate that the actual FY16 credit hours taken will be in a range between 10,150 and 10,200 hours.
- d. Tuition Costs: Tuition rate were increased by \$15 per credit hour from \$480 per credit hour for MDiv and MA programs. However, with the 93 credit hour MDiv redesign, the total costs for the MDiv program will be at the median of Covenant's theological peer seminaries and in the mid range for aspirational peer seminaries. The tuition charge for a full-time student (taking 30 hours) will be \$14,850 before financial aid.
- e. The endowment draw is budgeted at 5% minus a reduction of \$50,000 as the Seminary seeks to incrementally address underwater endowment assets.
- f. Faculty and full-time staff received a 3% compensation increase. The retirement contribution for eligible staff and faculty to the 403(b) plan will remain at 3% of eligible compensation.

**II. Major Changes in Budget**

This year there were no major changes in the budget other than the compensation increase which accounted for approximately \$132,000.

The Seminary continues to develop its Nashville site. Restricted gifts are budgeted to cover the costs of operating Nashville. Revenues from Nashville are included in net tuition.

Continuing from prior year, the budget reflects the continued inclusion of approximately \$100,000 for use in selected marketing and communications initiatives to boost enrollment and engagement with our constituents.

**III. Income Streams**

The Seminary’s revenue sources are:

Tuition & Fees	42.0%
Covenant Fund	21.8%
Endowment*	13.6%
Restricted Gifts	10.0%
<u>Auxiliary Enterprises</u>	<u>12.6%</u>
Total	100.0%

(\*Note that the Endowment line reflects withdrawals for both general operating purposes and for student scholarships.)

The tuition projection is based on enrollment projections in line with FY16 forecasted and year to date actuals, and reflects historical rates of scholarship, which currently account for approximately 39% of gross tuition.

The Covenant Fund represents unrestricted fund-raising for current-year expenses. The projection has remained unchanged from FY16 budget based on the amount of sustainable giving after analysis of donor pool and donor demographics.

The Endowment Draw is currently 5.0% of a twelve-quarter rolling average of the endowment assets based on the fair market value as of June 30, 2015 (the most recent audited amount when budget was prepared).

Restricted Gifts are counted as revenue when the gifts are actually spent for their restricted purpose.

Auxiliary Enterprises income is primarily the rents from students living on campus.

#### **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

There was no planned ministry that was not implemented.

#### **V. Notes to Budget line items**

- a. Budget Comparison – Revenue
  - i. Covenant Fund – Unrestricted annual fund has remained the same from budgeted FY16 amount.
  - ii. Restricted Income – Decrease primarily reflects a reduction in budgeted Francis Schaeffer Institute giving.
  - iii. Endowment – Draw reflects slight improvement of 3-year rolling average of endowment value but reduced by \$50,000 to allow restoration of underwater endowment assets.
- b. Budget Comparison – Expenses
  - i. Advancement – Includes the addition of marketing expenses and content creation to boost enrollment.

APPENDIX C

<b>COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</b>		
Proposed Budget for FY17		
	<b>Board Approved</b>	
	<b>16-17</b>	
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<b>Education &amp; General</b>		
	Credit Hours Taken	10,685
- Gross Tuition	5,322,175	65.24%
----- Scholarships	2,051,424	25.15%
- Net Tuition Before Fees	3,270,751	40.10%
----- Fees	159,078	1.95%
- Net Tuition and Fees	3,429,829	42.05%
- Gifts and Donations	1,780,000	21.82%
- Auxiliary Enterprises	1,024,239	12.56%
- Funds Released from Temporary Restriction	815,852	10.00%
- Endowed Student Aid	370,425	4.54%
- Operational Endowment	737,130	9.04%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>8,157,475</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>President's Cabinet</b>		
- President/Trustees	254,626	3.18%
- Strategic Academic Projects	124,280	1.55%
- Operations	199,926	2.50%
President's Cabinet Sub-total	578,832	7.23%
<b>Academics</b>		
- Instruction	1,411,895	17.63%
- Field Ed	27,472	0.34%
- D. Min.	50,312	0.63%
- Th. M.	2,000	0.02%
- ACCESS	83,783	1.05%
- Counseling	372,010	4.65%
- World Missions	19,319	0.24%
- Schaeffer Inst.	195,161	2.44%
- Nashville Campus	23,999	0.30%
- Church Planting	91,328	1.14%
Academics Sub-total	2,277,280	28.44%
<b>General</b>		
- Library	389,930	4.87%
- Student Life	353,816	4.42%
- Enrollment Services	327,893	4.10%
- Student Aid - Admin.	65,192	0.81%
- Development	645,704	8.06%
- Communications	240,996	3.01%
- Communications (Restricted)	150,519	1.88%
- Admissions	359,331	4.49%
- Alumni Relations	130,106	1.63%
- Business Office	348,736	4.36%
- Info.Tech. Services	453,607	5.67%
- Physical Plant	951,777	11.89%
General Sub-total	4,417,608	55.18%
<b>Total Educational and General</b>	<b>7,273,720</b>	<b>90.85%</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Enterprises</b>	<b>732,716</b>	<b>9.15%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,006,436</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Net Revenue/(Expense) Before Depreciation</b>	<b>151,040</b>	
President's Salary	149,968	
Benefits	17,019	
Estimated Value of Campus Housing Provided	36,000	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</b>				
<b>BUDGET COMPARISON FOR FY15 THROUGH FY17</b>				
<b>BUDGET - FY15-FY17</b>		<b>Original</b>	<b>Board Approved</b>	<b>FY17B</b>
	14-15	15-16	16-17	vs
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	FY15A
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Education &amp; General</b>				
Credit Hours Sold	10,085	10,810	10,685	600
- Gross Tuition	4,803,798	5,246,655	5,322,175	518,377
----- Scholarships	1,833,998	2,065,992	2,051,424	217,426
- Net Tuition Before Fees	<b>2,969,800</b>	<b>3,180,663</b>	<b>3,270,751</b>	<b>300,951</b>
----- Fees	160,900	175,520	159,078	-1,822
- Net Tuition and Fees	<b>3,130,700</b>	<b>3,356,183</b>	<b>3,429,829</b>	<b>299,129</b>
- Gifts and Donations	1,752,893	1,780,000	1,780,000	27,107
- Auxiliary Enterprises	1,064,802	992,003	1,024,239	-40,563
- Funds Released from Temporary Restriction	609,498	895,805	815,852	206,354
- Endowed Student Aid	277,667	349,170	370,425	92,758
- Unrestricted Endowment	1,012,509	1,105,363	737,130	-275,379
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>7,570,402</b>	<b>8,129,355</b>	<b>8,157,475</b>	<b>587,073</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Educational &amp; General</b>				
- President/Trustees	247,703	255,487	254,626	6,923
- Strategic Academic Projects	120,701	119,255	124,280	3,579
- Operations	190,334	186,252	199,926	9,592
President's Cabinet Sub-total	558,738	560,995	578,832	20,094
- Instruction	1,452,501	1,460,208	1,411,895	-40,606
- Instruction - Field Ed	5,702	9,800	27,472	21,770
- Instruction - D. Min.	35,167	54,945	50,312	15,145
- Instruction - Th. M.	2,004	2,000	2,000	-4
- Instruction - Evening	11,731	75,463	83,783	72,052
- Instruction - ACCESS	363,052	343,638	372,010	8,958
- Instruction - Counseling	20,329	22,128	19,319	-1,010
- Instruction - World Missions	187,056	194,454	195,161	8,105
- Instruction - Schaeffer Inst.	0	0	0	0
- Instruction - Center for Ministry	16,522	0	23,999	7,477
- Instruction - Church Planting	85,558	89,058	91,328	5,770
Instruction Sub-total	2,179,622	2,251,693	2,277,280	97,658
- Library	372,703	374,477	389,930	17,227
- Student Life	350,932	373,983	353,816	2,884
- Registrar's Office	307,515	331,569	327,893	20,378
- Student Aid - Admin.	61,197	61,488	65,192	3,995
- Advancement/Development	564,154	688,082	645,704	81,550
- Communications	287,386	183,925	240,996	-46,390
- Communications Restricted	37,482	145,348	150,519	113,037
- Admissions	294,085	302,400	359,331	65,246
- Alumni Relations	105,956	110,590	130,106	24,150
- Business Office	320,068	377,943	348,736	28,668
- Info.Tech. Services	432,844	441,921	453,607	20,763
- Physical Plant	847,462	927,899	951,777	104,315
General Sub-total	3,981,784	4,319,624	4,417,608	435,824
<b>Total Educational and General</b>	<b>6,720,144</b>	<b>7,132,312</b>	<b>7,273,720</b>	<b>553,576</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Enterprises</b>	<b>742,444</b>	<b>744,608</b>	<b>732,716</b>	<b>-9,728</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,462,588</b>	<b>7,876,920</b>	<b>8,006,436</b>	<b>543,848</b>
<b>Net Revenue/(Expense) Before Depreciation</b>	<b>107,814</b>	<b>252,435</b>	<b>151,040</b>	<b>43,226</b>

APPENDIX C

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY					
BUDGET COMPARISON FY13 - FY17					
	12-13	13-14	14-15	GA Approved 15-16	Board Approved 16-17
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Credit Hours Sold	12,032	10,238	10,085	10,810	10,685
<b>Tuition</b>					
- Gross Tuition	5,762,590	4,861,131	4,803,798	5,246,655	5,322,175
----- Scholarships	2,103,019	1,940,044	1,833,998	2,065,992	2,051,424
- Net Tuition Before Fees	3,659,571	2,921,087	2,969,800	3,180,663	3,270,751
----- Fees	137,894	178,440	160,900	175,520	159,078
- Net Tuition and Fees	3,797,465	3,099,527	3,130,700	3,356,183	3,429,829
- Gifts and Donations	1,548,464	2,151,581	1,752,893	1,780,000	1,780,000
- Auxiliary Enterprises	1,033,558	1,056,121	1,064,802	992,003	1,024,239
- Funds Released from Temporary Restriction	750,340	629,155	609,498	895,805	815,852
- Endowed Student Aid	267,240	286,651	277,667	349,170	370,425
- Unrestricted Endowment	1,095,833	725,042	1,012,509	1,105,363	737,130
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>8,492,900</b>	<b>7,948,077</b>	<b>7,570,402</b>	<b>8,129,355</b>	<b>8,157,475</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Educational &amp; General</b>					
- President/Trustees	304,167	303,899	247,703	255,487	254,626
- Strategic Academic Projects	196,949	89,901	120,701	119,255	124,280
- Operations	367,024	244,755	190,334	186,252	199,926
President's Cabinet Sub-total	868,140	638,555	558,738	560,995	578,832
<b>Academics</b>					
- Instruction	1,676,271	1,566,917	1,452,501	1,460,208	1,411,895
- Instruction - Field Ed			5,702	9,800	27,472
- Instruction - D. Min.	95,011	53,055	35,167	54,945	50,312
- Instruction - Th. M.	2,004	2,004	2,004	2,000	2,000
- Instruction - ACCESS	53,195	76,111	11,731	75,463	83,783
- Instruction - Counseling	334,720	358,593	363,052	343,638	372,010
- Instruction - World Missions	37,187	50,331	20,329	22,128	19,319
- Instruction - Schaeffer Inst.	142,555	185,829	187,056	194,454	195,161
- Instruction - Center for Ministry	106,238	60,213	0	0	0
- Instruction - Nashville Campus	0	0	16,522	0	23,999
- Instruction - Church Planting	89,429	90,575	85,558	89,058	91,328
Instruction Sub-total	2,536,610	2,443,628	2,179,622	2,251,693	2,277,280
<b>General</b>					
- Library	454,738	422,938	372,703	374,477	389,930
- Student Life	346,867	360,758	350,932	373,983	353,816
- Registrar's Office	329,258	329,932	307,515	331,569	327,893
- Student Aid - Admin.	105,593	98,246	61,197	61,488	65,192
- Advancement/Development	532,126	512,141	564,154	688,082	645,704
- Communications	418,335	346,514	287,386	183,925	240,996
- Communications Restricted	0	0	37,482	145,348	150,519
- Admissions	408,237	401,050	294,085	302,400	359,331
- Alumni Relations	95,675	97,803	105,956	110,590	130,106
- Business Office	339,805	408,684	320,068	377,943	348,736
- Info.Tech. Services	402,582	373,364	432,844	441,921	453,607
- Physical Plant	988,469	999,794	847,462	927,899	951,777
General Sub-total	4,421,685	4,351,224	3,981,784	4,319,624	4,417,608
<b>Total Educational and General</b>	<b>7,826,435</b>	<b>7,433,407</b>	<b>6,720,144</b>	<b>7,132,312</b>	<b>7,273,720</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Enterprises</b>	<b>663,717</b>	<b>676,906</b>	<b>742,444</b>	<b>744,608</b>	<b>732,716</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,490,152</b>	<b>8,110,313</b>	<b>7,462,588</b>	<b>7,876,920</b>	<b>8,006,436</b>
<b>Net Revenue/(Expense) Before Depreciation</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>(162,236)</b>	<b>107,814</b>	<b>252,435</b>	<b>151,040</b>

**MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA  
PROPOSED BUDGET  
2017**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

A. The Committee on Mission to North America (MNA) is a Permanent Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America, serving Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) churches and presbyteries under the nonprofit corporation of the PCA. MNA provides leadership and coordination of resources for church planting and outreach ministries at the denominational level for the United States and Canada. MNA carries out its ministry through the following programs:

- ✓ Church Planting –
  - African American Ministries
  - Church Planter Development/Recruitment
  - Church Planting Spouses Ministry
  - Church Renewal
  - Haitian American Ministries
  - Hispanic American Ministries
  - Korean Ministries
  - Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP)
  - Midwest Church Planting Ministry
  - Native American/First Nations Ministries
  - Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches
  - Western Region Church Planting Ministry
  - Southwest and South Central Church Planting Ministry
  
- ✓ Outreach Ministries –
  - Chaplain Ministries
  - Disaster Response
  - English as a Second Language (ESL)
  - Metanoia Prison Ministries
  - Ministry to State
  - MNA Second Career Ministries
  - MNA ShortTerm Missions
  - Refugee and Immigrant Ministries
  - Special Needs Ministries
  - Urban and Mercy Ministries



## APPENDIX C

- ✓ Ministry to Constituency – MNA provides publications and referrals for established PCA churches to equip them for participation in church planting and outreach ministries.
  - ✓ The PCA Five Million Fund (5MF) – The purpose of the 5MF, managed by MNA, is to make loans to PCA churches and mission churches to help them obtain land or to build first buildings they could not afford by any other means.
- B. Budget estimates, overall, are guided by several factors to include cost of living increase, current economic conditions, as well as past history of actual expenses over a three (3) to five (5) year period of time.

### **II. Major Changes in Budget**

No major changes are reflected in the proposed 2017 budget.

### **III. Income Streams**

MNA's main income streams come through constituent donations, partnership share, and investment income.

### **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

All budgeted ministries were implemented in the past year.

### **V. Notes to Budget Line Items**

- ◆ **Our Calling**  
MNA coordinates church planting and outreach ministries to serve PCA churches and presbyteries in North America in their mission to grow and multiply biblically healthy churches.
- ◆ Assumption for 2017 budget: MNA is submitting a 2017 proposed budget that is an increase of almost 7.00% from the 2016 budget. Due to an increase in church planter project accounts and permanent staff accounts, we believe this is a realistic Total Expense Budget for 2017.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ◆ Per Capita Calculation: The 2017 Proposed *Total Expense Budget* of \$12,502,948 is adjusted down using the following formula:

2017 Proposed Total Expense Budget	\$12,502,948
2017 Proposed Church Planters/Missionaries Expense	<u>( 7,591,526)</u>
Subtotal	4,911,422
2017 Budgeted investment income	( 161,770)
2017 Budgeted conference revenue	<u>( 190,007)</u>
Total Net Partnership Share Fund	<u>\$ 4,559,645</u>

The *per capita* calculation of the *Partnership Share Fund* will be \$4,559,645 divided by the number of PCA members. The MNA Ministry Ask figure will remain at \$26 for 2017.

- ◆ An overall net increase of 3% in salaries and 5% in benefits is assumed. That is an aggregate of cost of living, merit increases and health insurance costs.
- ◆ Due to an evaluation of personnel needs, the total number of full-time equivalent staff budgeted for in the 2017 budget is 22.00 FTE, which is an increase from the 2016 budget. There currently two (2) vacant positions.
- ◆ The cost being charged by the Administrative Committee for office space remained the same at \$12 per square foot for the 2017 budget projection.

APPENDIX C

**Mission to North America  
Proposed 2017 Budget**

	<b>Total Program</b>	<b>Total Administration/ General</b>	<b>Total Fund Raising</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Support and Revenue</b>					
Contributions	\$ 10,912,410	\$ 756,004	\$ 482,757	\$ 12,151,171	97.2%
Investment	-	161,770	-	161,770	1.3%
Conference Revenues	190,007	-	-	190,007	1.5%
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>11,102,417</b>	<b>917,774</b>	<b>482,757</b>	<b>12,502,948</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Coordinator Salary & Housing	-	88,582	88,582	177,165	1.4%
Coordinator Benefits	-	21,999	21,999	43,998	0.4%
Salaries	1,457,162	291,018	245,182	1,993,362	15.9%
Benefits	256,380	78,761	52,355	387,496	3.1%
Projects/Direct Support	8,536,136	146,100	-	8,682,237	69.4%
Travel	302,036	50,530	43,346	395,912	3.2%
Telephone	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Postage	12,535	32,731	19,578	64,844	0.5%
Materials/Supplies	64,607	-	-	64,607	0.5%
Office Space	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Scholarship/Training	125,984	-	-	125,984	1.0%
Missionary Ministry Programming	8,500	-	-	8,500	0.1%
Ministry Development	132,065	52,888	-	184,953	1.5%
Ministry Publications	136,199	-	-	136,199	1.1%
Conferences/Meetings	55,349	-	-	55,349	0.4%
Insurance	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Equipment & Maintenance	-	-	6,715	6,715	0.1%
Consultants	1,684	-	-	1,684	0.0%
NAE Dues	1,654	3,597	-	5,251	0.0%
Audit/Legal Services	-	40,571	-	40,571	0.3%
General Assembly	6,615	66,895	-	73,510	0.6%
Committee Meeting	5,513	19,101	-	24,613	0.2%
Foundation	-	-	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Depreciation	-	40,000	-	40,000	0.3%
Capital Expenditures	-	25,000	-	25,000	0.2%
Depreciation	-	(40,000)	-	(40,000)	-0.3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,102,417</b>	<b>917,774</b>	<b>482,757</b>	<b>12,502,948</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Net of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Mission to North America Budget Comparison Spreadsheet For Proposed 2017 Budget

	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	Proposed 2017 Budget	% of Total	Change in Budget	
						\$	%
<b>Support and Revenues</b>							
Individuals	\$ 400,226	\$ 163,946	\$ 172,143	\$ 210,750	1.69%	\$ 38,607	22.43%
Individuals - Designated for permanent staff	1,728,342	864,544	907,771	1,038,160	8.30%	130,389	14.36%
Individuals - Designated for church planters	6,434,333	3,393,889	3,563,583	3,741,763	29.93%	178,179	5.00%
Churches	1,356,927	1,815,491	1,904,768	2,000,006	16.00%	95,238	5.00%
Churches - Designated for permanent staff	1,014,184	801,524	841,600	967,510	7.74%	125,910	14.96%
Churches - Designated for church planters	3,122,630	3,491,849	3,666,441	3,849,764	30.79%	183,322	5.00%
Corporation/Foundation	1,966,359	311,310	326,876	343,219	2.75%	16,344	5.00%
Investment	49,928	146,730	154,067	161,770	1.29%	7,703	5.00%
Conference Revenues	223,666	167,807	176,197	190,007	1.52%	13,809	7.84%
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>16,296,594</b>	<b>11,157,090</b>	<b>11,713,446</b>	<b>12,502,948</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>789,502</b>	<b>6.74%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
<b>Program</b>							
Church Planters and Missionaries	9,556,962	6,885,738	7,230,025	7,591,526	60.72%	361,502	5.00%
Church Planting	1,627,593	1,653,704	1,736,390	1,823,209	14.58%	86,819	5.00%
Outreach Ministries	1,650,497	1,182,331	1,241,448	1,508,849	12.07%	267,402	21.54%
Ministry to Constituency	84,853	160,678	168,712	177,148	1.42%	8,436	5.00%
Five Million Fund (39,950)		1,528	1,604	1,684	0.01%	80	4.97%
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>12,879,956</b>	<b>9,883,979</b>	<b>10,378,179</b>	<b>11,102,417</b>	<b>88.80%</b>	<b>724,238</b>	<b>6.98%</b>
<b>Support Services</b>							
Administrative & General	978,558	731,771	768,360	806,778	6.45%	38,418	5.00%
General Assembly	30,867	60,674	63,709	66,895	0.54%	3,187	5.00%
Committee Meetings	9,286	17,325	18,192	19,101	0.15%	909	5.00%
Development	426,343	433,340	455,007	477,758	3.82%	22,750	5.00%
PCA Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>1,445,054</b>	<b>1,248,111</b>	<b>1,310,268</b>	<b>1,375,531</b>	<b>11.00%</b>	<b>65,264</b>	<b>4.98%</b>
Capital Expenditures	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	0.20%	-	0.00%
Depreciation Expense	18,790	40,000	40,000	40,000	0.32%	-	0.00%
Depreciation Expense	-	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>14,343,800</b>	<b>11,157,090</b>	<b>11,713,446</b>	<b>12,502,948</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>789,502</b>	<b>6.74%</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,952,794</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>			
<b>Additional Information:</b>							
Coordinator Salary	\$ 115,740	\$ 166,995	\$ 172,005	\$ 177,165		5,160	3%
Coordinator Benefits	38,163	39,908	41,903	43,998		2,095	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 153,903</b>	<b>\$ 206,903</b>	<b>\$ 213,908</b>	<b>\$ 221,163</b>		<b>7,255</b>	<b>3%</b>

APPENDIX C

**MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA  
Five Year Financial History (Actual)**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Support/Revenues</b>					
Individuals	\$ 4,065,025	\$ 5,200,411	\$ 5,414,192	\$ 5,864,530	\$ 8,562,900
Churches	4,385,732	4,450,169	4,943,415	4,982,757	5,493,741
Corporation/Foundation	787,639	691,519	611,472	608,041	1,966,359
Investment	302,551	173,252	(209,062)	168,610	49,928
Conference Revenues	168,156	160,781	215,019	259,706	223,666
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>9,709,103</b>	<b>10,676,134</b>	<b>10,975,036</b>	<b>11,883,644</b>	<b>16,296,594</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Program</b>					
Church Planting	7,180,401	6,552,951	8,192,212	8,635,848	11,184,555
Outreach Ministries	1,089,734	1,106,704	1,535,383	1,519,375	1,650,497
Ministry to Constituency	118,012	121,841	118,728	156,791	84,853
Five Million Fund	137	428	1,974	572	(39,950)
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>8,388,284</b>	<b>7,781,924</b>	<b>9,848,298</b>	<b>10,312,586</b>	<b>12,879,956</b>
<b>Support Services</b>					
Administrative and General	737,252	825,688	903,930	878,810	978,558
General Assembly	45,517	65,375	40,377	52,939	30,867
Committee Meetings	11,724	9,967	6,234	4,840	9,286
Development	383,466	393,650	396,887	397,471	426,343
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>1,177,959</b>	<b>1,294,680</b>	<b>1,347,428</b>	<b>1,334,060</b>	<b>1,445,054</b>
Depreciation Expense	23,972	36,119	30,775	42,592	18,790
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,590,215</b>	<b>9,112,723</b>	<b>11,226,501</b>	<b>11,689,238</b>	<b>14,343,800</b>
<b>Revenues Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 118,888</b>	<b>\$ 1,563,411</b>	<b>\$ (251,465)</b>	<b>\$ 194,406</b>	<b>\$ 1,952,794</b>

NOTE regarding negative final outcomes: The deficit in any year is created by spending down the project and designated support accounts which had accumulated positive balances in previous years. Therefore, they indicate disbursement of actual cash rather than deficit spending.

**MISSION TO THE WORLD  
PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED 2017 BUDGET**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Focus:**

The 2017 budget is proposed from an analysis of key factors that influence the income and expenses of Mission to the World operating in a global context with a rapidly-changing global economy. We start by reviewing the results of 2015 and extend these indicators into 2016 and 2017.

In 2015, the U.S. dollar gained against most major currencies. For example, the dollar strengthened against the Euro by approximately 11% for the year. Because the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan are in easing mode while the U.S. Federal Reserve is in the early stages of a tightening cycle, many expect a continuation of dollar strengthening. The U.S. economy showed continued slow growth in 2015, with a declining unemployment rate. However, low growth in workers poses a challenge to Gross Domestic Product growth. Growth in many international developed economies trails U.S. growth.

There were modest investment returns in 2015. The Standard & Poor's 500, measuring large capitalization U.S. stocks, was a leading index despite returning just 1.4%. The MSCI Europe, Australasia, and Far East index, which represents international developed market equities, fell 0.8%. The Barclays U.S. Aggregate, the most prominent fixed income index, rose just 0.6%. While U.S. equities have typically performed positively in the early stages of an interest rate tightening cycle, we expect moderate equity returns in the near term. We believe that a continued rise in the dollar may pose a challenge to U.S. investors in international securities.

Remembering that the entire program of Mission to the World is by the grace of God, we want to give God praise for a positive year. In 2015 MTW saw a 0.6% increase in giving from individuals and a 1.7% decrease in giving from organizations. We rejoice that we were able to see our ministries fully funded in the midst of the uncertain U.S. and global economic conditions.

**II. Major Changes in Budget:**

Changes in budget reflect a careful look at the recovering economy and a desire to be good stewards of the resources God gives us through His people. The proposed budget should allow us to continue to give full support to our missionaries while helping them to advance the Kingdom.

In 2017, we will seek greater engagement with national partners at a strategic level. We will continue emphasizing partnerships with PCA churches, national partners and other agencies to advance church planting around the world. We will seek to open new ministries with an emphasis on church planting, mercy ministry and Business As Missions.

In 2015, we experienced a decrease of four long-term missionaries over 2014, and a decrease of 18 two-year missionaries. We also experienced a decrease in interns and a decrease in two-week participants. Our budget anticipates that we will experience a slight increase in long-term and two-year missionaries, as well as a small increase in interns. The two-week program will shift to a field-driven model; therefore, we anticipate a decline in number of participants in one and two-week missions projects.

Development efforts of the Partner Relations Department will continue to focus on raising endowment funds that will reduce the administrative fee for long-term missionaries, as well as new major gifts to fund programs and new initiatives. Our Mobilization Department has also set goals to continue to strengthen relationships with churches. Their goal is to find ways to help churches further their international mission goals by providing MTW resources where needed, which should positively impact missions in 2017. MTW's mobilization efforts have been enhanced in 2016 in an effort to provide greater resources to the denomination and to potential missionaries.

Plans for information technology in 2017 will focus on a new financial accounting application and missionary support requirement system to replace the current aging system which we can no longer support or modify. This will supplement a new online expense reimbursement application that will merge with the new portal using SharePoint software completed in 2015. In 2015, we initiated a new platform for our website, and in 2016 we will add a mobilization tool and enhance our online giving portal. These new platforms support our tracking systems and add efficiency to our missionary mobilizing, candidate processing and our process working with our short-term participants. The implementation of this application will be performed in stages and will take a few years to complete.

### **III. Income Streams:**

Projections have been made regarding the number of missionaries, Home Office personnel, annual income and annual expenses. In making these projections, the following assumption has been used:

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We anticipate that continued efforts to recruit missionaries in 2016 would show additional results during 2017.

Ministry Personnel Plans	2013	2014	2015	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Long-term Missionaries	620	590	586	595	624
Two-year Missionaries	118	115	100	112	117
Intern Missionaries	276	230	148	150	157
Two-week Missionaries	4,810	4,599	4,369	Lower*	Unknown

\* Two –week is undergoing a re-design to a more field-driven model.

The implementation of the Home Office re-design is in process and, once completed, will support our strategic initiatives while controlling the growth of administrative fees. There will be some realignment to match the changing culture we live in, and additions will be directly related to new ministry that will generate needed income.

During 2015, we saw further improvement in the U.S. dollar’s purchasing power overseas, which helped control our Goods and Services cost, as it required less U.S. dollars to buy needed things. The dollar has shown gains in early 2016; however, this trend may not continue throughout 2016. We anticipate a slight decline in purchasing power in 2017. Accordingly, we will take necessary steps to keep income and expenses in balance.

Income projections have assumed a gradual decrease reflecting the anticipated decline in two-week missionaries. We anticipate this decline will be partially offset by the generous support for missionaries from churches and individuals. We have projected the support requirements of missionaries, adjusted the numbers for inflation, and balanced this with future income projections. For expense projections we modified the historic trends for salary adjustments resulting in a small per-missionary unit increase for 2016.

Missionary support accounts with deficit balances continue to remain low. Total deficits for all missionaries continued to remain low through 2015, indicating strong support from MTW ministry partners and proactive management.



## APPENDIX C

Partnership share giving for the Home Office has stabilized at about \$1.1 million. Partnership share giving in 2017 is projected to level off and remain constant, although we will continue to work with churches to see the amount increase.

Project and field income is calculated by reviewing active special projects and collecting field ministry budgets from all teams and missionaries. We expect a slight increase in 2017. Our Ambassadors program continues to provide major funding for new fields, church planting, training nationals, and mercy ministry.

Investment income projections assume that interest rates will continue to remain low over the next two years. In 2017, we expect a slight increase in distributions to the general fund due to the cash management program that has been put in place.

The Medical Insurance Fund (MIF) had an excellent year in 2015. As a result, the MIF reserve has reached approximately \$4.6 million. For 2017, we expect further reductions in fees at the CareHere Clinic. Dental benefits have increased and certain in-network preventive care is now covered at 100%.

The missionary administrative assessment charge will be reduced by approximately \$200,000 as the Home Office continues to absorb credit card and expense processing fees. We anticipate that earnings from endowment will continue to reduce administrative fees.

### **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

All major ministry items were implemented.

### **V. Notes to Budget**

The following three tables show the consolidated income and expense budget proposed for 2017. The first table shows the 2017 budget broken down into major components. The second table presents a historical perspective showing 2015 and 2016 budgets approved at General Assembly, 2016 information, and the changes in budget from 2016 to 2017. The third table shows a five-year history of income and expenses.

In addition to the income and expense budget, the capital expense budget is requested in the amount of \$301,000 for information technology, software purchases, network hardware, and improved telecommunication.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MISSION TO THE WORLD							
PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET							
	Consolidated Budget	Ministry		Fund	Designated		% of
	Functional Analysis	Program	Administration	Raising	Programs	Totals	Totals
<b>Income</b>							
	Missionary Contributions	40,957,871				40,957,871	68.3%
	Project and Field Contributions	10,661,886				10,661,886	17.8%
	Unrestricted Contributions		1,288,201			1,288,201	2.1%
	Investment Income		872,135			872,135	1.5%
	Endowment Contributions				495,000	495,000	0.8%
	Gift Annuity and DAF Income				5,355,073	5,355,073	8.9%
	Other Income				300,792	300,792	0.5%
	<b>Total Income</b>	51,619,757	2,160,336	0	6,150,865	59,930,958	100.0%
<b>Transfers</b>							
	<b>Total Transfers</b>	(12,432,700)	6,724,900	0	5,707,800	0	
<b>Total Income &amp; Transfers</b>		39,187,057	8,885,236	0	11,858,665	59,930,958	
<b>Expenses</b>							
	Staff Salary and Benefits		6,193,427			6,193,427	11.8%
	Staff Personnel Costs		183,424			183,424	0.4%
	Facilities and Vehicles		170,600			170,600	0.3%
	Communications		202,059			202,059	0.4%
	Fees, Dues, Insurance		518,979			518,979	1.0%
	Financial		40,057			40,057	0.1%
	IT/Electronic Communicat		176,634			176,634	0.3%
	Ministry and Nat'l Train		5,821			5,821	0.0%
	Office Operating		76,199			76,199	0.1%
	Postage/Shipping		57,909			57,909	0.1%
	Other Miscellaneous Expenses		0			0	0.0%
	Seminars/Conferences		87,778			87,778	0.2%
	Travel, Entertain. Meals		442,109			442,109	0.8%
	Project and Field Expenses	10,589,712				10,589,712	20.2%
	Missionary Salary and Benefits	23,808,867				23,808,867	45.5%
	Missionary travel and preparation	3,011,958				3,011,958	5.8%
	Missionary associated costs	2,208,051				2,208,051	4.2%
	MIF Claims & Expenses				4,061,578	4,061,578	7.8%
	Depreciation				509,524	509,524	1.0%
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	39,618,588	8,154,996	0	4,571,102	52,344,686	100%
	Consolidated Excess or Deficit(1)	(431,531)	730,240	0	7,287,563	7,586,272	
	Less Special Restriction Income(2)					5,850,073	
	Operational Excess or (Deficit)[1 less 2]					1,736,199	

APPENDIX C

MISSION TO THE WORLD							
BUDGET COMPARISONS STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET							
	PreLIm						
Consolidated Budget	2015	2015 GA	2016 GA	2017 GA	Budget	2016 TO 2017	
Budget Comparison	Actual	Approved	Approved	Proposed	% of	Change in Budget	
		Budget	Budget	Budget	Totals	\$ Inc.	% Inc.
<b>Income</b>							
Missionary Contributions	40,552,347	43,190,100	42,845,100	40,957,871	68.3%	(1,887,229)	-4.4%
Project and Field Contributions	10,556,323	9,667,900	10,426,500	10,661,886	17.8%	235,386	2.3%
Unrestricted Contributions	1,275,447	1,143,600	1,132,900	1,288,201	2.1%	155,301	13.7%
Investment Income	1,398,615	1,111,200	1,025,500	872,135	1.5%	(153,365)	-15.0%
Endowment Contributions	15,576,687	2,230,100	1,133,700	495,000	0.8%	(638,700)	-56.3%
Gift Annuity and DAF Income	5,302,053	4,226,000	5,168,100	5,355,073	8.9%	186,973	3.6%
Other Income	297,814	768,900	98,100	300,792	0.5%	202,692	206.6%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>74,959,285</b>	<b>62,337,800</b>	<b>61,829,900</b>	<b>59,930,958</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>(1,898,942)</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Staff Salary and Benefits	6,125,376	5,493,200	5,640,300	6,193,427	11.8%	553,127	9.8%
Staff Personnel Costs	181,608	231,700	234,800	183,424	0.4%	(51,376)	-21.9%
Facilities and Vehicles	168,911	134,600	146,700	170,600	0.3%	23,900	16.3%
Communications	200,058	331,100	246,400	202,059	0.4%	(44,341)	-18.0%
Fees, Dues, Insurance	513,841	449,200	453,100	518,979	1.0%	65,879	14.5%
Financial	39,660	347,900	282,000	40,057	0.1%	(241,943)	-85.8%
IT/Electronic Communicat	174,885	206,900	189,000	176,634	0.3%	(12,366)	-6.5%
Ministry and Nat'l Train	2,246,448	1,094,700	2,181,200	5,821	0.0%	(2,175,379)	-99.7%
Office Operating	75,445	73,500	82,500	76,199	0.1%	(6,301)	-7.6%
Postage/Shipping	57,336	78,200	86,500	57,909	0.1%	(28,591)	-33.1%
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	11,452	0	10,800	0	0.0%	(10,800)	-100.0%
Seminars/Conferences	86,909	410,100	204,800	87,778	0.2%	(117,022)	-57.1%
Travel, Entertain, Meals	437,732	858,200	1,387,000	442,109	0.8%	(944,891)	-68.1%
Project and Field Expenses	10,743,904	9,891,300	9,913,200	10,589,712	20.2%	676,512	6.8%
Missionary Salary and Benefits	23,573,136	26,017,600	26,165,400	23,808,867	45.5%	(2,356,533)	-9.0%
Missionary travel and preparation	2,982,137	3,959,000	4,081,900	3,011,958	5.8%	(1,069,942)	-26.2%
Missionary associated costs	2,186,189	2,096,100	1,967,900	2,208,051	4.2%	240,151	12.2%
MIF Claims & Expenses	4,021,364	7,105,200	6,352,900	4,061,578	7.8%	(2,291,322)	-36.1%
Depreciation	504,479	718,000	422,200	509,524	1.0%	87,324	20.7%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>54,330,870</b>	<b>59,496,500</b>	<b>60,048,600</b>	<b>52,344,686</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>(7,703,914)</b>	<b>-12.8%</b>
Consolidated Excess or Deficit(1)	20,628,415	2,841,300	1,781,300	7,586,272			
Special Restriction Income(2)	17,828,124	2,840,500	1,770,300	5,850,073			
Operational Excess/(Deficit)[1 less 2]	2,800,291	800	11,000	1,736,199			
Coordinator's 2016 salary is \$116,440, housing is \$42,000 and benefits at \$48,796.							
Coordinator's 2017 salary is projected to be \$121,193, housing at \$42,000 and benefits at \$47,081.							

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>MISSION TO THE WORLD</b>					
<b>PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET - FIVE YEAR ACTUAL HISTORICAL DATA</b>					
					Preliminary
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Missionary Contributions	38,377,905	40,061,505	40,484,442	40,581,773	40,552,347
Project and Field Contributions	11,168,365	8,557,148	9,796,085	10,182,897	10,556,323
Unrestricted Contributions	1,427,412	1,361,039	1,310,331	1,295,455	1,275,447
Investment Income	1,455,947	1,559,173	1,596,668	1,313,050	1,398,615
Endowment Contributions	209,411	1,883,393	7,868,834	2,612,650	15,576,687
Gift Annuity and DAF Income	3,258,230	4,435,030	4,825,908	7,316,865	5,302,053
Other Income	667,336	244,717	968,946	298,298	297,814
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>56,564,606</b>	<b>58,102,005</b>	<b>66,851,214</b>	<b>63,600,988</b>	<b>74,959,285</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Staff Salary and Benefits	5,028,847	5,291,457	5,346,456	5,425,150	6,125,376
Staff Personnel Costs	251,976	213,225	211,128	178,794	181,608
Facilities and Vehicles	134,857	124,886	142,518	151,058	168,911
Communications	261,697	238,719	300,043	236,779	200,058
Fees, Dues, Insurance	493,483	665,178	416,438	396,183	513,841
Financial	303,247	316,067	328,750	384,759	39,660
IT/Electronic Communicat	187,245	159,674	201,381	204,825	174,885
Ministry and Nat'l Train	967,671	1,416,720	963,092	1,318,177	2,246,448
Office Operating	65,784	63,633	72,726	82,487	75,445
Postage/Shipping	90,076	76,548	68,187	77,352	57,336
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	18,676	41,054	15,859	11,452	11,452
Seminars/Conferences	200,418	113,031	360,032	219,614	86,909
Travel, Entertain. Meals	804,684	683,566	780,751	1,277,916	437,732
Project and Field Expenses	10,956,223	8,551,935	8,943,319	10,311,381	10,743,904
Missionary Salary and Benefits	23,100,502	24,013,633	24,630,979	24,664,938	23,573,136
Missionary travel and preparation	3,265,363	3,875,633	3,843,803	4,001,755	2,982,137
Missionary associated costs	1,832,508	1,796,579	2,035,038	1,904,368	2,186,189
MIF Claims & Expenses	4,805,846	4,632,876	5,918,255	3,954,561	4,021,364
Depreciation	504,130	654,738	663,865	536,634	504,479
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>53,273,233</b>	<b>52,929,152</b>	<b>55,242,620</b>	<b>55,338,183</b>	<b>54,330,870</b>
Consolidated Excess or Deficit	3,291,373	5,172,853	11,608,594	8,262,805	20,628,415
New Restricted Funds	n.a.	3,577,864	9,988,918	8,237,030	17,828,124
Operational Excess or Deficit	n.a.	1,565,908	1,645,097	(17,785)	(1,489,654)
General Fund Excess or Deficit	143,955	29,081	(25,421)	43,560	4,289,946
Note: The 2015 actuals are slightly different from other budget reports due to pre-audit adjustments since February 1, 2016.					
Note: The 2015 actuals are pre-audit figures as the Audit is not complete until April 30, 2016.					

APPENDIX C

**PROPOSED 2017 GA BUDGET – CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

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Description of Asset:	GA Approved 2016 Capital Budget	GA Proposed 2017 Capital Budget
Computer Network Security Hardware	25,000	47,000
Dell Server	10,000	0
New Application Software	45,000	45,000
Telephone and LAN Equipment	13,000	37,000
Furniture and Building Improvements	25,000	25,000
Contract Labor – Financial Software Implementation	25,000	75,000
Financial System Software	0	72,000
Total Capital Budget	143,000	301,000

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.  
2017 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**BUDGET NOTES**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

The PCA Foundation's (PCAF) primary purpose is to use its assets "...for the support of the cause of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, primarily through the Presbyterian Church in America, but also through other groups, societies, organizations, and institutions that minister in Jesus' name to man's spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual powers." (PCAF Articles of Incorporation)

The purpose of the PCAF is accomplished primarily by providing information, education, and charitable financial services to individuals and families in order to help them carry out their charitable desires and stewardship responsibilities.

The PCAF offers the following charitable financial services: Advise and Consult Funds (donor-advised funds), Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Trusts, Endowments, Designated Funds for Churches, Estate Design, Bequest Processing, and providing educational materials, presentations and information.

The PCA Foundation has been somewhat affected since late 2008 by the recession and its slow recovery, the weakened financial markets and declining interest rates. These circumstances had a negative impact in late 2008 and during 2009 on the gifting of appreciated assets, the fair market values of the PCA Foundation's assets and the income earned on some of its funds. Since 2009 gifting to the PCAF and total asset balances have shown continual growth due to improving financial markets, more awareness of the Foundation and its services, and other circumstances. The challenge of earning income on some of the PCAF's funds still remains, and will continue considering financial market volatility.

The PCA Foundation's proposed Operating and Capital Budget for 2017 of \$1,097,000 represents a \$91,000 or 9.0% increase from the 2016 General Assembly approved budget, primarily due to adding an administrative position and increased marketing related expenses.

## **II. Major Changes in Budget**

There are no major changes in operations included in the proposed 2017 Budget.

## **III. Income Streams**

The PCAF is self-supported. It does not participate in the PCA's Partnership Shares Program, nor does it rely on the financial support of churches to help underwrite its operating expenses.

Approximately 75% of the PCAF's total 2017 budgeted operating revenue will be derived from interest/earnings generated by its Advise and Consult Fund, the PCAF Endowment and several bank accounts. Trustee/Administrative Fees on Charitable Trusts, Endowments and other accounts are budgeted to provide approximately 20% of the budgeted revenues, and charitable contributions (primarily from a small number of individuals and Board members) account for the remaining 5%.

The sources of revenue and support described above should be attainable and sufficient to provide the 2017 budgeted operating revenues.

## **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

There were no new major ministry plans of the PCA Foundation scheduled for implementation during 2015.

## **V. Notes to Budget "line items"**

### **General Comments**

The 2017 Operating and Capital Budget of \$1,097,000 represents a \$91,000 or 9.0% increase compared to the 2016 Budget of \$1,006,000. The primary reasons for the increase in the 2017 Operating and Capital Budget compared to the 2016 Budget is the increase in budgeted staff wages and benefits (\$66,981) which includes an additional full-time administrative assistant and also increased marketing related expenses (\$10,000).

**Notes to Proposed 2017 Budget** - (Notes generally relate to the proposed 2017 Budget Sheet and address notable variances of the 2017 Budget compared to the 2016 Budget.)

**Support & Revenue**

The 2017 Budget for Support and Revenue is \$1,097,000, the amount needed to fund the 2017 Operating and Capital Budget.

Note: The PCA Foundation does not participate in the PCA's Partnership Shares or Ministry Asks programs. It is self-supported.

Undesignated Earnings (line 1) – These payouts are from funds held by the PCA Foundation, mainly from Advise & Consult Funds and the PCAF Endowment, which help underwrite the Foundation's operating expenses. The payout percentages are set annually by the PCA Foundation's Board, and generally are somewhat correlated to the expected investment returns of the accounts. However, during times when the expected investment returns may be lower than the payout amounts needed to fund operations, reserves in these accounts are more than adequate to compensate for the differences. The 2017 Budget of \$806,000 represents a \$81,000, or 11.2% increase from the 2016 Budget amount of \$725,000. This is primarily the result of an anticipated increase in projected balances and income in the Advise & Consult Fund New Pool Fund compared to what was budgeted in the 2016 Budget.

C & A Support (line 2) – This line was previously used for the total General Assembly mandated support from four Committees and Agencies (Covenant College, Covenant Theological Seminary, Mission to North America and Mission to the World). In 1996, the total amount was \$176,000 and was reduced down incrementally to \$0 by 2000, the year the Foundation successfully achieved self-supporting status.

Fees (line 3) – 2017 Budgeted fees are administrative fees charged on funds held for long term administration such as Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Trusts, Endowments, and Designated Funds, etc. The 2017 Budget amount of \$225,000 is compared to the 2016 Budget amount of \$215,000. Current account balances, the anticipation of new accounts in 2016, along with some expected improvement in the economy and the financial markets make achieving the 2017 Budgeted fee income realistic.



## APPENDIX C

Contributions (line 4) – Gifts primarily from a small number of individuals and Board members help underwrite the Foundation’s Operating Budget. The contributions budgeted for 2017 are \$50,000, compared to \$50,000 in the 2016 Budget.

### **Operations Expenses**

The 2017 amount budgeted for operating expenses is \$1,096,500, compared to \$1,005,500 budgeted for 2016, an increase of \$91,000 or 9.1%.

Staff Wages & Benefits (lines 6, 7 and 8) – 2017 is budgeted at \$793,300, representing an increase of 9.2% or \$66,981 from the 2016 Budget amount of \$726,319. \$52,667 of this increase is due to budgeting for an additional administrative position. Wage increases budgeted for 2017 are approximately 3% of estimated 2016 wages.

The 2017 Budget for Staff Wages and Benefits of \$793,300 represents an increase of \$209,547 over the 2015 Actual of \$583,753. However, of this amount, \$115,147 is due to the salary and benefits of a Development/Marketing position which was vacant in 2015 (note: this function might be outsourced in 2017, in which case promotion expense would increase accordingly), plus \$52,667 for the newly budgeted administrative position. The remainder of the increase of \$41,733 is due to wage, payroll tax, health insurance, and retirement plan contribution expense increases, plus increased part-time employee expenses over the two-year period.

All Other Operating Expenses (lines 9 - 24) – All other operating expenses for the 2017 Budget are \$303,200, compared to \$279,181 in the 2016 Budget, an increase of \$24,019. This increase is primarily due to increased marketing related expenses (\$10,000) and increased travel expense (\$5,000).

### **Capital Expenditures**

Capital Expenditures (line 25) – The 2017 Budget of \$32,500 consists of work station build-outs, new chairs, office equipment, server, new software applications and other.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC. PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET	GENERAL & ADMIN.	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	2017 TOTALS	% OF TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>								
1. UNDESIGNATED EARNINGS	595,000	710,000	725,000	806,000	-	-	806,000	73.47
2. C&A SUPPORT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. FEES	210,749	202,000	215,000	225,000	-	-	225,000	20.51
4. CONTRIBUTIONS	57,871	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	4.56
5. INTEREST INCOME	12,975	14,000	16,000	16,000	-	-	16,000	1.46
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>876,595</b>	<b>976,000</b>	<b>1,006,000</b>	<b>1,047,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	-	<b>1,097,000</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>								
6. PRESIDENT'S SALARY	177,200	177,200	182,500	67,550	125,450	-	193,000	17.59
7. PRESIDENT'S BENEFITS	39,900	39,900	41,100	15,750	29,250	-	45,000	4.10
8. STAFF WAGES & BENEFITS	366,653	478,419	502,719	364,535	190,765	-	555,300	50.62
9. TRAVEL EXPENSE	9,044	20,000	20,000	3,975	21,525	-	25,500	2.32
10. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	41,850	43,000	43,500	37,000	7,500	-	44,500	4.06
11. PROMOTION	13,858	34,000	32,000	-	40,000	-	40,000	3.65
12. OFFICE EXPENSE	31,080	31,000	40,000	32,850	13,650	-	46,500	4.24
13. POSTAGE/UPS/FED EX	5,135	9,000	8,000	2,500	7,500	-	10,000	0.91
14. TAXES & LICENSES	121	300	300	300	-	-	300	0.03
15. RENT	29,016	29,040	29,040	29,040	-	-	29,040	2.65
16. TELEPHONE	5,282	5,000	5,000	1,750	5,250	-	7,000	0.64
17. DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	6,973	7,000	8,000	2,800	5,200	-	8,000	0.73
18. TRAINING	-	2,500	2,500	2,700	800	-	3,500	0.32
19. BOARD EXPENSE	21,518	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	-	16,000	1.46
20. OFFICE INSURANCE	20,800	17,800	21,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	1.82
21. GA EXPENSE	6,056	5,000	6,000	6,000	-	-	6,000	0.55
22. ADMIN/GA NOM. CMTES.	13,673	14,000	14,000	14,000	-	-	14,000	1.28
23. MISCELLANEOUS	758	1,841	341	860	-	-	860	0.08
24. DEPRECIATION	10,873	14,500	33,500	22,400	9,600	-	32,000	2.92
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>	<b>799,790</b>	<b>945,500</b>	<b>1,005,500</b>	<b>640,010</b>	<b>456,490</b>	-	<b>1,096,500</b>	<b>99.95</b>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS	76,805	30,500	500	406,990	(406,490)	-	500	0.05
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>								
25. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	46,652	45,000	34,000	-	-	32,500	32,500	2.96
26. LESS DEPRECIATION	(10,873)	(14,500)	(33,500)	-	-	(32,000)	(32,000)	(2.92)
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>35,779</b>	<b>30,500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS &amp; CAPITAL</b>	<b>835,569</b>	<b>976,000</b>	<b>1,006,000</b>	<b>640,010</b>	<b>456,490</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,097,000</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>41,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>406,990</b>	<b>(406,490)</b>	<b>(500)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

PCAF THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF INCOME, EXPENSE, SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)				
	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE 2013-2015
<b>BUDGET</b>	885,500	948,000	976,000	936,500
<b>INCOME</b>	768,703	812,890	876,595	819,396
<b>EXPENSE</b>	734,732	736,445	799,790	756,989
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	33,971	76,445	76,805	62,407

APPENDIX C

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.  
 BUDGETS COMPARISON STATEMENT  
 FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET	BUDGET % OF TOTAL	CHANGE IN BUDGET	
						IN \$	IN %
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>							
1. UNDESIGNATED EARNINGS	595,000	710,000	725,000	806,000	73.47	81,000	11.17
2. C&A SUPPORT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. FEES	210,749	202,000	215,000	225,000	20.51	10,000	4.65
4. CONTRIBUTIONS	57,871	50,000	50,000	50,000	4.56	-	-
5. INTEREST INCOME	12,975	14,000	16,000	16,000	1.46	-	-
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE</b>	<b>876,595</b>	<b>976,000</b>	<b>1,006,000</b>	<b>1,097,000</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>9.05</b>
<b>OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>							
<b>PROGRAMS</b>							
6. NONE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>							
7. GENERAL & ADMIN.:	537,514	546,782	586,698	640,010	58.34	53,312	9.09
8. FUND RAISING	262,276	398,718	418,802	456,490	41.61	37,688	9.00
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>799,790</b>	<b>945,500</b>	<b>1,005,500</b>	<b>1,096,500</b>	<b>99.95</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>9.05</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSES:</b>	<b>799,790</b>	<b>945,500</b>	<b>1,005,500</b>	<b>1,096,500</b>	<b>99.95</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>9.05</b>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OPERATION	76,805	30,500	500	500	0.05	-	-
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS:</b>							
9. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	46,652	45,000	34,000	32,500	2.96	(1,500)	(4.41)
10. (LESS DEPRECIATION)	(10,873)	(14,500)	(33,500)	(32,000)	(2.92)	1,500	(4.48)
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>35,779</b>	<b>30,500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS &amp; CAPITAL:</b>	<b>835,569</b>	<b>976,000</b>	<b>1,006,000</b>	<b>1,097,000</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>9.05</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):</b>	<b>41,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.  
 FIVE YEAR ACTUAL REVENUE AND EXPENSE TRENDS  
 2011-2015

	2011 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>					
1. UNDESIGNATED EARNINGS	479,902	495,000	535,000	575,000	595,000
2. C&A SUPPORT	-	-	-	-	-
3. FEES	160,959	175,089	185,343	199,921	210,749
4. CONTRIBUTIONS	51,970	64,967	36,275	26,427	57,871
5. INTEREST INCOME	3,944	6,562	12,085	11,542	12,975
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>696,775</b>	<b>741,618</b>	<b>768,703</b>	<b>812,890</b>	<b>876,595</b>
<b>OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>					
6. PRESIDENT'S SALARY	143,500	149,000	154,000	169,900	177,200
7. PRESIDENT'S BENEFITS	42,100	44,000	46,720	38,850	39,900
8. STAFF WAGES & BENEFITS	291,767	300,953	319,445	334,306	366,653
9. TRAVEL EXPENSE	13,370	17,365	16,033	15,713	9,044
10. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	34,824	46,414	35,039	31,977	41,850
11. PROMOTION	18,876	21,623	16,033	16,332	13,858
12. OFFICE EXPENSE	22,341	26,553	28,066	26,721	31,080
13. POSTAGE/UPS/FED EX	8,925	6,441	7,707	7,115	5,135
14. TAXES & LICENSES	120	227	120	100	121
15. RENT	29,016	29,016	29,016	29,016	29,016
16. TELEPHONE	3,900	4,221	3,690	4,340	5,282
17. DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	6,191	6,151	6,134	6,936	6,973
18. TRAINING	148	495	495	-	-
19. BOARD EXPENSE	12,084	14,520	12,289	12,597	21,518
20. OFFICE INSURANCE	11,712	11,906	15,534	16,568	20,800
21. GA EXPENSE	4,678	3,987	4,662	8,520	6,056
22. ADMIN./GA NOM. CMTES.	2,044	1,626	13,781	13,671	13,673
23. MISCELLANEOUS	1,020	428	190	258	758
24. DEPRECIATION	33,094	31,490	25,778	3,525	10,873
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>	<b>679,710</b>	<b>716,416</b>	<b>734,732</b>	<b>736,445</b>	<b>799,790</b>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS	17,065	25,202	33,971	76,445	76,805
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>					
25. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	1,883	3,909	2,599	43,546	46,652
26. LESS DEPRECIATION	(33,094)	(31,490)	(25,778)	(3,525)	(10,873)
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(31,211)</b>	<b>(27,581)</b>	<b>(23,179)</b>	<b>40,021</b>	<b>35,779</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS &amp; CAPITAL</b>	<b>648,499</b>	<b>688,835</b>	<b>711,553</b>	<b>776,466</b>	<b>835,569</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>48,276</b>	<b>52,783</b>	<b>57,150</b>	<b>36,424</b>	<b>41,026</b>

**PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC.  
PROPOSED BUDGET  
2017**

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

- A. RBI Vision: To help our ministry partners steward God’s financial resources with wisdom and compassion.
- B. RBI Mission: RBI is committed to serve the Lord and His Church by providing financial direction and ministries of encouragement and support. As a member of God’s covenant family, RBI will deliver its services through a trusted and confidential relationship. We will provide professional expertise and competitive products designed to meet the retirement, insurance, and ministerial relief needs of our Church family.
- C. This budget reflects the costs incurred to administer the trust funds for PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc. This budget does not reflect the financial activity in those trust funds. (Complete financial activity in the trust funds is provided in the *2015 RBI Annual Report*, which includes audited financial statements.)
- D. Economic considerations include a CPI of 2.4% and a medical trend of 10% based on our local group experience.

**II. Major Changes in Budget**

- A. The 2016 budget reflects a 3.9% increase, or \$112,513, compared to the 2016 approved budget (Budget Comparisons). The increase is spread between Retirement, Insurance, and Relief due to enhanced service objectives and associated expenses as described in our report to the Forty-Fourth General Assembly.
- B. The total number of staff budgeted for 2017 is 21 FTE compared to 20.5 FTE in 2016. Currently, 19 FTE positions are filled.
- C. The Retirement portion of Support and Revenue increased 4.4%, or \$71,602, due to enhanced service objectives and estimated inflation (Budget Comparisons – Line 1).

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- D. The Insurance portion of Support and Revenue increased 4.1%, or \$30,990, due to enhanced service objectives and estimated inflation (Budget Comparisons – Line 2).
- E. The Relief portion of Support and Revenue shows a 1.5% increase, or \$6,409, due to estimated costs associated with implementing the Relief Strategic Plan (Budget Comparisons – Line 3).
- F. The Insurance TPA income portion of Support and Revenue reflects fee income collected by RBI for in-house administration of the Insurance plan (Budget Comparisons – Line 4).
- G. The 2017 budget reflects \$51,765 for capital additions. (Proposed Budget – Line 25).
- H. Please note that 2015 actuals are unaudited. (Budget Comparisons and Five-Year Comparison).

### **III. Income Stream**

The two sources of RBI budgeted revenue are 1) trustee fees charged to the Health and Welfare Benefit Trust and the PCA Retirement Plan Trust, and 2) estimated Insurance In House TPA fees. The trustee fee is set by the General Assembly when it approves our budget.

### **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

All major ministry items were implemented.

### **V. Notes to Budget Line Items**

- A. An overall net increase of 4.8% in salaries and benefits is assumed for 2016 compared to 2015. Budgeted positions assume a 1.5% cost of living factor and a 1.0% merit factor and the addition of one FTE. (Proposed Budget – Lines 5-8).
- B. Occupancy expense for the shared facility is expected to remain at the same rate of \$12 per square foot. (Proposed Budget – Line 13).

## APPENDIX C

- C. Board meeting expense has decreased 39.7% due to cost cutting measures. Prior year budget included funding for an extended board meeting that did not occur.
- D. All fundraising activities relate to the Ministerial Relief program through our development activities, annual Relief Offering, appeals through PCA Foundation, and advertising in denominational publications (Proposed Budget – Fundraising Column).
- E. Our General Assembly line item includes RBI's share of the Nominating Committee expense and any Ad Hoc Committee expense, the cost of convention services, such as booth space and electrical supply, transportation of materials to and from General Assembly, seminars and other education / information activities presented at General Assembly. It also includes RBI's share of denominational legal expense. It does not include travel expense for staff and presenting board members (Five-Year Comparison – Line 10).

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC. PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET						
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
<b>Support &amp; Revenue:</b>						
1 Retirement		1,679,914		33,879	1,713,793	57.60%
2 Insurance		771,769		15,221	786,990	26.45%
3 Relief	269,383		161,912	2,665	433,960	14.59%
4 Insurance TPA Income		40,512			40,512	1.36%
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>269,383</b>	<b>2,492,195</b>	<b>161,912</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>2,975,255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Operations Expenses:</b>						
<i>Salaries &amp; Benefits:</i>						
5 President's Salary	16,483	189,557			206,040	6.93%
6 President's Benefits	3,567	41,132			44,699	1.50%
7 Staff Salaries & Housing	163,017	1,195,343	85,000		1,443,360	48.51%
8 Staff Benefits	47,767	395,518	27,591		470,876	15.83%
<i>G &amp; A:</i>						
9 Advertising, Promotions & Website	1,000	11,000	0		12,000	0.40%
10 Computer Expense	1,534	37,616	500		39,650	1.33%
11 Equipment Expense	410	8,965	125		9,500	0.32%
12 Insurance	1,700	65,300	0		67,000	2.25%
13 Occupancy Cost/Rent	5,512	72,456	2,616		80,584	2.71%
14 Office	4,005	107,745	0		111,750	3.76%
15 Postage	2,390	18,485	220		21,095	0.71%
16 Printing	3,280	61,967	1,200		66,447	2.23%
17 Professional Services	4,829	100,980	0		105,809	3.56%
18 Telephone	1,550	10,450	500		12,500	0.42%
19 Training	1,400	24,550	0		25,950	0.87%
20 Travel	8,210	85,500	10,250		103,960	3.49%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>266,654</b>	<b>2,426,564</b>	<b>128,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,821,220</b>	<b>94.82%</b>
21 Board Meetings	2,229	40,881			43,110	1.45%
22 Ministerial Relief Fund Raising			33,910		33,910	1.14%
23 General Assembly Expense	500	24,750			25,250	0.85%
<b>Total Operations Expenses:</b>	<b>269,383</b>	<b>2,492,195</b>	<b>161,912</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,923,490</b>	<b>98.26%</b>
24 Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations:	0	0	0	51,765	51,765	
<b>Capital Assets:</b>						
25 Capital Expenditures				51,765	51,765	1.74%
26 Depreciation		35,000			35,000	
27 Less Depreciation		(35,000)			(35,000)	
<b>Total Capital Assets:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>1.74%</b>
<b>Total Operations &amp; Capital:</b>	<b>269,383</b>	<b>2,492,195</b>	<b>161,912</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>2,975,255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



APPENDIX C

PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC. BUDGET COMPARISONS STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET							
DESCRIPTION	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET 2017 BUDGET	% OF TOTALS	2016 TO 2017 CHANGE IN BUDGET	
						IN \$	IN %
<b>Support &amp; Revenue:</b>							
1 Retirement	1,455,966	1,455,966	1,642,191	1,713,793	57.60%	71,602	4.4%
2 Insurance	697,872	697,872	756,000	786,990	26.45%	30,990	4.1%
3 Relief	341,248	411,540	427,551	433,960	14.59%	6,409	1.5%
4 Insurance TPA Income	39,935	31,500	37,000	40,512	1.36%	3,512	9.5%
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>2,535,021</b>	<b>2,596,878</b>	<b>2,862,742</b>	<b>2,975,255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>112,513</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>Operations Expenses:</b>							
<i>Programs:</i>							
5 Ministerial Relief	341,248	270,380	270,936	266,654	8.96%	(4,282)	-1.6%
<b>Total Programs:</b>	<b>341,248</b>	<b>270,380</b>	<b>270,936</b>	<b>266,654</b>	<b>8.96%</b>	<b>(4,282)</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
<i>Supporting Activities:</i>							
6 Administration	2,038,758	2,119,960	2,286,977	2,426,564	81.56%	139,587	6.1%
7 Board Meetings	49,322	67,683	71,510	43,110	1.45%	(28,400)	-39.7%
8 Fund Raising	95,163	141,160	150,435	161,912	5.44%	11,477	7.6%
9 General Assembly Expense	32,105	32,330	25,344	25,250	0.85%	(94)	-0.4%
<b>Total Supporting Activities</b>	<b>2,215,348</b>	<b>2,361,133</b>	<b>2,534,266</b>	<b>2,656,836</b>	<b>89.30%</b>	<b>122,570</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>Total Operations Expenses:</b>	<b>2,556,596</b>	<b>2,631,513</b>	<b>2,805,202</b>	<b>2,923,490</b>	<b>98.26%</b>	<b>118,288</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
10 Depreciation/Disposals	39,576						
11 Surplus(Deficit) after Depreciation	(61,151)						
<b>Capital Assets:</b>							
12 Capital Additions	**	65,365	57,540	51,765	1.74%	(5,775)	
<b>Total Operations &amp; Capital:</b>	<b>2,596,172</b>	<b>2,696,878</b>	<b>2,862,742</b>	<b>2,975,255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>112,513</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>Net Revenue over (under) Expense including depreciation and excluding equity transfer</b>	<b>(61,151)</b>	<b>(100,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>Additional Information:</b>	2015 Salary	Proposed 2015 Budget	Proposed 2016 Budget	Proposed 2017 Budget		Change in Budget	
President's Salary	185,297	194,000	202,000	206,040		in \$	in %
President's Benefits	39,017	43,150	44,516	44,699		183	0.4%

\* See Budget Note V.D.

\* Administrative costs reflected in this budget are incurred to administer the trust funds for Retirement, Insurance and Relief.

This budget does not reflect the financial activity in those trust funds.

\*\* Capital Additions for 2015 were \$16,931. Equity Transfer deduction for the building was \$10,806.

2015 Actuals are unaudited as of the 2017 Budget submission deadline.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>PCA RETIREMENT &amp; BENEFITS, INC.</b>					
<b>FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON</b>					
DESCRIPTION	2011 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL
<b>Support &amp; Revenue:</b>					
1 Retirement	1,085,000	1,090,000	1,038,760	1,289,163	1,455,966
2 Insurance	485,000	503,700	469,563	617,460	697,872
3 Relief	288,353	235,724	364,078	375,667	341,248
4 Insurance TPA Income	9,991	24,485	29,837	37,018	39,935
5 Interest Income	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>1,868,344</b>	<b>1,853,909</b>	<b>1,902,238</b>	<b>2,319,308</b>	<b>2,535,021</b>
<b>Operations Expenses:</b>					
<i>Programs:</i>					
6 Ministerial Relief	268,066	229,596	256,204	242,995	341,248
Total Programs:	268,066	229,596	256,204	242,995	341,248
<i>Supporting Activities:</i>					
7 Administration	1,246,801	1,402,825	1,481,609	1,750,354	2,038,758
8 Board Meetings	59,676	36,057	39,381	38,561	49,322
9 Fund Raising (Relief)	20,287	39,522	107,874	132,672	95,163
10 General Assembly Expense	13,368	7,994	17,170	17,928	32,105
Total Supporting Activities:	1,340,132	1,486,398	1,646,034	1,939,515	2,215,348
<b>Total Operations Expenses:</b>	<b>1,608,198</b>	<b>1,715,994</b>	<b>1,902,238</b>	<b>2,182,510</b>	<b>2,556,596</b>
11 Depreciation/Disposals	30,290	17,082	9,544	37,014	39,576
12 Surplus(Deficit) after Depreciation	229,856	120,833	(9,544)	99,784	(61,151)
<b>Capital Assets:</b>					
13 Capital Additions	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Total Operations &amp; Capital:</b>	<b>1,638,488</b>	<b>1,733,076</b>	<b>1,911,782</b>	<b>2,219,524</b>	<b>2,596,172</b>
<b>Net Revenue over (under) Expense including depreciation</b>	<b>229,856</b>	<b>120,833</b>	<b>(9,544)</b>	<b>99,784</b>	<b>(61,151)</b>

Administrative Costs reflected in this budget are incurred to administer the trust funds for Retirement, Insurance and Relief. This budget does not reflect the financial activity in those trust funds.

** Capital Additions	\$55,866+	\$51,342+	\$13,084+	\$45,798+	\$16,931+
	2,528	13,532	29,478	5,549	(10,806)
	Purchase of new copier + conference room + computer upgrades + equity transfer of building and furnishings	Purchase of new company car + electronic data management set up + equity transfer of building and furnishings	Purchase of new printers, computers, website design + equity transfer of building and furnishings	Purchase of furnishings, database rewrite, website upgrade, computers + equity transfer of building and furnishings	Purchase of office equipment, computers + equity transfer of building and furnishings

**REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES  
2017 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**RATIONALE**

**The RUF Mission:**

Reformed University Fellowship has the goal of building the church now and for the future by reaching students for Christ and equipping students to serve. This is accomplished by supporting the RUF works of presbyteries and churches in the areas of administration, finance, development, intern program, training, conferences, recruiting, and general ministry operation.

**I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

- + This budget reflects our continuing growth as we assist and work with presbyteries and churches to develop new RUF works on campuses nationwide. For 2017, we project to have 146 campus ministries with over 300 field staff, including 170 interns.
- + There is a net increase in the General Fund expenses of 5% over the 2016 budget. See below for explanation on budget changes.
- + The total number of full-time equivalent staff budgeted for 2017 is 31.5, an increase of .5 over the 2016 budget.
- + An overall net increase of 5% for salaries and related adjustments to benefits is assumed for all existing staff positions. That includes aggregate of cost of living and merit and benefit adjustments.
- + The cost being charged by the Administrative Committee for office space is projected to be \$12 per square foot in 2017. (Due to the sale of RUF's equity share in the PCA office building, this amount is paid to PCA-CDM through a lease agreement.)
- + The 2017 budget for the entire ministry of \$31,203,007, including affiliated committees, is included in the RUF General Assembly report for information.

**II. Major Changes in Budget**

- + In 2016, RUF realized that there were areas of ministry that were not included in the budget approved by the Permanent Committee and

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA. Our reports now include Ministry at Large (property, equipment, crisis relief fund, scholarships, expansion funds, conferences, mission projects and health insurance fund), as well as our Intern and Campus Staff programs. This explains the significant increase from 2016 to 2017.

### **III. Income Streams**

- + Income for the 2017 budget is projected to come from contributions (64.9%), affiliated committee transfers (28.1%), conference revenues (.04%) and ministry at large (6.5%).

### **IV. Major Ministry Items Not Implemented**

- + All major ministry items have been implemented.

### **V. Notes to Budget Line Items**

- + The major areas of increase are for: 1) salary and benefits adjustments; 2) an increase in intern and development expenses to keep up with our growing revenue streams; 3) additional travel; and 4) major donor events.

APPENDIX C

REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES						
PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET						
		Total Program	Total Admin & General	Total Fund Raising	TOTAL	% of Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>						
1	Contributions	7,244,517	0	0	7,244,517	64.2%
2	Campus Affiliated Transfers	1,501,410	1,116,920	679,764	3,298,094	29.2%
3	Other Revenues	44,500	0	0	44,500	0.4%
4	Ministry at Large	700,000	0	0	700,000	6.2%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>		<b>9,490,427</b>	<b>1,116,920</b>	<b>679,764</b>	<b>11,287,111</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
5	Coordinator Salary & Housing	199,776	0	0	199,776	1.8%
6	Coordinator Benefits	47,031	0	0	47,031	0.4%
7	Salaries	1,194,025	478,941	294,638	1,967,604	17.4%
8	Benefits	398,737	165,816	76,268	640,821	5.7%
9	Bank/Payroll Fees	3,914	106,606	0	110,520	1.0%
10	Conferences/Assessment	49,337	0	300	49,637	0.4%
11	Development	16,583	0	0	16,583	0.1%
12	Equipment/Maintenance	9,270	23,287	3,500	36,057	0.3%
13	Insurance/Legal/Licenses	1,410	59,516	9,400	70,326	0.6%
14	Intern/Campus Staff	5,965,636	0	0	5,965,636	52.9%
15	Ministry at Large	950,000	0	0	950,000	8.4%
16	Misc	12,193	11,524	9,206	32,923	0.3%
17	Pastoral Care	97,850	0	0	97,850	0.9%
18	Postage	0	3,605	24,720	28,325	0.3%
19	Printing	0	0	96,563	96,563	0.9%
20	Rent	15,400	40,500	1,140	57,040	0.5%
21	Service Contracts	0	59,740	43,775	103,515	0.9%
22	Supplies	4,635	18,540	1,545	24,720	0.2%
23	Technology	0	42,230	31,930	74,160	0.7%
24	Telephone	26,780	13,596	3,605	43,981	0.4%
25	Travel	497,850	29,819	83,174	610,843	5.4%
26	Permanent Committee	0	41,200	0	41,200	0.4%
27	Capital Expenditures	0	10,000	0	10,000	0.1%
28	Depreciation	0	12,000	0	12,000	0.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>9,490,427</b>	<b>1,116,920</b>	<b>679,764</b>	<b>11,287,111</b>	<b>100%</b>
29	<b>Net of Revenue over Expenses</b>	0	0	0	0	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES BUDGET COMPARISON STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET								
	<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	<b>Proposed 2017 Budget</b>	% of Total	Change in Budget in \$	in %
1	Contributions	6,438,196	1,193,259	1,100,954	7,244,517	64.2%	\$ 6,143,563	558.0%
2	Interest Income	0	64,000	53,721	0	0.0%	(53,721)	-100.0%
3	Campus Affiliated Transfers	2,774,649	2,597,700	2,961,932	3,298,094	29.2%	336,162	11.3%
4	Other Revenue	42,930	50,000	40,600	44,500	0.4%	3,900	9.6%
5	Ministry at Large*	677,006	0	0	700,000	6.2%	700,000	
6	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</b>	<b>9,932,781</b>	<b>3,904,959</b>	<b>4,157,207</b>	<b>11,287,111</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,129,904</b>	<b>171.5%</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	<b>Proposed 2017 Budget</b>	% of Total	Change in Budget in \$	in %
	<b>PROGRAM</b>							
7	Area Assistance	2,276,382	2,314,666	2,472,288	2,525,457	22.4%	53,169	2.2%
8	Intern Program and Campus Staff	4,972,131	0	0	5,965,636		5,965,636	
9	Assessment	49,210	40,600	46,377	49,337	0.4%	2,960	6.4%
10	Ministry at Large	914,351	0	0	950,000		950,000	
11	<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>8,212,074</b>	<b>2,355,266</b>	<b>2,518,665</b>	<b>9,490,430</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>6,021,765</b>	<b>239.1%</b>
	<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>							
12	Support Services	920,789	833,267	934,379	1,053,718	9.3%	119,339	12.8%
13	General Assembly	0	4,000	0	0	0.0%	0	
14	Permanent Committee	39,932	25,000	35,000	41,200	0.4%	6,200	17.7%
15	Advancement	549,713	665,426	574,163	679,763	6.0%	105,600	18.4%
16	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>1,510,434</b>	<b>1,527,693</b>	<b>1,543,542</b>	<b>1,774,681</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>231,139</b>	<b>15.0%</b>
17	Capital Expenditures	9,900	10,000	45,000	10,000	0.1%	(35,000)	-77.8%
18	Depreciation Expense	98,087	12,000	50,000	12,000	0.1%	(38,000)	-76.0%
19	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>9,830,495</b>	<b>3,904,959</b>	<b>4,157,207</b>	<b>11,287,111</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>7,129,904</b>	<b>171.5%</b>
20	Interfund transfers	(18,362)	0	0	0			
21	<b>Net Revenue Less Expense</b>	<b>83,923</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			
	<b>Additional Information:</b>	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	<b>Proposed 2017 Budget</b>	Change in Budget		
						in \$	in %	
	Coordinator Salary & Housing	167,000	167,000	167,000	184,118	\$ 17,118.00	10.3%	
	Other Income	24,448	0	0	14,085	14,085	0.0%	
	Coordinator Benefits	47,031	42,596	46,720	48,604	6,008	14.1%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>238,479</b>	<b>209,596</b>	<b>213,720</b>	<b>246,807</b>	<b>\$ 37,211</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	

APPENDIX C

REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES					
FIVE YEAR COMPARISON STATEMENT					
FOR PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET					
CORE MINISTRY FUND ONLY					
	GF	GF	GF	GF	GF
<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
1 Contributions	625,368	796,113	1,004,973	987,296	1,268,715
2 Interest Income	36,860	41,444	87,144	43,148	0
3 Campus Affiliated Transfers	1,651,617	1,842,858	2,394,030	2,655,662	2,764,079
4 Other Revenues	16,515	60,260	31,651	46,888	42,930
Ministry at Large*					0
<b>5 TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</b>	<b>2,330,360</b>	<b>2,740,675</b>	<b>3,517,798</b>	<b>3,732,994</b>	<b>4,075,724</b>
	GF	GF	GF	GF	GF
<b>Expenses</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
<b>PROGRAM</b>					
6 Area Assistance and Intern Progra	1,319,625	1,689,558	1,949,591	2,316,832	2,548,920
8 Training/Assessment	20,397	36,559	33,599	31,615	49,210
<b>9 TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>1,340,022</b>	<b>1,726,117</b>	<b>1,983,190</b>	<b>2,348,447</b>	<b>2,598,130</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>					
10 Support Services	662,249	764,460	812,418	775,107	812,802
11 General Assembly	9,538	7,959	0	0	0
12 Permanent Committee	35,222	18,045	30,736	44,045	39,932
13 Advancement	241,624	400,688	495,054	440,549	549,713
<b>14 TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>948,633</b>	<b>1,191,152</b>	<b>1,338,208</b>	<b>1,259,701</b>	<b>1,402,447</b>
15 Capital Expenditures	27,887	42,225	87,833	205,637	9,900
16 Depreciation Expense	10,626	13,021	35,917	50,625	98,087
<b>17 TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>2,327,168</b>	<b>2,972,515</b>	<b>3,445,148</b>	<b>3,864,410</b>	<b>4,108,564</b>
<b>18 Net Revenue Less Expense</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>(231,840)</b>	<b>72,650</b>	<b>(131,416)</b>	<b>(32,840)</b>
	GF	GF	GF	GF	GF
Additional Information:	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Coordinator Salary & Housing	138,089	146,000	146,000	227,952	167,000
Other Income	0	0	0	20,739	24,448
Coordinator Benefits	35,197	38,746	44,323	82,425	47,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,286</b>	<b>184,746</b>	<b>190,323</b>	<b>331,116</b>	<b>238,479</b>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP</b>				
ENTIRE MINISTRY BUDGET - FOR INFORMATION ONLY				
<b>FINANCIALS</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Campus Ministers	17,350,534	19,043,436	19,634,364	20,982,070
Interns	4,012,956	4,660,725	4,812,531	5,255,792
Campus Staff	297,246	270,569	313,190	375,583
Church Plants	1,036,908	1,438,698	1,727,635	1,996,946
General Fund	1,077,332	1,311,645	1,396,749	1,385,642
Alumni Events	0	36,057	25,862	25,862
Ministry at Large	1,171,704	1,098,901	1,189,113	1,189,113
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>24,946,681</b>	<b>27,860,031</b>	<b>29,099,444</b>	<b>31,211,007</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Campus Ministers	14,680,466	16,280,404	17,573,190	18,865,976
Interns	3,405,715	3,753,671	4,045,731	4,337,792
Campus Staff	352,759	237,997	260,590	283,183
Church Plants	960,453	1,339,523	1,582,435	1,825,346
General Fund	3,658,772	4,108,565	4,422,523	4,683,736
Alumni Events	0	25,862	25,862	25,862
Ministry at Large	1,026,094	1,201,113	1,189,113	1,189,113
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>24,084,258</b>	<b>26,947,135</b>	<b>29,099,444</b>	<b>31,211,007</b>
<b>NET CHANGE BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	2,670,069	2,763,032	2,061,174	2,116,094
Interns	607,241	907,054	766,800	918,000
Campus Staff	(55,513)	32,572	52,600	92,400
Church Plants	76,455	99,174	145,200	171,600
General Fund	(2,581,440)	(2,796,920)	(3,025,774)	(3,298,094)
Alumni Events	0	10,195	0	0
Ministry at Large	145,610	(102,212)	0	0
<b>TOTAL NET CHANGE BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>	<b>862,422</b>	<b>912,896</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICE TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	(1,836,831)	(2,007,374)	(2,061,174)	(2,116,094)
Interns	(609,300)	(674,100)	(766,800)	(918,000)
Campus Staff	(34,875)	(33,825)	(52,600)	(92,400)
Church Plants	(42,900)	(59,350)	(145,200)	(171,600)
General Fund	2,523,906	2,774,649	3,025,774	3,298,094
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	(118,872)	44,607	0	0
Interns	7,781	32,872	0	0
Campus Staff	82,150	25,005	0	0
Church Plants	(22,090)	(16,345)	0	0
General Fund	(73,881)	(10,570)	0	0
Ministry at Large	124,912	(75,569)	0	0
<b>TOTAL INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/DECREASE AFTER TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	714,366	800,265	0	0
Interns	5,722	265,826	0	0
Campus Staff	(8,237)	23,751	0	0
Church Plants	11,465	23,479	0	0
General Fund	(131,415)	(32,840)	0	0
Alumni Events	0	10,195	0	0
Ministry at Large	270,522	(177,780)	0	0
<b>TOTAL NET CHANGE AFTER TRANSFERS</b>	<b>862,422</b>	<b>912,896</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## **RIDGE HAVEN PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET**

The Lord continues to bless Ridge Haven, and we are grateful and privileged to be a part of His work. It is both exciting and humbling to see the remodeling and expansion of our physical campus through the efforts of our almost completed Capital Campaign. Yet even more importantly, we are thrilled and thankful to see God’s Kingdom expand through our varied programs and resources. We are reminded daily that this is His work, and He will carry it on to completion.

### **I. Economic Considerations and General Ministry Factors**

As noted below, the Lord enabled us to exceed our ambitious 2M budget while also allowing us to come under budget with our expenses, ending the year with a well-balanced budget.

We are delighted that our conferences and retreats are continuing to grow in spite of a severe housing shortage on campus. Six of our ten summer weeks have been “sold out” for the last two years and many weekends during the year have waiting lists.

Our earnest prayer is to complete the building of our new camper/youth group housing by mid-summer. This expansion is made possible through our 2.8M Capital Campaign projects. Two such projects are the new Shenandoah Treehouse Village and Mudgeville/Creekside Cabin villages. When all three new housing initiatives are completed we will be able to host over 144 additional campers each week during the summer and many, many more youth groups in the fall and spring.

Our Winter Camp and Winter Retreats are now some of our most popular camps. So much so we had to add a second Winter Retreat. Winter Retreat I is packed out over a year in advance.

Our specialized camps and retreats are more and more helping to define what we do at Ridge Haven. Braveheart Camp for youth is specifically designed for kids who have suffered the loss of a parent or loved one. We also have a Quarter Life Retreat for 20 and 30 somethings, our Chattanooga Sports Ministry Camp for inner city children, and our Keenagers Retreat for those 55 and over. There is truly a place for everyone at Ridge Haven.

Our ministry is about people ministering to and serving other people. Our staff is our most valuable asset, and thus, it is our largest budget item at 50% of our income and expenses.

As noted below, we are very conscious of paying our staff an adequate salary, but at the same time, we make every effort to keep all our costs, including our payroll, down so that Ridge Haven is affordable to the average PCA member. We are so grateful to the PCA for helping us keep our costs down. All support from our churches goes directly into our scholarship/camp discount fund. The average overnight camp in the American Camp Association is over \$700 a week. Our week-long camp costs range from \$225 to \$589 (includes white water rafting) with our average camper paying only at \$300 a week.

## **II. Major Changes in Budget**

Our total income was \$2,096,493 (slightly over budget) and our expenses were \$2,020,168 (slightly under budget.)

This year, 2016, we have a separate budget for our Capital Campaign. For 2017, we will not have a separate budget for this as hopefully the majority of our Campaign pledges and projects will be funded.

## **III. Support/Revenue Streams**

Ridge Haven receives support/revenue from the following sources:

1. Camp, Conference, and Retreat Fees (includes food service revenue);
2. Facility Rental;
3. Contributions (includes Partnership Shares and Direct Contributions);
4. Minor sources of revenue, which include resident fees (water/sewer fees, road assessments, etc.), sale of assets (lot leases, timber sales, etc.), and interest-bearing bank accounts.

## **IV. Major Ministry Not Implemented in the Past Year**

As mentioned above, due to our lack of accommodations, we have not been able to start any new camps. We are hoping by this fall to have all three of our new camper housing areas operational. The main delay in using them is not the building of the housing units themselves but the new State mandated wastewater treatment plant that is currently being

installed. The plant is also part of our current Capital Campaign. We are not allowed to occupy the new housing until the new wastewater treatment plant is fully functional.

We were hoping that once we built the new camper housing listed above, that we could then revert two of our motel-style buildings, Cassels and Laurel, back to adult accommodations. As you may know, four years ago we turned them into camper and youth group housing to accommodate our growth. But, our increase in campers and youth groups does not seem to be slowing down, so we will need all available space to accommodate them. We will need to delay additional adult housing until the next campaign.

## **V. Budget Line Items Notes**

### **2017 Proposed Budget Notes**

**Line 4, Property** – This line item includes revenue from lot maintenance fees, water hookups, water usage fees, and road maintenance fees from 18 lots which are contiguous to our main campus. The amount budgeted each year reflects the predictable aspects of this revenue, i.e. the principal and interest being paid on lot leases being bought over time, the annually collected lot lease maintenance fees, water usage fees, and a portion of the road maintenance fees.

**Line 7, Miscellaneous** – Includes refund of state sales tax, amortization of lot leases, timber sales, Right-of-Way land sales, staff rentals, and interest revenue account for most of the revenue generated in this category.

**Line 10, Payroll and Benefits** – Includes payroll and benefits for 15 year-round employees, counselors, and summer/weekend staff. Counselors and summer staff raise about 70% of their compensation and are included in line 5 (Contributions). In addition, camp and conference leaders, speakers, and musicians' honorariums and travel expenses are included in this category, as well as payroll taxes and workers' compensation insurance. Development of ministry partners for new construction projects is also included here.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Line 12, Office and Administrative** – Includes major expense items, including commercial insurance, telephone fees, office and housekeeping supplies, loan interest and bank fees, and audit and legal fees.

**Line 14, Facilities** – Includes repairs, maintenance, deferred maintenance, real estate taxes, and refuse expenses. Our spending in this area continues to focus on past deferred maintenance, and we have made major progress in bringing our facilities back to a healthy state of repair.

**Line 16, Ministry** – Includes camp and retreat supplies, camp registration software fees, travel, and expenses associated with our Inner City Kids camp.

**Line 17, Recruiting** – Includes all printing costs, promotional ads and media productions, and the Executive Director and Program Director's recruitment initiatives and trips.

**Line 18, Maintenance** – Includes vehicle parts and service, fuel costs, and equipment leases.

### **2011-2015 Five-Year Comparison Notes**

Comment - The 2015 figures are pre-audit and our auditors may adjust certain accounts such as depreciation.

APPENDIX C

**RIDGE HAVEN**

<b>PROPOSED BUDGET 2017</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Support/Revenue</b>		
1. Camps	475,000	23%
2. Conferences	250,000	12%
3. Retreats	400,000	20%
4. Property	43,000	2%
5. Contributions	800,000	39%
6. Bookstore/Vending	54,000	3%
7. Miscellaneous	24,000	1%
<b>Support/Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,046,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>		
9. Executive Director	110,000	5%
10. Payroll & Benefits	950,000	47%
11. Bookstore/Vending	38,000	2%
12. Office & Administrative	105,000	5%
13. Food Service	138,000	7%
14. Facilities	213,000	11%
15. Utilities	102,000	5%
16. Ministry	40,000	2%
17. Recruiting & Development	19,000	1%
18. Maintenance	50,000	2%
19. Road Maintenance	6,000	0%
20. Water & Sewer	39,000	2%
21. Depreciation	200,000	10%
<b>Operating Expense Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,010,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**RIDGE HAVEN**

<b>Budget Comparison</b>							
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2015 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2016 BUDGET*</b>	<b>2017 BUDGET</b>	<b>2017 % totals</b>	<b>CHANGE 2015 actual- 2017 budget \$</b>	<b>CHANGE 2015 actual- 2017 budget %</b>
<b>Support/Revenue</b>							
1. Camps	416,757	393,000	335,000	475,000	23%	58,243	14%
2. Conferences	212,339	54,000	120,000	250,000	12%	37,661	18%
3. Retreats	346,132	479,000	600,000	400,000	20%	53,868	16%
4. Property	41,270	71,000	37,000	43,000	2%	1,730	4%
5. Contributions	1,004,959	1,000,000	700,000	800,000	39%	(204,959)	-20%
6. Bookstore/Vending	52,236	38,000	57,000	54,000	3%	1,764	3%
7. Reserve transfer		1,000	1,000	0	0%	-	
8. Miscellaneous	22,801	40,000	50,000	24,000	1%	1,199	5%
<b>Support/Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,096,493</b>	<b>\$ 2,076,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,900,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,046,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ (50,493)</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>							
9. Executive Dir. Salary/Benefits	88,000	108,000	110,000	110,000	5%	22,000	25%
10. Payroll	834,916	747,000	830,000	950,000	47%	115,084	14%
11. Bookstore	36,733	30,000	37,000	38,000	2%	1,267	3%
12. Office & Administrative	99,710	126,000	117,000	105,000	5%	5,290	5%
13. Food Service	134,640	131,000	175,000	138,000	7%	3,360	2%
14. Facilities	434,065	500,000	195,000	213,000	11%	(221,065)	-51%
15. Utilities	99,465	88,000	100,000	102,000	5%	2,535	3%
16. Ministry	39,256	74,000	75,000	40,000	2%	744	2%
17. Recruiting	18,290	10,000	35,000	19,000	1%	710	4%
18. Maintenance	47,146	34,000	35,000	50,000	2%	2,854	6%
19. Road Maintenance	5,825	3,000	5,000	6,000	0%	175	3%
20. Water & Sewer	38,122	11,000	13,000	39,000	2%	878	2%
21. Debt Retirement		-	-	0	0%	-	
22. Depreciation	144,000	170,000	173,000	200,000	10%	56,000	39%
<b>Operating Expense Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,020,168</b>	<b>\$ 2,032,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,900,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,010,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ (10,168)</b>	<b>-1%</b>

\*Also see the New Construction Budget

<b>PROPOSED 2016 NEW CONSTRUCTION BUDGET</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>% Total</b>
<b>Support/Revenue</b>		
Contributions	600,000	100%
<b>Support/Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$ 600,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>		
Payroll & Benefits	50,000	8%
New Construction	550,000	92%
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$ 600,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

APPENDIX C

**RIDGE HAVEN**

<b>Five Year Comparison</b>					
<b>Description</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Income</b>					
1. Camps	246,425	354,115	373,783	441,308	416,757
2. Conferences	37,132	49,316	50,722	199,420	212,339
3. Retreats	319,477	352,706	427,206	278,348	346,132
4. Property	59,077	52,016	40,710	35,046	41,270
5. Contributions	504,155	630,972	758,499	670,012	1,004,959
6. Bookstore & Vending	28,133	37,674	35,682	48,527	52,236
7. Reserve Transfer	300	13,375	(17,508)		
8. Miscellaneous	41,440	44,085	39,868	70,690	22,801
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,236,139</b>	<b>1,534,259</b>	<b>1,708,962</b>	<b>1,743,351</b>	<b>2,096,493</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
9. Payroll & Benefits	642,619	675,009	761,131	849,208	922,916
10. Bookstore/Vending	24,210	18,771	29,267	32,857	36,733
11. Office & Admin. Expense	108,128	132,753	74,245	86,897	99,710
12. Food Service Department	111,485	125,108	127,606	148,349	134,640
13. Facilities	70,844	111,999	134,318	193,542	434,065
14. Utilities	72,904	72,035	85,214	97,827	99,465
15. Ministry	51,093	82,161	52,678	46,170	39,256
16. Recruiting	7,239	9,397	9,441	30,321	18,290
17. Maintenance	24,255	22,870	29,530	29,389	47,146
18. Road Maintenance	20,367	22,812	2,723	5,946	5,825
19. Water & Sewer Systems	8,797	12,201	10,564	2,190	38,122
20. Depreciation	132,063	134,691	131,007	150,777	144,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,274,004</b>	<b>1,419,807</b>	<b>1,447,724</b>	<b>1,673,473</b>	<b>2,020,168</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income (loss)</b>	<b>(37,865)</b>	<b>114,452</b>	<b>261,238</b>	<b>69,877</b>	<b>76,326</b>

## 2017 PARTNERSHIP SHARES STATEMENT FOR THE PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRIES

### PREFACE

The working definition under which the 2017 Partnership Share Budgets have been calculated is as follows.

*As a general statement, “Partnership Shares” describes the amount of money needed to cover the anticipated total expenses of a ministry minus earned income and minus funds designated to specific individuals who are missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and staff (unless the ministry also guarantees the full compensation of the employee), as well as specific capital funds or similar designated monies. This portion of the approved expense budget is dependent on contributions from the PCA churches and individuals. In every case the “Partnership Share” is permitted to be at least the General Administrative and Overhead portion of the particular ministry’s total budget.*

Two important numbers for each participating ministry are provided by the Partnership Share and Ministry Ask calculations. First, the numbers located in the column labeled “Per Capita Calculation” are obtained by a per capita giving formula, which divides the Partnership Share Fund amount for each General Assembly Ministry by the total number of communicant members last reported to and accumulated by the Office of the Stated Clerk.

A second set of numbers under the column labeled “Ministry Ask” is provided for churches. The “Ministry Ask” is the amount of money each Committee or Agency is asking the churches of the PCA to give if the church would like to give to PCA Ministries on a “per member” basis. The amount listed in this column is generally an estimate of what each Committee and Agency needs to receive from each *donor* church per member in order for the Committee or Agency to raise their full budget approved by the PCA General Assembly.

**These two numbers provide churches and individuals with important factors as they seek to decide how to give to the PCA General Assembly Committees and Agencies. All PCA Ministries struggle to raise Partnership Share funds, and none of the PCA ministries would be sustained without generous donors who give far beyond the Partnership Share. Please assist as generously as you are able.**

In short, the Partnership Shares calculation is based on the inaccurate assumption that all churches have the same giving capacity per member and that all churches will give to all committees and agencies. The Ministry Ask is a more realistic figure.



APPENDIX C

**2017 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks  
of PCA Ministry Partners  
by the Participating General Assembly Ministries**

Participating Ministries of the PCA	2017 Total Expense Budget	2017 Partnership Share Fund			Ministry Asks  \$ Per Member
		P.S. Fund	% of Total	Per Capita Calculation	
AC <sup>1</sup>	\$2,557,800	\$1,496,000	6.08%	\$5.20	<b>\$7</b>
CDM	\$1,578,000	\$730,000	2.97%	\$2.54	<b>\$7</b>
CC <sup>2</sup>	\$28,811,000	\$2,200,000	8.94%	\$7.65	<b>\$9</b>
CTS	\$8,006,436	\$2,100,000	8.53%	\$7.30	<b>\$10</b>
MNA	\$12,502,948	\$4,559,645	18.52%	\$15.85	<b>\$26</b>
MTW	\$52,344,686	\$8,154,996	33.13%	\$28.34	<b>\$24</b>
RUM <sup>3</sup>	\$31,211,007	\$4,576,975	18.59%	\$15.91	<b>\$16</b>
RH	\$2,010,000	\$800,000	3.25%	\$2.78	<b>\$4</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$139,033,877</b>	<b>\$24,617,616</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$85.55</b>	<b>\$103</b>

The total number of Communicant Members according to the PCA Administrative Committee was 287,746 as of December 31, 2015.

**GENERAL NOTE**

Gifts designated “spread per Partnership Shares” (or some equivalent) and the totally undesignated gifts (which amount to less than \$3,000 a year) will be spread according to the “Ministry Ask” column (by percentages of the total).

**SPECIFIC COMMITTEE AND AGENCY NOTES**

1. The PCA Administrative Committee requests that you contribute on the basis of 0.35% of total tithes and offerings (excepting contribution to capital campaigns for such efforts as new buildings). Please support us in this way if you are able to do so.
2. By giving \$10 per member to Covenant College, churches qualify for the Church Scholarship Promise program at Covenant College.
3. The portion of RUM's budget that General Assembly approves is \$11,287,111. The rest of this amount comes from budgets of churches and presbyteries that sponsor RUF works.

## APPENDIX D

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”

(Romans 1:11-12 ESV)

Paul’s desire to visit the believers in Rome provides insight into an important element of discipleship. The Holy Spirit works through relationships to encourage and strengthen those who share a common faith. The work of PCA Discipleship Ministries is to assist local churches as they make disciples, particularly among the children, youth, and adults in the congregation. We strive to do this by connecting—people to people and people to resources. Fruitful discipleship is Word-based and relationship-driven.

#### **Relationships**

In discipleship ministry to children, God has used CDM to strengthen relational connections through Connect conferences, which are locally and regionally-based, targeted to those who serve in PCA churches, and designed to be less expensive than larger gatherings. Attendance varies from 50-150, and the seminar topics are driven by the needs of the local leaders who host the conference. The smaller number of attendees allows for greater interaction and participation. This characteristic has been particularly helpful for some new leaders who agreed to oversee the ministry in their congregation, even though they believed they had little experience. In the past year, CDM partnered with churches to have six conferences for children’s ministry staff and parents in Naples, FL; Harrisonburg VA; Starkville, MS; Mason, OH; Nashville, TN; and Atlanta, GA.

Conversations and questions at these events reveal some common issues facing those who serve children in PCA churches. A perennial need involves recruiting teachers and leaders, especially in light of the transient nature of PCA members (“regular” church attendance in some congregations is twice a month) and the desire to follow best practices in child protection (e.g., “two-

person rule”). Some congregations are wrestling with the issue of transitioning non-communing members to full membership (e.g., What age? What process? What resources are available? How should elders be involved?). A troubling issue is the perceived lack of support from pastors and elders that many children’s directors experience. Some have voiced frustration that elders rarely talk to them unless there is a problem. There seems to be an acute need for elders to be more intentional in shepherding those called to make disciples among the children of PCA congregations.

Relational connection continues to be strong in the PCA Women’s Ministry, particularly as more congregations embrace a new vision for women’s discipleship that is less program-oriented and more reflective of the relational nature described in Titus 2. Over 1,100 people have joined the Connect PCA Women’s Facebook group. Women from congregations all over the denomination use this venue to ask for advice, get ideas for small group studies, and share information about ministry. One woman from a small church in an area with few PCA churches reported the group helps her feel more connected to the denomination. In February 2016, CDM launched a new blog ([encourage.pcadm.org](http://encourage.pcadm.org)) where a pool of PCA authors (many of whom write for well-known blogs and magazines) provide weekly articles designed to encourage and equip women in the denomination. The idea for this blog came from a group discussion at the annual Leadership Training (LT). Every year, CDM gathers PCA women who serve as leaders in their congregation for seminars on topics chosen by the advisors and trainers who work with various congregations. In February 2016, the topic was “Show Me,” and the speakers and seminars considered how the discipleship principles found in Paul’s letter to Titus find expression in today’s church.

Beginning in April 2016, women from all over the PCA will be gathering for the **Transformed** conferences. Rather than host a national gathering in Atlanta, the Women’s Ministry Team decided to work with local churches to have a series of regional gatherings that reflect the needs and character of different areas in the denomination. Response from the local planning teams, as well as the first two conferences (Chicago, IL, and Orange County, CA), has been excellent. There will be five meetings in the fall: Birmingham, AL (September 9-10, with speaker Nancy Guthrie); Philadelphia, PA (September 30-October 1, with speaker Melissa Kruger); Hamilton, Ontario (October 21-22, with speaker Courtney Doctor); Charlotte, NC (October 28-29, with speaker Nancy Guthrie); and Dallas, TX (November 11-12, with speaker Nancy Guthrie).

In an effort to serve churches and develop leaders, CDM has formed a ministry team for children's discipleship and is developing one for youth discipleship. These groups join the ministry team for women's discipleship. These teams are comprised of ministry practitioners in PCA churches who volunteer to help CDM address issues raised by local church leaders. Additionally, every year CDM gathers women who serve part-time or full-time in vocational ministry as directors of women's ministry. In October 2015, Tasha Chapman from Covenant Seminary helped the group consider the topic of ministry resilience. Many participants noted one particular quote: leadership involves "disappointing people at a rate they can absorb."

Another development in connecting relationally is in the cooperative projects CDM has started with other agencies and ministries. For a number of years, CDM has explored a closer relationship with Reformed Youth Ministries (RYM). Under Executive Director Joey Stewart (TE in Nashville Presbytery), RYM has developed a great ministry for equipping and connecting those who serve the next generation. Rather than develop a parallel youth program, CDM desires to work with RYM and others to serve the PCA. As Youth Ministry Coordinator, TE Danny Mitchell acts as a liaison between PCA congregations and various ministries that serve youth.

CDM also desires to partner with other ministries and PCA Agencies. CDM, MNA, and Great Commission Publications (GCP) worked together to develop a tool designed to help teachers use the GCP "Show Me Jesus" curriculum with students who have special needs. CDM personnel are also exploring ways to work with MTW to help short-term teams conduct VBS programs, as well as church VBS programs nurture a mission mindset among participants. CDM also hopes to partner with MNA, RUF, and CTS to develop resources for training elders in new and established churches. These cooperative projects demonstrate the importance of relational connection in the ministry of discipleship.

## Resources

CDM also desires to connect PCA members and leaders with good resources. In response to repeated requests, CDM personnel developed and launched *Teach Me to Worship*, a curriculum designed to help children understand the various elements of worship. Over 60 churches have purchased the curriculum for use during a worship time designed particularly for children. The lessons are downloaded from **teachmetoworship.com** so leaders can easily share them with the volunteers who teach the class. So far, feedback has been good.

CDM continues to publish studies and resources written by PCA authors. The Bible studies by TE George Robertson and Mary Beth McGreevy have been popular with many churches. At the February 2016 Women's Leadership Training, CDM provided *Titus 2 Tools*. This resource is compatible with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of Susan Hunt's *Spiritual Mothering* (published by Crossway). *Titus 2 Tools* is designed to help churches develop and implement a women's discipleship program that takes the transcendent principles of Scripture and applies those principles in the unique context of the congregation. In April 2016, CDM published *From Garden to Glory* by PCA member Courtney Doctor. This study involves three separate resources: 1) a study workbook for small groups, 2) 30 minute video presentations by Courtney Doctor, and 3) a children's curriculum written by Jennifer Zell (a member of the CDM Children's Ministry Team). Also in April, CDM offered *Engaging Motherhood*, a resource written by members of Oak Mountain PC in Birmingham.

CDM has added to the collection of short training videos (3 minutes) designed to stimulate discussion and develop volunteers. The original 15 videos of the Women's Connection Series were released through the Connect PCA Women Facebook group and have received over 4,200 views. More videos have been added, including some for children, youth, and small group discipleship. See all 35 videos at [vimeo.com/pcacdm/videos](https://vimeo.com/pcacdm/videos).

In a world of internet searches and readily available tools for ministry, CDM's role in connecting people to resources centers on helping churches filter the mass of information that is available, as well as highlight resources produced by PCA members. Gone are the days when the denomination distributed a uniform curriculum for every congregation. Now the task is to help leaders discover what is right for their unique context.

### **Response to the actions of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

After the debate and actions of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly on the "Personal Resolution on Civil Rights" (M43GA, pp. 16-17, 81-82), TE Travis Hutchinson (Tennessee Valley Presbytery) brought to the attention of the CDM staff a book he had purchased in the PCA Bookstore in 2000 entitled *The Historical Birth of the Presbyterian Church in America* by PCA pastor John Edwards Richards (now deceased). Inside the front cover was a label reading, "Proceeds from this book, after deducting expenses, will go to the work of the Presbyterian Church in America." Chapter two of the book (now out of print) is a sermon by Dr. Richards overtly advocating racial segregation and implicitly advocating the supremacy of the white race. According to

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interviews with current and former staff members and a search of records, CDM leadership estimates 50 books or less were donated to the Bookstore in the late 1980's with the front cover label already attached. The sales records that could be found indicate 10 copies were sold between 2003-2005, and the last copy sold in April 2005. The Bookstore staff estimates total profit from these 10 copies was less than \$150.

In the September 2015 stated meeting of CDM, the committee discussed the information presented by TE Hutchinson and the CDM staff. The following resolution was passed:

Whereas the book *The Historical Birth of the Presbyterian Church in America* by John Edwards Richards contained teachings that contradict a biblical anthropology that all people, from every race, equally reflect the *imago dei*; and

Whereas the permanent committee and staff of Christian Education and Publications (CEP) sold the book in the CEP bookstore, and thereby unwittingly benefitted from the sale of a book that was not in keeping with the truth of the gospel;

Therefore be it resolved that the Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM) rejects the sinful and aberrant content in the book with respect to its teaching on racial issues.

In the March 2016 stated meeting, the permanent committee passed a motion to note the action taken at the September 2015 meeting in the written report to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, as well as the report to the CDM Committee of Commissioners.

### **PCA Bookstore ([www.pcabookstore.com](http://www.pcabookstore.com))**

In the very competitive world of online discounter stores like Amazon and CBD, the PCA Bookstore is a niche retailer designed to serve the PCA community. Often the **PCA Bookstore** is able to match or beat other retailers on price, especially on orders for multiple copies. However, many PCA members place a greater value on convenience, preferring a "one stop shopping" experience like Amazon over using the denominational bookstore. Others prefer the "human touch" offered by the PCA Bookstore as customers talk to a salesperson and arrange for larger orders to be billed to the church. In 2015, the PCA Bookstore had a successful year. Not only did revenue cover inventory, rent, and personnel costs, but the Bookstore contributed over \$30,000 to the general operating fund of CDM. This surplus was due to

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lower personnel costs (staff members were scaled back after sales had dropped in 2014), good sales at the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (approximately \$30,000, averaging about \$20 per commissioner), the launch of the *Teach Me to Worship* curriculum, and a number of large orders from churches who benefitted from the multiple copy discount. Though the revenue for the general fund was encouraging, the primary value of the Bookstore is the avenue of connection it provides to people inside and outside the PCA.

<b>Top Selling Resources in the PCA Bookstore for 2015</b>
<i>Denominational Resources</i> (PCA Yearbook, BCO pages, etc.) [PCA Stated Clerk]
<i>Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms</i> (hardcover and softcover) [CDM]
<i>The Trinity Hymnal</i> [GCP]
<i>Teach Me to Worship</i> curriculum [CDM]
<i>Good News of Great Joy</i> Advent Devotional [CDM]
<i>Acts—The Church the Trinity Built</i> by George Robertson [CDM]
<i>Resources for Deacons</i> by Tim Keller [CDM]
<i>Understanding the Faith—A Workbook for Communicants Classes</i> by Stephen Smallman [P&R]

The largest single customer of the PCA Bookstore in 2015 was Amazon, as resources published by CEP/CDM are sold through an Amazon seller account. When a customer places an order through Amazon for a CDM resource, Amazon purchases the product from the PCA Bookstore with instructions to send the resource to the customer. The Bookstore staff fills the order and includes information about **pcabookstore.com** so the customer can save money in the future by coming directly to the Bookstore.

<b>Top Customers for the PCA Bookstore in 2015</b> (based on sales to a single organization)
Amazon.com (customers order CDM publications through Amazon)
Covenant PC, Ft. Smith, AR
West Hills PC, Knoxville, TN
Ligonier Ministries Bookstore
Park Cities PC, Dallas, TX
Redeemer PC, McKinney, TX

## **Financial Review**

While ministry opportunities continue to increase and CDM staff members are actively engaged in training, networking and resource development, the ministry continues to struggle to obtain the necessary resources to accomplish what the General Assembly has tasked CDM to do. In 2015, expenses exceeded income by \$30,800 (2.2% of total income). After the small surplus in 2014, the staff held expenses essentially the same in the hope that giving would remain constant. However, a fourth quarter decline in church giving accounted for two-thirds of the operating shortfall, and individual giving failed to match the amount in 2014, which was boosted by a significant challenge gift from an anonymous donor through the PCA Foundation.

Though the revenue trends are discouraging (particularly the decline in support from PCA churches), CDM's overall financial health is stable due to a cash reserve. It is reasonable to assume CDM could sustain losses similar to 2015 for 3 – 5 more years without having to utilize its available line of credit. Nevertheless, members of the CDM staff and permanent committee desire to keep expenses in line with income. At the same time, they are also working with churches and individuals to increase contributions, attendance at events, and sales of resources. In 2015, 114 PCA churches contributed to the CDM ministry for the first time or increased giving by \$100 or more, but 133 churches decreased giving to CDM by \$100 or more. Reasons for the decrease vary (e.g., congregational turmoil, planting a daughter church, etc.), but the total loss in church giving was \$21,500 compared to 2014.

Through its history, CDM's primary source of income has been support from congregations of the PCA (*BCO* 14-1). Yet, less than 30% of churches partner with CDM, so there is great potential for growth in this area. It is interesting to note a number of the congregations entering the PCA from the RCA have already partnered with CDM. Other sources of income for the ministry include individual giving (down from 2014, but up from years previous), and revenue from conference fees (up \$12,000 in 2015). The PCA Bookstore ordinarily operates on a "break-even" basis; however, increased sales revenue and lower personnel costs enabled the Bookstore to contribute to the general operations of CDM in 2015.



## Conclusion to the CDM Report

The ministry of discipleship in the PCA is diverse as congregations minister the truth of the gospel in very different contexts. The Committee on Discipleship Ministries exists to connect PCA people to other PCA people and PCA people to resources that reflect our doctrinal convictions and mission priorities. CDM serves as a hub to help those who have questions about ministry to children, youth, and adults, and also to serve as a conduit for stories about what God is doing and ideas for new models of discipleship. We give thanks for what God has done through the ministry of CDM in the past year and trust he will continue to guide and bless our effort to serve as a hub for relationships and resources.

## Recommendations

1. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Permanent Committee for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries in September 2015 and March 2016.
2. That the General Assembly receive the 2015 Audit performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith, and Jordan, and approve the same firm for the 2016 Audit.
3. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 CDM budget as presented by the Administrative Committee.
4. That the General Assembly give thanks to God and express appreciation to the churches and individuals who contributed to the 2015 Women's Love Gift given to benefit Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). The gift totaled over \$52,700.
5. That the General Assembly encourage churches and individuals to contribute generously to the 2016 Women's Love Gift designated to benefit the work of Parakaleo, which is a ministry of Mission to North America (MNA).
6. That the General Assembly designate the 2017 Women's Love Gift to benefit the ministry of Covenant College (CC).
7. That the General Assembly encourage individuals, local churches, and presbyteries to utilize the many resources available on the CDM website ([pcacdm.org](http://pcacdm.org)), as well as the many books and resources offered through the PCA Bookstore ([pcabookstore.com](http://pcabookstore.com)).
8. That the Assembly encourage individuals and local churches to utilize the excellent curricula from Great Commission Publications (GCP), e.g., *Show Me Jesus*, *Kids' Quest*, and *So What?* youth Bible studies, particularly the newest material—*So What? A Study of Philippians* for

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teens and *G2R (Genesis to Revelation) Bible Survey*, an 8-study series for preteens to young teens. (See Attachment 1)

9. That the General Assembly give thanks to TE Bernie Lawrence, RE William Stanway, and RE Gary White for their faithful service as members of the Permanent Committee.
10. That the General Assembly re-elect TE Stephen Estock to serve as the Coordinator for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM).
11. That the General Assembly authorize CDM to work with other Committees, Agencies, and Reformed ministries to develop a training and certification program, specifically for non-ordained ministry leaders (paid or volunteer) serving in discipleship ministries in the local church (e.g., ministry to children, youth, men and women). This certification will recognize developed competencies and serve as a helpful tool to churches as they seek trained staff personnel to serve in their local ministries.
12. That the General Assembly recognize Reformed Youth Ministries (RYM) as a valuable ministry partner to CDM in equipping and training students and youth staff (ordained and non-ordained) in local PCA churches.
13. That the General Assembly encourage women in local PCA churches to participate in one of the five remaining Transformed Conferences in 2016: Birmingham, AL (September 9-10); Philadelphia, PA (September 30-October 1); Hamilton, Ontario (October 21-22); Charlotte, NC (October 28-29); and Dallas, TX (November 11-12).

## Attachment 1

### REPORT FROM THE PUBLISHING MINISTRY OF GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS (GCP)

Great Commission Publications (GCP) is the official publishing ministry of the PCA and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). This joint publishing ministry was established by the respective General Assemblies of the PCA and the OPC in 1975. GCP produces high-quality Reformed and covenantal curriculum for all ages, as well as *Trinity Hymnal*. GCP publishes a full-orbed system of curriculum that is clearly based upon the Bible as the Word of God.

GCP is governed by a twelve member board of trustees. Six are elected by the PCA CDM and six by the OPC Committee on Christian Education (CCE). Additionally, the PCA CDM Coordinator and the OPC CCE General Secretary for Christian Education serve as ex-officio, non-voting trustees. Currently the GCP Executive Director and the Associate Executive Director are PCA teaching elders and the Director of Business Operations is a PCA ruling elder. The President of the board of trustees for 2016 is PCA TE Winston Maddox, Executive Pastor of Catalina Foothills Church in Tucson, AZ.

This year GCP is continuing to release its **G2R Bible Survey** (Genesis to Revelation) series of studies for preteens and young teens using the ESV. Studies for the entire Old Testament are currently available. Surveys of New Testament books will be available for this fall, including the Gospels in July, as well as Acts and Romans in October. First Corinthians through Philemon are scheduled for January 2017, and Hebrews through Revelation in April 2017. When completed next April, there will be survey studies for every book of the Bible. This set of Bible surveys allows churches more flexibility in how they group grades 5 through 8. Upon series completion in 2017, all titles will be available for churches to use at any time. Check out the website [www.gcp.org](http://www.gcp.org) to see how to use these studies in a two-year, three-year, or four-year plan. The critical nature of these foundational studies helps students integrate the familiar stories of the Bible into a comprehensive understanding of God's single story of his redemptive plan throughout Scripture.

GCP's **So What?** Bible studies for youth continue to grow in popularity. This year GCP is releasing its tenth study in this series, **A Study of Philippians**. For sample lessons visit [www.sowhatstudies.org](http://www.sowhatstudies.org). The modular

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format of this series allows flexibility in scheduling for use with youth groups, small group studies, homeschools, and Christian day schools.

GCP publishes a child's curriculum based on *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It features a new child's edition of the book, a dramatic reading, a selection of original songs, as well as lessons. For sample lessons for the *Pilgrim's Progress* curriculum please visit [www.childrenspilgrimsprogress.org](http://www.childrenspilgrimsprogress.org).

The **Show Me Jesus** curriculum (Toddler through sixth grade) is the core upon which all the GCP curriculum is built. Further, Kids' Quest is a catechetical curriculum in a club program format that is suited for a variety of settings in a discipleship program.

## APPENDIX E

### REPORT OF COVENANT COLLEGE TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Covenant College community, I offer this annual report on the 2014–2015 academic year.

#### **Academics**

We appointed three full-time faculty members, who will begin their service in the fall of 2015:

- Ms. Christiana Fitzpatrick (MA, Education, Wake Forest University), director of global education
- Dr. Karen Nelson (PhD, Molecular Biology, Case Western Reserve University), director of institutional research
- Dr. Chris Robinson (PhD, Sociology, University of South Carolina; MDiv, Union Theological Seminary), assistant professor of sociology

Professors Steve Corbett (community development), Brian Fikkert (economics & community development), Kelly Kopic (theological studies), and Hans Madueme (theological studies), and Russell Mask (community development) authored or edited books that were published.

Author and singer-songwriter Andrew Peterson was named Covenant's Nick Barker Writer in Residence for the spring semester of 2015.

The Department of Chemistry was awarded a Pittsburgh Conference Memorial National College Grant to fund the purchase of workstations that allow for faster data acquisition and analysis in chemistry labs.

#### **Admissions & Communications**

We were pleased to welcome 318 new students in the fall of 2014.

We completed a responsive redesign of the College's website, covenant.edu.

We began live-streaming and publishing video of chapel services.

### **Campus & Facilities**

Following investigations by facilities management and a structural engineer, we dismantled the College's longtime art facility—the Art Barn—and designed and constructed a new visual art facility, which opened in the fall of 2015. The cost for the construction of this facility was roughly \$2.2 million, the funds for which have all been pledged.

We completed a redesign of the gateway Covenant College sign at the main entrance.

We completed planning for and began a two-year, historic renovation of the exterior of our flagship building, Carter Hall. Opened in 1928 as the Lookout Mountain Hotel, this iconic structure, which has great bones, was sorely in need of repairs to its exterior wall as well as new windows and a new roof (the original having served for 87 years). The total cost of the renovation project—including soft costs and contingency—is \$19.4 million. The project necessitates the displacement of one-quarter of the building's tenants (students and administration) at a time, for semester-long periods. Completion is scheduled for August, 2017.

### **Development & Finances**

Donors generously gave \$9,410,796 to Covenant during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. \$5 million of that came in the form of a single estate gift—the largest single check the College has ever received—which was restricted by the donor for endowment for student scholarships.

Covenant saw positive operating results again this year, with a nearly \$700,000 increase in net assets.

A campaign to fund the construction of a new visual art facility was begun and completed.

A campaign to fund the restoration of Carter Hall began.

We had a record number of churches participate in our Church Scholarship Promise program, with 272 partner churches.

Following Troy Duble's resignation as vice president for advancement, Jeff Sandhoff was appointed to replace him. Other new hires include Kim Collins, director of alumni engagement; Gus Diamondidis, regional director of development; and Ike Reeder, church relations officer.

## **Strategic Plan**

The 2014-2015 year was the first year of implementation of a new three-year strategic plan for the College. The overarching focus of the plan is on strengthening the total Covenant experience—the educational experience had both by students and by other College constituents—while increasing the availability and sustainability of that experience. This focus is supported by five strategic priorities:

- Strengthen academic excellence & impact
- Create lifelong Covenant value & connection
- Foster transformation through diverse experiences
- Create a sustainable economic model
- Strengthen organizational resilience & innovation

Each of the five priorities entails supporting objectives. In the first year of implementation, the College focused on enhancing mentoring and increasing opportunities for guided practicums and internships, evaluating and revising the core curriculum, evaluating and augmenting the College’s marketing and communications strategy, assessing and revising the current business model, and implementing a plan to address deferred maintenance and capital expenditures.

## **Student Life**

We continued an ongoing conversation on homosexuality and gender identity with guest speaker Sam Allberry and a panel of faculty and staff members.

The men’s cross country team won the USA South championship for the second consecutive year, and coach Katie Stanford was voted Coach of the Year. The men’s soccer team won the USA South championship and earned a berth to the NCAA Division III tournament championship. John Hirte was voted USA South Coach of the Year for men’s tennis. Covenant’s athletics department won the USA South Sportsmanship Award.

A survey of graduating seniors revealed that 92% reported being members or regular attenders of a local church and 63% had completed internships before graduation.

## **General Assembly**

The College was pleased to welcome the PCA General Assembly to the Chattanooga area in 2015. College staff created branding and print collateral for General Assembly, planned seminars, coordinated transportation needs,

and hosted a women's luncheon and an evening picnic and Andrew Peterson concert on Covenant's campus.

### **Recognition**

*Washington Monthly* ranked Covenant #10 in the nation among baccalaureate colleges, and *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Covenant #9 among regional colleges in the South.

In *Washington Monthly*, Covenant ranked 5th in the nation for the number of alumni who go on to receive PhDs and 1st in the nation for the number of graduates who go on to serve in the Peace Corps, relative to school size.

At 85%, Covenant's freshman retention rate ranks 1st among regional colleges in the South.

### **Conclusion**

We are grateful for the oversight of the PCA as we seek to remain faithful to our mission to explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things. Thank you for your partnership in the work God is doing through Covenant College—the fruits of this enterprise are evident in the lives of students and alumni.

Yours in Christ,

J. Derek Halvorson ('93) Ph.D.  
President

### **Recommendations**

1. That the General Assembly thank and praise God for the excellent work and faithfulness of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff of Covenant College in serving the Presbyterian Church in America by shaping students for lives of service in the Kingdom of God.
2. That the General Assembly encourage congregations of the PCA to support the ministry of Covenant College through encouraging prospective students to attend, through contributing the Partnership Shares approved by the General Assembly, and through prayer.
3. That the General Assembly approve the budget for 2015-2016, as submitted through the Administrative Committee.



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4. That the General Assembly adopt “The Covenant College and Supporting Foundation Financial Report” dated June 30, 2015, and prepared by Capin Crouse LLP.
5. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees for October 8-9, 2015, and March 17-18, 2016, with notations.
6. That the General Assembly receive as information the foregoing Annual Report, recognizing God’s gracious and abundant blessing and commending the College in its desire to continue pursuing excellence in higher education for the glory of God.
7. That the General Assembly designate a Sunday in the coming year on which churches of the denomination are encouraged to highlight the ministry of Covenant College and to pray specifically for the College in its mission and ministry.
8. That the General Assembly direct the College to maintain policies in keeping with a biblical understanding of sexual identity (see Attachment).

## **Attachment**

*The following is a summary statement on sexual identity put forward by the College administration. The faculty of the College offered a unanimous resolution of support for this statement, and the board adopted it at its regular Spring 2016 meeting. This statement is not intended to address every possible situation that might be encountered, but is intended rather to represent at a summary level a biblical understanding of sexual identity.*

### **Statement on Sexual Identity**

Covenant College is the college of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and, as such, upholds and affirms the confessional statements of its denomination. The PCA maintains the Old and New Testaments to be the infallible Word of God and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms as secondary standards of faith and practice. Specifically, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* asserts that the Holy Scriptures—the 66 books constituting the Old and New Testaments—are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life.

With regard to the nature of the sexes, Covenant College affirms that passages in both the Old and New Testaments explicitly state that human sexuality is binary: male and female. These passages include the creation narratives in Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:21-24, which are later repeated by both Jesus (Matthew 19:1-9) and Paul (Ephesians 5:31), who affirm these binary distinctions when linking the sexes to monogamous heterosexual marriage. The distinct creation of male and female intended for communal relationship with one another is a reflection of the image of the relational God. These biblical passages provide a normative framework that establishes sex as a distinct morphological phenotype differentiated by the presence of external sex characteristics which provide the sexual union that produces “one flesh.” Sexual identity is therefore based on these objective and observable biological realities. Individual subjective feelings and experiences of gradations that deviate from this binary norm, however existentially salient, cannot supersede this normative sexual framework.

There are a small percentage of individuals whose biological sexuality is indeterminate resulting from genetic or in utero developmental anomalies. The existence of such intersex conditions does not invalidate the creational norms established by the Genesis narratives and affirmed by Jesus and Paul. These anomalies notwithstanding, such individuals bear the image of God and are deserving of all the dignity, respect, and care afforded to divine image-bearers, and we are called to support them in wisdom and love.

**APPENDIX F**

**REPORT OF  
COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**JUNE 2016**

**The Gospel for All of Life:  
Equipping God’s People for Kingdom Service—for 2025 and Beyond**

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,  
the shepherds and teachers,  
to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up  
the body of Christ, . . .*

*Ephesians 4:11–12*

Each year, it is our great privilege to report to our denomination on the ways in which the Lord has been fulfilling his Kingdom purposes through the mission and ministry of Covenant Seminary. This year we are thankful for the many blessings God has showered on us, and for the many opportunities for increased gospel impact he has put before us, even as the changing cultural and economic landscapes continue to present significant challenges to Christian educational institutions like ours. Please join us in praising God as we share with you, our sister PCA agencies and partner churches, this overview of his faithfulness over the past year and his provision for the way ahead.

**Equipping for Gospel Impact in a Rapidly Changing Culture**

As the culture around us continues to shift dramatically away from biblical truth in nearly every area of life, the need for well-trained pastors and leaders who can help others understand the issues of our times and engage with them in a biblical way is greater than ever. These pastors and leaders—who will have a lasting impact on our churches, our denomination, our culture, and our world—must be identified, encouraged, and equipped for this daunting but essential task. It matters greatly *who* trains these leaders, and *how*. Indeed, we might say that as go the seminaries, so go the pastors—and so will go the church, the nation, and the world.

***Committed to Excellence in Pastoral Training.*** We at Covenant Seminary take very seriously our responsibility to shape and form the kind of pastors and leaders who are able to shape and form others who will then impact the world for Christ in whatever vocations and areas of service to which the Lord calls them. We also take very seriously our standing as the primary pastoral training institution of our denomination. We believe it is important to provide the kind of training we do in the manner in which we do it—residential, life-on-life, mentored ministry training within the context of a living, learning, worshiping, covenantal community of grace—because we believe that this approach best reflects Jesus’s own approach with his disciples.

We see this approach as being more important than ever in a world where technological advances that allow for amazing innovations in how human beings interact with and learn from one another also bring with them some serious challenges to building the kind of community and deep relationships that are necessary for shaping good pastoral leaders. While we embrace and celebrate many of these technologies—and see them as a vital part of our educational mission—we also remain firmly committed to a form of theological education rooted in deep personal relationships that grow from the soil of faith in and love for Christ, and are empowered by his redeeming grace.

***Building on Missional Goals.*** To this end, with gratitude toward God for his faithfulness to us over the last 60 years, we are looking to build on the strong foundation he has given us, so that, over the next ten years, we may further become a seminary that:

- **Recruits and retains** the most promising ministerial students and the highest quality faculty of pastor-scholars.
- **Equips transformational servant-leaders** to lead and shape the church and our denomination for gospel proclamation and biblical engagement with the pressing issues of the day.
- **Expands the impact** of our mentored life-formation approach to every degree program and every student on our campus.
- **Maximizes our partnerships** with local churches to expand field education opportunities and experiences for our students.
- **Launches our graduates** into ministry well, without the burden of educational debt, and sustains and encourages them through a lifetime of faithful ministry.
- **Strengthens our organizational budget** and expands our base of annual and capital support so that we might steward our campus and our human resources well for the next generation.

- **Leverages our many grace-based resources** for the sake of the church, the denomination, and the Kingdom by expanding the impact of Covenant Seminary far beyond St. Louis, both online and in person.

*Planning for Future Effectiveness.* Many of our efforts over the last year have been aimed at laying the groundwork for further growth in each of these major areas. We are developing a strategic plan that will guide us in these endeavors as we look ahead to the year 2025 and beyond. We have also been consulting with our lead donors over the past several months as we prepare to launch a major capital campaign later this year to grow our endowment with the goal of bringing greater financial strength to areas that are vital to our mission. These include:

- **Increasing support for our students** through endowed scholarships,
- **Ensuring long-term stability and continuity** for our faculty through endowed professorships,
- **Enhancing operational effectiveness** through infrastructural improvements and resource stewardship, and
- **Expanding our Kingdom-equipping opportunities** through strategic partnerships that will enable us to bring something of the distinctive ethos, energy, and educational resources of Covenant to the broader church via online and on-the-ground channels that reach far beyond our main campus.

You'll be hearing more about all of this in the coming months as we further develop our goals and plans. Please pray for God's guidance and provision as we seek to honor him in carrying out our mission.

### **Equipping for Gospel Influence in Every Area of Life**

We have been working faithfully in several practical ways to make our future vision a present reality.

*The Renovation of Edwards Hall Community Center.* Our newly refurbished Community Center reopened in fall 2015 after a massive 18-month renovation program aimed at making the building—which has served a variety of functions over the years—more inviting and conducive to fostering the deep, gospel-centered relationships that are vital to the formation of effective pastors and church leaders. Named for the Edwards family, who have been friends and supporters of the Seminary since its inception and whose heritage includes the former financial firm of A. G. Edwards and Sons (now part of Wells Fargo Advisors), the facility was

originally built as a multi-purpose classroom. Later converted into a gathering space for students, faculty, and staff, the center became an important focal point for campus community life. Over the last several years, it was increasingly apparent that the facility was inadequate for the needs of a growing student body. Thanks to funds raised from many generous private donors, Seminary alumni, and a gift from the PCA's Women in the Church, the center underwent a complete makeover, transforming it into an up-to-date, accessible, and family-friendly facility. Improvements include:

- A **larger dining space** with a beamed ceiling, large windows that look out onto an exterior patio dining space, and a **double-sided fireplace** to add inviting warmth.
- A more intimate **booth seating** area.
- A **community self-serve kitchen** with seating around an open kitchen bar.
- A **new café and coffee shop** near the larger dining area that will sell fresh, light fare.
- **More lounge and meeting space**, with a reservable area for use by small study and discussion groups.
- A **recreation room** on the lower level that will include facilities for table tennis and light fitness equipment.
- **Family-friendly restrooms.**
- An **elevator** for easier access to the lower level.

Many environmentally friendly LEED concepts were incorporated into the design, such as a light shelf to reflect light and reduce the use of overhead lighting, a highly efficient HVAC system that will reduce energy consumption, recycled materials in finishes and furnishings, permeable pavers for the patio, and a rain garden to catch runoff from the roof.

We believe the new Community Center will have a tremendous impact on our students and their future ministries because so much of what shapes us in life happens around tables and food—sharing meals together, sharing conversation, sharing the stories of our day. Our goal was to create a place for our campus community that provides a shared space for those kinds of formative times, a place that encourages relationships and conversations between students, faculty, and others within our surrounding churches. These hopes are already being realized.

***The Launch of Covenant Seminary–Nashville.*** We are pleased to announce that two years after serious exploratory conversations began between our staff and pastors and elders in Nashville, Tennessee, our expanded presence

in that city, known as Covenant Seminary–Nashville, officially launched in January 2016. While we remain as firmly committed as ever to the residential model of theological education as the most effective way to train pastors and leaders for Christ’s church, we also recognize that increasingly, many students cannot, for economic or other reasons, relocate to St. Louis for full-time seminary study as readily as in the past. Our desire is to help such students get a head start on their training through locally offered instruction in a strategically chosen city. Based on a strong existing network of alumni and churches in Nashville that can serve as infrastructural support for such a project, we chose that city as the home for an extension site. The goals for Covenant Seminary–Nashville are to:

- **Serve as an access point and on-ramp** for students who desire to begin their seminary training before moving to St. Louis.
- **Provide on-site and hybrid online/on-site courses** for a variety of students seeking further training with our MATS for their ministry staff positions.
- **Further equip those in ministry or lay leadership** who seek deeper understanding of their faith and a better integration of that faith into their vocational life.
- **Provide strategic research and insight** for the potential development of future learning sites.

We kicked things off with our first class, a weekend seminar called **Interpreting the Bible**, taught by **Dr. Dan Doriani.**, followed by Dr. Doriani’s week-long morning class **Exploring the Gospels**. The enthusiasm and excitement experienced during the week was encouraging and gave us much to build on for the future.

An additional course, **Spiritual and Ministry Formation**, was taught weekly on Thursday evenings during the spring semester by **Dr. Phil Douglass, Dr. Brad Matthews,** and **Dr. Scotty Smith,** a Nashville friend and one of our adjunct faculty members. Dr. Matthews also taught a weekend seminar on **Christian Maturity** in April. A further course on **Calling, Vocation, and Work**, to be taught by **Dr. Mark Dalbey, Dr. Mike Williams,** and Adjunct Professor **Dr. Donald Guthrie** will take place in August.

We are profoundly grateful to the many staff members, friends, donors, and other partners who played key roles in bringing this dream to fruition. We praise God for his favor in bringing all the many details together so that the work of equipping his people in Nashville could get off to such a solid start.

We pray that he will use this work to bless his people, whether they pursue studies while remaining in Nashville or seek further training for ministry by joining us eventually in St. Louis.

***More Scholarships to Support Our Students.*** In keeping with our desire to ensure that as many students and alumni as possible are able to pursue a seminary education without incurring a heavy burden of debt, this year we were able to institute new scholarships to support key constituencies.

- **New Doctor of Ministry (DMin) Scholarships.** In keeping with our desire to serve as a resource and provide ongoing educational opportunities for our alumni, Covenant Seminary this year began offering a 75% scholarship for alumni taking the first course of our DMin program. After the first course, Covenant will match funds that alumni receive from their churches, up to a maximum of 25% of tuition per course. The number of 75% scholarships is limited each year. Non-alumni DMin students with financial need and students who do not have any funding from their churches can also apply for the matching scholarship program. Specific qualifications and details are available on our website.
- **New Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) Scholarships.** Nearly half of the new students we receive come to us through participation in some form of campus ministry, with many of those coming from Reformed University Fellowship. We recently established several scholarships to encourage and support students who are actively involved with an RUF ministry or who are serving as RUF interns. Specific qualifications and details are available on our website. In general:
  - 50%-tuition awards are available for full-time, main-campus MDiv students.
  - 50% awards are also available for online or Nashville courses for interns prior to attending as full-time, main-campus MDiv students.

***Biblical Engagement with Pressing Issues of Our Day.*** Part of helping our students to understand and interact biblically with our culture and its challenges requires that we as an institution model such interaction for them. This year provided several significant opportunities to do so.

- **The 2015 Francis A. Schaeffer Lectures** explored the church's missional identity in a changing global landscape as plenary speaker **Dr. Michael Goheen**, theological director and scholar-in-residence at the Missional Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and author of *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*



spoke on the theme **“Sent Into the World: Missional Recovery of Ecclesial Identity.”** Dr. Goheen was joined by Acts 29 Network vice president and St. Louis Cardinal chaplain Rev. Darrin Patrick, who is also founder/lead pastor of The Journey in St. Louis; Rev. Josiah Bancroft, director of mission at Serge (formerly World Harvest Mission); Dr. Luke Bobo, curriculum director and resident theologian at Biblical Business Training; and Dr. Michael Williams, professor of systematic theology at Covenant Seminary. The goal of the conference was to help believers recapture our identity as those who join God in his missional task to bless and heal the nations as the good news of Christ’s redeeming work is made known in and through the church—the sign, instrument, and foretaste of God’s salvation.

- **The African American Leadership Development and Resource Weekend** in September 2015 focused on the theme of **“Orthodox Activism: The Church in Pursuit of Social Justice.”** Hosted by Covenant Seminary and South City Church, the conference brought together people of all ethnicities and denominations in a safe place to have important conversations among believers about difficulties the church faces in addressing social justice issues. Speakers included **Dr. Sean Michael Lucas**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; **Dr. Carl Ellis Jr.**, associate pastor for cultural apologetics, New City Fellowship, Chattanooga, Tennessee; **Mrs. K. A. Ellis**, speaker and writer on the theology of human rights, African American culture, understanding Islam, and the persecuted church; **Dr. Thurman Williams**, associate pastor, Grace and Peace Fellowship, St. Louis, Missouri; **Rev. Tony Myles**, associate pastor, New City Fellowship-University City, Missouri; and **Dr. Mike Higgins**, dean of students at Covenant Seminary.

The event built on some of the same themes addressed at last summer’s General Assembly during a **fellowship dinner on justice and peace** that featured **Dr. Higgins** and his daughter, **Michelle Higgins**, director of worship and outreach at South City Church, as the main speakers. It also built on the **City Ministry Initiative conference** from April 2015 entitled **“Welcoming One Another: Racial Identity in Christ,”** which featured **Dr. Carl Ellis** and **Michelle Higgins**, as well as **Dr. Peter Slade** of the Department of Religious Studies at Ashland University; **Dr. Vince Bantu**, co-chair of the Theology Committee of the Christian Community Development Association.

- **The winter 2016 issue of *Covenant Magazine*** addressed the theme of “**Reflections on the Church and Racial Reconciliation.**” Drawing on the insights of some of our professors and alumni, the main articles in this issue reflected the growing recognition within our denomination and the broader evangelical community that the church in America has not always lived up to its calling to be the living voice, hands, and feet of the gospel when it comes to issues of racial and social justice. Intended as a helpful, thought-provoking and discussion-starting resource for those in our churches, this has quickly become one of our most-requested issues.
- **The Seminary’s Board of Trustees moved at its January 2016 meeting to affirm and endorse the Missouri Presbytery’s Overture (Overture 4)** to this year’s General Assembly on the need for racial reconciliation and repentance in our denomination’s churches. The endorsement includes the following statement applied to Covenant Seminary:

*We believe this overture provides a helpful and important next step to grow as a seminary community in our commitment to racial reconciliation and justice:*

- *In our understanding of where we have failed to love and serve our African American brothers and sisters and neighbors in the past and present;*
  - *In our listening to and providing voice for a deeper owning of the ways we have sinned and are sinning against our brothers and sisters by way of commission and omission;*
  - *In our commitment to seeing the Seminary become a more diverse community in its faculty, staff, board, and student body; and*
  - *In our need to have a more comprehensive training and equipping of all our students to understand and embrace doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God in relationship to our brothers and sisters.*
- **The Fourth Annual St. Louis L’Abri Conference**, sponsored by L’Abri Fellowship in Rochester, Minnesota, and held on our campus in October 2015, explored the theme “**Defending Life and Liberty in a Brave New World.**” The conference addressed the challenges to human liberty in an increasingly divisive, intolerant, and relativistic world. Speakers included **Mr. Dick Keyes**, director of L’Abri Fellowship in Southborough, Massachusetts; **Dr. David**

**Lyon**, research chair in surveillance studies and director of the Surveillance Studies Centre, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario; **Dr. Richard Winter**, professor of applied theology and counseling, Covenant Seminary; **Rev. Mark Ryan**, director of the Francis A. Schaeffer Institute at Covenant Seminary; and **Mr. Larry Snyder**, scholar, teacher, and former director of the Rochester L’Abri.

- **“Porn: Gateway to the Gospel—A Training Seminar for Leaders Walking Alongside Those Battling Sexual Addictions”** was the title of another special weekend course held on campus in October 2015. The conference addressed the scourge of pornography that is rampant in our culture and in the church, and the need for the church to be proactive in leading others to counter its lustful power with the true passion for which God has made humanity. The featured speaker was **Michael Cusick**, an ordained pastor, licensed professional counselor, and author of *Surfing for God: Discovering the Divine Desire Beneath Sexual Struggle*.
- **“Apologetics in the Urban Context: Defending the Faith in the City”** was the theme of a special weekend course held in November 2015 at South City Church in St. Louis. Featured speaker **Rev. Dr. Luke Bobo**, director of resource curriculum development for Made to Flourish, led attendees in an exploration of some of the hard questions our unbelieving friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members ask about the values of God’s Kingdom. Students took field trips around the city, learned to listen well and ask good questions, and to work together to develop better skills for defending the faith in an urban context.
- A special weekend conference entitled **“How Missional Service is Pulling Christians Together Around the World: Generational, Ethnic, and Denominational Differences Can Be Overcome”** featured Dr. J. Nelson Jennings, former professor of world mission at Covenant Seminary and now mission pastor and consultant at Onnuri Community Church in Seoul, South Korea, bringing his considerable knowledge to bear on bridging some of the gaps that divide Christians as they attempt to work together for the sake of the gospel in different parts of the world. The weekend also offered a panel of mission practitioners sharing their experiences in addressing the challenges of cross-cultural collaboration in their unique ministry contexts.
- **“Eating Disorders and the Body”** was the title of a weekend seminar held in March 2015 to help believers understand and deal biblically with the impact of eating-related issues such as anorexia,

bulimia, and binge eating disorder that claim the lives of thousands each year. The seminar addressed the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual aspects of food, body image, and eating disorders. The featured speakers were two Covenant Seminary alumni: **Travis Stewart (MAC '01/MATS '03)**, a licensed professional counselor and director of outreach for Castlewood Treatment Center; and **Dr. Kelly Maxwell (MAC '08)**, a licensed professional counselor in private practice with experience at an eating disorder clinic and a PhD in family therapy. The event was co-sponsored by our Counseling Department and Castlewood Treatment Centers.

- **The Men's Leadership Breakfast**, our long-running Bible study for men in our community from every walk of life, continued to meet this year with a well-received in-depth study of the biblical understanding of manhood as presented by **Dr. Dan Doriani**, vice president of strategic academic initiatives and professor of theology, in his recent book *The New Man: Becoming a Man After God's Heart* (P&R, 2015), an updated edition of his earlier *The Life of a God-Made Man*.

#### *Other Significant Events and Activities*

- **The Covenant Seminary Preaching Lectures**, held in October 2015, featured Rev. Greg Thompson, senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia, speaking on the topic **"My Beloved Speaks: Preaching and the Triune Voice of Love."** Rev. Thompson explored the many ways in which God's voice of love speaks to us in the Scriptures and the implications this has for the preaching of his Word.
- **The Fifth Annual Theology Conference**, sponsored by the student-led Theological Fellowship at Covenant Seminary in January 2016, featured the presentation of student and faculty papers on a variety of topics such as: "The Theology of Food," "Zeal, Despair, and Future Hope," "Ethical Apparel," "Vinculture and Wine Consumption in the Iron Age," and more. The Theological Fellowship also hosts occasional **Bantam Lectures** throughout the school year.
- **The Seminary received the gift of an authentic Torah scroll** at a special dedication ceremony at Rayburn Chapel in March 2016. Given to Covenant through the generosity of **Ken and Barb Larson** and their family, the scroll is more than 250 years old and nearly 100 feet long. The Larsons, founders of Slumberland Furniture, are passionate lovers of the Bible and enthusiastic collectors of ancient

manuscripts. They have traveled to Israel multiple times over many years and have graciously donated similar scrolls to other seminaries. They were on hand at the dedication ceremony to officially present the scroll to Covenant. Joining them was **Dr. Scott Carroll**, an expert manuscript researcher who has helped to build two of the largest collections of Bibles and biblically related manuscripts in the world, the Van Kampen Collection and the Green Collection. Members of the Covenant Seminary community, including some from neighboring Jewish synagogues, joined us in receiving this historic and meaningful gift. Having survived some of the darkest periods of human history, this scroll is a powerful testament to God's faithfulness and the enduring power of his Word. This stunning piece of our spiritual heritage demonstrates the meticulous care and sacrificial commitment with which faithful copyists have preserved and transmitted Scripture for millennia using scrolls like this one. The manuscript will be a significant tool for biblical study, giving students and professors firsthand access to and engagement with an important artifact that will teach them more about the preservation of the Bible across the centuries. The scroll was available for public viewing at the ceremony before going on permanent display in the J. Oliver Buswell Jr. Library.

- **The Faithful Shepherd Pastors' Conference**, sponsored by the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals and P&R Publishing and held in Long Beach, New Jersey, in May 2016, featured **Dr. Dan Doriani**, vice president for strategic academic initiatives and professor of theology, as one of its main speakers. The others were **Dr. David Powlison**, faculty member of the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF) and author of *Seeing with New Eyes*, and **Dr. Iain Duguid**, professor of Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary and author of *Hero of Heroes*. Open to men who are ministers, missionaries, chaplains, elders, deacons, and seminary students (and their wives), the conference covered important issues that every pastor and elder should consider in his labors, including the personal reading of Scripture, self-care, the practice of Christ-like leadership, and the task of reaching the community with the gospel, among other topics.
- This spring we began the process of preparing for our **ten-year self-study report with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)**. Required by our accreditors every decade, the report provides a regular opportunity for in-depth analysis and evaluation of our curriculum, methods, and educational outcomes, and serves as a key

point of reference as we plan for the future. Our last self-study was completed in 2007.

- **As 2016–2017 marks our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** as an institution, we are making plans to mark the occasion in a special way. You will be hearing more about this soon. Meanwhile, please praise God with us for his great faithfulness to the Seminary and ask for his continued blessing for the future.

***Stewarding God’s Provision of Financial Resources.*** As we did last year, we continued this year to move toward greater financial stability through careful, vigilant stewardship of the resources God has provided for us. As you are aware, the last few years have been difficult for us due to ongoing economic challenges, shifting student demographics, and changes in the field of theological education generally. Wise stewardship has necessitated some hopefully temporary budgetary constraints. On the positive side, enrollments were up slightly this year, though not quite as high as we had hoped, and Annual Fund giving has been very strong. As of this writing, we are on track to hit our giving goals for the fiscal year.

***Celebrating God’s Provision of Dedicated People.*** The Lord’s greatest gift to Covenant Seminary is the people who serve here as faculty, staff, or trustees. We have been particularly blessed in this regard, as the following personnel updates indicate.

- **Faculty Arrivals**
  - **Dr. Vince Bantu**, co-chair of the Theology Committee of the Christian Development Association, joined us in fall 2015 as a **visiting professor of missiology**, teaching in some of our world mission classes. Dr. Bantu, a native of St. Louis, has completed a PhD from the Catholic University of America focused on missiological issues in the early church. He also holds a ThM in church history from Princeton Seminary and an MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary’s Center for Urban Ministerial Education. His primary interests include racial reconciliation, non-Western Christianity, and theological education in under-resourced communities. Dr. Bantu also has pastoral experience as well, having served the Cambridge Community Fellowship Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as an apprentice under Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, and as a program coordinator for the Emmanuel Gospel Center. He and his wife, Diana, also planted DC Shalom Church in Washington, DC.

- **Dr. Zack Eswine (MDiv '95)**, who taught at Covenant several years ago, returned in July 2015 in a part-time role as **director of homiletics and adjunct professor of applied theology**. He replaces Dr. Jimmy Agan, who left the Seminary in June to return to pastoral ministry. Zack continues in his capacity as lead pastor at Riverside Church (EPC) in Webster Groves, Missouri, where he has served since 2008. He was director of Covenant's Doctor of Ministry program from 2001 to 2008. Prior to that, he was lead pastor of Grace Church (PCA) in Hudson, Ohio (1995–2001); an associate staff member for the Navigators in Muncie, Indiana; and director of the Victim Assistance Program for Blackford County, Indiana. He currently serves as moderator of Mid-America Presbytery for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), is director of the Webster Groves Clergy Alliance for Racial Equality, is on the board of Webster's Alliance for Racial Dignity, and is a visiting lecturer at Grace Theological College in New Zealand. He brings many years' experience as a pastor, preacher, and teacher to his role at the Seminary, where he teaches the introductory homiletics course and the introductory lectures for the core homiletics curriculum, and also oversees the adjunct and visiting homiletics instructors. Dr. Eswine is the author of several books, including *Preaching to a Post-Everything World*, *Sensing Jesus*, and *The Imperfect Pastor*.
- **Dr. Bruce McRae** joined the Seminary in October 2015 as **dean of academic administration and adjunct professor of applied theology**. He takes over this role following the departure in May 2015 of Rev. Chris Florence, who returned to pastoral ministry. Bringing a wealth of leadership experience in church, seminary, non-profit, and corporate contexts, Dr. McRae is highly skilled in leading teams and in bringing administrative and relational skills to bear in the service of God's Kingdom. His duties as dean of academic administration will include ensuring that the Seminary's mission and doctrinal standards are being fulfilled through academic policy, procedures, and resourcing. Dr. McRae is already known and respected by the Covenant community, as he has served as an adjunct professor of applied theology at the Seminary since 2009, teaching in the Doctor of Ministry Program. Dr. McRae previously served with PCA

Retirement & Benefits, Inc., as a development officer for ministerial relief (2013–2015), and was director of church relations with Great Commissions Publications (2008–2013). Dr. McRae has been an adjunct professor with Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta since 2003. He has also served in various senior and executive pastor roles.

- **Faculty Departures**

- **Dr. Clarence DeWitt “Jimmy” Agan III**, professor of New Testament and director of the homiletics program, left at the end of spring semester 2015 to follow a call to return to pastoral ministry. He now serves as senior pastor of Intown Community Church in Atlanta, Georgia.
- **Rev. Chris Florence**, vice president of academic administration and assistant professor of educational ministries, also felt the call to return to pastoral ministry. He left us last summer to take on the role of senior associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he serves with another former Covenant professor, Dr. Mike Honeycutt, who is senior pastor at Westminster.
- **Dr. Richard Winter**, professor of applied theology and counseling and chair of the Counseling Department, will retire from full-time teaching at the end of the current academic year. Dr. Winter has had a profound impact on the counseling program and the school as a whole, and will be sorely missed. He plans to continue teaching part-time for us in the coming years. Our search process for Dr. Winter’s replacement is going well.

- **Change in Faculty/Staff Responsibilities**

- **Dr. Tasha Chapman**, who had been serving as dean of academic services and adjunct professor of educational ministries, is now **director of educational studies**, while retaining her status as adjunct professor of educational ministries. Her new role enables Dr. Chapman to have more time for teaching and interacting with students in the classroom.
- **Ms. Jordan Harwood**, who has served as an administrator in the Development Office for the last two years, was named as our **capital campaign director**. Ms. Harwood comes to us with a background in advancement, marketing, and alumni relations. She will be an invaluable asset as we



prepare to conduct a major capital campaign over the next few years with the goal of strengthening our institutional endowment and raising funds for other strategic initiatives that will further enhance our ability to carry out our mission. Originally from North Carolina, Jordan came to Covenant Seminary in 2014 after working three years working in Alumni Relations at Covenant College, from which she holds a BA in philosophy. She is currently pursuing an MAC at the Seminary.

- **Board and Advisory Board Changes**

- **Rev. Dr. Hugh Barlett**, senior pastor, Chesterfield Presbyterian Church in Chesterfield, Missouri, began his service on our Board in 2015. Hugh has been a visiting instructor in homiletics at Covenant Seminary for more than 15 years, and has also taught courses on preparing for ordination and church renewal for MDiv and DMin students. He has extensive pastoral experience and has served on a number of committees and commissions in both the Heartland and Missouri Presbyteries. He has been married to his wife, Judy, for 33 years; they have three children.
- **Mr. William R. Bennett**, senior vice president, Cadence Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, also joined our Board in 2015. He held various positions during 20 years with AmSouth/Regions Bank before joining Cadence Bank in 2011. He serves as a ruling elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Homewood, Alabama, and is a member of the Church and Pastor Care Committee and the Administrative Committee of Evangel Presbytery. He has also served on the MNA Committee of Commissioners. Mr. Bennett and his wife, Kem, have three children.
- **Mr. Samuel “Sam” N. Graham**, chief executive officer of Diversified Trust Company, Memphis, Tennessee, moved to our Advisory Board for a year following several years of active service on our Board of Trustees. Mr. Graham is a past president of the Estate Planning Council of Memphis, is chairman of the board of trustees for Memphis University School (a college preparatory school for boys founded in 1893), a member of the President’s Council for the University of Tennessee, and serves as an elder at Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Dr. Miles Gresham**, physician/partner with Gastroenterology Associates, Birmingham, Alabama, also moved to our Advisory Board this year. Dr. Gresham has been president of the Medical Staff at Medical Center East, Birmingham, and currently serves as chairman of the board of directors of Outpatient Services East, Birmingham. He has served Evangel Presbytery as a member and chairman of the Reformed University Ministries Alabama Committee, and is currently serving the presbytery as moderator. Dr. Gresham is a member and ruling elder at Red Mountain Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.
- **Mr. James “Jim” Price**, co-founder and vice president of software development, Encore Analytics, LLC, Tacoma, Washington, joined our Advisory Board for the first time in 2015. Mr. Price has worked as an aerospace engineer, a software developer, and a ground-radio maintenance technician. He also served in the U.S. Air Force for nine years, five as a commissioned officer. Encore Analytics is his second startup with the same partner, the first of which was sold in 2006. He is on the board of the Alliance of Christian Musicians and serves as a ruling elder at Faith Presbyterian Church in Tacoma. Mr. Price and his wife, Paige, have been married for 37 years.
- **Dr. Jonathan Seda**, senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Dover, Delaware, returned to our Board in 2015 after serving a year on our Advisory Board. He was first elected to the Board in 2006. The son of Puerto Rican missionaries to Cuba, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela, Dr. Seda has a passion for seeing people worship together across the lines of race and class. He has led worship seminars in several locations both inside and outside the U.S. for more than ten years. He serves on Heritage Presbytery’s RUF Committee, Young Life’s State Board of Directors, and the Board of Mosaix Global Network. He and his wife, Dale, have four children.
- **Dr. Frank Wicks Jr.**, retired executive vice president and president of Applied Markets, a division of Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, returned to our Board in 2015 after serving a year on our Advisory Board. He was on our Advisory Board from 2001 to 2004, and was first elected to the Board in 2005. Prior to his successful business career, Dr. Wicks served for four years on the staff of the

Navigators at the U.S. Air Force Academy and at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is currently a member of the CEO Forum and serves on the board of Cass Information Systems. He was a founding elder at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in South St. Louis County (under founding pastor Dr. Phil Douglass, professor of applied theology at Covenant Seminary) and has led a men's Bible study there since the church began. Dr. Wicks and his wife, Elvesta, have three daughters and eleven grandchildren.

***Lamenting the Loss of Old Friends.*** This year the Seminary said bittersweet farewells to some dear friends and supporters who will be greatly missed, though we rejoice that they now glory in the presence of their Lord.

- **Mr. Edward “Ed” L. Harris**, president of Harris Harper Counsel, Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away in November 2015. Mr. Harris had served on our Board or Advisory Board since 1987. He began his professional life as editor and publisher of a daily newspaper in Richmond, Indiana, but when that was sold in 1976, he entered the investment field managing two limited partnerships of money managers. He is survived by his wife, DeAnn (who also serves on our Advisory Board), their four children, and seven grandchildren. Mr. Harris served for many years on local church sessions, both in St. Louis and in Tulsa.
- **Rev. William B. Leonard Jr.**, a Board member for 20 years (1962-1982), passed away in September 2015 at the age of 98. Rev. Leonard was a remarkable pastor, church planter, and chaplain, as well as a noted spiritual leader in his beloved home of Colorado Springs, Colorado. A veteran of the Pacific Campaign in World War II and of the Korean Conflict, Rev. Leonard organized the first police chaplaincy in Colorado Springs, was the founding executive director of a PCA Chaplains Commission that today serves seven Presbyterian denominations, pastored and/or organized several churches and a Christian school, and, during his retirement, traveled the world extensively to offer encouragement to military chaplains and their families. Rev. Leonard was preceded in death by his wife, Helen; he is survived by 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren.
- **Dr. S. Fleetwood “Fleet” Maddox Jr.**, physician (ophthalmologist) at the Central Georgia Eye Center, Macon, Georgia, went home to be with the Lord in July 2015. Dr. Maddox was a great friend and supporter of the Seminary, having served on our Board or Advisory Board since 1993. A dedicated medical professional, Dr. Maddox was also committed to serving others by teaching and participating in

annual medical mission trips to Jamaica. He is survived by his wife, Katie, their two children, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

- **Mr. John J. “Jack” Reed**, retired senior advisor at Bush-O’Donnell Investments in St. Louis, Missouri, passed away in August 2015. He served on the Seminary’s Board from 1987 to 2008, and was instrumental in organizing and sponsoring the Seminary’s Men’s Leadership Breakfast Bible study, which is taught by Seminary professors and has attended by hundreds of St. Louis-area men and business leaders in the years since its inception. A former vice president of the Goldman, Sachs, and Company banking firm, Mr. Reed was an elder at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and served on the boards of many organizations. His wife, Joanne, preceded him in death by a few months. He is survived by his three children and five grandchildren.

### **Equipping the Broader Church Through Scholarship and Service**

The Lord has greatly blessed Covenant Seminary with a distinctive and distinguished faculty of world-class pastor-scholars whose academic excellence and pastoral focus make them uniquely qualified to prepare the next generation of leaders for Christ’s church and Kingdom. The influence of our faculty is felt far beyond the classroom as professors mentor and disciple students, participate in the life of local congregations, share their teaching and preaching abilities with the larger church in the U.S. and around the world, and engage with our culture and the pressing issues of our day from a gospel-centered perspective. Here is a selected list of some of their recent publications and activities.

#### ***Professors and Alumni Contribute to ESV Women’s Devotional Bible.***

Several members of the Covenant Seminary faculty are among the distinguished contributors to the *ESV Women’s Devotional Bible* (Crossway, 2014). This Bible is a valuable resource for strengthening women in their walk with God and features theologically rich content with accessible and practical application. In addition to our faculty and professors from other institutions, contributors include musicians, authors, counselors, homemakers, and conference speakers. Covenant faculty who wrote articles or devotional material for the publication include: **Dr. Brian Aucker**, associate professor of Old Testament; **Dr. Bryan Chapell**, president emeritus and adjunct professor of applied theology, and his wife, **Kathy Chapell**; **Dr. Tasha Chapman**, director of educational studies and adjunct professor of educational ministries; **Dr. Dan Doriani**, vice president of strategic academic initiatives and professor of theology; **Dr. Zack Eswine**, adjunct professor of applied theology; and **Mary Beth McGreevey**, adjunct professor of applied theology.

***Drs. Sklar and Yarbrough Among Contributors to NIV Zondervan Study Bible.*** Dr. Jay Sklar, Professor of Old Testament, and Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Professor of New Testament, are among the distinguished contributors to the latest edition of the *NIV Zondervan Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2015). Dr. Sklar wrote the all-new study notes for the book of Numbers, while Dr. Yarbrough wrote those for 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. Dr. Sklar also contributed an article on “Sacrifice” for the study Bible’s library of theological articles.

***Other Selected Faculty Publications and Kingdom Service.***

- **W. Brian Aucker**, Associate Professor of Old Testament
  - Contributor to *The ESV Women’s Devotional Bible* (Crossway, 2014).
- **Hans F. Bayer**, Professor of New Testament
  - *Apostolic Bedrock: Christology, Identity, and Character Formation According to Peter’s Canonical Testimony* (Paternoster Press, forthcoming).
  - Russian translation of previously published *Das Evangelium des Markus* (forthcoming in 2016).
- **David W. Chapman**, Professor of New Testament and Archaeology
  - Co-author with Eckhard J. Schnabel, *The Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus: Texts and Commentary* (Mohr-Siebeck, 2015).
  - Editor and contributor, *ESV Archaeology Bible* (Crossway, forthcoming in 2015–2016).
- **Tasha Chapman**, Director of Educational Studies and Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries
  - Contributor to *The ESV Women’s Devotional Bible* (Crossway, 2014).
  - *Christianity Today* interview regarding *Resilient Ministry: What Pastors Told Us About Surviving and Thriving*, along with co-authors Bob Burns and Donald Guthrie.
  - Curriculum editor and coach for *Triad Discipleship*, by Stephen Grosz (Doulos Resources, 2015).
  - Co-author with Bob Burns and Donald Guthrie, *Intersecting Leadership in Marketplace and Ministry* (IVP, forthcoming).
- **C. John “Jack” Collins**, Professor of Old Testament
  - Wrote notes on Psalms 1-30 for *Psalms* commentary (Crossway, forthcoming).
  - Attended meetings related to the ESV Bible in Cambridge, England, July 2015.

- **Dan Doriani**, VP for Strategic Academic Initiatives and Professor of Theology
  - Contributor to *The ESV Women’s Devotional Bible* (Crossway, 2014).
  - Published *The New Man: Becoming a Man After God’s Heart* (P&R, 2015), a revised and updated version of *The Life of a God-Made Man*.
  - Wrote multiple blog posts for The Gospel Coalition website on topics such as “To Quit or Not to Quit When Kingdom and Corporate Goals Conflict,” “From Every Tribe and Nation,” “When Home Isn’t Safe,” “Three Occupational Hazards for Pastors,” “Baptism for the Dead,” “How Preachers Read the Bible for Themselves,” and more.
  - Taught initial courses for Covenant’s new Nashville extension site in January 2015: Interpreting the Bible (weekend seminar) and Exploring the Gospels (weeklong course).
- **Philip Douglass**, Professor of Practical Theology
  - Chairs MNA Committee of Missouri Presbytery.
  - Meets extensively one-on-one with Seminary alumni during General Assembly to encourage them, consult on church issues, etc.
  - Consults on church planting, church personality, and other church matters.
- **Gregory R. Perry**, Associate Professor of New Testament
  - Co-author, with Mark Ryan, of “Membership Has Its Privileges . . . and Responsibilities,” in *byFaith* online magazine (March 4, 2015).
  - “Discerning—and Being—the Body of Christ,” in *Covenant* magazine (Winter 2015–16).
- **Mark Ryan**, Director of the Francis A. Schaeffer Institute and Adjunct Professor of Religion and Culture
  - Co-author, with Gregory R. Perry, of “Membership Has Its Privileges . . . and Responsibilities,” in *byFaith* online magazine (March 4, 2015).
- **Jay Sklar**, Professor of Old Testament
  - Contributor to *The ESV Men’s Devotional Bible* (Crossway, 2015).
  - *Jonah*, in the ESV Bible Expository Commentary series (Crossway, forthcoming).
  - Wrote study notes on Numbers and article on “Atonement” for *NIV Zondervan Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2015).

- “Sin,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2015).
- “R-Rated: Preaching Sacrifice from Leviticus: Why It Matters and How to Do It,” in *Preaching Online* (August 2015).
- **Robert W. Yarbrough**, Professor of New Testament
  - Wrote study notes on Pastoral Epistles for *NIV Zondervan Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2015).
  - Contributor to *The ESV Men’s Devotional Bible* (Crossway, 2015).
  - Wrote theological introductions to all 27 books of the New Testament for *The ESV Systematic Theology Study Bible* (Crossway, forthcoming).
  - Editing commentaries on 2 Corinthians by other authors in the Baker Exegetical Commentary series and the Exegetical Guidebook to the Greek New Testament series (forthcoming).
  - Many reviews, essays, and book recommendations published in a variety of scholarly journals.

**Conclusion:**

**A Continuing Partnership to Bless Christ’s People,  
Grow Christ’s Church, and Expand Christ’s Kingdom**

We are grateful to be the denominational seminary for the PCA and value greatly the trust placed in us by our sister agencies and churches. Our ongoing partnership with one another is essential for fostering denominational unity as we all seek to bless Christ’s people, grow Christ’s church, and expand Christ’s Kingdom—all for Christ’s glory. Thank you for your support and prayers, and thank you for sharing with us in the exciting things the Lord is doing in and through the PCA and beyond. May his name be glorified in all we do!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dr. Mark Dalbey**  
President

**Recommendations**

1. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the ministry of Covenant Theological Seminary; for its faithfulness to the Scriptures, the Reformed faith, and the Great Commission; for its students, graduates, faculty, staff, and trustees; and for those who support the Seminary through their prayers and gifts.
2. That the General Assembly encourage the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America to support the ministry of Covenant

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Theological Seminary by contributing the Partnership Shares approved by the Assembly, and by recommending Covenant Seminary to prospective students.

3. That the General Assembly ask the Lord to bless Covenant Seminary's President, Dr. Mark Dalbey, and grant him and the Seminary's leadership team, faculty, and Board of Trustees great wisdom and clear vision as they seek to lead the institution into a new era of ministerial fruitfulness.
4. That the General Assembly ask God to guide Covenant Seminary's ongoing efforts at recruiting new students, evaluating and strengthening our programs, and seeking to make the Seminary a greater resource for the church both locally and globally.
5. That the General Assembly pray for unity among the brethren of the PCA and ask the Lord to work in all our hearts to foster a deeper desire to engage with one another and the world in compassionate and gospel-centered ways, that we might bear strong witness to the truth and power of God's redeeming grace.
6. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the stated meetings of the Seminary's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for the year as follows:

*Stated Meetings of the Board*  
April 24–25, 2015  
September 25–26, 2015  
January 29–30, 2016

*Called Meetings of the Board*  
None

*Stated Meetings of the EC*  
March 6, 2015  
December 4, 2015  
March 4, 2016 (cancelled;  
no minutes to approve)

*Called Meetings of the EC*  
January 30, 2015  
July 29, 2015  
September 25, 2015  
January 20, 2016  
January 29, 2016  
April 28, 2016

7. That the financial audit for Covenant Theological Seminary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, by Capin Crouse LLC, be received.
8. That the proposed 2016–17 budget of Covenant Theological Seminary be approved.



## APPENDIX G

### THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Serving the Church to Advance God's Kingdom**  
*...striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel. (Philippians 1:27)*

#### **Introduction**

*Our Calling: MNA coordinates church planting and outreach ministries to serve PCA churches and presbyteries in North America in their mission to grow and multiply biblically healthy churches.*

*Our Vision: That God, by His grace and for His own glory, will transform the PCA into a grassroots church planting culture.*

*In fulfillment of this Vision, our Hope is...*

- *To see all PCA churches become houses of prayer for all the nations (Mark 11:7), embracing a Great Commission vision.*
- *To see people coming to Christ from the many diverse communities and people groups of North America.*
- *To impact the centers of influence in North America.*
- *To see churches planted in all regions of North America.*
- 

As assigned by the General Assembly, Mission to North America focuses on the development of church planting and outreach ministries resources in North America (United States and Canada) according to the priorities reflected in the four key points above.

#### **Church Planting Services provide resources for these Seven Phases:**

- **Develop** church planters.
- **Assess** church planter candidates and their spouses.
- Train and assist church planters in their **Fundraising**.
- Seek God's guidance in **Placing** the church planter.
- Provide church planter **Training**.
- Support and encourage the church planter through **Coaching**.
- Encourage the ongoing vision through **Mentoring** church planters.

MNA's goal is to encourage presbyteries to carry out all seven of these phases themselves as they are able, or join with other presbyteries in a larger system that provides for these services. MNA's focus is on working with presbyteries to provide these services themselves, rather than MNA presenting them in a centralized system.

### **MNA Coordinator Transition**

MNA Coordinator TE James C. Bland III announced at the March 2015 MNA Committee meeting his intention to retire effective June 30, 2016.

The MNA Committee calls the General Assembly to give thanks to God for the faithful service of TE Bland. After having served in several PCA churches as pastor and church planter, TE Bland joined the MNA Staff as Associate Coordinator beginning October 1, 1998, until June 1999, when he was elected to serve as MNA Coordinator following the retirement of Cortez A. Cooper Jr. During TE Bland's tenure as MNA Coordinator, the Church Planting Staff was expanded with the objective of addressing the growing diversity of the populations in North America in particular, and Outreach Ministries were added. The latter provided for a greater diversity of ministry in mission churches and provided training and guidance to long-established churches, fulfilling in greater measure the First General Assembly mandate to MNA to provide leadership in the extension of the church into all people groups in the United States and Canada. Throughout TE Bland's tenure, the PCA has consistently placed at least 50 church planters (including site pastors for churches adding geographically separated worship sites) on the field each year. During these years, the variety of ethnic groups and socioeconomic subcultures among whom mission churches have been launched has steadily grown. We give thanks to God for the many new churches and many new ministries of established churches that have begun under TE Bland's leadership with MNA, and we pray God's blessing on his retirement to spend more time with his wife, Linda, and with family and friends, even as he continues in ministry as opportunities arise.

**As Recommendation 2 of this Report, the MNA Committee recommends unanimously to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that TE J. Paul Hahn, Jr., be elected MNA Coordinator.**

Among the considerable gifts and experience that commend TE Hahn for this call, we highlight the following. TE Hahn offers:

- A compelling testimony to God's grace in calling him to faith in Christ and into the Gospel ministry; a faithful walk in his personal life and his marriage to Fran, who wholeheartedly supports and encourages him in his call to ministry. Paul and Fran are the parents of four adult children.
- A broad range of pastoral leadership and church planting experience within the PCA, including the planting of two churches in different regions of the PCA and service as an RUF campus minister. TE Hahn currently serves Tennessee Valley Presbytery in a full-time call in which he leads church planting and church renewal initiatives for the presbytery. While serving as a church planting pastor himself, he was a founding leader of the Southwest Church Planting Network. His experience also includes coaching church planters and coaching mission church launch teams.
- Relationships across generations within the denomination, from the church fathers through the younger generation.
- Sensitivity to issues and a seeking of intercultural ministry in his prior calls.
- A vision for strong future PCA leadership for MNA in the extension of the church through prayer, evangelism, church planting, outreach ministries, and renewal ministries.
- TE Hahn earned the BA degree from Yale University and the MDiv degree from Reformed Theological Seminary.

### **PCA Discussion on Racism and Racial Reconciliation**

During the time since the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, MNA Committee Members and Staff have informally followed the discussion and various actions in response to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly's action on the personal resolution on Civil Rights. MNA makes every effort to steadily build resources for greater ministry among minorities in North America, recognizing that the PCA's direct ministry among the minority races and cultures of our society is still very limited when compared to our ministry among those in the majority culture. As a part of the discussion on these crucial issues, the MNA Committee approved the following resolution on March 3, 2016:

Inasmuch as Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly affirms the key themes of the personal resolution on Civil Rights presented at the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly; and, inasmuch as Overture 4 calls the PCA not only to address the

wrongs of the Civil Rights period and other periods of United States history in which African Americans were sinned against because of their race, but also calls for confession of continuing sin and fruit in keeping with our repentance;

Therefore, the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America affirms the commitments of Overture 4; and,

Further, the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America reaffirms that Committee and Staff will continue to give increasing priority to leadership and services for the extension of the church among all people groups in North America, recognizing that the advancement of the Gospel through the PCA among minority populations has been very limited, and so we pray and trust that God's Spirit will indeed empower the PCA to "show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" (per Overture 4) among all races, as new churches are planted and new outreach ministries developed all across North America.

Rejoicing in God's goodness to us in Christ,  
/s/ TE Doug Domin  
Committee on Mission to North America Chairman

## **I. Highlights of 2015 Church Planting and Outreach Ministry Progress.**

The work of Mission to North America is grouped for convenience into two major categories: **Church Planting** and **Outreach Ministries**. Both have one objective: to advance the Gospel in North America through planting healthy churches and developing other outreach ministries. *The method in all MNA activity is to serve presbyteries and churches as they establish, build, and own their own church planting and outreach initiatives.* For further details, visit the MNA web site: [www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org).

### **MNA Church Planting**

- 
- **52** church planters (including new site pastors for multisite churches) were placed on the field in 2015, sustaining an average of a new church planter placed on the field every week for more than 10 years.
- **13** church planter apprentices were placed on the field during 2015.

**Attachment 1 presents a list of all PCA church planters placed on the field during 2015.** Some of these mission churches were established solely by presbyteries or churches without MNA involvement, while others utilized MNA services extensively. Teaching Elders assigned to a new site of a multi-congregation church are included in this list as church planters placed on the field.

**Another key transition in leadership among MNA Staff comes with the retirement of TE Henry Koh as MNA Korean Ministries Coordinator, effective with this General Assembly.** TE Koh served as pastor of several churches prior to his joining the MNA Staff in 1998. We thank God for the faithful ministry of TE Koh with MNA these 18 years, and we pray God's blessing on his retirement to spend more time with his wife, Margaret, and with family and friends, even as he continues in ministry as opportunities arise.

In addition to offering services to assist in the implementation of the Seven Phases of Church Planting listed in the Introduction to this Report, MNA continues to offer services to our churches, presbyteries and church planting networks focused on these people groups or specialized services: African American, Haitian American, Hispanic American, Korean American, Native American, Portuguese Language Churches, Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry, Urban and Mercy, and LAMP (Leadership and Ministry Preparation, providing seminary-equivalent education through the local church).

### **MNA Outreach Ministries**

The First General Assembly assigned to MNA not only church planting but also the mandate to provide leadership and resources to established churches in their outreach to the many people groups of North American society. During 2015, MNA Outreach Ministries continued to add Staff in order to rapidly expand their services. All of the MNA Outreach Ministries concluded 2015 with a significantly greater number of churches and individuals involved in ministry when compared to the numbers participating at the end of 2014.

MNA Outreach Ministries include: Chaplain Ministries, ESL (English as a Second Language), Metanoia Prison Ministries, Ministry to State, MNA SecondCareer, MNA ShortTerm Missions, MNA Disaster Response, Special Needs Ministry, Refugee and Immigrant Ministry.

## II. MNA Stewardship and Finances: 2015 Progress

### A. Ministry Ask/Askings Giving:

MNA was supported in 2015 by **1,182 churches** giving **\$2,808,324** and **1,647 individual donors** giving **\$1,314,589**. The MNA Partnership Fund budget includes designated support for MNA program staff members. 100% of all designated gifts to MNA go to their intended project; MNA receives no administrative support from designated income. MNA requests that churches give the Ministry Ask of \$26 per member if giving on a per capita basis. If all churches gave \$26 per member, all projects would be funded without individual fundraising by project leaders.

MNA encourages the churches of the PCA to make giving to all PCA Committees and Agencies a high priority, giving at the **Ministry Ask** level. Because many churches do not contribute at the Ministry Ask level, MNA senior staff members seek designated support for their personal support and programs. Churches have responded generously to these additional requests for support, providing significantly greater resources for ministry. Contact Associate Coordinator TE Fred Marsh (fmarsh@pcanet.org or 404-307-8266) or Church Relations Director RE Stephen Lutz (slutz@pcanet.org or 828-242-1440) for further information on financial support for MNA.

### B. Church Planting Projects and Other Funding:

- All church planters are supported by gifts designated for their particular projects. No administrative fees are taken from project support for any project coordinated by MNA. Every designated dollar given to MNA is used directly and fully for the purpose designated.
- Church planters who do not have a strong personal PCA network require a special priority for project support, particularly as we seek the Lord for much greater ministry among the many people groups of North America. MNA strongly encourages churches to give a high priority to church planters who do not have a background in the PCA and who thus lack a strong personal network through which to raise support.
- Five Million Fund for Church Buildings: providing interest-free loans of up to \$100,000, this fund continues to be a helpful

source for churches as they put together funding packages for their initial building programs. This is a revolving fund, supported by loan repayments, as well as by donations.

**C. Thanksgiving Offering:** MNA is grateful to the Lord for more than \$37,500 given to the 2015 Thanksgiving Offering, and commends to PCA churches the opportunity to support, through the annual MNA Thanksgiving Offering, the training of men and women for leadership in ministry among the ethnic groups of our communities.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the General Assembly accept the resignation of TE James C. Bland III from his service as MNA Coordinator effective June 30, 2016, with thanksgiving to God for his faithful leadership of MNA and the progress of MNA ministry from 1999 to 2016, and asking God's blessing upon TE Bland in his retirement. **Attachment 3** provides a complete list of MNA staff; see **Attachment 4** for the list of MNA Permanent Committee members.
2. That the General Assembly, being well satisfied with his testimony and qualifications, and upon recommendation of the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America, elect TE J. Paul Hahn, Jr., as Coordinator of Mission to North America.
3. That the General Assembly express thanks to God for the long and effective ministry of Bethany Christian Services in the area of pregnancy counseling and adoption, reaffirm its endorsement of Bethany for another year, and encourage continued support and participation by churches and presbyteries. See **Attachment 5** for Bethany's Report.
4. That the General Assembly adopt the 2017 MNA Budget as presented through the Administrative Committee and commend it to the churches for their support.
5. That the General Assembly adopt the 2015 MNA Audit.
6. That TE Michael Stewart, be appointed to serve as PCA member of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC) for the Class of 2020, replacing TE Charlie Rector. TE Ken Bush, be re-appointed to serve as PCA member of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC) for the Class of 2020.
7. That the MNA Committee recommend to the General Assembly that Overture 24 from Ohio Presbytery to "Form Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery," be answered in the affirmative. See **Attachment 6**.

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8. That **Overture 44** to the 44th General Assembly, “Creation of PCA Unity Fund,” **be answered in the affirmative with the following amendments:**

That the underlined words be inserted at the end of this paragraph:

**Therefore be it resolved,** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as “The PCA Unity Fund” to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives, based on the availability of designated funds given to the Unity Fund:

That the following paragraph be amended as follows:

- a) Establishing a board that reports to MNA and is comprised of ~~African American and other minority teaching and ruling elders of the PCA~~ 6 Teaching Elders and 6 Ruling Elders, of whom at least 8 are African American or other minorities.

And further, that the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America be directed to proceed with implementation of both sets of items a) through d) of the Overture, reporting that implementation to the General Assembly in future years through the customary Permanent Committee and Committee of Commissioners procedures. (Attachment 7)

9. That **Overture 61** from Illiana Presbytery, in concurrence with the expressed desire of Presbytery of Northern Illinois, “Restructure Boundary of Illiana Presbytery,” by transferring Sangamon County to Presbytery of Northern Illinois, **be answered in the affirmative.** (Attachment 8)
10. That **Overture 62** from Presbytery of Northern Illinois, “Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Northern Illinois,” by transferring Sangamon County to Presbytery of Northern Illinois, with the concurrence of Illiana presbytery, **be answered in the affirmative.** (Attachment 9)



**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**2015 CHURCH PLANTERS PLACED ON THE FIELD**

This church planter list is compiled by MNA staff through contact with the presbyteries and attempts to identify every church planter placed on the field to begin a new work during 2015. In listing these mission churches, MNA does not intend to imply that MNA had direct involvement with each and every mission church. The majority of the listed mission churches utilized MNA services; others were established solely by presbyteries or sponsoring churches. Teaching Elders assigned to a new site of a multi-congregation church are included in this list as church planters placed on the field. Some church planters listed here may have been placed in previous years but not reported at the time.

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Blue Ridge	Sharrett	Mike	Lynchburg VA
Chicago Metro	Vroom	Paul	Lockport IL
*Received from RCA			
Covenant	Anderson	Dan	Little Rock AR
Eastern Canada	Dunk	Paul	Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario CAN
Eastern Canada	Vanden Brink	Paul	Hamilton/Dundas, Ontario CAN
Eastern Carolina	Davis	Duane	Raleigh NC
Eastern Carolina	Schubert	Jason	Elizabeth City NC
Evangel	Goodman	Matthew	Irondale/Birmingham AL
Evangel	Shelton	Wayne	Gardendale AL
Georgia Foothills	Bennett	Bill	Jefferson GA
Georgia Foothills	Dunn	Dwight	Grayson GA
	Eutsey	Kevin	
Georgia Foothills	Floyd	Stuart	Braselton GA
Georgia Foothills	Thomas	Kellet	Buford GA
	Bull	Scott	
Georgia Foothills	Werner	Clay	Athens GA
Houston Metro	Schuster	Leo	Houston TX
Korean SE	Seo	Peter	Montgomery AL
Korean SW	Yoon	Sung Eun	Frisco TX
Metro Atlanta	Iverson	Dan	Atlanta/Grove Park GA
Metro Atlanta	Oaks	Brian	Roswell GA
Nashville	Bradley	Matthew	Brentwood, TN
Nashville	Kamau	Robert	Nashville TN

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Nashville	Kroft	Stacy	Vanderbilt TN
Nashville	*Stewart	Scott	E Nashville TN
North Florida	Clotaire	Raymond	Jacksonville FL
North Texas	Bermudez	Raul	Tulsa OK
North Texas	Davis	Brian	Fort Worth TX
North Texas	Wheeler	Ben	Tyler TX
Ohio Valley	Wilmhauf	Marshall	Lexington KY
Pacific	Lien	Tim	S. Pasadena CA
Pacific	Myers	Dan	N Hollywood/Los Angeles
Pacific	Suh	Michael	Los Angeles CA
Pacific Northwest	Allen	Andrew	Soldotna AK
Pacific Northwest	Bruner	David	West Seattle WA
Palmetto	Figgins	Kevin	Columbia SC
Phila Metro W	Stern	Will	Chad's Ford PA
Potomac	Chinnavan	Jegar	Centreville VA
Potomac	May	Paul	Ashburn VA
Potomac	Wikner	Ben	Rockville MD
Rocky Mountain	Scott	Aaron	Whitefish MT
Savannah River	Davis	Jason	Vidalia GA
South Coast	Novak	Rob	Hillcrest/San Diego CA
South Coast	Sandoval	Chris	South Park/San Diego CA
South Coast	Hales	Bryce	Ladera Ranch CA
South Texas	Simmons	Jay	Austin TX
SE Alabama	Beauchamp	Tim	US Military Base Guam
SE Alabama	Orlando	John	US Military Base Vicenza ITALY
SE Louisiana	Kines	Josh	Lafayette LA
S. New England	Fisher	Joe	Suffield CT
S. New England	Holbrooke	Andrew	Fairfield CT
Southwest	Schneeberger	Greg	Phoenix AZ
Southwest	Viramontes	Adam	Albuquerque NM
SW	Florida	Woodall	Justin Tampa FL
*Second Site			

### 2015 Church Planting Apprentices

Presbytery	Last Name	First Name	Location
Central Florida	Harris	Ben	Palm Bay FL
Gulfstream	Perry	Ronnie	W Palm Beach FL
Heritage	Schmidtberger	Robbie	Kennett Square PA
Metro Atlanta	Smith	Allen	Atlanta GA

APPENDIX G

Metro Atlanta	Yang	Daniel	Atlanta GA
Nashville	Hager	Jonathan	Nashville TN
Ohio	Robertson	Mark	Medina OH
Philadelphia	Kim	Jacob	Philadelphia PA
Providence	Hatfield	Harrison	Madison AL
Rocky Mountain	Arkema	Ryan	Parker CO
S. New England	Rome	Erik	West Roxbury MA
S New England	Yang	Steve	Jamaica Plain MA
SW Florida	Kemp	Jeremy	Lakeland FL

**2015 MNA/Covenant Theological Church Planter Interns**

<b>Interns</b>	<b>Mentors</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Location</b>
Joe Dewey	Mark Tucker	Midtown Ch	St. Louis MO
Josh Henderson	Bob Sawyer	Christ the King Ch	Boston MA
RJ March	Tim Udouj	Redeemer Presby	Greenville SC
John St. Martin	Bart Moseman	CityLife Church	Minneapolis MN

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**MNA CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES REPORT ON 2015 ACTIVITIES**

**THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE:** We are extremely grateful for the generosity of God’s people; our 2015 operating expenses were covered with gifts from individuals, churches, presbyteries, and PRCC denominations.

As of December 31, 2015, the PCA had 206 civilian, military chaplains, and military chaplain candidates (284 for all PRCC denominations). The PCA is privileged to endorse military and civilian chaplains in a variety of settings including those of the additional 6 denominations in the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission (PRCC): Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC), Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), Korean Presbyterian Church in America (KPCA), Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), The Reformed Presbyterian Church in North American (RPCNA), and United Reformed Churches of North America (RPCNA). As the MNA Chaplain Ministries Director, I also serve as the Endorser for aforementioned Reformed denominations. In total, the PRCC endorses and supports about 283 military and civilian chaplains and chaplain candidates.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Growing Civilian Chaplain Population:** I am delighted to work with a new Associate Coordinator, TE Del Farris (Associate Coordinator, Civilian Chaplaincy). Del has a vision for an expanded role of Presbyterian and Reformed TEs serving in the civilian chaplain environment. He revised some PRCC policies and added several names to our roster that either required or requested a PRCC endorsement.

**Chaplain Recruitment:** Our goal is to recruit an additional 20 chaplains and chaplain candidates during the year 2016. We thank the Lord that 37 additional men came “on board” in 2015 – most were PCA.

**PRCC Staff:** As always, it is a professional and personal satisfaction to serve with four other godly PCA men who work hard to support our chaplains: RE Gary Hitzfeld, TEs Del Farris, Mack Griffith, and David Tubley. They are exceptional men who make significant contributions to support this vibrant chaplain ministry!

## **CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:**

**Congregation Sponsorship:** It is our goal to enlist three sponsoring congregations for every full-time military and civilian chaplain. The primary purpose of the sponsorship program is to enlist prayer support for the chaplain, his ministry, and his family. The sponsoring chaplain, in turn, will provide at least three update reports per year with prayer requests to the congregation/presbytery.

**Church/Presbytery Financial Support:** To honor giving churches, a special Purple Star Certificate has been created to thank them for their sacrifice. In these challenging financial times, Chaplain Ministries is especially thankful for this kind of support; providing for MNA Staff to care for our current chaplains and to recruit more.

**Missions Conferences:** Since the Chaplaincy is all about the Great Commission, we enjoy such invitations. An increasing number of congregations during the past year have included chaplains in their respective mission's conferences. Contact us and we will locate a chaplain to speak to your various church groups and/or worship services about MNA Chaplain Ministries. Email us at: [ChaplainMinistries@pcanet.org](mailto:ChaplainMinistries@pcanet.org).

## **PLEASE JOIN IN PRAYER FOR THESE CURRENT CHALLENGES:**

Our chaplains have the First Amendment liberty to boldly represent our faith. No one can tell them how to pray, preach, counsel, or carry out their ecclesiastical duties. Our men are superb at walking through the pluralistic minefields inherent in the Chaplaincies. However, prayer is urgently needed for these requests, which are on our "ministry table" every day:

- I am retiring in Oct 2017. Please pray for the search committee as they seek my replacement.
- Religious liberties are being challenged in the military due to recent legal and cultural changes. We are partnering with like-minded evangelicals to help those whose liberties may be challenged in the future. The Good News is that our chaplains can still serve with religious liberty as they preach, teach, counsel, marry, bury, and advise leadership.
- We can expect the "world, the flesh and the devil" to tempt and challenge our chaplains to be quiet and fearful when it comes to bold Gospel proclamation.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- In order to serve this growing ministry, we need to increase our budget to \$500,000. This will enable us to stay on the road providing “Care and Cover” to these terrific families.

For more information on ministry opportunities with MNA Chaplain Ministries, please contact Gary Hitzfeld at [ChaplainMinistries@pcanet.org](mailto:ChaplainMinistries@pcanet.org) or 678-825-1251.

*/s/ Douglas E. Lee*

Chaplain (BG) USA (Ret)

Executive Director, Presbyterian & Reformed

Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

[www.prcc.co](http://www.prcc.co) / 678-701-5151 / F: 877-727-2290

*No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority . . . I trust that the whole course of my life has proved me a sincere friend to religious as well as civil liberty.*

Thomas Jefferson-1809

**ATTACHMENT 3  
MNA STAFF MEMBERS**

RE Glynn Barnes	MNA SecondCareer RV Specialist, Southeast
Ruth Anne Batstone	Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry Gospel Life Consultant
TE Casey Bedell	Ministry to State Associate Director to DC Ministries
TE Jim Bland	Coordinator
RE Alan Bonderud	Metanoia Prison Ministries Associate Director
Nancy Booher	English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministries Director
TE Stephen Bostrom	Ministry to State, State Minister- Montana
TE John Browne	MNA Disaster Response Specialist, Sheds of Hope
Cristina Caires	Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry Network Development Director
RE Mark Casson	Metanoia Prison Ministries Director
Jamie Devins	Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry Operations Manager
TE Thomas Eddy	Ministry to State, Associate Director of State Capitals
DE Andy Eisenbraun	MNA Disaster Response Specialist, Midwest Region
TE Bruce Farrant	Native American and First Nations Ministries Coordinator
TE Del Farris	Chaplain Ministries, Associate Director Civilian Chaplaincy
TE Alan Foster	Church Planter Recruiting Director
TE Chuck Garriott	Ministry to State Director
Maria Garriott	Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry Special Projects Director
TE Mack Griffith	Chaplain Ministries, Associate Director Military Chaplaincy
TE Jim Hatch	Church Planter Development Director
Pat Hatch	Refugee and Immigrant Ministry Director
RE Arklie Hooten	MNA ShortTerm Missions and Disaster Response Director
Stephanie Hubach	Special Needs Ministries Director
TE Randy Jackson	MNA Metanoia Prison Ministries Associate Director of Mentoring
TE Mike Kelly	West Church Planting Director
TE Brian Kelso	Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP) Director
RE Mike Kenamer	MNA Disaster Response Specialist, TAG
TE Henry Koh	Korean Ministries Coordinator
TE Doug Lee	Chaplain Ministries Coordinator

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DE Rick Lenz      MNA Disaster Response Specialist, South Central Region  
 RE Stephen Lutz      Church Relations Director  
 TE Fred Marsh      Associate Coordinator  
 TE Curt Moore      MNA Disaster Response Specialist, Gulf Coast  
 TE Randy Nabors      Urban and Mercy Ministries Coordinator  
 TE Gary Ogrosky      MNA SecondCareer Ministries Director  
 TE Manoel Oliveira      Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches  
                                          Coordinator  
 DE Keith Perry      MNA Disaster Response Specialist, Florida  
 TE Wy Plummer      African American Ministries Coordinator  
 TE Ted Powers      Church Planting & Midwest Church Planting  
                                          Ministry Coordinator  
 DE Glen Pressley      MNA Disaster Response Specialist, South Atlantic  
 Tami Resch      Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry  
                                          Associate Director  
 TE Hernando Sáenz      Hispanic American Ministries Coordinator  
 TE Dony St. Germain      Haitian American Ministries Coordinator  
 TE Doug Swagerty      Southwest Regional Director  
 Shari Thomas      Parakaleo Church Planting Spouses Ministry Director  
 Eric Tracy      Ministry to State Congressional Outreach Fellow  
 TE David Tubley      Chaplain Ministries, Associate Director  
                                          Military Chaplaincy  
 Joel Wallace      Special Needs Ministries Associate Director  
 TE Bruce Wells      MNA SecondCareer Regional Specialist, Southeast  
 DE Mark Willett      MNA Disaster Response Specialist, Mid-Atlantic

**MNA Support Staff**

Robert Blevins      Urban and Mercy Ministries  
                                          Administrator of Logistics and Training  
 Rachel Bratley      Accounting Associate, Accounts Payable  
 Barbara Campbell      MNA SecondCareer Ministries Facilitator  
 Will Clark      Ministry to State Assistant  
 Jenny Dorsey      Church Planting Assessment Assistant  
 Cheryl Erb      Special Needs Ministries Assistant  
 Michelle Foster      Accounting Manager  
 Karen Fowler      Accounting Associate, Donations Processing  
 Jill Gamez      Assistant Accounting Manager  
 Vicki Hicks      Business Manager  
 Marcia Hill      Accounting Associate, Church Planter Budgets

(continued on next page)



APPENDIX G

RE Gary Hitzfeld	MNA Chaplain Ministries Administrative Assistant
Tracy Lane-Hall	Business Executive Assistant
Sherry Lanier	MNA ShortTerm Missions & Disaster Response Facilitator
Jordi Lorow	Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP) Administrative Assistant
Shelly Marshall	Metanoia Prison Ministries Facilitator
Ann Powers	Church Planting Assistant
Grace Song	Korean Ministries Administrative Assistant
Karen Swartz	Electronic Communications Assistant

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**MNA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**CLASS 2020**

RE Paul Adams  
TE Jonathan Price  
TE Thurman Williams

**CLASS 2019**

TE Irwyn Ince Jr.  
RE Ken Safford  
RE Bill Thomas

**CLASS 2018**

TE Doug Domin  
RE Jack Ewing  
TE Dave Schutter

**CLASS 2017**

TE Matt Bohling  
RE Frank Griffith  
RE Ken Pennell

**CLASS 2016**

RE Gene Betts  
TE Hunter Brewer  
TE Jason Mather

**COMMITTEE ALTERNATE**

Bob Howell (Alternate)  
Murray Lee (Alternate)

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES**

Dear Mission to North America and Members of the Presbyterian Church in America,

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for Bethany and its work. God has blessed us with a very successful year of providing services to children and families. This year Bethany will serve over 230,000 children and families. Bethany's work brings families together through adoption, keeps families together through its family preservation and foster care programs, and partners with Christians worldwide to provide services in the name of Jesus Christ.

In 2016, Bethany will place over 2112 children in loving adoptive homes, from expectant parents in the United States and 15 other countries. Bethany has foster to adoption programs in five African countries. We partner with African churches to provide homes for children who are abandoned and live in orphanages. It is humbling to see God's Spirit move through these families and their willingness to rescue children from living in institutions. I ask you to pray for more adoptive families to come forward in Ethiopia, South Africa, Zambia and Ghana. We continue to expand our foster to adoption work in China. Although we partner with the Chinese government, many of the foster parents are Christian families. Please pray that more Christian Chinese families will come forward to be foster and adoptive parents.

Several years ago Bethany started a new program called Safe Families for Children. We now have 31 sites providing this service. In this program, Bethany partners with a local church to have its members voluntarily take in children for up to 30 days. A single parent who is in a crisis of losing her children to the government foster care system is able to voluntarily place the children with a Christian family on a temporary basis. The children may need a temporary home due to hospitalization, loss of housing, drug treatment, or short-term imprisonment. Bethany, with our church partners, has placed thousands of children temporarily with these host families. Members of the host families' church provide assistance to the single parent. In our work, 98% of all children return to their parent. We hear stories of people who receive this help and give their life to the Lord. We even hear of government workers, who are so impressed by the Christian community, that they give their life to the Lord as well.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We continue to expand our pro-life counseling services to single women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. While birth rates have dropped for single women and teenagers, there are still over one million abortions every year in the US. While there has been a significant decrease in the teenage birth rate, one third of all teenagers between the age of 14 and 18 will still experience a pregnancy during those years. Your support allows us to continue to offer free pregnancy counseling to all women with whom we engage. I want to thank you again for your support and prayers for Bethany's work. Our ongoing relationship has enabled Bethany to provide services to hundreds of thousands of children and families on an annual basis. We look forward to our continuing partnership in this ministry.

/s/ William J. Blacquiere  
President/CEO

**ATTACHMENT 6**

**OVERTURE 24** from Ohio Presbytery (to MNA)  
“Form Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery”

**Whereas**, a Presbytery’s geographic boundaries must be conducive to efficient oversight, cooperation, and connection between particular congregations in the Presbytery; and

**Whereas**, fostering connectionalism and cooperation among churches, Teaching Elders, and Ruling Elders beyond the local congregation is a hallmark of historic Presbyterianism; and

**Whereas**, a Presbytery that has greater concentration within a specific geographic region may and should lead to a greater emphasis on church planting, campus ministry, mercy ministry within that region; and

**Whereas**, a Presbytery encompassing a smaller geographic region requires less time invested in travel, leading to more effective and efficient meetings; and

**Whereas**, shorter distances should lead to greater participation in Presbytery by Ruling Elders, thus allowing Ruling Elders to better fulfill their established calling to “govern the church well”; and

**Whereas**, the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, include “regional cohesiveness,” “member churches hav[ing] a potential for shared ministries,” and “member churches hav[ing] a common commitment to the region;” and

**Whereas**, the current boundaries of Ohio Presbytery contain metropolitan regions (Cleveland/ Akron/Canton, whose 2014 Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) population was 2.06M, and Columbus, whose 2014 MSA population was 2M, on opposite ends of the Presbytery, along with other significant population centers located to the north in the current Presbytery (including Toledo (MSA population 607K in 2014), and whose regional influence demands concentrated mission focus; and

**Whereas**, The Ohio Presbytery has the potential to divide into two Presbyteries that would meet the Guidelines of having “a total communicant membership of at least 1000” (#3) and “at least 3 churches each having a membership of at least 125 communicant members (#6);

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that The Ohio Presbytery overture the 44th General Assembly to divide The Ohio Presbytery into the Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery, to include all mission works and churches of the greater Columbus Metro region located in the counties of

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Franklin, Madison, Union, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, and Pickaway; and the continuing Ohio Presbytery which contains all mission works and churches in the counties remaining within her bounds after such division.

And that the effective date of this division be August 1, 2016.

*Adopted by Ohio Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 2, 2016*

*Attested by: /s/ RE Peter T. Miller, stated clerk*

**Churches within the Geographical Boundaries of the  
Columbus Metropolitan and Ohio Presbyteries**

**Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery (6)**

Churches (5):

Northwest Presbyterian, Dublin OH  
Walnut Creek Presbyterian, Gahanna OH  
Grace Central, Columbus OH  
Grace Central Grandview, Grandview Heights OH  
Granville Chapel, Granville OH

Mission Churches (1):

New City, Hilliard OH

**Ohio Presbytery (8)**

Churches (7):

Christ the Word, Toledo OH  
Cornerstone Presbyterian, Youngstown OH  
Faith Presbyterian, Akron OH  
Grace Presbyterian, Hudson OH  
Harvest Presbyterian, Medina OH  
Redeemer Presbyterian, Hudson OH  
Zion Reformed, Winesburg OH

Mission (1):

Veto Presbyterian, Vincent OH

**ATTACHMENT 7**

**OVERTURE 44** from Potomac Presbytery  
"Creation of PCA Unity Fund"

(to MNA)

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on racial reconciliation and referred the matter to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, so that lower courts could perfect and propose a resolution encouraging heartfelt repentance; and

**Whereas**, presbyteries have responded to this appeal "to prayerfully consider any and all sins of racial prejudice" by submitting overtures on racial reconciliation that call us to individual and corporate repentance; and

**Whereas**, repentance is an essential first step of racial reconciliation, but not the only one; and

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly also encouraged sessions and presbyteries to "pursue a proper course of action humbly, sincerely and expeditiously"; and

**Whereas**, a proper course of action would include actively welcoming minority brothers called to pastoral ministry and encouraging their representation as Ruling and Teaching Elders in the PCA;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as "The PCA Unity Fund" to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives, based on the availability of designated funds given to the Unity Fund:

- a) Provide tuition to approved Reformed seminaries for minority PCA seminarians;
- b) Pay expenses for minority Ruling and Teaching Elders to attend General Assembly;
- c) Support the compensation expenses of minorities serving as an Assistant Pastor in a PCA church, for the first two years of their ministry in churches that pledge to provide full support by the third year;
- d) Provide means for historians to explore the role that Reformed minority pastors and theologians have played in our country's history.

**Be it further resolved**, that this Unity Fund would be managed by Mission to North America, which would be responsible for:

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- a) Establishing a board that reports to MNA and is comprised of ~~African American and other minority teaching and ruling elders of the PCA~~ 6 Teaching Elders and 6 Ruling Elders, of whom at least 8 are African American or other minorities;
- b) Receiving, receipting and disbursing monies;
- c) Approving the seminaries to which support can be directed;
- d) Encouraging individuals, churches and presbyteries to donate to the fund.

*Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*



**ATTACHMENT 8**

**OVERTURE 61** from Illiana Presbytery  
 “Restructure Boundary of Illiana Presbytery”

**Whereas**, Illiana Presbytery is committed to planting new churches; and  
**Whereas**, Illiana Presbytery is committed to cooperating with other presbyteries for the Gospel’s sake; and  
**Whereas**, the neighboring Presbytery of Northern Illinois has approached Illiana Presbytery with the desire to plant a new church in Springfield, Illinois; and  
**Whereas**, Springfield is located with Sangamon County, which is located within the boundary of Illiana Presbytery; and  
**Whereas**, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois is agreeable with a boundary restructuring to bring Sangamon County into the Presbytery of Northern Illinois;  
**Now therefore be it resolved**, that Illiana Presbytery, at its 2016 Spring Stated Meeting, determined to overture the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to restructure the boundaries of the Presbyteries of Northern Illinois and Illiana so that Sangamon County joins the Presbytery of Northern Illinois.

*Adopted by Illiana Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 9, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ TE J. Dawson Miller, stated clerk*

**ILLIANA PRESBYTERY**

**(NO CHANGES TO THE PRESBYTERY EACH CHURCH IS IN)**

<b>Church Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
<u>Bethel Reformed Presbyterian Church</u>	Sparta	IL	Illiana
<u>Center Grove Presbyterian Church</u>	Edwardsville	IL	Illiana
<u>Christ Presbyterian Church</u>	Owensboro	KY	Illiana
<u>Concord Presbyterian Church</u>	Waterloo	IL	Illiana
<u>Grace Presbyterian Church</u>	Carbondale	IL	Illiana
<u>Grandcote Reformed Presbyterian Ch.</u>	Coulterville	IL	Illiana
<u>Marissa Presbyterian Church</u>	Marissa	IL	Illiana
<u>Providence Church Newburgh</u>	Newburgh	IN	Illiana
<u>Providence Presbyterian Church</u>	Edwardsville	IL	Illiana
<u>Redeemer Community Church</u>	O’Fallon	IL	Illiana
<u>Reformed Presbyterian Church</u>	Cutler	IL	Illiana
<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church</u>	Vincennes	IN	Illiana
<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church</u>	Godfrey	IL	Illiana

**ATTACHMENT 9**

**OVERTURE 62** from Northern Illinois Presbytery (to MNA)  
 “Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Northern Illinois”

**Whereas**, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois is committed to planting new churches; and  
**Whereas**, the seat of government of the state of Illinois is located in Springfield, Illinois; and  
**Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America lacks a church in the Springfield area; and  
**Whereas**, five churches within the Presbytery of Northern Illinois are located within 85 miles of Springfield and, Lord willing, able to provide support for a church plant; and  
**Whereas**, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois has studied various areas within northern Illinois and has landed on Springfield as being the most suitable location for a new work; and  
**Whereas**, Springfield is located within Sangamon County, which is located in the boundary of Illiana Presbytery; and  
**Whereas**, Illiana Presbytery is agreeable with a boundary restructuring to bring Sangamon County into the Presbytery of Northern Illinois;  
**Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Presbytery of Northern Illinois overture the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to restructure the boundaries of the Presbyteries of Northern Illinois and Illiana so that Sangamon County joins the Presbytery of Northern Illinois.

*Adopted by Presbytery of Northern Illinois at its stated meeting, May 10, 2016  
 Attested by /s/ TE Daren S. Dietmeier, stated clerk*

**PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
 (NO CHANGES TO THE PRESBYTERY EACH CHURCH IS IN)**

<b>Church Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
<u>All Souls Presbyterian Church</u>	Champaign-Urbana	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Amazing Grace</u>	Watseka	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Christ Church</u>	Normal	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Forreston Grove Church</u>	Forreston	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Grace Fellowship Church</u>	Freeport	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Grace Presbyterian Church</u>	Peoria	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Hanna City Presbyterian Church</u>	Hanna City	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Redeemer Presbyterian Church</u>	Peoria	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church</u>	Aledo	IL	Northern Illinois
<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church</u>	Paxton	IL	Northern Illinois

**APPENDIX H**

**REPORT FROM  
THE COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD  
TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

*Though this report is from the Chairman of the Committee on Mission to the World, the introduction is written by Coordinator Dr. Lloyd Kim.*

This past year has been marked by some pretty significant global events that are continuing to shape our strategic priorities. Probably the biggest single event is the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe. Some have likened this mass emigration of refugees to the fall of the Berlin Wall. In God's grace and providence, we have missionaries and national partners on the ground who are able to see this crisis as an opportunity not only to extend the mercy of Christ to those in need, but also to make disciples among those who are least reached and least engaged.

Another significant event was a consultation our senior field leadership held with several key national partners in December. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide our thoughts and ideas and give us direction in moving forward together. We believe the Lord has answered our prayers.

Two significant things emerged from the consultation: 1) a mutual desire for a global MTW network where there would be collaboration, communication, and sharing of resources among all members for global kingdom advancement and fulfilling the Great Commission; 2) the development of regional councils comprised of MTW field leadership and national partners in our various geographical areas to discuss strategic objectives, placements, resource allocations, and other ministry priorities.

How would this global network differ from how we relate with our national partners today? Currently our national partners each have a unique relationship with MTW. MTW is like the center hub of a bicycle wheel with spokes going out to each of our partners. What we envision is that the network would allow all of our partners to engage and collaborate not only with MTW, but also with each other. MTW would be one voice among all of our global partners in this network.

We believe the global network will allow us to retain our unique identity as the sending agency of the PCA while engaging with our national partners for global missions. The regional councils will help facilitate more healthy cooperation with our partners, demonstrating mutual trust and respect for greater kingdom witness and advancement.

Certainly we recognize that each field is in a different place in its development as a ministry, and regional councils and involvement in the global network would have to make sense based on what is happening on the ground. However, we are excited about the possibility of greater synergy, mutual learning, and ultimately greater kingdom advancement through these collaborative efforts.

Please pray that there would be unity of mind and spirit as we continue to discuss and plan for the development of these structures. Pray that these efforts would allow us to better respond to the needs and opportunities for kingdom witness around the globe and that the Lord of the Harvest would send out His workers into His harvest field from everywhere to everywhere.

## **2015 GLOBAL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **ASIA/PACIFIC**

**Growth and Change** — In 2015 the largest-ever number of MTW missionaries attended our Asia/Pacific area retreat, due to the growth in numbers of MTW workers and their families which the Lord has given in the region. The retreat was marked by refreshment in the Word and with workshops designed for spiritual nurture. Approximately 450 people attended this vital time of fellowship and rest. Three months later more than 50 ministry leaders and emerging leaders gathered in Tokyo, Japan, to spend three days together in fellowship and the Word, and in workshops focused on improving leadership of self, teams, ministry, and of other leaders. Developing and equipping leaders remains a focus for the Asia/Pacific area over the next few years as we seek to keep pace with the numerical growth of missionary units which God has brought throughout the area.

In 2016 a cross-regional team will conduct meetings to examine our current structure and consider challenges and opportunities we are facing. Facilitated by MTW's Care and Development group, this team will also solicit feedback from every MTW missionary in the area, and consider possible areas where changes may help us better position ourselves for kingdom work in the

future. One of these key opportunities is in the area of internationalization, something that is already happening throughout the region. Australia sends short-term teams to Japan and East Asia, Japan has sent teams to Bangladesh, and Filipino pastors are serving in Cambodia. This is an exciting area of opportunity as we partner more closely, being the “whole Church taking the whole gospel to the whole world,” in the words of the Lausanne Movement.

**Cities** — City-center church planting in global cities of Asia continued progressing in 2015 by God’s grace. New City Fellowship, based in a top-10 city of India, began public worship in 2015 and has already relocated due to space constraints from the growth God has brought. In Bangkok, Thailand, *Grace City Church* saw five adult baptisms and anticipates more in the first half of 2016. In Tokyo, Japan, the Grace Harbor Tokyo Church, with Pastor Seima Aoyagi, began weekly worship on Easter of last year, and discussions will begin this year about the next church plant in the Tokyo Bay area. Harbor City Church, in Sydney, Australia, continues to grow, and now enjoys 50–60 people in attendance each week.

**Theological Education** — Training pastors and future pastors in cities, towns, and villages continues to grow as a focus area for Asia/Pacific. In Southern India, a seminary education class through LAMP (<http://lampseminary.org/>) has six students who are being mentored and trained by MTW teaching elders. Training of pastors by MTW teaching elders in three Southeast Asian countries continues, with help from teaching elders from the United States. In one South Asian country, courses began for tribal pastors who travel several hours to attend three-day classes in what is hoped will become a Bible college.

The Lord of mission continues to bless and grow His Church in the Asia/Pacific region in so many ways. We pray that He will send more workers, and continue to bless and guide.

## EUROPE

**Refugee Crisis** — Europe as a whole was in the news during much of 2015 due to the refugee crisis. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled to Europe, escaping political situations which make living in their countries of origin an unsafe option. Most are coming from the Middle East and Africa, and many are fleeing from the terrors of ISIS. European governments are scrambling to figure out how to best meet the needs of these newcomers and integrate them into their societies. This political situation has opened new

opportunities for our European church plants to step up and minister to displaced people like never before. Two European cities in particular have become the focal point for MTW ministry to refugees: Athens, Greece, as the point of entry into Europe, and Berlin, Germany, as a more-or-less final destination. MTW teams in these cities, in conjunction with our national partners and their churches, have been assisting with the physical, social, and spiritual needs of the refugees during various parts of their journey. The governments are overwhelmed by the sheer number of people arriving, and welcome the help our churches are offering. This is an unprecedented opportunity, providing the churches with an open door not only with the refugees, but also in gaining credibility and esteem in the eyes of government officials.

**Human Trafficking** — The problem of human trafficking continues to grow, and our teams in Europe are expanding outreach to those who have been affected. MTW workers in Athens, Greece, have been partnering for several years with *Nea Zoi*, a Christian organization that supports individuals who have been affected by prostitution and human trafficking. Volunteers and counselors visit weekly with trafficked women on the streets and in brothels. Christmas outreaches with gifts and materials translated into nine languages have created open doors for MTW personnel and other *Nea Zoi* staff. Through the Christmas outreaches, staff and volunteers were able to interact with more than 400 women who work on the streets and inside brothels around central Athens. Some brothels will not allow *Nea Zoi* counselors inside to speak with the girls regularly, but will let them distribute gifts twice a year at Easter and Christmas. Over time, *Nea Zoi* personnel have been able to answer spiritual questions not only from the girls, but also from the madams!

In October 2015 *Nea Zoi* celebrated the one-year anniversary of “Threads of Hope,” an employment program for women fleeing prostitution and trafficking. “Threads of Hope” trains and mentors women who are seeking freedom from sexual enslavement. These women learn valuable trade skills related to sewing, which will give them a dignified source of income wherever they go. More importantly, they study Scripture in community and learn about the Lord together. Counseling with the women is at times intense, and at the same time fruitful. Many of the women face emotional and practical difficulties that affect their ability to work and care for themselves and their children.

**England** — MTW personnel in England participated in the birth of two new church plants during 2015. Hexham Presbyterian Church opened her doors in February with over 20 people attending regularly, and several new believers and inquirers attending throughout the year. MTW missionaries Josh and Gina Rieger are collaborating with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales to nurture the Hexham church to maturity.

The International Presbyterian Church of Ealing announced in the summer of 2015 that they will be starting *Immanuel Church* in the neighboring community of Brentford. MTW missionaries Rob and Jenny Ilderton are actively involved with “birthing” this new church. They are working closely with the church planter, Stuart Cashman, to gather a seed group, plan outreach activities, and work out logistics to begin meetings. A seed group of 20 adults and 10 children began meeting in September in the Cashmans’ home. In January 2016 meetings moved to Sunday afternoons in a cafe in Brentford with morning services slated to begin in September 2016.

## LATIN AMERICA

**Peru** — It is a joy to celebrate the work that God has been doing in and through the MTW team in Cusco, Peru. Through the ministry of La Fuente medical clinic, where clinic staff cares for the poor by providing medical care and sharing the healing power of the gospel with each patient, and Josephine House, a home for children from desperate situations, the team has developed and grown relationships that have led to individuals accepting Christ. In September 2015, the MTW Cusco team celebrated the inauguration of a new church plant, Iglesia Fuente de Gracia. In front of a standing-room only crowd, 10 Peruvians were baptized. MTW missionary Nathan Wilson reflected, “The inauguration of Cusco’s newest MTW church plant, Fuente de Gracia, was a sweet demonstration of the multiethnic, beautifully diverse family of God engaging in unified worship. We laughed, we worshipped through song, we reflected on the gospel of grace through the preaching of God’s Word, we remembered our constant need and Christ’s constant provision as we celebrated the Lord’s Supper, we witnessed 10 new believers publicly declare their newness in Christ through baptism.”

**Honduras** — In 2015 we saw the development of one of our newest ministries in Latin America as the MTW team in La Ceiba opened a theological seminary. MTW’s Mike Troxell, Adam Cain, and Seth McLaughlin are instructing students in classes designed specifically to teach Reformed theology to local Honduran pastors and church leaders. The

seminary instruction includes mentoring the students through the course material. This new ministry has been years in the making, and is the result of much hard work, as well as financial and prayer support from U.S.-based partners. As part of this ministry, four Honduran pastors traveled to Nicaragua to participate in a conference of Central American pastors. National pastors from Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica came together for a time of prayer, worship, and sharing what the Lord is doing throughout Central America.

**Haiti** — August 2, 2015, was a great milestone for the ministry in Haiti as the first-ever Presbyterian ordination service was held to install elders and deacons. The ordination and installation worship service included congregants from the three churches MTW has established, with 200 people in attendance. Six men were ordained as elders and two men as deacons. These men were well equipped through the focused training efforts by MTW missionary Esaie Etienne, joined by other MTW missionaries and PCA pastors along the way who helped teach, mentor, and supervise these new leaders. We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness throughout this process and are excited to see how he will use these men as He builds His church in Haiti.

#### **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**Madagascar** — In the fall of 2015, MTW missionaries Bryan and Rebe McReynolds and family, completed a three-year partnership with Africa Inland Mission (AIM), living among the Sakalava people in the village of Ambatozavavy, Madagascar. The team spent those years developing friendships with their neighbors and learning the language and customs of the people. During their time there, the McReynolds met and befriended a group of talented musicians and songwriters with whom they were able to share the gospel. They also worked with the musicians to develop Sakalava Christian music with translated Scripture, which was shared at village gatherings and on the local radio. It has been a blessing to watch the development of this relationship and see the Lord work among the Sakalava people group through this ministry. It was such a joyful day when the McReynolds received the news that the band members had committed their lives to Christ. These young men have since been meeting with other new Christians for a Bible study in their village, and have invited other people to the study who have expressed their need for a savior. After their home ministry assignment the McReynolds family will return to Madagascar to work alongside the new believers to plant a church.



**Uganda** — The Kampala team continues to be encouraged by the ministry of the Business Development Center (BDC) in the city. The center began in January 2013 with the stated purpose of bringing kingdom values to the business culture of Uganda. Since that first class, more than 100 entrepreneurs have graduated from the 14-week program. Through these classes, the BDC is seeing the creation of real, sustainable small/medium businesses led by skilled Christian entrepreneurs. In addition, the classes have led to opportunities for spiritual conversations with the students. The prayer of the local director of the center, Moses Engwau, together with MTW missionary Carolyn Phillips who is partnering with the program, is that “the BDC will be instrumental in building an environment where business is conducted ethically, employees and customers are treated fairly, and people are honest.” It has been exciting to see Daniel and Jalia Matovu, a Ugandan couple, start a jewelry business. After beginning the business in their garage with 10 local workers, they now employ 100 people in their local workshop and 150 more who work from their homes. Each day Bible studies are offered and the Lord of the Harvest has added Muslim-background believers to their number.

**Ethiopia** — The MTW team in Addis Ababa is working in Suki, an informal slum community on the southwest edge of the city, which is home to more than 15,000 people. Many of those people had been displaced due to increasing house rent and neighborhood demolition and resettlement. The slum offers a minimal water supply, no community sanitation, and significant physical and spiritual needs. The team recently completed a water project that provides clean water to more than 500 families in the Suki community, and is launching a cervical cancer screening program that will broaden the team’s presence in the community and help them identify more HIV-positive people. They have also started several well-attended Bible studies and have had the joy of baptizing several new believers. After some strong initial resistance from the community, God completely changed things virtually overnight. The community saw the team serving some of the neediest people and doing things that benefited the whole community, and their attitude changed from antagonism to enthusiasm. With much thanksgiving, we can share that the church plant in Suki has progressed to the place that they are joining hearts and hands at the Lord's Table.

## **GLOBAL SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

**Mobilization** — Mobilization created a new event called Link, and plans to host numerous of these events for people to learn about MTW and how they

might get involved. Mobilization partners with various colleges (RUF) and seminaries (notably Covenant and RTS), and offers wider exposure to MTW through events like the Gospel Coalition.

**Church Resourcing** — MTW, along with Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Diego, co-sponsored the first-ever regional MTW West Coast Missions Conference in January 2015. Initial preparations for the next PCA Global Missions Conference are underway, partnering with Park Cities PCA in Dallas, and highlighting mobilization of the next generation of missionaries (November 10-12, 2017).

**Medical** — Medical teams continue to play a strong role in supporting and enhancing the outreach of the church. Following clinics in places like Cambodia, Senegal, and Costa Rica, pastors have started Bible studies and preaching stations due to the clinics' work, and many new people attend church. MTW hosted its first Women's Health Symposium for Kenyan women, addressing spiritual, emotional, and physical needs through medical clinics, seminars, Bible studies, worship and fellowship. We ask for prayers for additional women's health symposiums scheduled for 2016 as well as for participants to fulfill requests for over 50 teams a year.

**Global Disaster Response (GDR)** — God graciously provided over \$460,000 as GDR provided trained volunteers to provide specialty support to our partners who experienced disasters in Vanuatu, Nepal, and to those responding to the refugee crisis in Europe. MTW also sent a GDR-trained missionary to oversee the building of a new ministry center following a typhoon in the Philippines.

**ONEChild** — ONEChild sponsorship contributed resources for our missionaries and national partners in eight countries to provide education, food, and basic medical care for almost 600 needy children.

**Marketing and Communication** — MTW's redesigned website ([www.mtw.org](http://www.mtw.org)) focuses on mobilization, prayer, and telling the stories of God's global work. New features include searchable serving opportunities, a blog, places to explore MTW videos, and a chance to encourage missionaries, with all of these features coalescing on ministry team pages.

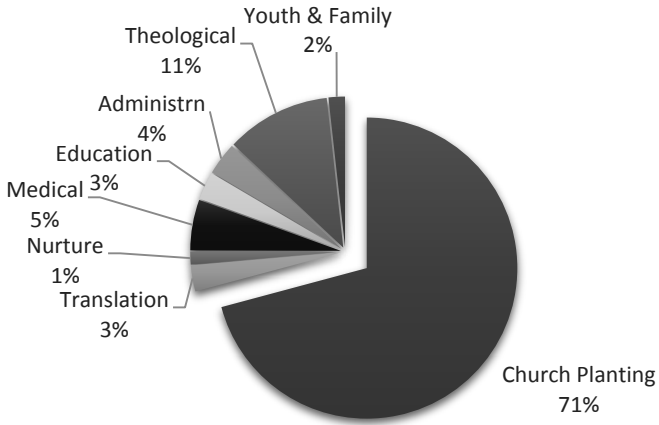
**One- and Two-Week Trips** — MTW facilitated 4369 short-term participants in the following sites: North America (45%), Latin America (35%), Asia (9%), Europe (5%), Enterprise (4%), and Africa (1%).

**MTW MISSIONARY STATISTICS**

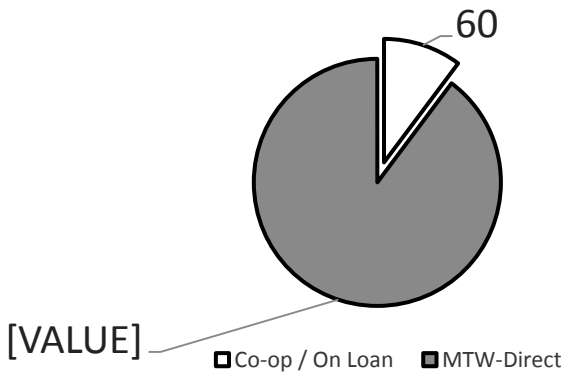
As of December 31, 2015, the MTW missionary family consisted of the following:

<b>1. CHURCH PLANTING</b>		<b>403</b>
MTW-Direct	393	
Cooperative Ministries	10	
<b>2. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION</b>		<b>64</b>
MTW-Direct	53	
Cooperative Ministries	11	
<b>3. OTHER</b>		<b>102</b>
MTW-Direct	63	
Administration	10	
Education	11	
Medical	24	
Nurture/Counseling	5	
Global Youth & Family Ministry	10	
Cooperative Ministries	39	
Administration	10	
Education	6	
Medical	4	
Nurture/Counseling	3	
Translation/Support	16	
<b>4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES</b>		<b>586</b>
<b>COUNTRIES</b>		<b>86</b>
<b>SHORT-TERM</b>		
Two-Year		<b>100</b>
Intern: 2–11 Months		<b>148</b>
Two-Week		<b>4,369</b>
<b>NATIONAL PARTNERS</b>		
Indigenous church-planting partners		<b>721</b>

### Long-Term Missionaries' Ministry Type

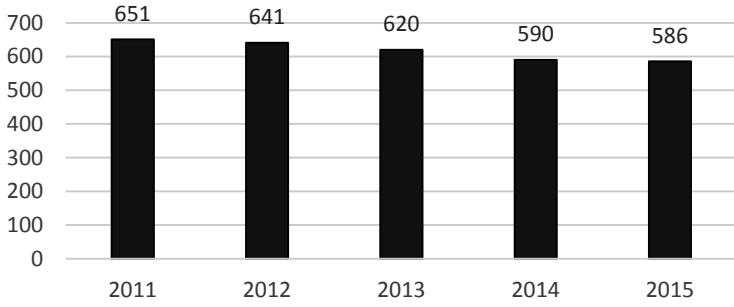


### MTW-Direct v. Co-op/On-Loan Missionaries

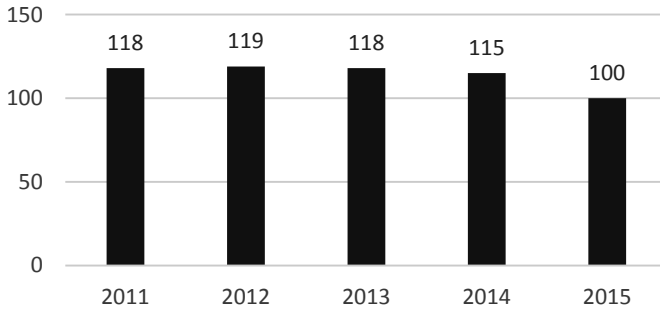


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Long-Term Missionaries

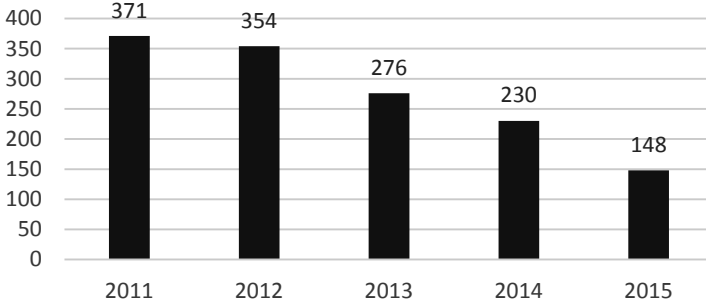


Two-Year Missionaries

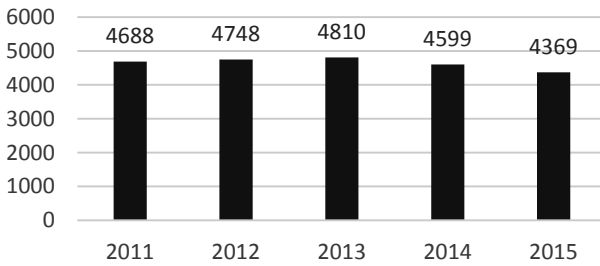


MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

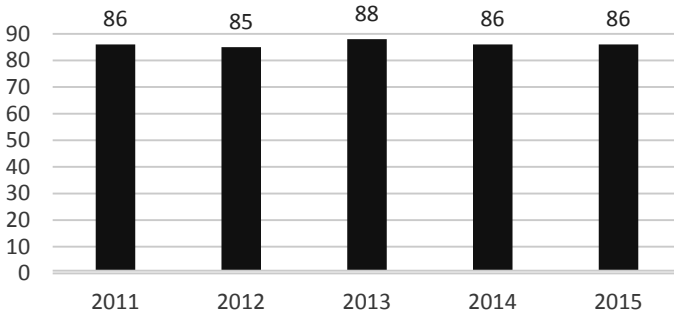
Interns (2-11 months)



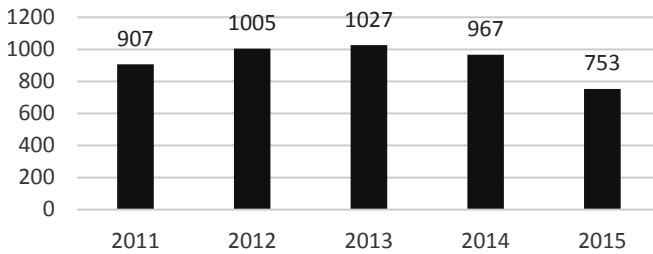
Two-Week Missionaries



### Countries



### National Partners



### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the General Assembly urge churches to set aside the month of November 2016 as a month of prayer for global missions, asking God to send many more laborers into His harvest field. (Contact MTW to ask for copies of “30 Days of Prayer” to be sent to your church in the fall and to learn about other prayer resources MTW can provide);

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. That the General Assembly urge churches to set aside a portion of their giving for the suffering peoples of the world; to that end, be it recommended that a special offering for relief and mercy (MTW Compassion offering) be taken during 2016 and distributed by MTW;
3. That the General Assembly urge churches to set aside Sunday, November 6, 2016, as a day of prayer for the persecuted church worldwide;
4. Having performed a review of Dr. Lloyd Kim's work to date, we express our gratitude to Almighty God for Dr. Kim's humble, visionary leadership; leadership affirmed in the exceptionally smooth transition that has taken place at Mission to the World during his first full year as coordinator. CMTW wholeheartedly recommends that Dr. Kim be re-elected as Coordinator;
5. That the proposed budget of MTW, as presented through the Administrative Committee, be approved;
6. That the minutes of the meeting of CMTW of March 11–12, 2015, be accepted; and
7. That the minutes of the meeting of CMTW of September 23–24, 2015, be accepted.
8. Regarding MTW's 2014 Financial Audit: That the Committee of Commissioners reviewed the financial audit for calendar year ending December 31, 2014. They also noted per CMTW's minutes that CMTW had accepted the audit;
9. That Overture 20 from Southwest Florida Presbytery regarding "Erect Provisional Presbytery in Nicaragua" be answered in the affirmative with the following grounds recorded as a part of the motion.

MTW recommends that the Southwest Florida Presbytery, because of their history of close relations with the Reformed and covenantal ministry in Nicaragua, form, as a presbytery, a provisional commission to prepare, examine, and ordain candidates for the offices of Teaching and Ruling Elder until sufficient men have been ordained and churches established to form their own presbytery and a new Reformed and covenantal denomination in Nicaragua.

### Rationale and Operational Recommendation

By way of testimonial, in the 40 years that the PCA has been in existence, the provision in *BCO* 15-6 has rarely been exercised by the MTW community. It has become our working model over the years to:



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- a. Make every attempt to discover and develop working relationships with congregations, presbyteries, and Reformed denominations within a country rather than to multiply the number of denominations within a particular nation through the formation of provisional presbyteries. MTW has experienced numerous situations over the years where factions have wanted to begin their own denominations for no compelling theological reasons nor for reasons rooted in the desire to pursue the peace and purity of the church.
- b. In cases where no Reformed and covenantal churches and/or denominations are present, to develop and recognize local leadership and to form local congregations and presbyteries in partnership with Reformed and covenantal denominations in neighboring countries in the region. This is an attempt to honor the guiding principles of locality (local resources, local community, local collaboration, etc.) and indigenization and to foster regional teamwork and partnerships. These principles have become increasingly meaningful to our international colleagues and partners over the years.

10. That 3.1.1.2 of the MTW Missions Policy Manual be changed (*change bolded and italicized*) to read:

Church Involvement. Prior to approval, long-term missionary candidates will be expected to be members of a congregation or presbytery of the PCA, the exception being acceptance of a candidate from a NAPARC agency, *or a member of World Reformed Fellowship*, and covered by a mutually approved On-Loan Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,  
TE Patrick Womack, Chairman  
Committee on Mission to the World

**Attachment 1**

**MISSION TO THE WORLD  
LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES**

(as of December 31, 2015)

Adams, Rev./Mrs. Trey (Kiki)	Cobb, Rev./Mrs. Donald (Claire-Lise)
Aeschliman, Rev./Mrs. Richard (Betsy)	Congdon, Rev./Mrs. Joe (Felicity)
Akovenko, Mr./Mrs. Jim (Sue)	Conroy, Mr./Mrs. Dennis (Rhonda)
Aschmann, Mr./Mrs. Rick (Betty)	Cooper, Mr./Mrs. Tony (Fairly)
Austin, Rev./Mrs. Tom (Ann)	Cordell, Mr./Mrs. Bradley (Sara)
Bailey, Rev./Mrs. Richard (Teresa)	Cosner, Rev./Mrs. Mike (Chrissy)
Bakelaar, Mr./Mrs. Peter (Diane)	Coulbourne, Rev./Mrs. Craig (Ree)
Barnett, Ms. Ellen	Craig, Mr./Mrs. Scott (Kathy)
Bergey, Dr./Mrs. Ron (Francine)	Crane, Rev./Mrs. Richard (Robyn)
Berry, Rev./Mrs. Mark (Lori)	Crocker, Ms. Cheryl
Boling, Mr./Mrs. Peter (Jenny)	Culmer, Dr. Dave
Bonham, Rev./Mrs. Nathaniel (Nikki)	Culbertson, Mr./Mrs. Ryan (Karen)
Bolton, Ms. Rosemary	Daniel, Dr./Mrs. David (Brooke)
Borden, Rev./Mrs. Jeff (Patty)	Daniel, Mr./Mrs. Mark (Rachel)
Box, Mr./Mrs. Rick (Pam)	Davidson, Rev./Mrs. Charles (Bonita)
Boyer, Rev./Mrs. Gene (Monique)	Davila, Mr./Mrs. Rodney (Jana)
Boyett, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Susan)	Davis, Mr. David
Brinkerhoff, Ms. Jane	DeWitt, Dr./Mrs. Charles (Carol)
Brooks, Ms. Bobbi Jo	Diaso, Dr./Mrs. David (Dawn)
Brooks, Mr./Mrs. David (Gwen)	Dillon, Mr./Mrs. Scott (Meghan)
Bronson, Rev./Mrs. Andrew (Becky)	Dinkins, Ms. Ruth
Brown, Ms. Roberta	Dishman, Rev./Mrs. Peter (Lauren)
Burch, Dr./Mrs. John (Susan)	Dortzbach, Rev./Mrs. Karl (Debbie)
Burkemper, Mr./Mrs. Jamie (Jennifer)	Eastman, Mr./Mrs. Jay (Holly)
Burnham, Mr./Mrs. Bob (Andrea)	Ebbers, Mr./Mrs. Derek (Shannon)
Burrack, Ms. Pamyla	Edwards, Mr. Jeff
Cain, Mr./Mrs. Adam (Michelle)	Edwards, Dr./Mrs. Tom (Connie)
Cain, Rev./Mrs. Brooks (Riva)	Edging, Rev./Mrs. Steven (Brooke)
Call, Mr./Mrs. Ray (Michele)	Eide, Rev./Mrs. Jonathan (Tracy)
Camenisch, Rev./Mrs. Glenn (Frances)	Elliott, Mr./Mrs. Gary (Tammy)
Carr, Rev./Mrs. Bill (Susan)	Elmerick, Mr./Mrs. Christopher (Stephanie)
Carter, Ms. Brenda	Elswick, Mr./Mrs. Anthony (Amber)
Carter, Rev./Mrs. Michael (Cathalain)	Etienne, Rev./Mrs. Esaie (Natacha)
Chambers, Mr./Mrs. Garry (Anita)	Fisher, Mr./Mrs. Paul (Dawn)
Chapin, Mr./Mrs. Craig (Yumiko)	Fitzpatrick, Rev./Mrs. Joe (Bev)
Chaplin, Rev./Mrs. Carl (Becky)	Flores, Ms. Chery
Chase, Mr./Mrs. Matt (Carly)	Gahagen, Mr./Mrs. Craig (Heather)
Clarke, Rev./Mrs. Terry (Francine)	Galage, Mr./Mrs. Tim (Therese)
Clow, Mr./Mrs. John (Kathy)	

APPENDIX H

Gildard, Mr./Mrs. James (Jacki)  
 Goodman, Mr./Mrs. Bill (Carla)  
 Goodwin, Rev./Mrs. Sam (Elizabeth)  
 Graber, Rev./Mrs. Ben (Anna)  
 Grady, Ms. Miriam  
 Greete, Rev./Mrs. Richard (Crissy)  
 Gregoire, Mr./Mrs. Dan (Rebecca)  
 Grotton, Mr./Mrs. David (Danielle)  
 Grubb, Mr./Mrs. Glenn (Sharlene)  
 Gutierrez, Mr./Mrs. Nathaniel (Alicia)  
 Hacquebord, Rev./Mrs. Heero (Anya)  
 Halbert, Mr./Mrs. Aaron (Rachel)  
 Hale, Mr./Mrs. Robert (Deborah)  
 Hall, Mr./Mrs. Jarett (Mary-Carole)  
 Harmon, Mr./Mrs. John (Mollie)  
 Harrell, Mr. Frank  
 Harrell, Rev./Mrs. Joe (Becky)  
 Hatch, Mrs. Alice  
 Haynes, Rev./Mrs. Matt (Sarah)  
 Henry, Mr./Mrs. Paul (Crystal)  
 Henson, Dr./Mrs. Nathan (Kristen)  
 Hill, Rev./Mrs. Scott (Ruth)  
 Hinkle, Rev./Mrs. Lee (Shannon)  
 Holliday, Mr./Mrs. Tim (Kristy)  
 Holton, Dr./Mrs. Isaac (Joanne)  
 Honea, Ms. Ellie  
 Ilderton, Rev./Mrs. Rob (Jenny)  
 Iverson, Rev./Mrs. Dan (Carol)  
 Jensen, Rev./Mrs. Ben (Julie)  
 Jesch, Mr./Mrs. Matt (Esta)  
 Johnson, Rev./Mrs. Ben (Becca)  
 Johnson, Ms. Darlene  
 Johnson, Mr./Mrs. Johnny (Annette)  
 Johnston, Mr./Mrs. Greg (Susan)  
 Jung, Rev./Mrs. Jim (Claudia)  
 Karner, Ms. Linda  
 Kim, Dr./Dr. Lloyd (Eda)  
 Kim, Dr./Mrs. Joe (Juliet)  
 Kirkland, Rev./Mrs. Philip (Joy)  
 Knutson, Dr./Mrs. Dale (Nancy)  
 Kooi, Mr. Brent  
 Kreider, Mr./Mrs. Derek (Catalina)  
 Lancaster, Mr./Mrs. Bo (Brynne)  
 Lang, Mr./Mrs. Josh (Laura)  
 Larsen, Dr./Mrs. Eric (Rebecca)  
 Lathrop, Mr./Mrs. Robbie (Murray)  
 Lee, Rev./Mrs. Michael (Tricia)  
 Lee, Rev./Mrs. Paul (Susan)  
 Lennox, Mr./Mrs. Patrick (Regina)  
 Lesondak, Rev./Mrs. John (Kathy)  
 Lim, Rev./Mrs. Tim (Moon Sook)  
 Linkston, Mr./Mrs. Chuck (Jimmie Lynn)  
 Long, Ms. Katherine  
 Lowther, Mr./Mrs. Roger (Abi)  
 Lundgaard, Mr./Mrs. Kris (Paula)  
 Lupton, Rev./Mrs. Andrew (Laura-Kate)  
 Luther, Mr./Mrs. Phillip (Kay)  
 Lyle, Mr./Mrs. Joe (Ann)  
 Mailloux, Rev./Mrs. Marc (Aline)  
 Marshall, Rev./Mrs. Verne (Alina)  
 Martin, Mr./Mrs. David (Jill)  
 Matlack, Rev./Mrs. Ken (Tammie)  
 Matsinger, Rev./Mrs. Jay (Nancy)  
 McGinty, Mr./Mrs. Coby (Pamela)  
 McLaughlin, Rev./Mrs. Seth (Renee)  
 McMahan, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Robin)  
 McMillan, Mr./Mrs. Chris (Andrea)  
 McNeill, Mr./Mrs. Don (Fran)  
 McReynolds, Mr./Mrs. Bryan (Rebe)  
 Meiners, Rev./Mrs. Paul (Liz)  
 Meyers, Rev. Brent  
 Miller, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Caroline)  
 Mills, Mr./Mrs. Tim (Rhianna)  
 Mitchell, Rev./Mrs. Pete (Ruth)  
 Nantz, Dr./Mrs. Quentin (Karen)  
 Newkirk, Dr./Mrs. Matt (Caroline)  
 Newkirk, Ms. Susan  
 Newsome, Rev./Mrs. Wayne (Amy)  
 Oh, Dr./Mrs. Michael (Pearl)  
 Ooms, Ms. Lois  
 Padilla, Rev./Mrs. Tito (Kim)  
 Parks, Mr./Mrs. Michael (Amy)  
 Patterson, Mr./Mrs. Jim (Mary Alice)  
 Pervis, Mr./Mrs. David (Erin)  
 Pettengill, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Erin)  
 Pfeil, Mr./Mrs. Jon (Sarah)  
 Phillips, Ms. Carolyn  
 Pike, Rev./Mrs. Mel (Martha)  
 Pohl, Rev./Mrs. Craig (Stacy)  
 Polk, Rev./Mrs. Jason (Liz)  
 Powlison, Rev./Mrs. Keith (Ruth)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Quarterman, Dr./Mrs. Clay (Darlene)  
 Radke, Rev./Mrs. Sean (Lisa)  
 Ramsay, Rev./Mrs. Richard (Angelica)  
 Rarig, Dr./Mrs. Steve (Berenice)  
 Rayl, Rev./Mrs. Brett (Taylor)  
 Reiter, Mr./Mrs. Ryan (Joy)  
 Richards, Ms. Debbie  
 Rieger, Rev./Mrs. Joshua (Gina)  
 Ringsmuth, Ms. Jessica  
 Robertson, Rev./Mrs. Steve (Amy)  
 Rockwell, Mr./Mrs. Larry (Sandra)  
 Roman, Mr./Mrs. Pete (Renee)  
 Rudd, Mr./Mrs. Marcus (Heather)  
 Rug, Rev./Mrs. John (Cathy)  
 Russell, Dr./Mrs. Julian (Christiana)  
 Rutledge, Mr./Mrs. Kevin (Jan)  
 Sabin, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Eli)  
 Saunders, Mr./Mrs. Jeff (Katie)  
 Scarborough, Dr. /Mrs. Charles (Rikki)  
 Schafer, Mr./Mrs. Jason (Mandy)  
 Schweitzer, Dr./Mrs. Bill (Pam)  
 Sexton, Mr./Mrs. John (Elizabeth)  
 Shadburne, Mr./Mrs. Andy (Missy)  
 Shane, Rev./Mrs. John (Susan)  
 Shelden, Mr./Mrs. Howard (Deidre)  
 Shepherd, Rev./Mrs. Doug (Masha)  
 Shim, Dr./Mrs. Albert (Bertina)  
 Sinclair, Rev./Mrs. Bruce (Pam)  
 Sink, Rev./Mrs. Jeremy (Gina)  
 Smith, Rev./Mrs. Luke (Sokha)  
 Smith, Rev./Mrs. Ron (Peg)  
 Sproull, Mr. /Mrs. Todd (Cindy)  
 Stanton, Rev./Mrs. Dal (Beth)  
 Stevens, Ms. Carla  
 Stewart, Mr./Mrs. Robert (Lisa)  
 Stoddard, Rev./Mrs. David (Eowyn)  
 Stodghill, Mr./Mrs. John (Karen)  
 Stout, Ms. Julie  
 Summers, Rev./Mrs. Marc (Sam)  
 Sundeen, Ms. Susan  
 Swanson, Mr./Mrs. Joel (Stephanie)  
 Sweet, Mr./Mrs. Robbie (Lydia)  
 Talley, Rev./Mrs. Jeff (Esther)  
 Tanzia, Rev./Mrs. Bob (Joanne)  
 Taylor, Rev./Mrs. Jonathan (Katherine)  
 Thomas, Ms. Christina  
 Thornton, Rev./Mrs. Jamie (Julia)  
 Traub, Rev./Mrs. Will (Judi)  
 Travis, Mr./Mrs. Ed (Nitya)  
 Treadwell, Mr./Mrs. Michael (Emily)  
 Trotter, Rev./Mrs. Larry (Sandy)  
 Troxell, Mr./Mrs. Mike (Ashley)  
 Van Der Westhuizen, Rev./Mrs. Johan  
 (Stephanie)  
 Vaughn, Rev./Mrs. Jeff (Heather)  
 Wadhams, Mr./Mrs. Michael (Lindie)  
 Wallace, Ms. Adeline  
 Wannemacher, Mr./Mrs. Bruce  
 (Barbara)  
 Warren, Mr./Mrs. Andy (Bevely)  
 Watanabe, Rev./Mrs. Gary (Lois)  
 Wegener, Rev./Mrs. David (Terrienne)  
 Wessel, Rev./Mrs. Hugh (Martine)  
 White, Mr./Mrs. David (Robin)  
 White, Ms. Rebecca  
 Wilkes, Mr./Mrs. Larry (Mandy)  
 Williams, Mr./Mrs. Bert (Nancy)  
 Wilson, Mr./Mrs. Tom (Teresa)  
 Wilson, Dr./Dr. Nathan (Audrey)  
 Wixon, Ms. Linda  
 Wolfe, Dr./Mrs. Rich (Lori)  
 Wood, Mr. Kenton  
 Wood, Dr. Susan  
 Woolard, Rev./Mrs. Gordon (Marilyn)  
 Wright, Dr. Tom/Mrs. Lucy  
 Wroughton, Rev. Jim  
 Young, Rev./Mrs. Bruce (Susan)  
 Young, Rev./Mrs. Corey (Jessica)  
 Young, Rev./Mrs. Dan (Becky)  
 Young, Rev./Mrs. Steve (Sarah)  
 Allen/Rosalie P\*  
 Andrew/Megan N\*  
 Beau/Jennifer F\*  
 Bill/Suzanne S\*  
 Brian/Mandy S\*  
 Bruce/Pat R\*  
 Calvin/Geeta T\*  
 Cartee/Colleen B\*  
 Chuck/Barbara A\*  
 Chuck/Wyema P\*  
 Dan/Janet M\*  
 David/Aliece C\*

APPENDIX H

David/Marcia J\*  
 David/Jan T\*  
 Donnie/Kara W\*  
 Edwin/Cathy C\*  
 Emad/Michelle M\*  
 Eric/Sara-Beth N\*  
 Frank/Sheree N\*  
 Frank/Cindy S\*  
 Franklin/Beth B\*  
 Greg/Paula H\*  
 Hatem/Lisa B\*  
 Ian/Darlene B\*  
 Ian/Heather J\*  
 Jan S\*  
 Jeff/Mary Elizabeth K\*  
 Jeff/Mischa M\*  
 Jeffrey/Jamie G\*  
 Jill H\*  
 Jim/Karan R\*  
 Jim/Carin F\*  
 Joel/Emily S\*  
 John P\*  
 John/Terri L\*  
 John/Liz S\*  
 John/Sandy S\*  
 John/Alison W\*  
 Jon/Katie B\*  
 Jonathan/Beka H\*  
 Jonathan/Maggie I\*  
 Jud/Jan L\*  
 Judith J\*  
 Keith/Debbie K\*  
 Kurt/Jill P\*  
 Kyria, J\*

Lee/Emma D\*  
 Leoma G\*  
 Leonard/Julie S\*  
 Lewis/Elsbeth C\*  
 Marie T\*  
 Matt/Tara M\*  
 Micah/Blair V\*  
 Michael/Mary L\*  
 Neal/Debbie W\*  
 Nick/Laura L\*  
 Perry/Betty H\*  
 Phil/Amina F\*  
 Phil/Barb D\*  
 Preston/Sarah C\*  
 Rachid/Autumn P\*  
 Richard/Hye Young J\*  
 Richey/Keli G\*  
 Robert/Amanda N\*  
 Rod/Becky B\*  
 Roy/Kristy B\*  
 Roy/Brenda S\*  
 Satoshi/Cally K\*  
 Seth/Leslie W\*  
 Scott/Christine D\*  
 Stan/Jennifer P\*  
 Tracy/Joy D\*  
 Tim/Huilan M\*  
 Tim/Nicole M\*  
 Tom/Catalina N\*  
 Tom/Lisa S\*  
 Won Ho K\*

\* Serving in sensitive area

**Attachment 2**

**TWO-YEAR MISSIONARIES**

(as of December 31, 2015)

Alexander, Ms. Judy	Marlowe, Mr./Mrs. Eric (Miranda)
Alms, Ms. Bethany	Martin, Mr./Mrs. Jeremy (Angel)
Barker, Mr. Chris	McAlpin, Mr./Mrs. Brett (Valerie)
Bauserman, Ms. Rachel	Mirabella, Rev./Mrs. Tom (Karen)
Bentson, Mr. Tim	Mullins, Mr./Mrs. Josh (Christa)
Bocanegra, Mr./Mrs. Mark (Megumi)	Norris, Mr./Mrs. Kirk (Anna)
Bowles, Mr./Mrs. John (Julie)	Norton, Mr./Mrs. Clarke (Khrystya)
Bridges, Mr./Mrs. Avery (Marilyn)	Powell, Mr./Mrs. Jon (Olya)
Brink, Mr./Mrs. Daniel (Katy)	Price, Ms. Robin
Brock, Rev./Mrs. Chris (Donnette)	Schleper, Mr./Mrs. Scott (Helen)
Brown, Mr. /Mrs. Dick (Joanne)	Shumate, Mr./Mrs. Jonathan (Kathleen)
Clay, Mr./Mrs. Eric (Melissa)	Sloan, Ms. Rachel
Carpio, Mr./Mrs. Alejandro (Rebekah)	Smith, Mr./Mrs. Robert (Jeanne)
Cedeno, Mr./Mrs. Omar (Jen)	Thompson, Mr./Mrs. Mark (Kelly)
Church, Mr./Mrs. Ben (Kim)	Vander Gried, Mr./Mrs. Howard (Sandy)
Costas, Ms. Julie	Walters, Mr./Mrs. Mark (Susan)
DeWitt, Mr. Jim	Warren, Mr./Mrs. Randy (Debra)
Dougherty, Mr./Mrs. Derek (Laura)	Whitley, Ms. Emily
Floyd, Mr./Mrs. Ross (Angela)	Wiggs, Ms. Kelsey
Garner, Mr. Adam	Winfree, Mr./Ms. Ambrose (Becky)
Gee, Mr./Mrs. Isaac (Kelley)	Young, Ms. Jillisa
Goeglein, Ms. Lydia	Zimmerman, Ms. Kendra
Jean-Rejouis, Mr./Mrs. Davidson (Katie)	Zobrosky, Mr./Mrs. Chris (Catherine)
Johnson, Ms. Melanie	Audrey J*
Jussely, Ms. Carrie	Brady/Jenna N*
Knox, Mr. Jason	Curtis/Marisa S*
Laughlin, Mr./Mrs. Drew (Marianna)	David/Bethany B*
Lavallee, Ms. Virginia	Ginny R*
Lebo, Ms. Haley	Glenn/Mary Ellen R*
Lee, Mr. Ross	Jonathan/Christy L*
Letchworth, Rev./Mrs. Bill (Mae Lee)	Lenden/Gemma F*

\*Serving in sensitive area

**Attachment 3**

**RETIRING MISSIONARIES**

The following missionaries have given many years of their lives in service of world evangelization with Mission to the World. We honor these deeply committed colleagues as they enter a new phase of ministry during their retirement years.

Cross, Rev. Jerry/Mrs. (Peggy) – Latin America  
effective May 31, 2015

Day, Mr. Bill/Mrs. (Sherry) – Latin America  
effective April 30, 2015

Ooms, Ms. Lois – International  
effective December 31, 2015

Rollo, Mr. John/Mrs. (Claudia) – MTW Headquarters  
effective October 31, 2015

S\*, Mr. John/Mrs. (Liz) – Enterprise  
effective December 31, 2015

Taylor, Rev. Paul/Mrs. (Sarah) – Asia/Pacific  
effective November 30, 2015

Travis, Mr. Ed/Mrs. (Nitya) – Asia/Pacific  
effective December 31, 2015

\*Last name not listed due to restricted country placement.

## APPENDIX I

### **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC. REPORT TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

The PCA Foundation is pleased to report that, by God's grace, the PCA Foundation's ministry was once again blessed during 2015. We are pleased to see how the Lord continues to help fund Kingdom Ministry through the work of the PCA Foundation, even during difficult economic times.

Total gifts to the PCA Foundation during 2015 were \$13.1 million.

We are pleased to report that the PCA Foundation distributed, or granted to ministry, \$9.1 million during 2015. Distributions to PCA churches were \$3.9 million, distributions to PCA Committees and Agencies were \$1.2 million, and distributions to other Christian ministries were \$4.0 million.

We continue to look for opportunities to work with PCA churches and their members, and are desirous of helping individuals and their families fulfill their stewardship responsibilities and carry out their charitable desires.

The 2015 distributions and grants to ministry by the PCA Foundation were as follows:

Mission to the World	\$458,000
Mission to North America	180,000
Committee on Discipleship Ministries	22,000
Administrative Committee	36,000
RBI-Ministerial Relief	12,000
Reformed University Ministries	216,000
Covenant College	104,000
Covenant Theological Seminary	95,000
PCA Foundation	58,000
Ridge Haven	<u>60,000</u>
<i>Total Committees &amp; Agencies</i>	1,241,000
PCA Churches	3,877,000
Other Christian Ministries	<u>3,959,000</u>
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$9,077,000</u>



## APPENDIX I

The PCA Foundation's total assets were \$68.9 million as of December 31, 2015. This compares to \$66.6 million as of December 31, 2014. Much of what the Foundation does results in gifts coming into the Foundation and going right back out as distributions and grants to ministries within a relatively short period of time — often within the same or the following year. Therefore, the PCA Foundation may realize significant amounts as both gifts and distributions in a given year, and total assets may stay about the same, or experience substantial increases or decreases from year to year.

The PCA Foundation has and continues to make significant progress in serving members and friends of the PCA. Since 1997, total assets have grown from \$16.6 million to \$68.9 million. This total asset balance provides a sound base for future financial support of PCA Churches, PCA Committees and Agencies, and other Christian ministries.

Coincidental with the growth of its assets since 1997, the PCA Foundation received \$163.5 million in gifts, and made distributions to ministries totaling \$117.4 million.

Throughout 2015, the PCA Foundation continued to market the Designated Funds for churches, presbyteries, and other ministries. We believe that they will be used by more churches, presbyteries, and ministries as the value and benefits of this service become known to them. By setting up a Designated Fund with the Foundation, a church, presbytery or ministry specifies the intended use of the Fund and controls distributions from it. The PCA Foundation invests and administrates the Fund, and can accept various types of gifts to it, such as stocks, mutual funds, land, etc.

The PCA Foundation plans to increase intentional marketing to and servicing of individuals and families, churches, presbyteries and ministries, as well as provide services to PCA Committees and Agencies whenever possible. During 2016, the PCA Foundation plans to go live with an online portal, which will allow PCA Foundation donors to access their account information online, and will also improve grant distribution processing. During 2015, the Foundation instituted a program where donors are able to make gifts online to the Foundation via ACH transfers and credit card transactions.

The PCA Foundation became fully self-supported in 2000, a process that began in 1998. Prior to becoming self-supported, a significant amount of its operating expenses were underwritten by some of the PCA Committees and Agencies. The Foundation does not participate in the PCA's Partnership Shares or Ministry Ask Programs, nor does it rely on the financial support of

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

churches to help underwrite its operating budget. Rather, its operations are funded primarily by fees and earnings on accounts, and by some charitable contributions from a small number of individuals and families, including current and former PCA Foundation Board Members.

Because the main focus of the PCA Foundation is not on raising funds for its own operations, or for any other particular ministry, it has a unique opportunity and niche within the PCA. Our ministry is providing charitable financial services and vehicles to help Christians carry out their stewardship responsibilities and charitable desires. Our most popular service is the Advise & Consult Fund (a donor advised fund). We also offer endowments, charitable trusts, bequest processing and estate design to individuals and families.

Since the PCA Foundation is self-supported, it is “donor driven,” which means that we work on the donor’s agenda, not our own, or that of any other ministry. Therefore, the timing and amounts of distributions and to which ministry are determined by the donors themselves, not the PCA Foundation. We provide charitable services to individuals without pressuring them to give to the PCA Foundation for its own operations, or to any other particular ministry. The result is that more funding is available for Kingdom building.

The PCA Foundation will continue to strive to effectively meet the needs of its present and future donors, as well as those of the PCA: its churches, presbyteries, Committees, and Agencies. By God’s grace, the PCA Foundation will be able to do so.

We ask that you continue to pray for the Board and Staff of the Foundation as they seek to continue leading the PCA Foundation successfully into the future, especially during these difficult economic times.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the financial audit for the PCA Foundation, Inc. for the calendar year ended December 31, 2015, by Capin Crouse, LLP, be adopted.
2. That the General Assembly approve the proposed 2017 Budget of the PCA Foundation, Inc., with the understanding that it is a spending plan and will be modified as necessary by the PCA Foundation’s Board of Directors to accommodate changing circumstances during the year.
3. That the Minutes of Board meetings of August 14, 2015, and March 4, 2016, be approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Randel N. Stair, President

APPENDIX I

**Attachment**

**PCA FOUNDATION  
PLANNED GIVING REPORT**

**January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015**

New Gifts "IN"		\$13,113,000
Total Distributions Made		\$9,077,000
Distributions Made:	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
Total C&A	\$ 1,241,000	14%
PCA Churches	<u>3,877,000</u>	<u>42%</u>
TOTAL PCA	5,118,000	56%
Other Christian	<u>3,959,000</u>	<u>44%</u>
TOTAL 2015	<u>\$9,077,000</u>	<u>100%</u>

**1980 through December 2015**

New Gifts "IN"		\$204,773,000
Total Distributions Made		\$144,888,000
Distributions Made:	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
Total C&A	\$ 36,549,000	25%
PCA Churches	<u>60,296,000</u>	<u>42%</u>
TOTAL PCA	96,845,000	67%
Other Christian	<u>48,043,000</u>	<u>33%</u>
TOTAL 1980 – Dec 2015	<u>\$144,888,000</u>	<u>100%</u>

## APPENDIX J

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC. TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

We are pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report on Behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc. (RBI).

I'm tempted to begin this year's annual report by saying, "We are living in *very* interesting times." But, of course when it comes to the economy and the financial markets we always seem to be living in interesting times!

My own experience in the financial markets began in the late 1970's. Hyper-inflation seemed to impact almost every aspect of life. Groceries and gasoline, a large part of our newlywed budget, made saving almost impossible. *Interesting times!*

In the 1980's, inflation's corrosive impact was finally extinguished using the blunt force of restrictive monetary policy. Interest rates were dramatically increased, which put consumer spending into hibernation and significantly slowed economic growth across the globe. *Interesting times!*

The 1990's were a boom-time for risk assets like stocks. Jobs grew slowly, but ultimately the economy adjusted and investment returns, especially in the growing technology sector, went through the roof. *Interesting times!*

After a decade of economic prosperity, the dot.com bubble burst in the early 2000's. A period of international conflict began with the attack on the World Trade Center, and the mid-decade housing bubble thrust the U.S. and the world into the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Risk markets (stocks) ended the decade with a virtual "zero" rate of return. *Interesting times!*

Here we are in the middle of the 2010-2020 decade and we are still living in interesting times. Given that we are squarely in the middle of the decade, are there any themes we can identify that might help us with our expectations or provide wise insight leading to good behavior in managing our personal finances? I think there are and in this annual report, I'd like to discuss what

I believe are the significant features of this economic environment and provide my interpretation of what these events may mean for us as investors in the decade of 2010-2020.

As most of our readers know, this decade began with an inspiring upward move in the financial markets (both bonds and stocks) that helped investors recoup losses from the 2008/2009 Great Recession. The first five years of this current decade produced an annual compound return for the S&P 500 of 12.6%. I certainly was relieved to see losses recouped by funds in the PCA Retirement Plan. These early years in the decade rewarded those investors who stuck with their long term asset allocation.

Despite these relatively high stock market returns during the first half of the decade, the corresponding real GDP growth rates of most developed economies was surprisingly low during this period. This was certainly true in the United States. It was clear that the essential drivers of growth were severely damaged during the Great Recession. For instance, the rampant and extreme fall in housing values created moribund consumers. While low interest rates and enticing deals did get us off the couch to purchase new cars, consumers largely spent the first half of the decade repairing their personal balance sheets. Modest rates of job creation and persistent unemployment claims early in the recovery kept wage growth for the average American around 2.0%.

Are we now ready to see the U.S. economy finally achieve lift-off and orbit? Probably not! While the U.S. is certainly in better shape than most countries in the Eurozone, the upward trajectory of this recovery remains relatively modest. Many of the problems with current and future growth are outcomes of the Great Recession. Examples are the crisis in Greece and other “Club Med” countries in Southern Europe, ongoing threatened recession on the European continent, depression- like erosion in global commodity prices, a bust in world oil prices, and a slowdown in economic growth in China.

All of the above would seem to indicate that we should moderate our expectations for growth for what remains of this decade. This principal essentially should apply to both levels of aggregate economic growth as well as returns for other assets like stocks and bonds. Consider the following factors that provided a tailwind for growth in the U.S. and other developed economies:

- ✓ A “zero interest rate policy” program by the Federal Reserve for an unprecedented period of time. This policy ended in December 2015.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ✓ An additional and huge program by the Federal Reserve to lower long-term interest rates through a program of asset purchases called quantitative easing. This has raised Federal Reserve Total Assets from \$2.5 Trillion in 2011 to \$4.5 Trillion today.
- ✓ Technology breakthroughs in the oil industry have allowed the U.S. to become one of the world's leading exporters of oil and natural gas. Who would have thought!?
- ✓ Valuation levels for risk assets slowly moving from cheap to moderately expensive.

I suppose one could argue that new factors of growth will emerge and become our future engines, resulting in better days ahead. Anything is possible, but let's look at some of the larger issues we face before coming to that point of view. First, China (the world's second largest economy) is slowing and will continue to do so. After decades of double-digit growth, China is transitioning from a manufacturing led economy to a consumer led economy. This is a normal pattern of change for most developing economies like China. At a minimum, it is a significant event for China given the strain of dealing with excess manufacturing capacity and growing the service sector of its economy.

The second factor of potential diminished growth ahead is productivity. Why does this matter? Keep in mind that two of the most important elements of potential economic growth center around population and productivity growth. Productivity is simply a measure of efficiency. Specifically, it measures the rate of output per unit of input. The input is defined as labor. The circumstances we face are explained in a January 2015 research paper by McKinsey Global Institute titled, "Global Growth: Can Productivity Save the Day in an Aging World." McKinsey's researchers came up with these two conclusions. First, the heyday of population growth is behind us as fertility growth is now falling in all major countries. Second, productivity growth will not be able to make up for the loss in population growth unless emerging economies are able to boost productivity through a process called "catching up" (adoption of productivity standards in emerging economies practiced by developed countries), and "pushing the productivity frontier" which comes from technological, operational, and business innovations that go beyond today's best practices. This is a difficult mission and it shouldn't be rejected, but we need to be cautious about the future of world economic growth.

Let's finish up this outlook for the decade by talking about what to expect from fixed income investments. As we've already mentioned, growth during the rest of the decade should be relatively constrained. Additionally, oil and commodity prices will recover over the short run, but moderating demand and robust supplies should keep inflation in check for some time. Job growth in the U.S. may pressure wage growth over the next several years; however, evidence of this is not clear as yet. Thus interest rates will remain well below the long term trend of the post WWII era.

In summary, the important message for all is as follows:

- ✓ Investment returns over the remaining years of this decade may be more modest than what we've seen since the end of the Great Recession.
- ✓ For those who are pre-retirees, you should focus on your contributions you are making to your PCA Retirement Plan. Do not let lower returns persuade you to give up and chase last year's winners. Remember, this is almost always a losing strategy.
- ✓ For those who are retirees, periods of low returns require a more conservative approach to your personal spending during retirement. It boils down to simple math. Here at RBI we call it "sequence risk." It means that the long term impact on a retirement plan portfolio is greater when contributions are taken out during periods of low returns vs. periods when returns are average or higher. In other words, longevity risk rises; longevity risk is the risk of running out of money before you die. Please call us if you believe you are in this situation.
- ✓ Finally, and most importantly, the visible road ahead with respect to market returns is likely to be bumpy. When economic growth is modest and returns are meager markets will over react. In simple terms, life lived near the edge of a knife is spooky... why shouldn't the markets act in a similar fashion?

Given all of the above, it seems the decade we are in requires a great deal of wisdom as we seek to grow God's provision for our eventual retirement. Thankfully, RBI has prepared for a time such as this. If you feel uncertain about your plan for saving and/or spending in retirement, please give your ministry partners at RBI a call. We are staffed to assist you and your call would be joyfully welcomed.

We are thankful to report that our ministry to the PCA continues to expand. Most recently, our advisory services to families participating in the PCA Retirement Plan has helped many sort through the challenges of retirement planning. We have further ramped up our advisory services to our teaching elder families by offering regional financial planning seminars across the U.S. *ServantCare Ministries*, a confidential and low cost counseling resource is now available to PCA presbyteries for pastors and their wives. Our hope is to encourage these families through a partnership ministry with Christian Counseling and Education Foundation. Every year we produce a new edition of the *PCA Call Package Guidelines*. Many presbyteries have used this document as a resource for establishing call packages presented to the presbytery for approval. We believe that through this resource church leaders are better equipped to understand the financial needs of PCA pastors and their families.

Thank you for your support of PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc. Through your participation in the Retirement Plan, Group Insurance products and Ministerial Relief, we are able to sustain programs that encourage and support our churches and employees.

### **Summary of 2015 Operations**

Total retirement plan assets under management dropped by 1.0% from \$474,857,010 to \$470,214,822. This decrease can be attributed to lower market performance compared to prior year. As our largest plan, participation in the PCA Retirement Plan increased a modest 2.7%. Participation results within the various insurance benefit plans offered by RBI were very good. For the year, the number of participants increased in PCA Standard Life (13.6%), PCA Basic Life (9.8%) and PCA Long Term Disability (3.0%). We experienced declines in PCA Enhanced Life Products (-22.4%), and PCA Voluntary AD&D (-17.7%) largely due to contract changes with one client. We experienced percentage increases in PCA Vision (11.1%) and PCA Dental (6.9%) due to their relative newness (early in a plan growth cycle) and competitive pricing.

Each of the PCA Long Term Disability Plan (LTD) options experienced no changes in 2015, but the decision was made to change the payroll and billing accounting method to one which would allow employees filing disability claims to receive the disability income as tax free. There will be a three year phase-in period from January 1, 2015, and employees may have a slight



## APPENDIX J

impact to income taxes based on how employers provide the benefit. However, this change will be a tremendous benefit to those on disability.

The PCA Group Life plans experienced no changes in 2015. The plans continue to be good values, including such features as Will Preparation (for those with insurance supplemental to Basic Life) and Portability or Convertibility upon employment termination or retirement.

RBI has recommended GuideOne as the Property and Casualty firm that PCA organizations should consider. GuideOne provides coverage in every state, specializes in providing insurance to churches and works to offer PCA organizations group affiliated pricing. More information can be learned on the RBI website at [pcarbi.org](http://pcarbi.org).

During 2015, eighteen teaching elders, four wives of teaching elders, and two widows were called home to Glory. The 2014- 2015 Relief Offering of \$653,383 provided primary funding for Relief activities. Ministerial Relief Development work provided an additional \$70,295 of funding for future Relief Fund needs.

Throughout the year, there were 60 relief recipients who received a combined amount of \$489,026. Seventeen families received Survivor Assistance in 2015. Monthly, short-term, or emergency supplemental income assistance was provided to those retired pastors, disabled pastors, pastors without call, missionaries, active pastors facing emergencies, lay workers, their widows (by death or abandonment), and dependent children who qualified according to need under guidelines established by the Relief Committee of the RBI Board of Directors.

Please assist us in the stewardship of our God-given resources and our ministry to “the least of these” by directing those in need to the applications for Ministerial Relief and Health Insurance Assistance (for pastors without call) to the Ministerial Relief section of our website.

We would appreciate your prayers that God would give us discernment and wisdom as we consider the needs of His servants in the U.S. and throughout the world, that He may be glorified in all things.

## Legislative Changes

In October of 2015, it was announced by the Internal Revenue Service that all three key retirement plan contribution limits for 2016 would remain the same. The list below references maximum amounts for elective deferrals (employee contributions), defined contributions (employee and employer contributions), and catch-up contributions (employee contributions for participants who are 50 and older).

- 402(g) Elective Deferral Maximum is \$18,000 for 2015 and 2016
- 415(c) Defined Contribution Maximum is \$53,000 for 2015 and 2016
- 414(v) Catch-up (Age 50 or older) Contribution Limit is \$6,000 for 2015 and 2016

The Church Plan Clarification Act (CPCA) was enacted on December 18, 2015, as part of the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act – a \$1.8 trillion dollar year-end spending and tax package that Congress passed and the President signed. Among other things, the year-end package also delayed the Affordable Care Act (ACA)'s "Cadillac" Plan Tax (the excise tax on high-cost health plans) by two years to 2020.

The CPCA, authored by the Church Alliance (of which PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc. is a member), addresses five issues that are critical to church benefit plans: the "controlled group" rules, section 415 limits on grandfathered defined benefit plans, automatic enrollment in church defined contribution plans, transfers between 403(b) and 401(a) plans, and investing in collective trusts. Under the CPCA's new controlled group provisions, the IRS is prevented from aggregating certain church plans together for purposes of the non-discrimination rules, which prevent highly compensated participants from receiving disproportionate benefits under the plan, and provides flexibility for church employers in determining which other church employers are in its controlled group of employers. This may help churches ascertain the applicability of the Affordable Care Act's large employer shared responsibility rule, for example. Under the new section 415 provisions, certain grandfathered church defined-benefit plans will be subject only to the defined benefit limitations of code section 415(b), and no longer subject to the defined contribution limitations of code section 415(c). Under the automatic enrollment provisions, church retirement plans are now allowed to offer auto-enrollment in all fifty states despite state wage withholding laws, similar to plans covered by ERISA. Under the new plan-to-plan transfer provisions, it will be easier for church plans to engage in

certain plan-to-plan transfers and mergers between 401(a) and 403(b) plans. Lastly, the CPCA adds a provision that permits church plan investment boards to invest in a group trust described in IRS Revenue Ruling 81-100 (“collective trusts”). These provisions generally are effective on or after the date of enactment.

The Church Alliance worked diligently during the 114th Congress and the previous two Congresses to push this bill to enactment. This accomplishment is the result of the strong support from the members of the Church Alliance and numerous individuals within the member denominations.

### **Staff**

The RBI staff is thankful to the Lord for His faithfulness and everlasting love to His Church this past year and eagerly awaits the opportunities and challenges in store for our future. We believe that God will continue to bless our ministry to others as we remain faithful to Him. We welcome the prayers and partnership of participants and churches this year and into the future.

David L. Anderegg Jr., Financial Planning Advisor  
Gary D. Campbell, President  
Robert T. Clarke III, Relief Director  
Harry S. Cooksey, Relationship Manager  
Myra J. Davis, Benefit Specialist  
Edward W. Dunnington, Financial Planning Advisor  
Cynthia H. Finn, Chief Financial Officer  
Susan A. Hamnett, Benefit Analyst  
Traci M. LaVernway, Staff Accountant  
Chester R. Lilly III, Chief Operating Officer  
Janet B. Magnuson, Benefits Representative  
Mark S. Melendez, Ministry Partners Services Manager  
Bonita K. Nowak, Benefit Analyst  
Vickie M. Poole, Relief Assistant  
Sybil P. Pullen, Staff Accountant  
Heather S. Redmond, Executive Assistant  
Teresa Reese, Senior Accountant  
Sandra N. Robertson, Administrative Assistant  
Katelyn H. Rogers, Ministry Partners Services Assistant

## Recommendations

1. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the board meetings dated August 14, 2015, November 13, 2015, and March 4, 2016;
2. That the General Assembly adopt the 2015 audit report dated April 30, 2016, by Capin Crouse LLP;
3. That the General Assembly approve the use of Capin Crouse LLP to conduct the 2016 audit;
4. That the General Assembly approve the 34<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the 403(b)(9) PCA Retirement Plan Document (minutes of board meeting, March 4, 2016);
5. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 budget with the understanding that it is a spending plan and will be adjusted as necessary by the Board of Directors to accommodate changing conditions during that fiscal year;
6. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 Trustee Fee Agreements for the Retirement Plan Trust and the Health & Welfare Benefits Trust;
7. And, that the General Assembly urge member churches to participate in the annual Relief Ministry Christmas Offering or to budget regular benevolence giving to support relief activities through the Ministerial Relief Fund.

It is our privilege to serve those who minister in the Presbyterian Church in America.

Respectfully Submitted,  
TE Jonathan B. (Jon) Medlock  
Chairman, Board of Directors

RE Gary D. Campbell, CFA  
President

## **APPENDIX K**

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Ministry to college represents an important part of the mission of the Presbyterian Church in America. The college years have increasingly become a time for questioning authority, scrutinizing absolutes, throwing out old premises, and reinventing the self. Students must learn to navigate that milieu of converging thought, and Reformed University Ministries is thankful to be part of this unfolding campus narrative to reach students for Christ and equip them to serve. The passion and vigor of college students have proved, over the last 200 years, to affect the church globally, significantly engaging the world with mission and purpose. The story of redemption playing out is bigger than any story that we can imagine.

Reformed University Ministries goes to the campus with a fixed theology (The Westminster Standards) and a flexible methodology that allows us to contextualize in order to suit various campus personalities and demographics. We are not limited in how and where we preach the Gospel.

To engage the current academic culture, Reformed University Ministries sends ordained PCA ministers to serve on the college campus, preach the gospel of Christ, build Christ's Church, and ultimately prepare students to live all of life under the Lordship of Christ. This is a concrete expression of our commitment to our covenant children and our obedience to the Great Commission, to reach students for Christ and equip them to serve.

The Permanent Committee for Reformed University Ministries wishes to thank all of our churches, presbyteries, and the General Assembly for their oversight, financial support, prayers, and encouragement for our campus ministers and interns who have served on 150 campuses across America.

#### **REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP**

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) offers the truth of God's Word to students who are searching. By working within the context of the Church, we follow Christ's leadership as He builds His Kingdom. Students are

instructed in Evangelism and Missions, Growth in Grace, Fellowship and Service, and a Biblical World-and-Life View. An ordained PCA minister leads each RUF, actively working to accomplish goals in these four major areas. RUF strengthens the Church by reaching students who may not know Christ, as well as equipping those who know Him to serve.

## **REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

RUF International (RUF International) reaches out to international students and scholars in the USA. Currently over 700,000 internationals study on US campuses, making American universities the world's top destination for international students. Currently, the largest number of students studying in the US come from China and India, while some of the fastest growing groups are from nations officially "closed" to the gospel - like Saudi Arabia and Iran. God is at work bringing future world leaders and culture-shapers to the USA; the world mission field is no longer just "over there." God has commanded his people to "welcome the foreigner." As RUF ministers represent *the church going to the campus*, RUF-International represents *the church welcoming the nations and equipping kingdom ambassadors*. Our RUF campus ministers train and partner with individuals, churches, and Presbyteries to:

- Welcome scholars from all nations through deed ministries of Biblical hospitality;
- Explore the gospel of Christ with internationals through Word ministries like investigative Bible study;
- Equip internationals to become servant-leaders for God's global kingdom.

RUF International now serves 12 USA campuses. We pray for many more opportunities to lead the PCA onto a contemporary, cost-effective world mission field.

## **REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP GLOBAL**

RUF Global partners with MTW and other mission agencies to establish RUF ministries on campuses around the world. We currently have ministries in Mexico City, Bogota, Columbia and Prague, Czechoslovakia.

## **MINISTRY DISTINCTIVES**

Weekly large group, small groups, and one-on-one staff-student meetings provide the structure for campus ministry. Each kind of meeting is essential in ministering to college students. In large group meetings the truth is taught

through preaching the good news of Jesus and corporate worship. Small groups focus on study, prayer, and fellowship, and many are led by junior and senior students, under the direction of the campus minister and interns. One-on-one meetings between students and staff members offer in-depth discipleship, evangelistic encounters, and accountability in trust-confidence relationships, as well as counseling. RUF emphasizes the development of a biblical world-and-life view. As students learn to think biblically, they will make a lasting difference in the Church and the world. A key distinctive of RUF is its connection to the Church.

Through exhortation by their campus minister, attendance with friends at local churches, involvement in campus community, and exposition of Biblical truth, college students learn to love the Church and develop a lifelong commitment to involvement with God's people. RUF provides a bridge maintaining (or establishing) connection to the Church as students make the transitions from home to college to work and family life. RUF does not exist for the purpose of perpetuating a campus ministry, but in order to grow the church.

### **CAMPUS INTERNS**

Started in 1980, the Intern Program has trained over 700 interns. Nearly 170 young men and women (all recent college graduates) are currently working directly with a campus minister to receive on-the-job-training in evangelism, small group leadership, and one-on-one ministry. While interns minister to college students, they also participate in a study program focusing on biblical and theological training. After their internship with Reformed University Ministries, interns move into both vocational ministry and the broader marketplace with a deepened understanding of God's Word and experience in His service. The campus intern, as well as campus staff, is equipped to be "an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work" (II Timothy 2:21).

### **SUMMER CONFERENCE**

The purposes of Summer Conference are: to provide solid Biblical exposition and teaching to equip students to better understand and live the Christian life; to offer teaching, training, and equipping in skills related to reaching others for Christ; and to provide fellowship and fun among Christians from over 100 college and university campuses.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reformed University Ministries' thirty-fifth Summer Conference was held the weeks of May 4-9, May 11-16, and May 17-22, 2015, in Panama City Beach, Florida. Students and staff from across the country gathered at the beginning of the summer for clear exposition of God's Word, prayer, seminars, and fellowship. Ricky Jones, Pastor, River Oaks Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, OK; Leo Schuster, Church Planter, City Church PCA, Houston, TX; and Brian Habig, Senior Pastor, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC, were the speakers.

Summer Conference addressed the topic of Sanctification, one of the principles of RUF Philosophy of Ministry. The Summer Conference schedule included back to back large group meetings in the evening, free time in the afternoon, and seminars in the mornings. Reformed University Ministries Campus Ministers and staff led a variety of seminars covering both theological and practical topics.

Our 36th Summer Conference will be held for three weeks again in 2016: May 2-7, May 9-14, and May 15-21, addressing the topic of Glorification. Speakers for these weeks will be Tom Cannon, RUF National Coordinator, Ray Cortese, Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church, and Rankin Wilbourne, Pacific Crossroads Church.

### **WIVES RETREAT**

Over 70 wives of RUF ministers met in Atlanta the weekend of January 14-17, 2016, for a retreat to enjoy fellowship, encouraging teaching, and connection. Sessions were led by RUF Area Coordinator, Brent Harriman.

This year saw the addition of a West Coast Wives Retreat in San Diego, California. Sessions were led by Linn Kaiser Haralson (wife of John Haralson, Pastor of Grace Church, Seattle).

### **STAFF TRAINING**

In 2015, the three full weeks of training for field staff included orientation for new interns and new campus ministers. This in-depth training is a distinctive of the ministry and provides philosophical, practical, and reflective instruction to RUF campus ministers, interns, and staff. We were pleased to welcome the Rev. Rankin Wilbourne and the Rev. Mark Bates to lead us in the continuing education segment of our training.



**RUF CAMPUS MINISTER ASSESSMENT**

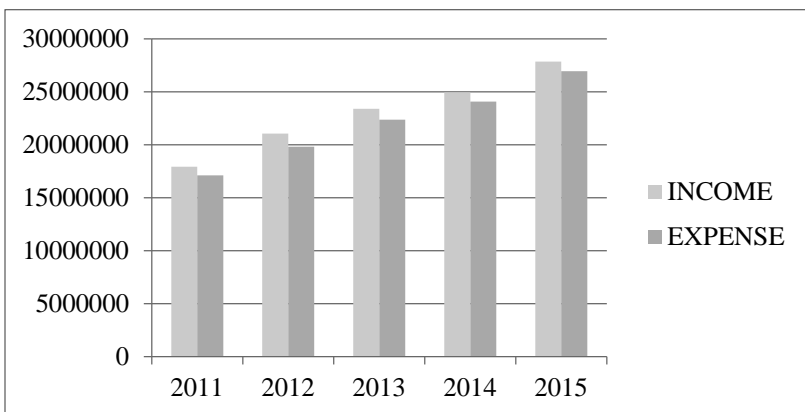
In December of 2006, RUF held its first Campus Minister Assessment. Since that time, Assessment has been held twice a year, in February and July. During Assessment, candidates are interviewed by former and senior RUF ministers and some of their wives. The prospective campus ministers complete a personality profile, preach and demonstrate small group leadership, and engage with assessors in a marriage and family interview, along with other activities designed to help RUF evaluate each applicant. We assess approximately 25 candidates a year.

**GROWTH**

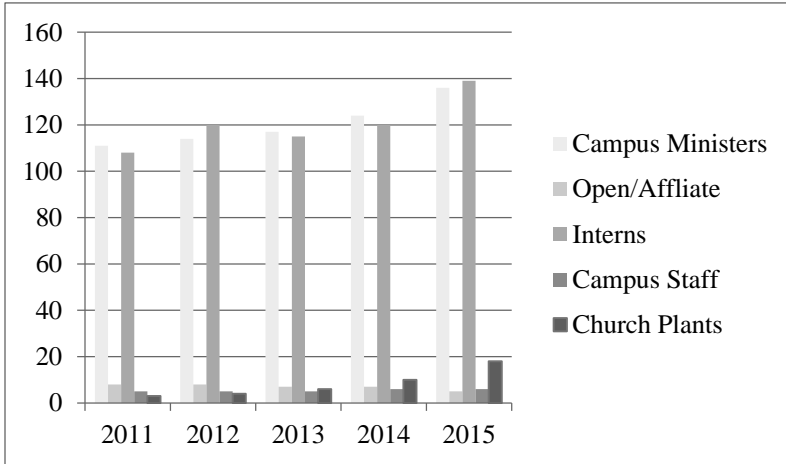
2015 was another year of growth as RUM partnered with presbyteries to start five new campus ministries on the following campuses: Florida Gulf Coast; University of California-Irvine; University of Delaware; University of North Carolina (Wilmington); and Penn State (RUF). This growth placed RUF ministries on over 145 campuses in 39 states and in 60 Presbyteries.

Reformed University Ministries continues to grow, with nine ministries scheduled to begin in 2016: Valdosta State University; Florida Atlantic University; University of Hawaii; University of Texas-San Antonio; Austin Peay State University; Western Washington University; San Jose State; Queens College, and Virginia Tech (RUF)

**INCOME GROWTH vs. EXPENSES YEAR TO YEAR**  
**OVERALL MINISTRY**



**HEADCOUNT GROWTH**  
**OVERALL MINISTRY**



**RUF’S VISION FOR THE CHURCH**

Currently over 100 former RUF Campus Ministers are serving our church as church planters, pastors, associate pastors, assistant pastors, and denominational staff. Thousands of RUF Alumni are serving in the church enforcing the fact that RUF is not just about perpetuating campus ministry but about enriching the Church. We have also added a church planting track to our staff training for former RUF campus ministers who are now planting churches as well as current campus ministers who are interested in church planting.

**CONCLUSION**

God is at work through the ministry of RUF. RUF strives to engage culture and carry out the kingdom priorities of the Church. God brings together students and ministers from many different walks of life to accomplish His purposes. Each person influenced by Reformed University Ministries will in turn influence many other people in the course of his or her life. The Church is strengthened as students learn to love and seek out the Church, and are trained to serve as future church leaders.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Committee on Reformed University Ministries for October 6, 2015, and March 15, 2016.
2. That the General Assembly adopt the financial audit for Reformed University Ministries for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP.
3. That the General Assembly approve the 2017 budget of Reformed University Ministries, as presented through the Administrative Committee.
4. That the General Assembly receive as information Attachments 1, 2, 3, and 4.
5. The General Assembly approve the name change from Reformed University Ministries to Reformed University Fellowship.
6. That the General Assembly re-elect TE Thomas K. Cannon as Coordinator of Reformed University Fellowship for 2016/1207 term and commend him for his faithful service.

**Attachment 1**

**TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED**

The Committee on Reformed University Fellowship provides support services to Presbyteries whose campus ministries are affiliated with Reformed University Fellowship. The Presbyteries receiving services make a contribution toward their cost. Presbyteries and their affiliated committees are completely responsible for the funding of ministries within their area and for determining the budget of each ministry. Reformed University Fellowship receives and disburses funds only as directed by the Presbyteries.

From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, Reformed University Fellowship received \$20,518.91 and dispersed \$17,645,789 for campus ministers, church plants and alumni events as directed by presbyteries and their Affiliated Committees. The funds are received for particular ministries, which are the responsibility of a presbytery as noted on the next page. The responsible body receives an audit report of its funds.

APPENDIX K

**REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP**  
ENTIRE MINISTRY BUDGET - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

<b>FINANCIALS</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Campus Ministers	17,350,534	19,043,436	19,634,364	20,982,070
Interns	4,012,956	4,660,725	4,812,531	5,255,792
Campus Staff	297,246	270,569	313,190	375,583
Church Plants	1,036,908	1,438,698	1,727,635	1,996,946
General Fund	1,077,332	1,311,645	1,396,749	1,365,642
Alumni Events	0	36,057	25,862	25,862
Ministry at Large	1,171,704	1,098,901	1,189,113	1,189,113
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>24,946,681</b>	<b>27,860,031</b>	<b>29,099,444</b>	<b>31,191,007</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Campus Ministers	14,680,466	16,280,404	17,573,190	18,865,976
Interns	3,405,715	3,753,671	4,045,731	4,337,792
Campus Staff	352,759	237,997	260,590	283,183
Church Plants	960,453	1,339,523	1,582,435	1,825,346
General Fund	3,658,772	4,108,565	4,422,523	4,663,736
Alumni Events	0	25,862	25,862	25,862
Ministry at Large	1,026,094	1,201,113	1,189,113	1,189,113
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>24,084,258</b>	<b>26,947,135</b>	<b>29,099,444</b>	<b>31,191,007</b>
<b>NET CHANGE BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	2,670,069	2,763,032	2,061,174	2,116,094
Interns	607,241	907,054	766,800	918,000
Campus Staff	(55,513)	32,572	52,600	92,400
Church Plants	76,455	99,174	145,200	171,600
General Fund	(2,581,440)	(2,796,920)	(3,025,774)	(3,298,064)
Alumni Events	0	10,195	0	0
Ministry at Large	145,610	(102,212)	0	0
<b>TOTAL NET CHANGE BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>	<b>862,422</b>	<b>912,896</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICE TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	(1,836,831)	(2,007,374)	(2,061,174)	(2,116,094)
Interns	(809,300)	(674,100)	(766,800)	(918,000)
Campus Staff	(34,875)	(33,825)	(52,600)	(92,400)
Church Plants	(42,900)	(59,350)	(145,200)	(171,600)
General Fund	2,523,906	2,774,649	3,025,774	3,298,064
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	(118,872)	44,607	0	0
Interns	7,781	32,872	0	0
Campus Staff	82,150	25,005	0	0
Church Plants	(22,090)	(16,345)	0	0
General Fund	(73,881)	(10,570)	0	0
Ministry at Large	124,912	(75,569)	0	0
<b>TOTAL INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/DECREASE AFTER TRANSFERS</b>				
Campus Ministers	714,366	800,265	0	0
Interns	5,722	265,826	0	0
Campus Staff	(8,237)	23,751	0	0
Church Plants	11,465	23,479	0	0
General Fund	(131,415)	(32,840)	0	0
Alumni Events	0	10,195	0	0
Ministry at Large	270,522	(177,780)	0	0
<b>TOTAL NET CHANGE AFTER TRANSFERS</b>	<b>862,422</b>	<b>912,896</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Attachment 2**

**AFFILIATED COMMITTEES, CAMPUSES, AND STAFF**

**PRESBYTERIES**

**Alabama Joint Committee on  
Campus Work (Evangel, Southeast  
Alabama, Warrior,  
Providence, and Gulf Coast\*)**

\*Florida Cooperative

**Catawba Presbytery**

**Central Carolina Presbytery**

**CAMPUS AND STAFF**

**Alabama A&M University**

Vacant

**Auburn University & RUF**

TE Wes Simmons

TE Matthew Delong (RUF)

**Birmingham Southern College**

TE Tom Franklin

**Jacksonville State University**

TE Grant Carroll

**Samford University**

TE Walt Davis

**University of Alabama**

TE Stewart Swain

**University of Alabama -  
Birmingham**

TE Adam Venable

**University of Alabama - Huntsville**

TE Reid Jones

**University of South Alabama\***

RE Lanier Wood

**Davidson College**

TE Sid Druen

**Johnson & Wales University**

TE Michael Whitham

**Queens College**

TE Josh Grimm

<b>Central Carolina, continued</b>	<b>University of North Carolina - Charlotte</b> TE Heath McLaughlin
<b>Central Georgia/Savannah River Joint Committee (Central GA, Savannah River)</b>	<b>Georgia Southern University</b> TE Ro Taylor <b>Mercer University</b> TE Elliott Everitt <b>Savannah College of Art and Design</b> TE Soren Korenegay <b>Valdosta State</b> TE Chad Turner
<b>Central Indiana Presbytery</b>	<b>Indiana University</b> TE Brad Tubbesing <b>Purdue University</b> TE Curtis McDaniel
<b>Chesapeake Presbytery</b>	<b>Johns Hopkins University</b> Vacant
<b>Chicago Metro Presbytery</b>	<b>Northwestern University</b> TE Luke Miedema
<b>Eastern Carolina Presbytery</b>	<b>Duke University</b> TE Crawford Stevener <b>East Carolina University</b> TE Tom Hart <b>North Carolina State University</b> TE Chuck Askew <b>University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill</b> TE Simon Stokes <b>University of North Carolina - Wilmington</b> TE Jay Denton

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery**

**Lehigh University**

TE Scott Mitchell

**Florida Joint Committee on  
Campus Work (Central Florida,  
Gulf Coast, Gulfstream, North  
Florida, South Florida, Southwest  
Florida, and Suncoast Florida)**

**Florida Atlantic University**

TE Jeff Lee

**Florida Gulf Coast University**

TE Lucas Tanner

**Florida State University**

TE David Story

**University of Central Florida**

TE Lee Wright

**University of Florida**

TE Tim Carper

**University of North Florida**

TE Tommy Park

**University of South Florida**

Vacant

**Heartland Presbytery**

**Kansas State University**

TE Jon Dunning

**Heritage Presbytery**

**Delaware State (HBCU)**

TE Daryl Wattle

**University of Delaware & RUFIAffiliate**

TE Nick Owens

TE Rick Gray (RUFIA)

**Houston Metro Presbytery**

**Rice University**

TE Juan Carlos Martinez

**University of Houston**

TE Blake Arnoult

**Iowa Presbytery**

**University of Iowa**

Vacant



**Metro New York Presbytery**

**City Campus Ministry**

TE Matt Terrell

**Columbia University**

TE Eric Lipscomb

**Mid South (Covenant, Grace, and  
Mississippi Valley)**

**Belhaven University**

TE Seth Starkey

**Delta State University**

TE Seth Still

**Jackson State University**

Cyril Chavis

**Mississippi College**

TE Jeff Jordan

**Mississippi State**

TE Brian Sorgenfrei

TE John Craft

**University of Arkansas**

TE Mike Ford

**University of Central Arkansas -  
Hendrix College**

TE Bradford Green

**University of Memphis**

TE John Crosby

**University of Mississippi**

TE Jason Sterling

**University of Southern Mississippi**

TE Ben Shaw

**University of Tennessee - Martin**

Vacant

**Missouri Presbytery**

**University of Missouri**

TE Ross Dixon

**Washington University**

TE SJ Lim

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Nashville Presbytery**

**Austin Peay State University**

Vacant

**Belmont University**

TE Kevin Twit

**Middle Tennessee State University**

TE Sam Taaffe

**Tennessee Tech University**

TE Gavin Breeden

**Vanderbilt University**

TE Richie Sessions

**Western Kentucky University**

TE Ross Lockwood

**North Georgia Joint Committee  
(Georgia Foothills, NW Georgia,  
Metro Atlanta)**

**Emory University**

TE Steven Maginas

**Georgia Tech & RUFIAffiliate**

TE Michael Phillips

TE Tracey West (RUFIAffiliate)

**Kennesaw State University**

TE Wes Calton

**University of Georgia & RUFIAffiliate**

TE Justin Clement

TE Jeff Thompson (RUFIAffiliate)

**North Texas Presbytery**

**Baylor University**

TE Way Rutherford

**Oklahoma State University**

TE Shane Hatfield

**Southern Methodist & RUFIAffiliate**

TE James Madden

TE Chris Morrison (RUFIAffiliate)

**Texas Christian University**

TE Ryan Anderson

**Texas Tech Univeristy**

TE Steve Percifield

APPENDIX K

<b>North Texas Presbytery (continued)</b>	<b>University of North Texas</b> TE Matt Odum <b>University of Oklahoma</b> TE Scott Morris <b>University of Texas - Tyler/Tyler Junior College</b> TE Dan Smith <b>University of Tulsa</b> TE Brent Corbin
<b>Northern California Presbytery</b>	<b>San Jose State</b> Vacant <b>Stanford University</b> TE Britton Wood <b>University of California - Berkeley</b> TE Brent Webster <b>University of Hawaii</b> TE John Kim <b>University of Utah</b> TE Wes Martin
<b>Northern New England Presbytery</b>	<b>University of Vermont</b> TE John Meinen
<b>Ohio Valley Presbytery</b>	<b>University of Kentucky</b> TE Johnathan Davis <b>University of Louisville</b> Vacant
<b>Ohio Presbytery</b>	<b>University of Akron</b> TE Nate Bower
<b>Pacific Presbytery</b>	<b>University of California - Irvine</b> TE Chad Brewer <b>University of California - Los Angeles</b> TE Matthew Trexler

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Pacific Presbytery (continued)</b>	<b>University of California - Santa Barbara</b> TE Johnathan Keenan <b>University of Southern California</b> TE Alex Watlington
<b>Pacific Northwest Presbytery</b>	<b>Boise State</b> TE Brian Frey <b>University of Washington</b> TE Drew Burdette <b>Western Washington University</b> TE Nathaneal Thompson
<b>Piedmont Triad Presbytery</b>	<b>Wake Forest University</b> TE John Bourgeois
<b>Pittsburgh Presbytery</b>	<b>University of Pittsburgh</b> TE Derek Bates
<b>Platte Valley Presbytery</b>	<b>University of Nebraska</b> TE Brian Brown
<b>Potomac Presbytery</b>	<b>George Mason University</b> <b>RUFIAffiliate</b> TE Matteson Bowles <b>University of Maryland</b> TE Chris Garriott
<b>Rocky Mountain Presbytery</b>	<b>Colorado State University</b> TE Ryan Hughes <b>US Air Force Academy</b> TE Jim Covey
<b>Siouxlands Presbytery</b>	<b>University of Minnesota</b> TE Brandon Haan

**South Carolina Joint Committee  
on Campus Work (Calvary,  
Fellowship, and Palmetto)**

**Anderson University**  
TE John Boyte  
**Clemson University & RUFIAffiliate**  
TE Stephen Speaks  
TE Rick Brawner (RUFIAffiliate)  
**College of Charleston**  
TE Danny Clark  
**Erskine College**  
TE Paul Patrick  
**Furman University**  
TE David Ely  
**University of South Carolina**  
TE Sammy Rhodes  
**Winthrop University**  
TE Mark Ashbaugh  
**Wofford University**  
TE David Fisk

**South Texas**

**Texas A&M University & RUFIAffiliate**  
TE Ben Hailey  
TE Jason Pickard (RUFIAffiliate)  
**Texas A&M University Corpus Christi**  
TE John Bennett  
**Trinity University**  
TE Michael Novak  
**University of Texas - Austin & RUFIAffiliate**  
TE John Trapp  
TE Bojan Dragicevic (RUFIAffiliate)  
**University of Texas - San Antonio**  
TE Jeff Hesier

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Southern New England Presbytery</b>	<b>Boston University</b> TE Nathan Dicks
<b>S. New England (continued)</b>	<b>Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design</b> TE Eddie Park <b>Harvard University</b> TE Jeremy Mullen <b>MIT</b> TE Solomon Kim <b>University of Connecticut</b> TE Lucas Dourado <b>Yale University</b> Vacant
<b>Southeast Louisiana Presbytery</b>	<b>Louisiana State University</b> TE Ande Johnson <b>Tulane University</b> Josiah Carey
<b>Southwest Presbytery</b>	<b>New Mexico State University</b> TE Ben Coppedge
<b>Susquehanna Valley Presbytery</b>	<b>Millersville University</b> TE Trip Beans <b>Pennsylvania State University &amp; RUFIAffiliate</b> TE Joe Dentici TE Richard Smith
<b>Tennessee Valley</b>	<b>Carson Newman University</b> TE Cam Smith <b>Covenant College</b> TE Scott Wells <b>University of Tennessee - Chattanooga</b> TE John Mark Scruggs

**Tennessee Valley, continued**

**University of Tennessee - Knoxville  
& RUFİ Affiliate**

TE Matt Howell  
TE Lee Ledbetter (RUFİ)

**Virginia Joint Committee on  
Campus Work (James River and  
Blue Ridge)**

**Christopher Newport University**

TE Jeff David Lee

**College of William and Mary**

TE Ben Robertson

**James Madison University**

TE Joe Slater

**Liberty University - Lynchburg**

TE Marc Corbett

**University of Virginia**

TE Robert Cunningham

**Virginia Commonwealth  
University**

TE Harrison Ford

**Virginia Tech & RUFİ Affiliate**

TE Andy Wood

TE John Gess

**Washington and Lee University**

TE Lewis Lovett

**Western Carolina Presbytery**

**Appalachian State University**

TE Chris Horne

**Western Carolina University**

TE Brian Thomas

**Westminster Presbytery**

**East Tennessee State University**

TE Chad Smith

**Wisconsin Presbytery**

**University of Wisconsin -  
Milwaukee**

TE Mike Wenzler

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**MTW Affiliations**

**National Autonomous University  
of Mexico**

Barush Sanchez & Monserrat Santiago

**Bogata, Columbia**

TE Peter Dishman

**World Harvest**

**Prague University**

TE Cody Janicek



**Attachment 3****Campus Interns and Staff**

Current Interns and Staff for 2015-2017 (145)

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Interns: 70**

Caroline & Josh Adams – Furman	Tomo Ito – Emory
Tehillah Adams – Duke	Phoebe Jones – MTSU
Matt Alexander – MTSU	Kevin Kaye – GA Southern
Phil Barnett – Texas A & M	Joey Kime – Tulsa
Mary Elizabeth & Caleb Blake - Clemson	Tori Kimmel – Lehigh
Cameron Brown – Rhodes	Austin Lenox – UTK
Katherine Corliss - Pitt	Brooke Kressin Lewis – Texas Tech
Jillian Cothran – Johnson & Wales	Charles Lewis – Pitt
James Craig – Ole Miss	Madison Longmire Fisher - UVA
Taylor Daniel – RUF Lynchburg	Melissa Mainhart – Oklahoma State
Daniel Davalos – U of North Florida	Anna Malles – Samford
Katelyn Deans – Belhaven	Cody Mason – UF
Ben Dement – Nebraska	Joel May - UGA
JoCetta Dennis – Delta State	James McAllister – SCAD
Jayna Duckenfield – Penn State	Lathea Miskel – FSU
Matt Duraski – Jacksonville State	Catherine Mounger – UF
Brittany Espy – NMSU	Derek Nelsen – App State
Maddie Francis – City Campus, NY	Eric Ockenhouse - Stanford
Weston Freels –UCSB	Karrah Oliver – Kennesaw State
Charlie Fiorillo - Purdue	Chris Peter – NC State
Nicole Gannaway – Mizzou	Hunter Quinn – SMU, RUF I
Mike George - Northwestern	Samira Rahbe Chambers - Rhodes
Tim Grider – Samford	Jeb Ralston – UCONN
Taylor & Alden Groves – Erskine	Matt Roelofs – Miss State
Hanna & Ian Hammond* – MS CO, RUF I	Katelynn Ronning – Ole Miss
Brandon Hawkes – WCU	Savannah Shelby – UCF
Annalise Hays – SMU	Ellie Stackhouse – UTK
Mackenzie Hemphill – UGA	Owen Stroud – Mizzou
Robert Hertha – Ga Tech	Rachel Talbot – Davidson
Kevin Hollingshead – UC Berkeley	Andrew Terrell – City Campus, NY – RUF I
Anna Howard – So Carolina	Taeler Walden – Trinity
	Hampton Watts – So Miss

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Interns (continued)**

Hayley Wilkins – Wofford  
Max Wolf – RISD | Brown  
Ezra Worley - Belmont

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Interns: 47**

John Baber – Oklahoma University  
Laura Ball - Northwestern  
Alex Bosgraf – Boise State  
Nick Bratcher – Indiana University  
Diana Castano Johnson – NC State  
Jack Chambers –U of Memphis  
Daniel Covert - Auburn  
Will Dallery - Vanderbilt  
Eric Disch – UNC Chapel Hill  
Melanie Drake – So Miss  
James Ensley – Texas A & M, RUF  
Stephanie Gardner - SCAD  
Heather Gargis – VA Tech  
Laura Gunnufsen – U of Memphis  
Matt Heiser – Trinity  
Alex Hill – U of Kentucky  
Allison Joffrion – U of North Texas  
Jennifer Kent - UAH  
Robert Knuth - UGA  
Hayden Lewis - Auburn  
Christian Lursen – Delta State  
Jennie Mackey – William and Mary  
Charles Marchman - TCU  
Katie Martin - Vanderbilt  
Becca Mason –UCLA  
Jesse McCallister – MS College  
Ellie McCardwell – Stanford

Anna Grace McDermott– UNC  
Chapel Hill  
Davis Mooney – VA Tech  
Martha Moseley Stainsby– Baylor  
Megan Overzet – Indiana University  
Jaimie Pastori – Winthrop University  
Tim Price – NYC, City Campus  
Jacob Roberts – William and Mary  
Julia Rushing – UC Berkeley  
Mary-Ashley Seabrook –  
Birmingham So U  
Anna Catharine Sedlak – U. of  
Maryland  
Laura Sharrett - Emory  
Annie Kate Shuler Barr – C. of  
Charleston  
Emily Snook Dahlquist –University  
of Tulsa  
Kristen Spink Thompson–Texas  
A & M  
Joel Stiling – UGA, RUF  
Sean Troxel – New Mexico State U  
Julia van Vollenhoven – Colorado  
State U.  
Kelsey Vaughn –UT Knoxville, RUF  
Scott Vehaun – U of South Carolina  
Matt Walker - Vanderbilt

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Interns: 13**

Will Barbour – South Carolina  
Caroline Dunklin Jones - Vandy  
Lauren Harris – Wake Forest  
Mary Elizabeth Haynes - TCU  
Harrison Holbrook - Alabama  
Thomas Kuhn – Kentucky  
Jacob Lee – VCU

Conrad Quiros –UCLA  
Casey Seo – UCSB  
Chris Shay –Brown /RISD /J&W  
Jess Springer – Stanford  
Jackie Turnage – LSU  
Caroline White – MS State

**Campus Staff: 6**

Amanda Deyoung – Mercer| Wesleyan  
Kathryn Howell – UT Knoxville\*  
Amy Hudson – NC State|Meredith  
\*January hire

Leslie Janikowsky – Rhodes  
Callie Norris Miller–Pitt  
Sarah Wright – UCF

**Part Time Interns/Campus Staff: 9**

Latasha Allston –Jackson State U  
Trey Brooks – Jackson State U  
Karlin Gray Brooks –Jackson State U  
Rebecca Brown – U of Nebraska \*  
Cyril Chavis – JSU  
\*January hire

Anthony Degani - Belhaven  
Terry Dykstra – GA Tech  
Carly Morrow Moss – UT  
Chattanooga  
Caroline Scruggs – UT Chattanooga\*

**Attachment 4**

**National Staff  
Reformed University Fellowship**

National Coordinator, Tom Cannon  
Assistant to the Coordinator, Belinda Day Owenby  
Assistant Coordinator, John Stone  
Event Coordinator, Emily Miller  
RUFU Coordinator, Al LaCour  
Southwest Area Coordinator, Keith Berger  
Assistant to Southwest Area Coordinator, Cynthia Hebert  
Southeast Area Coordinator, JR Foster  
Assistant to Southeast Area Coordinator, Lizzie Morrison  
Northeast and MidWest Area Coordinator, David Green  
Assistant to Northeast and MidWest Area Coordinator, Bonnie Mitchell  
TN, KY, IN, IL, MO Area Coordinator, Brent Harriman  
Mid-South Area Coordinator, Les Newsom  
Assistant to Mid-South Area Coordinator, Laura Wofford  
NC, VA Area Coordinator, John Pearson  
West Coast Coordinator, Pat Roach  
Director of Internship, Mitch Gindlesperger  
Assistant to Director of Internship, Katherine Miller  
Intern Administrator, Emily Craft  
Campus Staff Oversight, Casey Cockrum  
Director of Ministry Advancement, Kevin Teasley  
HR/Donor Services Manager, Michelle Stone  
Donor Services Associate, Amy Work  
Donor Services Associate, Jaymie Tomlinson  
Director of Operations, Kathy Leedy  
Business Manager, Dennis Shackelford  
Accounting Manager, Cheryl Lundy  
Accounting Associate, Courtney Hulteen  
Accounting Associate, Kath Hill  
Marketing Communications, Kirstin Spivey

## APPENDIX L

### REPORT OF RIDGE HAVEN TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

It is a humbling privilege to see the ministry of Ridge Haven grow and thrive because of the Lord's overwhelming blessings. Living, working, and ministering with these kids has been the most exciting time of Paige's and my life. What a privilege it is to be here and to witness first-hand the expansion of God's Kingdom into the lives of youth and families. One such mother recently wrote me expressing her thanks for the impact Ridge Haven has had on her family:

Once again my boys went to Ridge Haven [for Winter Camp] and came back filled, prepped and ready for 2016! Which fills this mother's heart. Our LORD works in so many ways to further the sanctification of our covenant children and Ridge Haven has had a profound effect on [them.] Truly, we are so grateful for all the work you and countless others do there in the mountains of Western NC. Carry on my friend, carry on.

**Summer Camp Season** – In 2015, and for the second year in a row, Ridge Haven welcomed over 3,500 guests to our summer camp program. Six of the ten weeks were once again at capacity, so our summer programs simply could not grow without the expansion of our housing accommodations. We praise the Lord that this expansion is now well under way and hopefully will be fully operational by mid to late summer. We are especially thankful to our ever faithful partners and to the many donors to our current Capital Campaign that are allowing us to minister to even more kids. Once completed, these facilities will be able to accommodate 144 more campers each week throughout the summer and many more groups throughout the rest of the year.

One of the exciting additions to the summer camp program is the addition of a second week of Family Camp. Last year's Family Camp filled up within weeks of our opening registration, so we decided to add another family camp this year by moving two of our regular camps - one earlier in May and the other later in August. Currently one of our Family Camps is completely full, and we expect the second week will be full any day now. What a joy to see families come "play and worship" together. We are especially grateful that

Pastors George Robertson and Jimmy Agan are coming back as our speakers, and for Pastor Archie Moore leading our children's program for both weeks. Talk about a "dream team!"

**Year-Round Ministry** – Summer is just one season of our ministry. For two years now, the summer is no longer our busiest season. Ridge Haven now hosts even more guests throughout the rest of the year. Every weekend from the end of summer until Thanksgiving, we welcome church-wide groups of all kinds. Winter has also become one of the busier seasons for us. Our Winter Camp over the holidays is such a blessing as the quote above reflects, and as of last year, we added a second Winter Retreat in February since Winter Retreat I has "sold out" with over 500 guests.

We also host our "Quarter Life" conference that was started in 2014. It is especially designed for the 20s and 30s age group of both singles and couples. It has been a welcome addition to our retreat schedule. We hope to add a Family and Marriage Conference in the near future. Keenagers, our retreat for those 55 and over, is held annually in the fall. And our new Celebration Lodge is perfect for small groups seeking the warmth and privacy of a mountain top executive lodge for private meetings, with the many nearby amenities of the Ridge Haven campus.

**Ministry Contributions and Campus Improvements** – God has certainly blessed the work of our hands well beyond our imaginations as He enabled us to exceed our ambitious 2M income budget while also allowing us to come under budget with our expenses. As you read this, please stop and thank and praise the Lord for His provision.

We have been able to raise all but \$480,000 of our 2.8M Capital Campaign goal. Though we originally hoped to complete the campaign in 2015, the Lord has shown us this is His work, and He will carry it on to completion in His timing. We are so thankful that so many supporters have already paid their pledges and enabled us to begin a number of campaign projects.

The new Shenandoah Treehouse Village is probably the most highly anticipated project. Once completed, the 6 treehouse cabins will be able to house 72 campers per session and many more youth groups in the spring and fall. We know kids will be so thrilled to spend their nights at camp in a treehouse, and it is fun to see it beginning to take shape.

We have also begun work on four new camper cabins down at our “Mudgeville” camping area next to our new South Recreational Complex. The new recreational area has a soccer field, sand volleyball court, wooded playing area, basketball court, and two large picnic areas. In addition, there is a wonderful trout stream that flows beside it where we are also constructing three additional Treehouses. As stated above, with all three of these new camper housing areas, we will be able to accommodate another 144 campers each week and many, many more youth groups the rest of the year. What a blessing.

We have also started on our new State mandated wastewater treatment plant. As you can imagine, this is a very time consuming project and extremely time sensitive. It is slated to be completed by the end of May in time for our summer season but if not, then we cannot use the new camper cabins.

Please pray for this construction as well as for the last 480K of our 2.8M Capital Campaign. Finishing out the campaign will allow us to construct our much needed new Dining Hall. We already have a very generous donor who has pledged 330K if we are able to raise this last 480K toward our 2.8M goal. As you read this, please stop and give God praise for all that He has done for us, for all the kids and guests that have come to Ridge Haven and have left knowing the Lord Jesus Christ for the first time, or who have left knowing Him better than when they came. Then join us in asking for blessing and provision to “finish well” this last leg of the campaign. Thank you.

**Special Camps** - We continue to host licensed counselor Martha Furman, LPC, LMFT, and her staff for a specialized "Camp Braveheart" for children and youth that are walking the journey of grief after the death of a loved one. This camp has impacted so many kids. Our Service Project Camps are becoming a more and more popular way to enjoy Ridge Haven and make camp even more affordable. They are designed for kids and youth groups to come experience a full camp, “work off” some of the camp costs, and also give back for the benefit of Ridge Haven and its long-term future and ministry. Our Chattanooga Sports Ministries Camp for inner city children is in its sixth year and remains a highlight, when over a 100 kids come, many for the first time ever outside of the inner city, to experience a week of camp and its blessings and beauty. Ridge Haven fully funds this camp including transportation to and from Chattanooga. While it is one of our “hardest” weeks, it has proven time and again, to be our most cherished time of the summer.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our Capital Campaign has also allowed us to expand one of our most popular ministries, our Camp Summer Internship (CSI) program. Our CSI program provides upper high school students work experience and focused discipleship training, with mentoring from our experienced staff. CSIs spend their summer as work crews, providing behind the scenes support for the camping ministry. They also attend daily sessions of worship and preaching as well as a daily Bible Study. It is our “camp within a camp,” and a powerful tool to train a next generation of leaders for lifelong ministry.

**Summary** – We are so thankful to the Lord and you, His Church, for allowing us to expand and improve our many ministries. It is so exciting to be a part of this ministry and denomination where the Lord is allowing us to participate in His kingdom work so powerfully. We continue to praise Him and put our faith in Him as we seek to reach more and more youth and Covenant families for His kingdom. To God be all glory!

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Ridge Haven 2017 Budget, as presented through the AC Budget Review Committee, be approved.
2. That the 2014 audit dated May 27, 2015, performed by Robins, Smith & Jordan, be received.
3. That the minutes of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven be approved: 2/2/2015-2/3/2015; 5/4/2015-5/5/2015; 10/5/2015-10/6/2015.
4. That February 26, 2017, be a day our churches pray for the ministries of Ridge Haven.

Wallace Anderson, Executive Director



**APPENDIX M**

**COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE  
REPORT  
TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**UNIQUENESS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Cooperative Ministries Committee (CMC) is unique among other Committees and Agencies of the General Assembly in that all chairmen and chief administrative officers of each of the ten General Assembly Committees and Agencies have both a voice and vote on the committee. Moreover, the current Moderator of the General Assembly serves as moderator of the CMC. He and the immediate past five Moderators serve as advisory members of the CMC. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly serves as the Clerk of the CMC. Article VII of the *Rules of Assembly Operations* contains the rules under which the CMC operates.

The CMC is not a General Executive Board with any authority over the ten Committees and Agencies of the General Assembly but does provide a useful means for advancing cooperation in ministry, communications, integrated long-range planning, handling matters referred to it by General Assembly Committees and Agencies or by the Assembly itself, evaluating standards for the effectiveness of General Assembly Committees and Agencies, and serving as a forum to resolve issues of inter-agency cooperation, collaboration or possible conflict.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

The Cooperative Ministries Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met January 13, 2016, in the MTW Building in Lawrenceville, Georgia, for its annual meeting as required by *RAO 7-4.a*. The Moderator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, RE James W. Wert Jr., chaired the meeting.

Voting Members Present

AC Coordinator/Stated Clerk - TE L. Roy Taylor  
AC Chairman - TE Jerry Schriver  
CC President - RE J. Derek Halvorson  
CC Chairman - RE Richard T. Bowser

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CDM Coordinator - TE Stephen T. Estock  
CDM Chairman – TE David L. Stewart  
CTS President - TE Mark L. Dalbey  
CTS Chairman – RE Walter Turner  
MNA Coordinator - TE James C. Bland III  
MNA Chairman – TE Douglas Domin  
PCAF President - RE Randel N. Stair  
PCA RBI President - RE Gary D. Campbell  
PCA RBI Chairman – TE Jonathan B. Medlock  
RUM Chairman – TE Edward W. Dunnington  
RH Executive Director - RE Wallace Anderson  
RH President – RE Dan Nielsen

### Voting Members Absent

MTW Coordinator - TE Lloyd Kim  
MTW Chairman - TE Patrick J. Womack  
PCAF Chairman - TE David H. Clelland  
RUM Coordinator - TE Thomas K. Cannon

### Advisory Members Present

RE James W. Wert Jr. – Moderator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly  
TE Bryan S. Chapell – Moderator of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly  
RE Bruce W. Terrell - Moderator of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly  
TE Michael F. Ross - Moderator of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
RE Daniel A. Carrell - Moderator of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
TE Harry L. Reeder III - Moderator of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

### Advisory Members Absent

None

### Visitors

RE Richard Doster – Editor, *byFaith* Magazine  
Mrs. Sherry Eschenberg - AC Meeting Planner  
TE Rod S. Mays – Member, Subcommittee on Role of Women in Ministry  
Ms. Angela Nantz - AC Operations Manager  
TE John W. Robertson – AC Business Administrator

The Committee recognized the work of TE James C. Bland III as the Coordinator of MNA for the past seventeen years and prayed for his next phase of ministry. Dr. Bland will retire at the adjournment of the Forty-fourth General Assembly.

## MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTIONS TAKEN

For the last couple of years the CMC has focused on integrated long-range planning. Five sub-committees were formed to study and make suggestions regarding some significant issues the PCA is or will be facing:

1. *Practicing Diversity Well in the PCA* – considering ethnic, cultural, linguistic, generational, gender, regional, urban-suburban-small-town-rural, political, socio-economic diversity within our churches and ministry contexts in the United States and Canada.
2. *Sexual Brokenness in a Fallen World* – involving not only same-sex attraction, but a plethora of sexual desires, tendencies, and practices that are a result of the original fall into sin and are contrary to God’s design for hetero-sexual, monogamous marriage as revealed in Holy Scripture and affirmed in the Constitution of the PCA.
3. *The Role of Women in the PCA* – utilizing the gifts, insights, experiences, wisdom, and abilities of women within the parameters of biblical teachings.
4. *The Rising Generation of Leaders Within and For the PCA* – identifying, listening to, developing, and involving the rising generation of leaders.
5. *Making the Annual General Assembly More Attractive to Ruling Elders and Younger Pastors* – creating venues and procedures to orient and involve Ruling Elders and younger ministers.

The composition of the CMC and its appointed subcommittees changes over time. Therefore, the CMC authorized the Moderator and Clerk to repopulate the subcommittees where needed.

Since the CMC does not make recommendations for action directly to the General Assembly, the CMC refers its recommendations to the appropriate Committees and Agencies.

Here is a summary of the work of the subcommittees of the CMC.

### PRACTICING DIVERSITY WELL IN THE PCA

Racial reconciliation is an important aspect of practicing ethnic diversity well in the PCA. As part of the widespread response to concern about racial reconciliation with the PCA, this subcommittee of the CMC continues its work.

- At the last General Assembly a Personal Resolution on racial reconciliation was introduced as new business. After considerable discussion, the Assembly decided to defer action on the issue until the Forty-fourth

General Assembly in order to give Presbyteries time and opportunity to consider the issue and prepare overtures to the Assembly.

- The Assembly-wide seminar last year on Advancing Ethnic Diversity in the PCA was well received.
- The response to this emphasis at the Forty-third General Assembly has been notable. As of the time of the writing of this report, over three dozen overtures have been submitted and will be considered by the Overtures Committee for recommendations to the Assembly.
- The CMC anticipates further clarification and counsel for the ongoing work of this subcommittee from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, given the number of overtures already received that are connected to the issues of racial reconciliation and repentance.

### **SEXUAL BROKENNESS IN A FALLEN WORLD**

The subcommittee's work on homosexuality was expanded to deal not only with same-sex attraction but also with the broader issue of sexual brokenness in a fallen world and religious liberty.

- Shortly after the Forty-third General Assembly the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued its 5-4 decision legalizing same-sex marriage. (See the Stated Clerk's Report to the General Assembly for a statement on the PCA's stance on marriage). The SCOTUS decision and recent changes in laws, as well as challenges to laws regarding gender self-identity in the use public restrooms, have not only evinced a further secularization of our culture but have also raised religious liberty issues that may affect churches, denominational institutions, independent Christian institutions, and businesses operated by Christians.

The subcommittee will seek to cite ties between its subject of study and existing PCA constitutional standards insofar as possible, recognizing that some of the current 21<sup>st</sup>-century issues were not addressed by the Westminster Assembly of 1643-1648.

- RBI and CDM are working on making materials available to the churches regarding best practices and help with policies.
- The CMC wanted last year's report of the subcommittee to be included in this year's General Assembly's Minutes (see Attachment, p. 332. A bibliography has been added.)
- An Assembly-wide seminar will be held at the Forty-fourth General Assembly on Sexual Brokenness in a Fallen World, with emphasis how churches, leaders, and individual Christians may minister to struggling people.

### **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PCA**

- The subcommittee continued its work on the importance of and possible means of giving women a greater voice and more visible roles in all levels of PCA church life. They reported back to the CMC regarding their study of matters including exegesis of key Scriptures and topics related to women serving in the church from the local to the denominational level.
- The subcommittee made several recommendations to the AC (including a proposal for a study committee on the issue women serving in the church) and CDM to bring to the Assembly. See the AC and CDM reports for recommendations.

### **THE RISING GENERATION OF LEADERS WITHIN AND FOR THE PCA**

- The subcommittee plans to continue to have gatherings and work to promote leadership within the younger generation.
- A gathering at the Chattanooga (43<sup>rd</sup>) General Assembly was well attended.

### **MAKING THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MORE ATTRACTIVE TO RULING ELDERS AND YOUNGER PASTORS**

Several of the CMC recommendations to the AC regarding the work of the subcommittee on Making the PCA and GA More Attractive to Younger Pastors and Ruling Elders are already being implemented by the AC.

- A first-time commissioner event at the Chattanooga General Assembly was well attended.
- The 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly approved two *RAO* amendments designed to improve communication within Committees of Commissioners at General Assembly (see *M43GA*, 24, 57). The amendments grew out of the work of the subcommittee.

The following (except for the bibliography, which is added here) appeared as Attachment 2 of the CMC report in last year's GA Minutes (*M43GA*, pp. 331ff).

**Attachment**  
Report of the CMC Sub-Committee on Homosexuality  
January 14, 2015

At the 2014 Cooperative Ministries Committee Meeting the CMC addressed key issues that the PCA, like many other evangelical denominations, face in ministering in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. One of those issues is the issue of sexual brokenness, particularly people who are sexually attracted to members of the same gender. We are all broken people living in a fallen world.

**A PCA Response to Issues of Sexual Expression**

The exclusiveness of salvation through faith in Christ alone and the Church's response to homosexuality may well be two of the most important issues of our day. As always the Church must interpret the trends of our times in light of the Bible rather than interpreting the Bible in light of the trends of our times. The Church is called to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). In speaking the truth in love, we realize that we may well be misunderstood. When we speak the truth that sexual intimacy is biblically reserved only for heterosexual marriage, there will be those who think that it is unloving not to affirm all sorts of sexual behaviors. When we affirm that the Lord Jesus Christ graciously forgives all sorts of sins, even sexual sins, some may think we are not standing firmly enough for the truth.

**God's Intentions for Sexual Intimacy**

Throughout history the Church has always believed, taught and confessed that God's intention for sexual intimacy was confined to heterosexual marriage between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6). The Bible, the Westminster Standards, and our Book of Church order are explicit and clear on this issue (WCF 24-1; WLC 137-139; BCO 59). The biblical standard of sexual ethics is fidelity within heterosexual marriage or chastity outside of such a marriage. There is not a single biblical reference to homosexual activity in which such activity is divinely approved. In fact, when the Bible addresses homosexual activity, it is regarded as a sinful act (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Deut. 23:17; Romans 1:18-32). Though several mainline denominations have condoned same-sex sexual relationships and re-defined

marriage, the PCA maintains the biblical standards on marriage and sexual ethics.

### **The Origins of Sexual Brokenness**

The Fall into Sin has affected our humanity in every aspect of our being. Thereafter human beings were born spiritually dead, i.e. no longer in fellowship with God but separated from him. Just as physical death is the separation of the spirit/soul from the body (Gen. 35:18) so spiritual death is separation from God (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3). Our wills became rebellious. Our understanding became clouded. Our affections became distorted (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 58:1-5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-23; 8:6-8). We became subject to physical abnormalities, all kinds of afflictions and physical deteriorations that eventually lead to death. (Gen. 2:17; Romans 5).

All sexual sins, whether heterosexual or homosexual, have their root in original sin and total depravity. Moreover sexual desires and behaviors are complex and may be affected and shaped by a myriad of factors such as childhood experiences, positive and negative role models, sexual abuse, family life, abnormal hormonal levels, or unusual physical conditions.

### **Recent Developments in Same-sex Issues**

Through violations of biblical sexual ethics have occurred throughout history, several factors have recently brought same-sex attraction to the fore. As a result of this wide ranging and intense cultural pressures, most of the mainline American Protestant denominations have officially approved of same-sex relationships. Numerous civil courts have ruled same-sex marriage to be constitutional and the matter was taken to the United States Supreme Court to decide on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. So the Church's maintaining its biblical standards will increasingly be standing against the flow of the mainstream of American culture.

We offer the following wisdom for our members, officers, and churches:

1. Speak the truth in love. Speaking the truth requires that in our personal conversations, teaching, and preaching we clearly articulate not only that all sexual relations outside of heterosexual marriage are sinful actions, but that we trace these behaviors to the root cause of original sin.
2. Speak the truth in love. A common perception of evangelical Christians from those in the homosexual community is that Christians hate

homosexuals. Just as the Church has ministered the gospel to women who have become pregnant out of wedlock and sought to help them either to develop Christian parenting skills or to provide adoption services, the Church should minister the gospel to those who struggle with same-sex attraction. Many in the homosexual community have church backgrounds, but did not find the Church to be helpful as they struggled with same-sex attractions.

3. Recognize the complexity of same-sex attraction. Though there are some who deliberately choose behavior influenced by same-sex attraction a significant number of homosexuals, however, state that they would have preferred to have been attracted to members of the opposite sex. It would be simplistic to assume that all homosexuals deliberately choose to be attracted to persons of the same sex.
4. Recognize that some, but not all, who struggle with same-sex attraction may be able, by God's grace, to become attracted to persons of the opposite gender and enter into a heterosexual marriage. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield is an example (see *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*). Such cases require patient Christians and a loving church ethos for transformations to occur.
5. Realize that some who struggle with same-sex attraction, due to a complex of factors, may never fully experience opposite-sex attraction and therefore are called to lifelong celibacy in order to practice sexual purity. Wesley Hill is an example of one who is committed to lifelong celibacy (see *Washed and Waiting, Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*).
6. Due to the effects of the fall, there are people who have physical or also psychological characteristics that create and present utterly complex situations and cases.
7. Dealing with people in sexual brokenness will require some challenging pastoral care and discipline issues. The best of wisdom and knowledge afforded us by special and common grace must be used in responding to such issues. To this end we strongly commend that the study paper of 2011 by the RPCNA entitled *The Gospel & Sexual Orientation* to be read and studied by Teaching Elders and Sessions.
8. Realize that Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction may relapse. We should be prepared to deal mercifully with those "relapses" as we would with others.
9. The Church needs to avoid the Spiritual Museum model (perfect specimens who are on display) and practice the Spiritual Hospital model, (imperfect people who are in various stages of spiritual recovery).



10. One of the major problems people who struggle with same-sex attraction is loneliness. The Church needs to develop ministries to incorporate lonely people into the fellowship of the church.
11. Seek to learn from other evangelical churches and para-church ministries that have developed gospel ministries to homosexual persons.

### **Resources on Same-Sex Marriage and Related Issues:**

- Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible and Same-Sex Attraction*. Pucelville, VA: The Good Book Company, 2013.
- Barr, Adam T., and Ron Citlau. *Compassion without Compromise: How the Gospel Frees Us to Love Our Gay Friends without Losing the Truth*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2014.
- Burk, Denny. *What is the Meaning of Sex?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- Butterfield, Rosaria Champagne. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*. Pittsburgh, PA: Crown & Covenant, 2014.
- DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
- Esolen, Anthony. *Defending Marriage: Twelve Arguments for Sanity*. Charlotte, NC: Saint Benedict Press, 2014.
- Gagnon, Robert A.J. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2011.
- George, Robert P., and Jean Bethke Elshtain, eds. *The Meaning of Marriage: Family, State, Market and Morals*. Dallas, TX: Spence, 2006.
- Girgis, Sherif, Ryan T. Anderson, and Robert P. George. *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*. New York: Encounter Books, 2012.
- Heimbach, Daniel. *Why Not Same-Sex Marriage? A Manual for Defending Marriage against Radical Deconstruction*. Sisters, OR: Trusted Books, 2014.
- Hill, Wesley. *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Hubbard, Peter. *Love into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church*. Greenville, SC: Ambassador International, 2013.
- Lee, Patrick, and Robert P. George. *Conjugal Union: What Marriage Is and Why It Matters*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- McDowell, Sean, and John Stonestreet. *Same-Sex Marriage: A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2014.

RPCES 158th General Synod Minutes, pp. 43-50. "Report of the Study Committee on Homosexuality," 1980 (<http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/301.pdf>)

Sauls, Scott. "Can Christians and LGBTQ Be Friends?" *Q Ideas*, "Articles." n.d. (<http://qideas.org/articles/can-christians-and-the-lgbtq-community-be-friends/>)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus Outside the Lines: A Way Forward For Those Who Are Tired of Taking Sides*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Toward a Graciously Historic Sexual Ethic." *The Gospel Coalition*, "Christian Living." March 23, 2015. (<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/toward-a-graciously-historic-sexual-ethic>)

Schmidt, Thomas E. *Straight and Narrow: Compassion and Clarity in the Homosexuality Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Wheeler, Shayne. *The Briarpatch Gospel: Fearlessly Following Jesus Into the Thorny Places*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2013.

Yuan, Christopher, and Angela Yuan. *Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2011.

#### **Internet Resources Relating to Facilities Policies:**

Alliance Defending Freedom: <http://www.adflegal.org/issues/religious-freedom/church>

Christian Legal Society: <http://clsnet.org/church-guidance-webinar>

Focus on the Family: <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage>

Restored Hope Network: <http://www.restoredhopenetwork.org/>

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention: <http://erlc.com/>

## APPENDIX N

### REPORT OF THE INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

#### Membership

TE Paul Gilchrist  
TE Hoochan Paul Lee  
TE E. Bruce O’Neil, Chairman  
TE Richard Phillips, Alternate  
TE L. Roy Taylor, *ex officio* (RAO 3-2 j.)  
RE Dennis Baker, Alternate  
RE Philip Graybeal  
RE James C. Richardson, Secretary  
RE Paul Richardson  
RE William Goodman, MTW Advisory

#### Meetings

- September 24, 2015, via conference call
- April 19, 2016, via conference call
- 

#### Officers for 2016-2017

- TE Bruce O’Neil – Chairman
- RE James C. Richardson, Secretary
- 

#### The Ministry of the Interchurch Relations Committee

- The First General Assembly PCA (then called the National Presbyterian Church) had a subcommittee on Interchurch Relations under the Committee on Administration (*MIGA*, 1973, p. 24).
- One of the first recommendations of the IRC subcommittee was the adoption of the “A Message to All Churches of Jesus Christ throughout the World from the General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church,” in which the Assembly expressed its grief over the necessity of and reasons for our separating from our former denomination, professed its unity with all who are in Christ, delineated our purpose of pursuing peace and charity with love toward all fellow Christians throughout the world, expressed our continued love and concern for our former denomination, and invited

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

into ecclesiastical fellowship all who maintain our faith and order (*MIGA*, 1973, pp. 40-42).

- The IRC later was changed from a subcommittee to a Special Committee, funded by the Administrative Committee, as it remains today.
- Through the efforts of the IRC a merger of five Presbyterian and Reformed denominations (PCA; Orthodox Presbyterian Church; Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod; Christian Reformed Church of North America; and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America) was attempted within the first decade of the existence of the PCA. That ambitious attempt failed. Two attempts at merger with the OPC failed. The Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod joined and was received into the PCA in 1982.
- In 2003, the Thirtieth General Assembly adopted a recommendation of the IRC that we extend to the member denominations of the North America Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) an invitation for NAPARC denominations to consider the matter of Church Union once more, since holding forth the desirability of Church Union was one of the reasons for the existence of NAPARC and because the membership of the Council had changed in the almost three decades since its founding. That effort was also unsuccessful.
- In the early years of the PCA, the Assembly related to other Presbyterian and Reformed denominations outside of NAPARC primarily through the Committee on Mission to the World. In recent years the IRC has recommended and the Assembly has agreed that we also relate to some of those denominations abroad through the IRC as well as MTW. For example, the Presbyterian Church of Brazil and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico have a longer history and are of greater size than the PCA. Both denominations could be of assistance in planting Portuguese and Spanish speaking PCA congregations in North America in symbiotic relationships.
- In recent years, in keeping with the “Message to All Churches” adopted by the First General Assembly, the Stated Clerk, with the approval and encouragement of the IRC, has had contacts with other evangelical, conservative, orthodox, and traditional renewal groups and newly formed denominations. A fruit of those contacts was our Thirty-seventh General Assembly’s sending a letter of greeting to the First Provincial Assembly of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) in 2009 in the same fashion as the Reformed Episcopal

Church (REC) sent a letter of greeting to our First General Assembly in 1973. The REC was one of the six ecclesiastical entities that formed ACNA. The Cooperative Ministries Committee (CMC) has also encouraged contacts with other evangelical, conservative, orthodox, and traditional newly formed denominations. That will likely be an opportunity the IRC will continue to pursue as we think of the ministry of the Gospel, the growth of the Church Universal, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

- It is through the IRC that the Assembly relates to other Reformed Churches and organizations in North America and abroad through our participation in the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) and the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).
- It is through the IRC that the Assembly relates to other evangelical denominations and organizations through our membership in the National Association of Evangelicals.
- The IRC also appoints fraternal delegates and ecclesiastical observers to other General Assemblies or General Synods.

### **Items Discussed**

- The actions and annual meeting of NAPARC.
- Response to proposed “Agreement of Ministerial Fellowship” of the Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico (INPM) – The committee deputed Paul Gilchrist, Bruce O’Neil, and the Stated Clerk to respond to the INPM proposal.
- World Reformed Fellowship –the meeting of the WRF in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the declining health and subsequent death of WRF Board Chairman Dr. Rick Perrin. TE Perrin formerly served as Chairman of the IRC and has served as chairman of the WRF Board for a number of years.
- National Association of Evangelicals – the activities and board meetings of the NAE.
- International Conference of Reformed Churches – an invitation to attend a regional seminar February 9-11, 2016, in Orlando, FL, with the theme “Women in Teaching Offices.” The seminar was subsequently cancelled.
- Listing of Denominations in Fraternal or Corresponding Relations.
- Election of Officers for 2016-2017.
- Presbyterian Church of Japan’s request to investigate fraternal relations.
- Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand’s request to investigate fraternal relations.

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- Appointment of PCA Fraternal Delegates and Ecclesiastical Observers to the meetings of the highest assemblies of other denominations.

### **North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council**

- Election of representative(s) to annual meeting of NAPARC – TE Bruce O’Neil and RE Jim Richardson were elected to represent the PCA at the annual NAPARC meeting November 10-12, 2015, at Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.
- Amendments to NAPARC bylaws – The committee approved the proposed amendments to the NAPARC Bylaws. Amendments to the NAPARC Bylaws do not require the action of the member Assembly, but are amended by the Council itself by a two-thirds majority. The IRC reviewed the proposed amendments at its September 24, 2015, meeting and instructed its delegation to NAPARC to vote in favor of the amendments, which were primarily editorial changes. NAPARC approved the amendments at its November 2015 meeting.
- Your IRC continues to be of the opinion that the likelihood of any of the NAPARC denominations merging with the PCA in the foreseeable future is remote. We can report that several NAPARC denominations with similar perspectives and historical roots are engaging in cooperative efforts (e.g. joint publication of a Psalter) and are having concurrent Synods.
- The 2016 annual meeting will be held November 8-10 in New Jersey.

### **World Reformed Fellowship**

- The WRF is a fellowship of Reformed denominations, local churches, ministries, institutions, and individuals who hold to the ecumenical creeds of the Ancient Church and one of the Reformed Confessions.
- Dr. K. Eric “Rick” Perrin, former chairman and several-term member of the IRC served as chairman of the board of WRF since its inception. The committee, at its April 19, 2016, noted with regret and appreciation his death which took place April 13, 2016. Rick is survived by his wife, Barbara, their three sons and daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren. Rick's career in ministry spanned more than 40 years, nearly all of them as senior pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, Maryland, South Carolina, and New Jersey. Although Rick retired as a senior pastor nearly two years ago, his ministry continued as an adult ministries teacher at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA.

- The WRF Board meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in March 2016.
- The mission of the World Reformed Fellowship is to promote understanding, cooperation, and sharing of resources among our membership of evangelical and Reformed Christians in the advancement of the Gospel.
- The vision of the WRF is simple – "That the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ" (see Paul's prayer in Ephesians 4: 11-13).
- The Biblical and Confessional Foundation of the World Reformed Fellowship – The WRF vision is to live out one of the clearly stated but often neglected themes of the great Reformed confessions of the church. The *Westminster Confession of Faith* (XXV, 2) affirms that there is "a visible universal church which consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion." The *Belgic Confession* (Article 27) emphasizes that "the one single catholic or universal church . . . is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain persons. But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world." While specific regional or national expressions of the universal church do, in many ways, embody characteristics of the Body of Christ, there are other characteristics of that Body which transcend those expressions. It is those other characteristics that the WRF seeks to set forth in its commitments and in its activities.
- The Affirmations of the World Reformed Fellowship –
  - The essence of the true religion (and of Reformed theology) is adoration and worship of the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - This Triune God is worthy of the praise and service of all of creation.
  - Christians in many places and many denominations who share these first two commitments will find their worship and service of the Lord God enhanced by contact with others of like mind.
- The Formal Doctrinal Basis of the World Reformed Fellowship –
  - We affirm the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the God-breathed Word of God, without error in all that it affirms.
  - We stand in the mainstream of the historic Christian Faith in affirming the following catholic creeds of the Early Church: The Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Chalcedonian Definition.

- More specifically, every voting member of the WRF affirms one of the following historic expressions of the Reformed Faith: The Gallican Confession, The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, The Thirty-Nine Articles, The Second Helvetic Confession, The Canons of Dort, The Westminster Confession of Faith, the London Confession of 1689, the Savoy Declaration, or the WRF Statement of Faith (available on WRF website).
- The Services of the World Reformed Fellowship – For those who share our affirmations and our doctrinal base, the World Reformed Fellowship seeks to provide:
  - A network for communication and sharing of ministry resources among such Christians.
  - A forum for dialogue among such Christians on current issues.
  - The opportunity for such Christians from one region of the world to share their unique spiritual and theological perspectives with such Christians from other regions of the world, all within the framework of the evangelical Reformed faith.
  - Regular occasions, some for such Christians in specific regions of the world and some for such Christians world-wide, to come together for worship and dialogue and resource-sharing.
- The Structure and the By-Laws of the World Reformed Fellowship – The WRF holds General Assemblies at least once every four years. The most recent General Assembly met in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from March 23 through March 27, 2015. At General Assemblies, all WRF members vote on major policy issues and elect the members of the WRF Executive Committee. Also at General Assemblies, issues of importance for the evangelical Reformed church world-wide are addressed.

### **National Association of Evangelicals**

- The NAE was formed in 1942 initially to give evangelicals opportunity to have greater access to radio ministry. The Federal Communications Commission was at that time giving preference to mainline denominations associated with the Federal Council (later National Council) of Churches.
- A number of Presbyterian evangelicals were involved in the formation of the NAE.



- After WWII the NAE provided War Relief particularly to devastated Europe. That later transitioned into the World Relief Commission of the NAE, which continues to serve the most vulnerable people in many places in the world.
- The National Association of Evangelicals has spoken as a united voice for millions of American evangelicals since 1942. The association represents more than 45,000 local churches from nearly 40 different denominations and serves a constituency of millions. The NAE serves to make denominations strong and effective, influence society for justice and righteousness, and gather the many voices of evangelicals together to be more effective for Jesus Christ and his cause.
- The Stated Clerk of the PCA continues to serve as the Chairman of the Board of the NAE and chaired Board meetings on October 15, 2015, in Lakeville, MN, and March 10 in Washington, DC. A seminar on Marriage, Family, and Religious Freedom after Obergefell was a major event of the October meeting. At the March meeting presentations were made on religious freedom in the military and the persecution and rapid decline of the Christian community in the Middle East.
- The NAE and LifeWay Research of the Southern Baptist Convention have been working on a research/survey definition of the term “evangelical” since its use has become more broadly defined. The result was that to be categorized as an evangelical, respondents must strongly agree that:
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.
  - Jesus Christ’s death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God’s free gift of eternal salvation.
- The PCA Stated Clerk serves as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors of World Relief.
- The Stated Clerk forwarded to the IRC the periodic NAE publication, *Insights*, summarizing NAE activities. A new NAE magazine, *Evangelicals* began publication in early 2016.
- Since the June 26, 2015, SCOTUS decision on Obergefell legalizing same-sex marriage, the NAE issued press statements affirming biblical monogamous marriage between a man and a woman <http://nae.net/tag/marriage/> and had a conference call briefing July 1,

2015, with legal experts and denominational leaders on the issue of religious liberty protections in light of Obergefell.

- Dr. Leith Anderson was re-elected to another three-year term as President of the NAE (2016-2019).
- The NAE held a Conversation on Race in DC in November, 2015. Three themes (Educational Opportunity, Income Disparity, and Criminal Justice Reform) were identified by African-American leaders as major issues affecting racial reconciliation in the USA.
- The committee decided that none of the actions of the NAE are contrary to the official positions of the PCA. According to the directive of the PCA's General Assembly, the IRC reports annually to the Assembly regarding actions or positions taken by the NAE (*M40GA*, p. 22; *M41GA*, p. 20).

### **Common Ground Christian Network**

- The experience of evangelical, traditional, conservative, orthodox Christians within the mainline Protestant denominations has been very similar no matter what their doctrinal confession or polity. All have gone through 1) doctrinal and ethical decline, 2) lack of accountability or discipline, and 3) the abuse of ecclesiastical power. That cycle has resulted in the formation of several new denominations out of the mainlines within the last decade. That repeated cycle, coupled with the increasing secularization of our culture, threats to religious liberty, and the mandate to the Church to fulfill the Great Commission, have provided a new impetus for maintaining contacts and engaging in collaborative efforts with other evangelical, traditional, conservative, orthodox denominations. For example, several of those denominations have benefitted from the input and expertise of PCA people and ministries in the areas of cross-cultural missions, church planting, and campus ministry. Another possibility is to serve as allies in warding off increasing threats to religious liberties.
- Common Ground Christian Network was formed out of the Association for Church Renewal and is now called the Common Ground Christian Network (CGCN). Its purposes are to share best practices for ministry and witness. The CGCN meets semi-annually. The PCA is not presently a denominational member. The IRC has encouraged the Stated Clerk to attend CGCN meetings whenever possible and to inform the IRC of its work.

### **Possible Relationships with Presbyterian Denominations Abroad**

- The Committee voted to invite an observer from the Presbyterian Church of Japan to our General Assembly with a view to discussions on possible fraternal relations. MTW has worked with them for decades. Prior to the formation of the PCA, the PCUS and the RPCES worked with them. They have six Presbyteries, sixty-seven churches, and 2,200 members. They have fraternal relations with the OPC, the KPC (Kosin), the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico.
- The Committee voted to invite an observer from the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand to our General Assembly with a view to discussions on possible fraternal relations. They were formed in 2003 and used the *PCA Book of Church Order* as beginning point for their BCO. They have connections with several PCA congregations.
- The committee has had several inquiries from the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan. Since there are about seventeen Presbyterian denominations in Pakistan, the IRC is seeking guidance from MTW on this matter in order to make an informed decision on any possible recommendation.

### **Recommendations**

1. That Fraternal Delegates, Corresponding Delegates, and Ecclesiastical Observers be welcomed and invited to address the General Assembly.
2. That visiting ministers be introduced to the General Assembly (*BCO* 13-3).
3. That the minutes of September 24, 2015, be approved without exception.
4. That the minutes of April 19, 2016, be approved without exception.

## APPENDIX O

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

#### I. Introduction

The Committee on Constitutional Business (CCB) met prior to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on May 2, 2016, in the PCA Administrative Offices in Lawrenceville, GA. Attendance at the meetings was as follows:

##### Teaching Elders

Robert Browning, Present  
Mark Rowden (Seated Alt), Present  
Larry Hoop, Present  
Josh Anderson, Absent  
Art Sartorius, Present

##### Ruling Elders

Flynt Jones, Present  
Philip Temple, Present  
Steve Dowling, Absent, Resigned  
Richard Dolan, Absent  
Edward Wright, Present

#### II. Advice on Overtures

The Stated Clerk referred the following overtures to the Committee:

- A. **Overture 3** from Chesapeake Presbytery: “Amend *BCO* 15-3 to Allow Judicial Commission Minority Reports”

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 3 is **not** in conflict with other parts of the Constitution. *Adopted. 7-1-0.*

It should be noted, however, that if this amendment to the *BCO* is approved, the *BCO* Appendix H will need to be revised.

- B. **Overture 5** from Pittsburgh Presbytery: “Amend *BCO* 15-5.a and *RAO* 17-1, Paragraph 4, to Allow the General Assembly to Give Directions to the SJC in Judicial Decisions and Reasoning and Opinions”

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 5 is **in conflict with the Constitution**. *BCO* 15-1 states that "A commission differs from an ordinary committee in that while a committee is appointed to examine, consider and report, a commission is authorized to deliberate upon and

*conclude the business referred to it, except in the case of judicial commissions of a Presbytery appointed under BCO 15-3.*" [emphasis added]. In other words, when a commission concludes the business referred to it, it is acting *as* the court of which it is a commission. *BCO 15-4* specifies the business which General Assembly refers to the SJC (which it commissions the SJC to conclude - noted in italics): "The General Assembly shall elect a Standing Judicial Commission to which it *shall commit all matters governed by the Rules of Discipline*, except for the annual review of Presbytery records, which may come before the Assembly." The last clause clearly indicates that the *only* matter addressed in the Rules of Discipline that *may* come before the entire Assembly is review of Presbytery records.

It should be noted that the provision that "The General Assembly may direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry a case if upon the review of its minutes exceptions are taken with respect to that case" springs from the provision of *BCO 15-5a* that states, "In the cases committed to it, the Standing Judicial Commission shall . . . be governed by the judicial procedures of the General Assembly."

*Adopted. 7-1-0.*

- C. Overture 14** from Providence Presbytery: "Amend *BCO 35-1* to Require Accused Officers to Testify"

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 14 is **not** in conflict with other parts of the Constitution.

*Adopted. 8-0-0.*

- D. Overture 25** from the Rocky Mountain Presbytery: "Amend *BCO 15-1; 15-2; Add new 15-4 and Renumber Subsequent Paragraphs*"

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 25 is **not** in conflict with other parts of the Constitution. (cf. *BCO 12-3*)

*Adopted. 5-3-0.*

Dissenting Opinion by the Minority: Those voting in the minority suggested that the potential for a session to appoint a teaching elder of the same presbytery to serve as a voting member of the Judicial Commission violates Preliminary Principle 6 of the *BCO*.

- E. Overture 36** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery: "Amend *RAO 13-2* on the Procedure for Considering New Business at GA"

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 36 is **not** in conflict with other parts of the Constitution.

*Adopted. 8-0-0.*

- F. Overture 37** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery: “Amend *BCO* 13-2 to Add Requirement for Annual Reports from Ministers Without Call”

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 37 is **not** in conflict with other parts of the Constitution. *Adopted. 8-0-0.*

- G. Overture 38** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery: “Amend *BCO* 5-3 to Add an Explicit Requirement for Reporting and Reviewing Minutes of a Mission Church Temporary System of Government”

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 38 **is in conflict with the Constitution**. Overture 38, as it is written, conflicts with *BCO* 5-3.a, in that an evangelist would not have minutes to submit as opposed to the governing bodies stipulated in items b and c of *BCO* 5-3. The *BCO* does not require an evangelist to submit minutes.

*Adopted. 8-0-0.*

- H. Overture 39** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery: “Amend *BCO* 38-1 and 42-2 to Allow an Appeal Instead of a Complaint in a Case Without Process”

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 39 is **not** in conflict with other parts of the Constitution. *Adopted. 7-1-0.*

- I. Overture 40** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery: “Amend *BCO* 43-1 to Clarify the Timing of Higher Court Review of Complaints in Judicial Cases”

In the opinion of the CCB, Overture 40 **is in conflict with the Constitution**. As currently written, Overture 40 would preclude the filing of complaints against any action of that court while any judicial case is in process. *Adopted. 8-0-0.*

### III. Advice to Stated Clerk

No advice was requested.

### IV. Non-Judicial References

- A.** Great Lakes Presbytery submitted a non-judicial reference, inquiring as to the propriety of allowing absentee ballots in Congregation meetings.

The CCB responded as follows:

It is the opinion of the CCB that whenever the *BCO* requires the convening of the congregation and/or a requirement that a majority vote of those present is required for a matter to carry, absentee votes would be barred. Therefore, as an example, absentee ballot voting for a new pastor (*BCO* 20-3 and 20-4) or for elders or deacons (*BCO* 24-3 and 24-4) is not constitutionally permissible. Nor, would it be permissible in matters in which action must be taken in a regularly constituted congregational meeting, such as the election of Trustees (*BCO* 25-7).

In other matters, if the congregation's by-laws do not state otherwise, *Robert's Rules of Order* apply as follows:

It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that the right to vote is limited to the members of an organization who are actually present at the time the vote is taken in a regular or properly called meeting, the rules cannot be suspended so as to give the right to vote to a nonmember, or to authorize absentee voting. *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* p. 263 RONR (11th ed.). (see also p. 423)  
*Adopted. 8-0-0.*

- B.** The Korean Southwest Presbytery submitted a non-judicial reference for the CCB's consideration regarding concerning the presbytery stated clerk's scope of duty with respect to the dissemination of information and the offering and opinions.

The CCB responded as follows:

It is the opinion of the CCB that *BCO* 10-4 specifies that among the duties of the clerk of a Presbytery are "to preserve the records carefully, and to grant extracts from them whenever properly required." Acting in his official capacity it is in accordance with the duties of a clerk to provide information consistent with the records kept, and especially so, when asked by a former Presbytery Teaching Elder to provide the information when it is related to ecclesiastical litigation. This information should be provided and need not have the prior permission of the Presbytery or the Moderator. If the information sought or provided extends beyond what is available in records normally

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kept or opinions beyond procedural matters, the Presbytery Stated Clerk might wish to seek the approval of the Presbytery as a whole. Notwithstanding, the information provided by the stated clerk in his January 12, 2016 communication appears to be within the scope of his duties.

*Adopted. 8-0-0.*

- C. The Korean Southwest Presbytery submitted a second non-judicial reference for the CCB's consideration regarding ordination credentials of a former presbytery member.

The CCB responded as follows:

It is the opinion of the CCB that records indicate that Reverend Jung Hyun Oh was properly ordained and at the time of his transfer was a member in good standing of KSWP.

*Adopted. 8-0-0.*

## **V. Minutes of the Standing Judicial Commission**

It was moved to report to the General Assembly that the CCB had examined the Minutes of the Standing Judicial Commission meetings on April 29, 2015; June 9, 2015; August 12, 2015; October 15, 2015; and March 3-4, 2016; that it had also examined the Minutes of the meetings of SJC officers on April 14, 2015; June 19, 2015; July 14, 2015; July 29, 2015; August 24, 2015; September 29, 2015; December 1, 2015; and January 7, 2016. The minutes were found to be in order without exception and notations reported to the SJC.

*Adopted. 6-2-0.*

## **VI. Election of Officers for 2013-2014**

The following were elected as officers of the Committee for 2016-2017:

Chairman - TE Larry Hoop  
Secretary – RE Edward Wright

Submitted by:

TE Larry Hoop, Chairman

RE Edward Wright, Secretary



## APPENDIX P

### MINUTES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA April 2, 2016

The Nominating Committee of the General Assembly convened in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The Chairman, TE Fred Greco, called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. The committee spent a brief time in worship and prayer.

A quorum was declared. A roll was distributed for attendance. The Chairman welcomed the Committee and recognized two guests from the PCA Administrative Committee Office – TE L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk, and Ms. Angela Nantz, Operations Manager. Fifty committee members were in attendance as follows, and 12 additional members submitted preliminary ballots:

Members attending:

<u>PRESBYTERY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
Ascension	TE Jared Nelson	2018
Calvary	TE Robert D. Cathcart Jr.	2018
Central Carolina	TE Thomas D. Hawkes	2017
Central Florida	TE Brad Lee Bresson	2018
Chesapeake	TE Michael L. Khandjian	2016
Covenant	TE Robert Browning	2018
Eastern Canada	TE William D Radford	2017
Fellowship	TE David Sasser Hall	2018
Georgia Foothills	TE Ronald W. Clegg	2018
Grace	TE Sean M. Lucas	2017
Gulf Coast	TE Gary R. Cox	2018
Heartland	TE Andrew J. Barnes	2017
Heritage	RE H. Scott Winchester	2018
Houston Metro	TE Fred Greco	2017
Illiana	TE Aaron Myers	2016

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James River	TE Erik Bonkovsky	2018
Korean Northeastern	TE Hoochan Paul Lee	2017
Korean Southeastern	TE Bill Sim	2016
Metropolitan New York	TE Donald Friederichsen	2017
Mississippi Valley	RE Paul Adams	2017
Nashville	RE John C. Pink	2018
New York State	TE Lawrence C. Roff	2016
North Texas	TE Paul B. Fowler	2016
Northern Illinois	TE Justin Coverstone	2016
Northern New England	TE Sean Joseph Stessman Roberts	2018
Northwest Georgia	TE Joel Smit	2018
Ohio	TE Mike Sloan	2018
Pacific Northwest	RE Howie Donahoe	2017
Palmetto	TE P. Cameron Kirker	2018
Pittsburgh	RE Dennis W. Baker	2016
Potomac	TE Joel Craig St. Clair II	2016
Providence	RE Frank Cohee	2017
Rocky Mountain	TE Kevin Allen	2018
Savannah River	RE William L. Hatcher	2017
Siouxlands	TE Ethan Sayler	2018
South Coast	TE David Juelfs	2017
South Florida	RE Terence Murdock	2016
South Texas	TE Michael John Novak	2017
Southeast Alabama	TE Bruce Bowers	2017
Southern New England	TE Preston Don Graham Jr.	2017
Southwest	TE Mark A. Rowden	2016
Southwest Florida	TE Jonathan Winfree	2018
Susquehanna Valley	TE Peter James Rowan	2018
Tennessee Valley	TE Brian Cosby	2018
Tidewater	TE Benjamin Cameron Lyon	2016
Warrior	TE James B. Richwine	2018
Western Canada	TE Jeffrey Kerr	2017
Western Carolina	TE Scott E. Hill	2017
Westminster	TE James Andrew Moehn	2017

Preliminary vote tallies were discussed by the Committee. The Committee approved a slate of nominees for each of the Standing Committees, Agencies, and Commission to be presented to the General Assembly.

The Committee discussed the usage of electronic voting, Survey Monkey, and preliminary ballot distribution.

**MSP** - The Committee recommends the following change to *RAO* 8-4.i to submit to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

*RAO* 8-4.i (additions underlined):

Additional nominations may be made submitted either (1) in writing or (2) electronically, in either case on forms supplied by the Stated Clerk, which shall include consent of the nominee to serve, if elected, and a brief statement regarding the nominee. In the event that a nomination is submitted electronically, the nominator should be aware that responsibility for such nomination rests with the nominator and that non-delivery is the sole responsibility of the nominator. Because the nominator has sole responsibility for delivery of a nomination, the nominator should obtain a receipt verifying successful electronic delivery of the nomination. The nominee is to give consent to only one nomination. In the event that the nominee is nominated for more than one position, the nominee may indicate to which nomination the nominee consents. The deadline for these nominations is the close of the afternoon session of the second day of the Assembly. The Clerk's office shall issue a supplement to the Assembly's Nominating Committee report during the third day's business sessions.

Nominations were entertained for Chairman and Secretary of the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee. The Committee elected TE Hoochan Paul Lee from Korean Northeastern Presbytery to serve as Chairman and TE Donald Friederichsen from Metropolitan New York Presbytery as Secretary. The following elders were appointed assistant secretaries:

RE Howie Donahoe  
RE Frank Cohee  
TE David S. Hall  
TE Robert Cathcart  
TE Ethan Sayler  
TE Andy Moehn  
RE John Pink  
RE William Hatcher  
TE Donny Friederichsen

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The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Nominating Committee will be at General Assembly in Mobile, AL, on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, after the conclusion of the Floor Nominations. The 2017 meeting will be Saturday, March 25, 2017.

**MSP** that the Committee adjourn. Chairman Greco adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m., and TE Lucas closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
TE Fred Greco, Chairman

TE Sean Lucas, Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2019**

TE Steven Jeantet, Suncoast Florida  
TE Timothy LeCroy, Missouri

RE W. Todd Carlisle, Evangel

**Class of 2018**

TE Rod Mays, Calvary

RE Brad Bradley, North Texas  
RE Tim Persons, Chesapeake

**Class of 2017**

TE Robert Brunson, Suncoast Florida

RE Jon A. Ford, Central Indiana

**Class of 2016**

TE Jerry Schriver, Metro Atlanta  
TE Rodney W. Whited, N. Florida

RE Pat Hodge, Calvary

**Alternates**

TE David V. Silvernail Jr., Potomac

RE Jack L. Watkins, Nashville

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

1 TE and 2 RE

**Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE David Silvernail, Potomac

RE Danny McDaniel, Houston Metro  
RE Jack Watkins, Nashville

**Alternates**

TE Sean M. Lucas, Grace

RE William Hatcher, Savannah R.

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Sean M. Lucas:** *Grace*. BA, MA, Bob Jones University; PhD, Westminster Theological Seminary. Senior minister, FPC Hattiesburg, MS; professor of church history, RTS/Jackson. Previously served at Covenant PC, St. Louis, MO; Community PC, Louisville, KY, as well as chief academic officer at CTS. Served on Nominations, 2015-17, secretary, 2016; CCB, 2011-14, secretary, 2011-13 and chairman, 2014; many CoC's. Served on Grace Presbytery committees on examinations, administration, RUF.

**TE David V. Silvernail:** *Potomac*. B.A. American University, Washington, DC. M.Div. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. DMin Covenant Theological Seminary. Senior Pastor, Potomac Hills Presbyterian Church, Leesburg, Va. for 18 years. Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Enterprise, AL, 1991-96. Served on Administrative Committee 2009-13; alternate, 2015. Chairman: AC Subcommittee on Ruling Elder participation in General Assembly, 2012-13. Served on GA CoC for AC, MNA, MTW and RBI. Chairman: Potomac Presbytery Committee on Administration and Stewardship. Chairman: Potomac Presbytery Nominations Committee. Previous Chair of Potomac Presbytery's MTW Committee. Infantry Officer, United States Army: Operations Officer, Aide-de-camp to two General Officers, Company Commander.

**RE Danny McDaniel,** *Houston Metro*. Ruling elder, Grace PC, The Woodlands, TX; served previously at Spring Cypress PC. CPA in Houston, TX. Many presbytery leadership positions: candidates and credentials, nominations, administration, treasurer, stated clerk, and moderator. Chaired the 2014 PCA GA host committee (Houston). Previous service on PCA administration committee with terms as chairman, vice chairman, and secretary.

**RE William Lawton Hatcher,** *Savannah River*. BBA, University of Georgia; served in US Army, awarded Bronze Star Medal for service in Vietnam. Post-graduate work at GA Tech. Started construction firm, Lawton

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Contracting Co., specializing in large scale real estate and commercial development. Ruling elder at Lakemont PC, Augusta, GA; served on presbytery shepherding, admin and MNA committees; clerk of presbytery 2002-15. Serves on GA nominating committee.

**RE Jack L. Watkins, Nashville.** B.S. Secondary Education, University of Tennessee at Martin '73. Ruling Elder, Covenant Presbyterian Church. Member of the Administrative Committee 2008-2012, Chairman of Committee 2012. Served on Committees of Commissioners for several General Assemblies including PCA Foundation, RBI, RUF, and Administrative. Member of the PCA Church Business Administrators Group during tenure at Christ Community. Stated Clerk of Nashville Presbytery 2000-2009. Currently Treasurer of Nashville Presbytery.

**COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2019**

TE Joshua Anderson, North Texas

RE Flynt Jones, Central Carolina

**Class of 2018**

TE Robert Browning, Covenant

RE Richard Dolan, GA Foothills

**Class of 2017**

TE Larry C. Hoop, Ohio Valley

RE Edward L. Wright, Chesapeake

**Class of 2016**

TE Arthur Sartorius, Siouxlands

RE Philip Temple, Calvary

**Alternates**

TE Mark A. Rowden, Southwest

VACANT

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

1 TE and 1 RE

**Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE Per Almquist, N. New England RE W. Mark Anderson III, SE AL

**Alternates**

TE Christopher Florence, Fellowship FLOOR NOMINATION

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Per Almquist**, *Northern New England*. Pastor, Free Grace PC, Lewiston, ME. Has served on several presbytery committees: chair, committee of review of sessional records; chair, ministerial relations committee; recording clerk of Northern New England Presbytery and current stated clerk of that presbytery. At GA, has served three times as chair of committee on review of presbytery records; three times as vice-chairman of that committee. In addition, represented the PCA for Synod for the Eglise Reformee du Quebec.

**TE David Christopher Florence**, *Fellowship*. BS, Texas A&M; MS, Univ of Texas; MDiv, CTS; PhD student at St. Louis University. Currently, associate pastor, Westminster PC, Rock Hill, SC; served previously, pastor, Foothills PC, Sturgis, SD; cassock pastor, Severna Park EPC; cassock pastor, FPC, Augusta, GA; VP for academic admin, CTS. Served on many presbytery committees: pastoral care, RUF, shepherding committees; chaired, Savannah River, shepherding committee.

**RE W. Mark Anderson III**, *Southeast Alabama*. BS, University of Alabama; JD, Univ of Alabama, School of Law. Engaged in private practice as attorney until became circuit court judge for Montgomery County, Alabama. Served as deputy attorney general for Alabama, 2005-13. Also served in US Army Reserve for 30 years, retiring as a full colonel in 1990. Ruling elder at Trinity PC, Montgomery, where he has served as clerk of session. Also has been moderator of SE Alabama Presbytery several times.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COVENANT COLLEGE**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2019**

TE Julian C. Russell, North Texas  
TE Stephen Smallman Jr., Chesapeake

RE William P. Burdette, Suncoast FL  
RE Robert Curtis, SW Florida  
RE Mark Griggs, Tennessee Valley  
RE Duncan Highmark, Missouri  
RE Martin A. Moore, GA Foothills

**Class of 2018**

TE Ralph Kelley, Mississippi Valley  
TE Robert S. Rayburn, Pacific NW  
TE Kevin M. Smith, TN Valley  
TE A. Craig Troxel, OPC

RE Richard Bowser, E. Carolina  
RE David Lucas, Suncoast Florida  
RE Bryce Sullivan, Nashville

**Class of 2017**

TE J. Render Caines, TN Valley  
TE Robert E. Davis, Blue Ridge  
TE Dale Van Dyke, OPC

RE William Borger, Rocky Mtn  
RE Gary A. Haluska, N. Illinois  
RE Rob Jenks, South Coast  
RE Robert F. Wilkinson, Missouri

**Class of 2016**

TE Eric R. Hausler, OPC  
TE Lance E. Lewis, N. California  
TE Michael F. Ross, C. Carolina

RE Joel Belz, Western Carolina  
RE Peter B. Polk, Chesapeake  
RE Stephen E. Sligh, SW Florida  
RE Gordon Sluis, MS Valley

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

7 members (TE or RE)

One may be from another NAPARC denomination

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE Eric Hausler, OPC  
TE Lance Lewis, N. California

RE Thomas March Bell, Potomac  
RE David Caines, TN Valley  
RE Bradley Harris, Covenant  
RE Gordon Sluis, MS Valley  
RE J. Allen Wright, Metro Atlanta



**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**RE Thomas March Bell:** *Potomac*, ruling elder at McLean PC. Graduate of CC and Pepperdine University School of Law; serves as staff director and chief counsel on the select panel on infant lives for US House of Reps. Has served a previous term on CC board of trustees. Involved teaching SS, international missions.

**RE David Caines:** *Tennessee Valley*, graduate of CC; MBA from Duke University. Employed as COO by the Kenco Group. A ruling elder at Lookout Mt PC, Chattanooga, involved as a director with the Chalmers Center for Economic Development and the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce; previously was board member and chairman of board at Pearl Ministries. Married 15 years with 5 children.

**RE Bradley Harris:** *Covenant*, attended CC in the 1970s; graduated from Wheaton College and University of Tennessee College of Dentistry. Members of CC Foundation's Heritage Society. Ruling elder at Riveroaks Reformed PC, Germantown, TN; taught SS and oversaw corporation issues. Served two previous terms on CC board of trustees; also member of board's executive committee.

**TE Eric Hausler:** *OPC*, Graduate Studies University of Iowa; MDiv, Westminster Seminary California; BA University of Kansas. Church planter, Christ the King PC (OPC), Naples FL; previously, sr pastor Redeemer PC (OPC), Ada, MI; Assoc Pastor Covenant PC (PCA), Naples FL; Assist Pastor, Granada PC (PCA) Coral Gables, FL. Board service includes: previous term on CC board of trustees; Haitian-American Friendship Foundation; Ada Christian School Board, Westminster Seminary California. Two sons graduated from CC, one son graduates in May 2016.

**TE Lance Lewis:** *Northern California*, BA Temple University; MA Chesapeake Theological Seminary. Sr pastor, Soaring Oaks PC, Elk Grove, CA; previously, organizing pastor of Christ Liberation Fellowship (PCA), Philadelphia, PA, and Christ Redemption Fellowship, Alden, PA. Son graduated from CC.

**RE Gordon W. Sluis:** *Mississippi Valley*, private pediatric medicine practice, Vicksburg, MS. CC graduate, MD Johns Hopkins University, Pediatric Residency, Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh. Served previous term on CC

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

board of trustees; also served as Alumni Advisor for CC board of trustees; former member of CC Alumni executive committee. Active in MS Valley Presbytery. Two children graduated from CC; one child graduates in May 2016.

**RE J. Allen Wright:** *Metro Atlanta*, MBA, University of GA. Has served previous on the board for PCA RBI and was president for two terms. Has served as a trustee of CC Foundation. He and his wife are members of Perimeter PCA, Duluth, GA.

**COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2020**

TE Michael Craddock, Ohio Valley

RE Ward Bursley, Calvary

RE Marshall Rowe, TN Valley

**Class of 2019**

TE W. Scott Barber, Providence

RE John Kwasny, MS Valley

TE James Edward Norton, Covenant

**Class of 2018**

TE Marvin Padgett, Nashville

RE Charles Gibson, Evangel

RE Steve Manley, Calvary

**Class of 2017**

TE Ronald N. Gleason, South Coast

RE Donald Guthrie, Missouri

TE David L. Stewart, N. New England

**Class of 2016**

TE Bernard A. Lawrence, C. Carolina

RE William Stanway, Grace

RE Gary White, SE Alabama

**Alternates**

VACANT

RE James D. Murphy, Potomac

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2021**  
2 TEs and 1 RE

**Alternates**  
1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2021**

TE Richard Downs, S. New England RE James D. Murphy, Potomac  
TE Bernard Lawrence, C. Carolina

**Alternates**

TE Joel E. Kim, K.SW Orange Co RE Bill Bolling, Chesapeake

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Richard Downs**, *Southern New England*. Senior Pastor, Christ the King PC, Cambridge, MA; served previously as senior pastor, Redeemer PC, Winston-Salem, NC. At Christ the King has led a church planting movement that has seen many congregations started through Boston. He has also worked with World Harvest Mission for 18 years, on the board, teaching, and discipling.

**TE Joel E. Kim**, *Korean Southwest Orange Co*. BA, UCLA; MDiv, Westminster Seminary California; ThM, Calvin Seminary; PhD (ABD), Calvin Seminary. Currently teaching at Westminster Seminary California. Has served PCA churches including The Way Church, Los Angeles, and New Life Mission Church of Fullerton.

**TE Bernard Lawrence**, *Central Carolina*. Has served on the ministry staff at Christ Covenant PC, Charlotte, NC, for over twenty-three years; currently serves as associate pastor. Has served an unfulfilled term on CDM. Has served as chairman of the shepherding committee of Central Carolina Presbytery. Also serves on other ministry boards, including PeacePoint Ministries and Joni and Friends Southeast Regional ministry.

**RE Bill Bolling**, *Chesapeake*. Graduate from VA Tech; career in the construction industry. Currently employed at Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, in construction management. Served as part of a church plant; ruling elder at Faith Christian Fellowship Church (PCA), Baltimore, MD; has served on borrowed session/presbytery commission.

**RE James D. Murphy**, *Potomac*. Ruling elder at Potomac Hills PC. Graduate from US Naval Academy, served as a Marine One helicopter pilot. Now, runs his own business as an independent consultant. As been involved in Christian education and discipleship in his church, discipling young adults and believers.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2019**

TE Hugh M. Barlett, Missouri

RE William Bennett, Evangel

TE Christopher Harper, Siouxlands

RE Ron McNalley, North Texas

TE Jonathan P. Seda, Heritage

RE Frank Wicks Jr., Missouri

**Class of 2018**

TE Brian C. Habig, Calvary

RE Brewster Harrington, Rocky Mtn

TE John K. Haralson Jr., Pacific NW

RE Robert B. Hayward Jr., Susq. V

RE Paul R. Stoll, Chicago Metro

RE Gif Thornton, Nashville

**Class of 2017**

TE William Boyd, Evangel

RE Mark Ensio, Southwest

TE Joseph V. Novenson, TN Valley

RE Dwight Jones, Central Georgia

RE Stephen Thompson, Rocky Mtn

Vacant

**Class of 2016**

TE Robert K. Flayhart, Evangel

RE William B. French, Missouri

TE David G. Sinclair Sr., Calvary

RE Carlo Hansen, Illiana

RE Craig Stephenson, E. Carolina

RE Walter Turner, Pittsburgh

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

6 members (TE or RE)

One may be from another NAPARC denomination

**Class of 2017**

1 member (TE or RE)

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE Mike Campbell, South Florida      RE Sam Graham, Covenant  
RE Miles Gresham, Evangel  
RE Carlo Hansen, Illiana  
RE Jim Price, Pacific NW  
RE Walt Turner, Pittsburgh

**Class of 2017**

TE Ryan Laughlin, Missouri

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**RE Sam Graham:** *Covenant*. BS, University of Tennessee; MBA, University of Memphis. CEP, Diversified Trust Company, Memphis, TN; Ruling elder, Independent PC, Memphis, TN. Board service: previous terms on CTS board of trustees, served as chairman of finance cmte and on exec committee; chairman of board of trustees for Memphis University School; member of President's Council for Univ of Tennessee.

**RE Miles Gresham:** *Evangel*. BS, University of Alabama; MD from the School of Medicine. Practices as doctor of gastroenterology in Birmingham; has served as president of Medical Staff at Medical Center East; current chairman of board of directors at Outpatient Services East, Birmingham. Ruling elder at Red Mountain PC, Birmingham. Has served previous terms on CTS board of trustees; also chairman of RUM Alabama joint committee.

**RE Carlo Hansen:** *Illiana*. BS, Purdue Univ. Retired as senior director of Ralston Purina Company after 31 years. Ruling elder at Concord PC, Waterloo, IL. Active on presbytery committees on MNA and Candidates & Credentials; involved with International Theological Educational Ministries, teaching in Romania and Ukraine; missions work in Belize.

**RE Jim Price:** *Pacific NW*. co-founder and VP of Software Development for Encore Analytics. BS, University of Washington; MS and further graduate work at Cal Tech. Also served in the US Air Force for 9 years. Ruling elder at Faith PC, Tacoma, WA; also serves on the board of the Alliance of Christian Musicians. Married 37 years.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**RE Walt Turner:** *Pittsburgh.* BS Michigan State University. Chairman and VP of Turner Dairy Farms. Serves as a ruling elder at First Reformed PC, Pittsburgh. Has served several terms on CTS board, including service as chairman of the board. He is also served on the board of Trinity Christian School, Pittsburgh, and as an auxiliary board member for the Heart Institute at Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh.

**TE Mike Campbell:** *South Florida.* BA, King College; MDiv and DMin, CTS. Currently Sr pastor, Old Cutler PC, Miami, FL; previously organizing and Sr pastor, Redeemer PC, Jackson, MS, and pastor, Pinelands PC, Cutler Ridge, FL. Helped to start The Redeemer's School, Jackson, MS. Previously served a term on CTS board of trustees.

**TE Ryan Laughlin,** *Missouri.* Graduate of West Point and MDiv, CTS; completing doctoral studies at Concordia TS. Sr pastor, Covenant PC, St. Louis, MO; previously assist pastor, McLean PC, McLean, VA. Has taught applied theology at CTS. Has served on the CTS advisory board; chairman of the RUM committee for MO Presbytery.

**COMMITTEE ON INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2018**

TE Hoochan Paul Lee, Korean NE

RE Philip Graybeal, Calvary

**Class of 2017**

TE E. Bruce O'Neil, Chesapeake

RE James C. Richardson, Gulf Coast

**Class of 2016**

TE Paul R. Gilchrist, TN Valley

RE Paul Richardson, Nashville

**Alternates**

TE Richard D. Phillips, Calvary

RE Denny Baker, Pittsburgh

**B. To be Elected:**

**Class of 2019**

1 TE and 1 RE

**Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2019**

TE Brian V. Janssen, Iowa

RE Denny Baker, Pittsburgh

**Alternates**

TE Christopher M. Peters, Evangel

FLOOR NOMINATION

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Brian V. Janssen:** *Iowa.* BA, Wheaton College; MDiv, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; DMin, CTS. Pastor at Hospers PC, Hospers, Iowa, a church that has served since 1986 and led from the PC(USA) to the PCA. He served on a number of GA CoCs; at presbytery, served on Care of Churches, Mission to Iowa committees, former moderator of Iowa Presbytery.

**TE Christopher M. Peters:** *Evangel.* BA, Washington University in St. Louis; MDiv, CTS; MA, PhD, University of Alabama. Planted Cross Creek Church (PCA), Birmingham, AL, in 2009; prior to that served as assistant pastor at Covenant PC, Birmingham, responsible for adult ministries. Helped to direct Alabama Church Planting Network; served on a number of MTW short-term trips and pastored missionaries in Peru.

**RE Dennis W. Baker:** *Pittsburgh.* B.S in Special Education, Clarion University of PA; Masters in Social Work, Clarion University of PA. Member of Providence PCA, McKees Rocks, PA. Medical Social Worker for Medi Home Health. Employed in Social Services for over 30 years, including case manager at Bair Foundation and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Ruling Elder since 1988. Served on Presbytery Credentials, Discipleship, and MNA Committees; General Assembly Overtures and Covenant College Committees.

**COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2020**

TE Jonathan Price, Pittsburgh

RE Paul Adams, Mississippi Valley

TE Thurman L. Williams, Missouri

**Class of 2019**

TE Irwyn L. Ince Jr., Chesapeake

RE Ken Safford, Calvary

RE William A. Thomas, N. Texas

**Class of 2018**

TE Doug Domin, N. New England

RE John (Jack) B. Ewing Jr., Suncoast FL

TE Dave H. Schutter, Ohio

**Class of 2017**

TE Matthew Bohling, Pacific NW

RE Frank Griffith, Calvary

RE Kenneth Pennell, Grace

**Class of 2016**

TE Hunter T. Brewer, MS Valley

RE Eugene Betts, Savannah River

TE Jason Mather, Pacific

**Alternates**

TE Murray W. Lee, Evangel

RE Robert Howell, Palmetto

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2021**

1 TE and 2 RE

**Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2021**

TE Alexander Shipman, Providence

RE Robert E. Howell, Palmetto

RE Bob Sawyer, S. New England

**Alternates**

TE Jae Lee, Korean Southeastern

FLOOR NOMINATION



**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Alexander Shipman:** *Providence.* BFA, Valdosta State; MDiv, RTS-Charlotte. Planted The Village Church (PCA), Huntsville, AL, a cross-cultural plant that grew out of Lincoln Village Ministries. Also worked to help start African American Presbyterian Fellowship. Served on presbytery committee for RUF including term as chairman.

**TE Jae Lee:** *Korean Southeastern.* BSEE, Sogang University; MSEE, Sogang University; MDiv, CTS. Planted and partnered in planting several PCA churches including Open PC, Schaumburg, IL; Tampa Open PC, Melbourne Open PC, Gainesville Open PC in Florida as well as Montgomery Open Kingdom PC in Alabama. Leads Open Kingdom Church Planting Network. Has served Korean Central and Korean Southern presbyteries as recording and stated clerks; now presbytery MNA chairman.

**RE Robert E. Howell:** *Palmetto.* Ruling elder at Lexington PC, Lexington, SC. Served on Palmetto Presbytery MNA Committee since the late 1990s. Focus on disaster relief and church planting.

**RE Bob Sawyer:** *Southern New England.* BS, Virginia Tech; served on staff with Campus Crusade, both as campus and regional director. Ruling elder, Christ the King PC, Boston. Currently, director of church planter center for Christ the King PC. Served previously on MNA permanent committee, 2010-15.

**COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2020**

TE Owen Y. Lee, Korean Capital  
TE J. Paul Warren, Chesapeake

RE Alexander Jun, K.SW Orange Co

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Class of 2019**

TE Richard P. Wiman, MS Valley      RE Michael K. Alston, TN Valley  
RE Bashir Khan, Potomac

**Class of 2018**

TE William E. Dempsey, MS Valley      RE Edwin T. McKibben, Metro Atlanta  
TE Patrick J. Womack, W. Carolina

**Class of 2017**

TE Troy Albee, S. New England      RE Daryl Brister, Houston Metro  
RE Hugh Potts, Mississippi Valley

**Class of 2016**

TE James O. Brown Jr., Heritage      RE Jim Froehlich, Georgia Foothills  
TE Bruce A. McDowell, Philadelphia

**Alternates**

TE James E. Richter, Westminster      VACANT

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2021**

1 TE and 2 REs

**Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2021**

TE Kyle Hackmann, E. Canada      RE Robert Caldwell, Calvary  
RE Oliver L. Trimiew Jr., TN Valley

**Alternates**

TE James E. Ritcher, Westminster      RE Norman Leo Mooney, Missouri

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Kyle Hackmann:** *Eastern Canada.* Associate pastor, Grace Toronto Church (PCA), Toronto, Ontario, since 2010. Has served with culturally diverse congregations in Toronto, Chicago, and Leipzig, Germany. Experience in facilitating short-terms mission trips to Mexico, Czech Republic, Malawi, and Germany.

**TE James E. Ritcher:** *Westminster.* Graduate of Auburn University and RTS; served as pastor of three PCA congregations: currently, Westminster PC, Johnson City, TN; previously, Meadow Creek PC, Greeneville, TN, and FPC, Biloxi, MS. Currently alternate on CMTW; serve as MTW pastoral associate couple for MTW team in Ukraine. Participated in short-term trips to Mexico; Fairmount, West Virginia; Cherokee, NC. Has served for over ten years on board of directors of Missions Safety International.

**RE Robert Caldwell:** *Calvary.* Ruling elder at Mitchell Road PC, Greenville, SC, where he has led missions committee and currently director of missions. Has served on CMTW previously; has served several times on presbytery committees for MTW and MNA. Has visited over 60 countries and many MTW ministries around the world.

**RE Oliver Lee Trimiew, Jr.:** *Tennessee Valley.* Associate professor of interdisciplinary studies at Covenant College, where he has taught 27 years. Ruling elder, director of congregational life at New City Fellowship, Chattanooga. Graduate of Covenant College, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, University of Chicago.

**RE Norman Leo Mooney:** *Missouri.* Ruling elder, Spring Hills PC, Brynes Mills, MO. Served previously on CMTW, including a term as committee secretary. Currently director of missions at his church; previously served in that capacity at Christ Community PC, Frisco, TX, and Twin Oaks PC, Ballwin, MO. Has served on presbytery MTW committee. In addition, serves on the board of the India/Sri Lanka Partnership; and the advisory boards of the Northern Mexico Church Planting Network and Behind the Scene, a media ministry in the Middle East.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders*

*Ruling Elders*

**Class of 2019**

TE Steve Dickey, Calvary

RE John F. Schoone, Metro Atlanta  
RE Daniel Wykoff, TN Valley

**Class of 2018**

RE John N. Albritton Jr., SE AL  
RE Robert Bryant, Palmetto

**Class of 2017**

RE Robbin W. Morton, C. Georgia  
RE Andrew Schmidt, C. Carolina

**Class of 2016**

RE James Ewoldt, Missouri  
RE Russell Trapp, Providence

VACANT

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

2 members (TE, RE, or DE)

**Class of 2017**

1 member (TE, RE, or DE)

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE Martin Wagner, Evangel

RE Willis Frazer, Covenant

**Class of 2017**

RE Owen H. Malcolm, GA Foothills

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**RE Willis Frazer:** *Covenant*. Banking executive in Clarksdale, MS. Served previously on PCA Foundation board, including a term as chairman; also represented the PCAF on the AC. Past member of candidate and credentials committee for Covenant Presbytery. He is a member of First PC, Clarksdale.

**RE Owen H. Malcolm:** *Georgia Foothills*. BS, Berry College; MBA, Kennesaw State University. Ruling elder, Old Peachtree PC, Duluth, GA. Currently, managing director of Atlanta office for United Capital Financial Advisors. Serves on board for Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett.

**TE Martin Wagner:** *Evangel*. Executive pastor, Faith PC, Birmingham. BA, University of Alabama; MDiv, Beeson Divinity School. Stated clerk, Evangel Presbytery; previously chairman of Evangel Presbytery's church and pastor care committee.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
PCA RETIREMENT & BENEFITS, INC.**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elder*

*Ruling Elder*

**Class of 2019**

RE Bruce Jenkins, Rocky Mountain  
RE J. Kenneth McCarty, N. Texas  
RE John A. Williamson, Evangel

**Class of 2018**

RE William H. Brockman, Potomac  
RE William L. Spitz, C. Carolina  
RE James W. Wert Jr., Metro Atlanta

**Class of 2017**

TE Eric B. Zellner, Covenant

RE Paul A. Fullerton, S. New Engl  
RE M. Ross Walters, Calvary

**Class of 2016**

TE Jonathan B. Medlock, N. CA

RE John Mardirosian, New Jersey  
RE John E. Steiner, SE Alabama

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

3 Members (TE, RE, or DE)

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE Jonathan Medlock, N. CA

RE John M. Mardirosian, New Jersey

RE John E. Steiner, SE Alabama

**D. Biographical Sketches**

**RE John M. Mardirosian:** *New Jersey.* Member of Grace Presbyterian Church, Mt. Laurel, NJ; current clerk of session. Retired from the life insurance industry, in which he served 40 years finally as AVP for Penn Mutual. Has served previously on RBI board as board chairman, as well as chairing several board committees. Served several times as moderator of presbytery.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**TE Jonathan B. Medlock:** *Northern California.* Pastor, Trinity PC, San Luis Obispo, CA. BA, Oglethorpe University; JD, Cumberland School of Law; MDiv, CTS. Prior to becoming a pastor, attorney in Birmingham, AL, focused on insurance litigation. Served previously on RBI board as chairman as well as on the insurance and ministerial relief committee.

**RE John E. Steiner:** *Southeast Alabama.* Ruling elder at Trinity PC, Montgomery, AL. Has 32 years' experience in banking, trust operations, and asset management. Previously employed by Regions Bank; partner at Quintus Asset Management. Currently, managing director at Oakworth Capital Bank. Has served previously on RBI board on the administrative, audit, and investment committees.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RIDGE HAVEN**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elders:*

*Ruling Elders:*

**Class of 2020**

TE Richard O. Smith Jr., SusqValley RE James Blaine Hicklin, Metro NY

**Class of 2019**

TE R. Andrew Newell, Palmetto RE Marvin C. Culbertson, N. Texas

**Class of 2018**

RE Randy Berger, Eastern Carolina  
RE Pete Austin IV, TN Valley

**Class of 2017**

TE David Sanders, Calvary  
TE J. Andrew White, Westminster

**Class of 2016**

RE Thomas A. Cook Jr., Gulfstream  
RE Dan Neilson, Savannah River

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2021**

2 members (either TE or RE)

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2021**

TE David S. Hall, Fellowship

RE Thomas A. Cook, Jr., Gulfstream

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE David S. Hall:** *Fellowship*. Associate pastor, Filbert PC, York, SC. Has served on various GA CoCs as well as on Nominating Committee; at presbytery has served on nominations and sessional records (current chairman); admin; membership; and CE committees.

**RE Thomas A. Cook, Jr.:** *Gulfstream*. BA, Presbyterian College; JD, University of South Carolina School of Law. Served in the US Army Reserves. Currently, SVP and Team Leaders of the Vacation Resources Specialty Division of Brown & Brown, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL. Ruling elder, Seacrest PC, Delray, FL. Served on presbytery's credentials committee; also participated in MTW Minuteman program. Has served previously on Ridge Haven board.

**COMMITTEE ON REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES**

**A. Present Personnel**

***Teaching Elders:***

***Ruling Elders:***

**Class of 2020**

TE Paul Boyd, Nashville

RE Stephen R. Berry, S. New Engl

TE Kenneth Foster, Heritage

**Class of 2019**

TE Bryan Counts, Rocky Mountain

RE Cornelius W. Barnes, MS Valley

RE Walter G. Mahla, S. New Engl

**Class of 2018**

TE Jack Howell, James River

RE Will W. Huss Jr., Calvary

TE David Osborne, E. Carolina

**Class of 2017**

TE William F. Joseph, SE Alabama

RE Mark Myhal, Fellowship

RE William H. Porter, Rocky Mtn

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Class of 2016**

TE M. Marshall Brown, Pacific RE Guice Slawson Jr., SE Alabama  
TE Edward W. Dunnington, Blue Ridge

**Alternates**

TE Clifton David Wilcox, Gulf Coast RE Douglas Bond, Pacific NW

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2021**

1 TE and 2 REs

**Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2021**

TE Russ Whitfield, Potomac RE David B. Rouse, SE Alabama  
RE Jason McBride, Warrior

**Alternates**

TE Brad Waller, Savannah River RE Douglas Bond, Pacific NW

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Russ Whitfield:** *Potomac*. Pastor at Grace Mosaic, a cross-cultural church in NE Washington DC. BM, NYU; MDiv, WTS. Previously assistant pastor at Grace DC, ministry staff at PCPC, Dallas, TX. Regular RUF speaker at Summer Conference and regional retreats. Served on presbytery's credential committees. Visiting lecturer in practical theology at RTS-Washington.

**TE Brad Waller:** *Savannah River*. BA, Samford University; MDiv, Asbury Theological Seminary. Currently, Sr pastor, Grace Church of the Islands (PCA), Savannah, GA; previously, associate pastor at Independent PC, Savannah, GA; Tates Creek PC, Lexington, KY. Served on RUF committee in two presbyteries, OH Valley and Savannah River.

**RE Jason McBride:** *Warrior*. Ruling elder, First PC, Aliceville, AL. Serves on presbytery membership and RUF committees. Very supportive of RUF at MS State.



**RE David B. Rouse:** *Southeast Alabama*. Ruling elder, Covenant PC, Auburn, AL. Recently retired faculty member at Auburn University. Chairs session’s missions committee; assisted in establishing RUFi at Auburn in 2014.

**RE Douglas Bond:** *Pacific Northwest*. Ruling elder, Resurrection PC, Puyallup, WA. Involved in the start-up of RUF at the University of Washington. Served on presbytery RUF committee. Taught high school students for many years; author of fiction and non-fiction books. Teaches HS student SS class at church.

**STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

**A. Present Personnel**

*Teaching Elder*

*Ruling Elder*

**Class of 2019**

TE Brad D. Evans, S. New England	RE Howie Donahoe, Pacific NW
TE Paul B. Fowler, North Texas	RE Samuel J. Duncan, Grace
TE D. Steven Meyerhoff, Chesapeake	RE Terry L. Jones, Missouri

**Class of 2018**

TE Bryan S. Chapell, N. Illinois	RE Daniel Carrell, James River
TE Charles E. McGowan, Nashville	RE Bruce Terrell, Metropolitan NY
TE George W. Robertson, Savannah R	RE John B. White Jr., Metro Atlanta

**Class of 2017**

TE William S. Barker, Philadelphia	RE John R. Bise, Providence
TE Raymond D. Cannata, S. Louisiana	RE E.J. Nusbaum, Rocky Mountain
TE Fred Greco, Houston Metro	RE John Pickering, Evangel

**Class of 2016**

TE David F. Coffin Jr., Potomac	RE E. C. Burnett, Calvary
TE Grover Gunn, Mississippi Valley	RE Frederick Neikirk, Ascension
TE Paul D. Kooistra, Warrior	RE R. Jackson Wilson, GA Foothills

**B. To Be Elected:**

**Class of 2020**

3 TEs and 3 REs

**C. Nominations:**

**Class of 2020**

TE Paul Bankson, Central Georgia	RE Steve Dowling, SE Alabama
TE David F. Coffin Jr., Potomac	RE Frederick Neikirk, Ascension
TE Paul D. Kooistra, Warrior	RE R. Jackson Wilson, GA Foothills

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Paul Bankson:** *Central Georgia.* BS, Auburn University; MDiv, RTS-Jackson; DMin, RTS-Orlando. Served as campus minister with RUF at UT-Martin and Mercer University; assistant pastor, FPC, Macon, GA. Currently, senior pastor of Houston Lake PC, Kathleen, GA. Served on GA permanent committee for RUM; several CoCs. In presbytery, current chairman of shepherding committee; has served and chaired campus ministry committee; current recording clerk.

**TE David F. Coffin, Jr.:** *Potomac.* Pastor, New Hope PC, Fairfax VA since 1990. BA, St. Vincent College; MDiv, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; PhD, WTS. Very active in presbytery and GA: presbytery service, program committee; special committee for revision of by-laws; committee on ministerial responsibility; GA service, served on SJC since 2008; served on Ad Interim committee on strategic planning (2004-06) and government and structures (1985-88).

**TE Paul D. Kooistra:** *Warrior.* Currently, president, Erskine College and Seminary. Previously, coordinator, MTW; president, Covenant Theological Seminary. Also taught at Belhaven College and RTS; served Pinelands PC, Cutler Ridge, FL, and Seminole PC, Tampa, FL. Served previous term on SJC.

**RE Steve Dowling:** *Southeast Alabama.* Ruling elder, Covenant PC, Auburn, AL. Served for 27 years in Marine Corps. Served in presbytery on nominations committee and committee on licentiates, interns, and candidates as well as chair of judicial commissions; in GA, as member of CCB and several terms on overtures committee.

**RE Frederick Neikirk:** *Ascension.* Ruling elder at Hillcrest PC, Volant, PA, and professor of political science at Geneva College. Served as stated clerk of Ascension Presbytery for twenty-two years. Served three terms on SJC. Previously served on CCB; five terms on Committee on Review of Presbytery records (once chairman, twice vice-chairman); chaired overtures committee. Co-chairman of the host committee for 2004 GA in Pittsburgh.

**RE R. Jackson Wilson:** *Georgia Foothills*. Ruling elder, Old Peachtree PC, Duluth, GA. Current member of SJC, serving assist secretary. Clerk of session at his church; served as moderator, credentials committee for his presbytery. Serves as a private practice attorney in Gwinnett County, GA. Has served as director for Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce; president, Rotary Club of South Gwinnett; campaign leadership council for Good Samaritan Health Center.

## **THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

### **A. Present Personnel**

#### *Teaching Elders*

#### *Ruling Elders*

#### **Class of 2018**

TE Guy Prentiss Waters, MS Valley      RE W. Blake Temple, Providence

#### **Class of 2017**

TE Eric R. Dye, Palmetto      RE William Cranford, Fellowship

#### **Class of 2016**

TE Clay Holland, Houston Metro      RE Charles Waldron, Missouri

#### **Alternates**

TE Luke Kyungmoon Kim, Korean C.      RE Terry Eves, Calvary

### **B. To Be Elected:**

#### **Class of 2019**

1 TE and 1 RE

#### **Alternates**

1 TE and 1 RE

### **C. Nominations:**

#### **Class of 2019**

TE Luke Kyungmoon Kim, Korean C.      RE Terry L. Eaves, Calvary

#### **Alternates**

TE Robert Fossett, SE Alabama      RE Wes Reynolds, Great Lakes

**D. Biographical Sketches:**

**TE Luke Kyungmoon Kim:** *Korean Central*. BS, California State University; MDiv, Westminster Seminary California; ThM, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Senior pastor, Korean PC, St. Louis, MO. Previously senior pastor, Highland Korean PC, Vernon Hills, IL; assistant pastor, Inland PC, Pomona, CA. Served previous term on TEC. Also served on overtures committee and review of presbytery records.

**TE Robert Fossett:** *Southeast Alabama*. Senior pastor, FPC, Greenville, AL. Previously served at Trinity PC, St. Louis, MO; campus minister, St. Louis University. Received degrees from University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; CTS; and Concordia Seminary. Currently serves as chairman of examinations committee for SE Alabama Presbytery.

**RE Terry L. Eaves:** *Calvary*. Ruling elder, Living Hope PC, Anderson, SC. Taught at Erskine College and Seminary from 1985-1992 and 2000-2007. Served as director of administration and adult education at Christ Church (PCA) Grand Rapids, MI. Holds degrees from Grace College, WTS, Dropise College. Has served a previous term on TEC, including work as chairman.

**RE Wes Reynolds:** *Great Lakes*. Ruling elder at Christ Covenant Church of Midland (PCA). Has served as clerk of session at his church. Also has served as clerk on presbytery's candidates and credentials committee as well as moderator of presbytery. Works in information security.

**SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

The Nominating Committee of the General Assembly convened in Mobile, Alabama, at the Mobile Convention Center, on Wednesday, June 22, 2016. Chairman TE Fred Greco called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with prayer.

Members in attendance:

<u>PRESBYTERY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
Calvary	TE Robert D. Cathcart Jr.	2018
Central Florida	TE Brad Lee Bresson	2018
Covenant	TE Robert Browning	2018
Eastern Canada	TE William D Radford	2017
Grace	TE Sean M. Lucas	2017
Great Lakes	TE Jason Helpoulos	2018
Gulf Coast	TE Gary R. Cox	2018
Heartland	TE Andrew J. Barnes	2017
Houston Metro	TE Fred Greco	2017
Iowa	TE James Hakim	2016
James River	TE Erik Bonkovsky	2018
Korean Northeastern	TE Hoochan Paul Lee	2017
Metropolitan New York	TE Donald Friederichsen	2017
Nashville	RE John C. Pink	2018
North Florida	TE Rod Whited	2016
Northern Illinois	TE Justin Coverstone	2016
Ohio	TE Mike Sloan	2018
Pacific Northwest	RE Howie Donahoe	2017
Palmetto	TE P. Cameron Kirker	2018
Piedmont Triad	TE Brian Deringer	2017
Potomac	TE Joel Craig St. Clair II	2016
Providence	RE Frank Cohee	2017
Rocky Mountain	TE Kevin Allen	2018
Savannah River	RE William L. Hatcher	2017
Siouxlands	TE Ethan Saylor	2018

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

South Florida	RE Terence Murdock	2016
Southeast Alabama	TE Bruce Bowers	2017
Southwest	TE Mark A. Rowden	2016
Susquehanna Valley	TE Peter James Rowan	2018
Tennessee Valley	TE Brian Cosby	2018
Western Carolina	TE Scott E. Hill	2017
Westminster	TE James Andrew Moehn	2017

Chairman TE Fred Greco reviewed the proper method for handling floor nominations and writing biographical sketches.

17 floor nominations were reviewed for eligibility, 17 of which were found to be eligible.

The Chairman requested volunteers to compile and format the biographical data accompanying the Floor Nominations.

MSP that the Committee adjourn.

Chairman Greco adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m. and TE Browning closed with prayer.

**COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS**

**Class of 2020**

**Nominating Committee Nominee**

TE Per Almquist, N. New England

**Floor Nominee**

TE Art Sartorius, Siouxlands

**TE Art Sartorius:** *Siouxlands.* BJ from the U. of Missouri; JD from U of Florida; MDiv RTS Orlando, Attorney for 26 years. Pastor of Black Hills Community Church (Rapid City, SD) Served at General Assembly on the CCB (4 years, 1 year as Secretary), Overtures Committee ( 4 years), RPR (2 years), and successfully argued cases before the SJC of General Assembly, Serves Siouxlands Presbytery as Chairman of the Administration Committee (6 years), and has served as Chairman of the committee reviewing Session records of N. Florida Presbytery.

**Alternate**

(1 RE to be elected)

**Nominating Committee Nominee**  
**FLOOR NOMINATION**

**Floor Nominee**

RE C. Thomson Harley, Savannah R.  
 RE Rich Leino, New River  
 RE Frederick Marcenak, Calvary  
 RE Chris Shoemaker, S. New Engl

**RE C. Thompson Harley:** *Savannah River*. Attorney and Partner in the firm of Fletcher, Harley & Fletcher, LLP, Augusta, GA; with a practice concentration in corporate, healthcare, government, and employment law. B.A. and J.D. from the University of Georgia. Tom has been married to Annie Stapleton Harley for 44 years, with two grown, married daughters. Ordained a Ruling Elder in 2000, after serving as a Deacon since 1992, in the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta. Serving currently on the FPC Ministerial Support Team. Emeritus Trustee of the Westminster Schools of Augusta, a ministry of FPC. Tom has a thorough knowledge of the PCA Constitution, which has been tapped on numerous occasions for the service of the Presbytery and the PCA. Served as a commissioner on the GA Overtures Committee at the 2014 and 2015 GA.

**RE Rich Leino:** *James River*. BS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; MS Naval Postgraduate School; MS Marine Corps Command and Staff College; MS New Geneva Theological Seminary. RE at Hope of Christ PC of Stafford, VA. GA Overtures committee, Nominating Committee, Review of Presbytery Records, and AC Committee of Commissioners service. Presbytery service as moderator, leader development committee, committee for reorganization of the presbytery and various presbytery commissions.

**RE Fredric Marcinak:** *Calvary*. Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session at Woodruff Rd. PC. Moderator, Calvary Presbytery. Chairman, judicial committees on sessional and presbytery levels. GA Overtures Committee (2016), Calvary Presbytery's Administrative Committee and Candidates Committee. Graduate of The Citadel (Valedictorian) and University of SC Law School. Law clerk for federal and appellate judges. Partner at a law firm in Greenville, SC.

**RE Chris Shoemaker,** *Southern New England*, BS Physics, MS Computer Science, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Ruling Elder and Clerk of Session, Christ Our Hope Presbyterian Church, Wakefield, RI. Member, Leadership Development Team, Southern New England Presbytery. Served Review of Presbytery Records, Interchurch Relations Committee, Overtures Committee and various Committees of Commissioners.

**COMMITTEE ON INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

**Class of 2019**

**Nominating Committee Nominee**

TE Brian V. Janssen, Iowa

**Floor Nominee**

TE Brian Peterson, Central Carolina

**TE Brian Peterson:** *Central Carolina.* BA Chico State University, M.Div. RTSJ, Currently serving as Asst. Pastor of Christ Covenant PCA, Matthews NC. Served as Pastor of Sierra View PCA in Fresno CA. Served on GA Administrative Committee of Commissioners multiple times and MNA CoC. Served as Stated Clerk of Northern California Presbytery ('10-'15). Served as Convener of a multi-denominational theological conference. 5 years with Campus Crusade.

**Alternates**

(1 RE to be elected)

**Nominating Committee Nominee**

FLOOR NOMINATION

**Floor Nominee**

RE Dan Hudson, Gulfstream

RE George McCurdy, SE Alabama

RE Knox Tabb, Metro Atlanta

**RE Dan Hudson:** *Gulfstream.* Ruling elder, Grace PC. Serves Gulfstream Presbytery as Stated Clerk and shepherding committee. Career public administrator with 35 years of profession and management experience.

**RE George “Mac” McCurdy:** *Southeast Alabama.* BS (Business), Univ. of Alabama. VP of Claims with Southern United Insurance Company. Chief of Staff on Alabama National Guard (Colonel). Civil position as Antiterrorism officer and service on 187 Fighter Wing. RE at Lowndesboro Presbyterian Church. Served on Committee of Commissioners for Interchurch Relations, 2016.

**RE Knox Tabb,** *Metro Atlanta.* B.S. in Psychology, 1980, Winthrop University. For the last 16 years, has served on staff in the Pastoral Care area at Perimeter Church. He began their Celebrate Recovery Ministry 14 years ago and currently oversees Marriage and Prayer Ministries, with leadership of the Duluth/Lawrenceville parish, providing leadership to the 40+ elders helping to shepherd families. He is chairman of the Board of Metro Atlanta Seminary and on the Board of Waypoint Center Ministry, a 12-month discipleship ministry in N. GA for men in recovery. Kipper came to faith in the Methodist Church and served a Reformed Baptist



Church for two years before moving on staff at Perimeter. For several years, he's served over the Duluth Pastors Association and has a heart to co-labor with the Body of Christ.

## MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

### Alternate

(1 RE to be elected)

#### Nominating Committee Nominee

FLOOR NOMINATION

#### Floor Nominee

RE Ed McDougal, Central Florida

RE Terry Murdoch, South Florida

RE David Smith, SE Alabama

**RE Ed McDougal, Central Florida:** He has been a ruling elder for almost 30 years. For two years (2009-2010) he was Church Planting Director for the Central Florida Presbytery. Since then he has been the Church Planting Director for the Florida Church Planting Network, composed of 40 PCA churches. He was actively involved in recruiting Member Churches, setting up policies and procedures, recruiting planters, recruiting apprentices, and generally operating the Network. These two positions gave him great insight into the opportunities and challenges for church planting. Prior to 2008 he earned a PhD in business administration from the University of Florida, focusing on Urban Economics, Finance, and Real Estate. He has been a full time faculty member of the College of Business at the University of Connecticut, a real estate broker with CB Richard Ellis selling shopping centers, Executive VP of CNL Group involved in acquiring, financing, or developing over 2 billion dollars of real estate. Has had extensive experience in demographic analysis and site selection for retail properties as well as in starting and executing new business ventures.

**RE Terry Murdock: South Florida.** BA (Psychology), Florida State University; MS (Educational Technology), Barry University. RE at Granada Presbyterian Church (Coral Gables, FL). Current Moderator of S. FL. Presbytery. Service in S. Florida Presbytery includes Administrative Committee, Credentials Committee, and Christian Education Committee. Served on GA RPR Committee (4 years); Nominations Committee (1 year); CE/P Committee of Commissioners (2 years). Has been a High School Math Teacher for 28 years.

**RE David Smith: Southeast Alabama.** BS, Auburn University (Biology); MS, University of Miami (Marine Science); PhD, Louisiana State University (Forestry and Wildlife). Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Church, Plattsville, AL; Clerk of Session; Chair of Missions Committee. Moderator of the Presbytery of South Alabama; member, Presbytery MNA Committee.

**MISSION TO THE WORLD**

**Class of 2021**

<b>Nominating Committee Nominee</b>	<b>Floor Nominee</b>
TE Kyle Hackmann, Eastern Canada	TE Roland Barnes, Savannah River

**TE Roland Barnes:** *Savannah River.* BA in Psychology from Univ of Georgia; MDIV from TEDS. Senior Pastor of Trinity PC Statesboro GA. Past Chair of RPR and CCB. Ad hoc committee for Church State Issues. Served many Committees of Commissioners. Conference speaker in Peru 24 times since 2000. Many missions trips throughout North America. Taught himself to speak Spanish in order to better spread the Gospel.

**REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES**

**Class of 2021**

<b>Nominating Committee Nominee</b>	<b>Floor Nominee</b>
TE Russ Whitfield, Potomac	TE Martin S. C. Biggs, North Texas

**TE Martin S. C. Biggs,** *North Texas.* BA University of Mississippi, M.Div Columbia International University. Student at the first RUF work in Jackson MS. Part time RUF at six different ministries in two different states. Planted RUF at New Mexico State. Has served on both the RUF Committee in his presbytery and the permanent committee. Has taught RUF staff training and written training materials. Currently Senior Pastor of Christ the King PCA in Norman, OK.

**STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

**Class of 2020**

<b>Nominating Committee Nominee</b>	<b>Floor Nominee</b>
TE Paul Bankson, Central Georgia	TE Grover Gunn, MS Valley

**TE Grover Gunn:** *Mississippi Valley.* BA, Mississippi State; MDiv, RTS. Serves as stated supply, McDonald PC, Collins, MS. Served as stated clerk, Covenant Presbytery, 13 years; served GA on RPR, FV/NPP Ad-hoc Study Committee; served 9 years on SJC previously.

## APPENDIX Q

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY RECORDS TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA June 2016

#### **I. A list of Presbyteries that have not submitted Minutes and/or responses to exceptions of previous General Assemblies:**

Korean Central  
Korean Southeastern  
Korean Southwest  
Platte Valley

#### **II. A list of the Presbyteries that submitted Minutes after the 60-day deadline required by *RAO 16-4.d*:**

Korean Capital  
Korean Northwest  
Korean Southern  
Siouxlands  
South Coast  
Pacific  
North Texas  
James River

#### **III. Special Citations:**

1. Cite the following presbyteries to appear before the Standing Judicial Commission according to the provisions of *RAO 16-4.e* and *BCO 40-1, 4, and 5* for repeatedly failing to submit minutes and/or responses to exceptions of substance:

Korean Northwest Presbytery (Responses to GA exceptions to minutes of 2011, 2013, and 2014.)

2. Cite the following presbyteries to appear before the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records at its 2017 meeting (date to be

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

determined by the Administrative Committee) with the stated records according to the provisions of *RAO* 16-4.e and *BCO* 40-1, 4, and 5 for repeatedly failing to submit and/or responses to exceptions of substance:

Korean Eastern (Responses to GA exceptions to minutes of 2011-2013)

Korean Southwest (Responses to GA exceptions to minutes of 2013-2014)

New River (Responses to GA exceptions to minutes of 2013-2014)

Susquehanna Valley (Responses to GA exceptions to minutes of 2010-2013)

**IV. General Recommendations:**

That the 44th General Assembly, meeting in Mobile, AL:

1. Thank Dr. Roy Taylor, Margie Mallow, Karen Cook, Sherry Eschenberg, Angela Nantz, TE Billy Park, and the rest of the AC staff who covered their responsibilities, as well as MTW and their staff for the use of their facilities, their attentive support, and friendly welcome. *Adopted*
2. Commend the 2016 Committee on Review of Presbytery Records officers, TE Jon Anderson, TE Matthew Bradley, TE Hoochan Paul Lee, and TE Kenneth McHeard, as well as TE Per Almquist, for their dedication to the work, capable leadership, and helpful shepherding. *Adopted*
3. Commend those Clerks who sent records for their hard work to create, keep, and submit their records, and every presbytery who sent delegates to be committee members. *Adopted*
4. Urge those who failed to send reports or delegates to do so in the future. Note that 67 of 82 presbyteries had representatives (including 49 TEs and 18 REs) appointed to the committee this year, with 58 attending the meeting. We urge all to observe stated deadlines, as 8 reports were received late, rendering them unable to be mailed to committee members ahead of the meeting, which adds an extra burden on the committee. *Adopted*
5. Remind presbyteries that responses to GA's exceptions will be published in the Commissioner's Handbook at General Assembly,

## APPENDIX Q

- and they should therefore omit sensitive details, especially names of individuals and churches. *Adopted*
6. Remind presbyteries approving the dissolution of a pastoral relationship (*BCO* 23-1) to document prior congregational (in the case of pastors and associate pastors) or sessional (in the case of assistant pastors) approval of that action. *Adopted*
  7. Urge presbyteries, when recording an examinee's stated differences to the Confessional Standards, to record judgment on each stated difference using the wording of one of the four categories explicitly spelled out in *RAO* 16-3.e.5.a through d. *Adopted*
  8. Remind presbyteries that the actions of their commissions are the actions of that presbytery, and the full record of each commission's proceedings must be included in subsequent presbytery minutes, either in the body of the minutes or as an addendum thereto (*BCO* 15-1). *Adopted*
  9. Remind presbyteries that when GA takes exception to a Presbytery's minutes for failure to record or take a required action, and Presbytery agrees with the exception, a satisfactory response should indicate that they have taken the required action, if possible, and properly recorded same in their minutes, amending past minutes if necessary. *Adopted*
  10. Remind presbyteries that responses to GA's exceptions must be approved by the presbytery, and such approval must be recorded in their minutes. *Adopted*
  11. Request that presbyteries approve their responses to GA exceptions in the same calendar year in which the exceptions were taken. *Adopted*
  12. Remind presbyteries that some actions must be taken annually, including review of session records, receiving reports from TEs laboring out of bounds, receiving reports from interns and receiving reports from candidates under care, and that record of such reports should be included in their minutes. *Adopted*
  13. Encourage Presbytery stated clerks to attend the annual clerk's meeting in December. *Adopted*

### V. Report Concerning the Minutes of Each Presbytery:

1. That the Minutes of **Ascension** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **January 31, 2015; April 25, 2015; June 25, 2015; and November 7, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

**d. No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

2. That the Minutes of **Blue Ridge** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 30-31, 2015; April 24-25, 2015; June 3, 2015; June 24, 2015; November 6-7, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: November 6-7, 2015 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve the pastoral relation.
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: April 25-26, 2014 (BCO 13-5)** – Transfer without a definite ecclesiastical work and without further elaboration.  
**Response:** The Presbytery of the Blue Ridge respectfully disagrees with this exception as *BCO* 13-5 speaks clearly of the process of man transferring without call to another Presbytery. Blue Ridge Presbytery voted to examine the TE under *BCO* 13-5.  
**Exception: April 25-26, 2014 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregational approval of dissolution of pastoral relations.  
**Response:** The Presbytery of the Blue Ridge agrees with this exception and will seek to be more careful in the way congregational approval is shown in the minutes.  
**Exception: September 26-27, 2014 (BCO 21-4.f; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – No record of candidate’s differences being judged in accord with *RAO* 16-3.e.5.  
**Response:** The Presbytery of the Blue Ridge agrees with this exception. The candidate’s differences were stated on the floor but were not included in the minutes. We will seek to be more careful in the future.
3. That the Minutes of **Calvary** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 24, 2015; April 23, 2015; July 25, 2015; October 22, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: January 24, 2015 (BCO 13; 21-4)** – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination (No record of original languages, English Bible, church history).

**Exception: January 24, 2015 and October 22, 2015** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed categories.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: July 27, 2013** (*BCO* 19-2.e and f, *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Candidate's differences not recorded as approved by presbytery in proper manner.

**2015 Response:** We assure The General Assembly the question was asked the candidate about any exceptions of our Constitution. However, it was not recorded in the Presbytery minutes, and for that we apologize, and we seek to be more careful in the future.

**2015 Rationale:** Presbytery still has not indicated (1) what the candidate's differences were and (2) which part of *RAO* 16.3.e.5 it adopted as its judgment on the difference(s).

**Response:** We did not record the question that was asked the candidate about exceptions with our Constitution. The question was asked, and the candidate had no exceptions with our constitution. We apologize for the confusion, and will seek to be more diligent in the future.

**Exception: April 25, 2013** (*BCO* 32-2, 4; *BCO* 35-3; *BCO* 38-1) – TE indefinitely suspended with no record of process.

**2015 Response:** This was under the Shepherding Committee Report on page 7, and we apologize for not recording this properly, there was a lengthy discussion about the matter (in executive session for 54 minutes) the issue, witnesses who were involved and interviewed, including the TE and his wife before the motion was made, We hope this clears us our lack of information in the motion, and we will seek to be more careful in the future.

**2015 Rationale:** Presbytery still has not indicated whether the censure of suspension was imposed after conviction at trial or after written confession in a case without process (*BCO* 38-1).

**2016 Response:** The Shepherding Committee interviewed a number of witnesses, along with the TE and his wife, (the TE admitted his wrong), and was Indefinitely Suspended without process (*BCO* 38-10) (*BCO* 36-5). He was admonished by the Court, and the Court made several suggestions to the TE and his wife (including continuing to go to counseling) This issue is to be brought back to the Presbytery in January 2014. We are sorry for the oversight.

**e. That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception: July 26, 2014** (page 6). In the transfer exam of a Southern Baptist minister, Presbytery examined on theology, sacraments, and *BCO*. They omitted Greek, Bible content, church history, PCA history, exegetical paper, theology paper, and sermon. It appears Presbytery was following an older version of *BCO* 13-6. In addition, it appears the Hebrew exam was waived without the requisite 3/4 vote. Or, if Presbytery was intending to waive Greek, Bible, and history, there is no record of a 3/4 vote.

**Response:** Rev. [name omitted] came to Calvary Presbytery for transferring his membership from The Southern Baptist Denomination to the PCA. He was received under the Extra Ordinary Clause which requires a 3/4 vote. He was approved with more than a 3/4 vote (*BCO* 13-6, 21-4) for his transfer's exams in Christian Experience, Call to the ministry, Devotional life, Theology, Sacraments, and *BCO*. He has an M-Div degree from Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. However, he did not have the classes needed in Hebrew to skip his exam in the original language. The recommendation approved by Presbytery, was for him to take 2 classes in Hebrew (which he agreed to do) in lieu of examination in the original language. This required a 3/4 vote, which he received. We trust this clears up the issue, and we apologize for not recording this properly.

Note: Rev [name omitted] has completed one Hebrew class, and is currently taking his second class at this time, (during the fall semester of 2015).

**Rationale:** There is no record of a 3/4 vote to waive examination requirement in Bible content, church history, and history of the PCA. Furthermore, the use of the extraordinary clause was not explained for theology, sacraments, and *BCO*.

4. That the Minutes of **Catawba Valley Presbytery:** *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **February 3, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 24, 2015; May 26, 2015; September 22, 2015; and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 25, 2014; February 18, 2014; May 27, 2014; and September 23, 2014** (*BCO* 13-7) – No record of ministerial obligation being signed.



**Response:** Presbytery regrets the omission. We have addressed this oversight with a new form based on the membership vows of (*BCO* 21-5), and will ensure that both past and future ordinands sign it

**Exception: January 25, 2013** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Candidate’s differences not recorded in the proper manner.

**2015 Response:** CVP regrets that it did not record the Candidate’s difference with the Standards in his own words, although we did have in hand his written explanation of his views, which were approved by Presbytery as not striking at the vitals of true religion. We will be more diligent to record and attach exceptions more in accord with the *BCO* and *RAO*.

**2015 Rationale:** The Presbytery failed to include the candidate’s difference(s) in his own words in their response.

**2016 Response to 44<sup>th</sup> GA:** CVP regrets that it did not record the Candidate’s difference with the Standards in his own words, although we did have in hand his written explanation of his views, which were approved by Presbytery as not striking at the vitals of true religion. We will be more diligent to record and attach exceptions more in accord with the *BCO* and *RAO*. The candidate’s written views are hereby submitted as follows: [Candidate’s words omitted]

**Exception: May 22, 2012** (*BCO* 21-4, and *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Candidate’s difference with the Standards was not recorded in the candidate’s own words.

**Response: 2016 Response to 44<sup>th</sup> GA:** CVP regrets that it did not record the Candidate’s difference with the Standards in his own words, although we did have in hand his written explanation of his views, which were approved by Presbytery as not striking at the vitals of true religion. We will be more diligent to record and attach exceptions more in accord with the *BCO* and *RAO*. The candidate’s written views are hereby submitted as follows: [Candidate’s words omitted]

**Exception: November 27, 2012** (*BCO* 21-4 and *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Candidate’s difference with the Standards was not recorded in the candidate’s own words and Presbytery did not record how it was judged.

**Response:** CVP regrets that it did not record the transferring TE’s difference with the Standards in his own words. Although our prior response states that we did have a written explanation in hand, our new stated clerk cannot find this document, and we have reason to believe that his exception, regarding the Sabbath ‘recreation’ clause,

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was only presented orally, and was approved by Presbytery as not striking at the vitals of true religion. Since any original document from that meeting does not appear to exist, our presbytery has asked him to briefly state his difference for the benefit of the Assembly, which he has done as follows: “I would agree with and adopt all portions of the Westminster Standards and the *Book of Church Order* with the exception of *WCF* 21:8 (and paralleled in *LC* 117, 119 & *SC* 60) regarding recreation on the Sabbath. While work should be avoided on the Sabbath, it is my belief that God does not forbid recreational activities on Sabbath.” Presbytery will be more diligent to record and attach exceptions in accord with the *BCO* and *RAO*, and ask the Assembly’s forgiveness for this significant omission.

**Exception: September 17, 2011 (BCO 20-1)** – Presbytery approved a call to a minister from a church not listed in the directory.

**Response:** Presbytery regrets the error, which appears to be with the directory, not with the pastor. Harvest Church in Lincolnton is indeed a part of our presbytery, and our directory may not have been accurate, as this was our inaugural meeting and we were still in the process of compiling our data. The pastor in question is now honorably retired and no longer prosecuting this call, which was part-time and non-compensated.

**Exception: September 17, 2011 (BCO 18-2)** – No record of 6-month church membership for candidate.

**Response:** Presbytery regrets the omission. The candidate in question had actually grown up in the church of which he was then coming under care, and definitely met the six-month requirement. We will endeavor to be more cautious in recording this detail in the future.

5. That the Minutes of **Central Carolina** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **May 26, 2015; August 22, 2015; and November 17, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 28, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
  
6. That the Minutes of **Central Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **None.**

- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 4, 2014; April 22, 2014; August 19, 2014; January 27, 2015; April 21, 2015; August 18, 2015; November 3, 2015; and Directory.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: February 4, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4, *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Minister/candidate’s differences not recorded in his own words; stated differences not judged with prescribed categories.  
**Exception: February 4, 2014** (*BCO* 13-6, 21-4, 19-2) – Minutes do not record all specific requirements of transfer exam, ordination exam, and licensure exam.  
**Exception: February 4, 2014; April 21, 2015; August 18, 2015; and August 19, 2014** (*BCO* 15-1) – No commission reports are given for installation of TEs.  
**Exception: August 19, 2014; August 18, 2015; and November 3, 2015** (*BCO* 15-1) – Presbytery Minutes records receipt of commission reports; but the minutes of commissions were not entered in Presbytery Minutes for installation of TE [name omitted].  
**Exception: August 19, 2014** (*BCO* 13-11; *RAO* 16-3.e.6) – Minutes of executive session not included.  
**Exception: August 19, 2014** (*BCO* 19-3) – There is no motion or official presbytery action to license candidate [name omitted]. The final presbytery action is to MSP that his exceptions are in order. However, in Presbytery Minutes for January 27, 2015, p.13, Mr. [name omitted] is referred to as a licensee.  
**Exception: November 11, 2014** (*RAO* 16-4.b) – There are no minutes for Stated Meeting on November 11, 2014. The minutes move from the 152nd meeting to the 154th meeting. In the Stated Meeting on January 27, 2015, reference is made to presbytery actions in the meeting on November 11, 2014, namely the licensing of candidate Mr. [name omitted].  
**Exception: February 4, 2014; August 19, 2014; January 27, 2015; April 21, 2015; and August 18, 2015** (*BCO* 13-11; *RAO* 16-3.e.6) – No record is given for ministerial obligation forms being signed by TEs.  
**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of Church Session Records.
- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 25, 2011** (*BCO* 13-11 and *BCO* 40-1) – Minutes of executive session not included.

**Response:** This was an omission on the part of the clerk. The report is reproduced below [executive session minutes omitted].

**Exception: April 5, 2011 (BCO 19-2)** – Incomplete record of licensure exam requirements.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its error and assures the Assembly that all areas of the examination were conducted but not recorded separately. Presbytery is correcting its record to reflect all specific areas of the examination.

**Exception: April 5, 2011 and November 15, 2011 (BCO 13-6)** – No record of examination of TE transferring into Presbytery.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its error and assures the Assembly that the TE was examined according to *BCO* 13-6. Presbytery is correcting its record to reflect the examination.

**Exception: August 23, 2011 and November 15, 2011 (BCO 21-9)** – Incomplete ordination exam.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its error and assures the Assembly that all areas of the examination were conducted but not recorded separately. Presbytery has corrected its record to reflect all specific areas of the examination.

**Exception: January 25, 2011; April 5, 2011; and August 23, 2011 (BCO 21-10)** – No commission formed to install TEs.

**Response:** Presbytery empowered the Moderator to appoint the commissions, which the Moderator did subsequent to the meetings. Presbytery acknowledges its failure to reflect this in the minutes.

**Exception: November 15, 2011 (BCO 21-4 and RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Presbytery's judgment of candidate's stated differences with our Standards not recorded in the proper manner.

**Response:** The exception should have been specifically in the language of the *RAO* as judged to be *more than semantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine*. This was the judgment of the presbytery in this matter. We will be careful to use that language as we should.

**Exception: April 5, 2011 (BCO 38-2)** – Request to be divested of office was acted upon at the same meeting.

**Response:** The original request for demission was received at the 136<sup>th</sup> stated meeting (November 16, 2010). The action at the 138<sup>th</sup> stated meeting was the second. The clerk failed to note that fact in the latter minutes.

**Exception: January 24, 2012 (BCO 21-4)** – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (see also *RAO* 16-3.e.5).

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its error and assures the Assembly that all areas of the examination were conducted but not recorded separately. Presbytery is correcting its record to reflect all specific areas of the examination.

**Exception: August 21, 2012** (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded (also see *RAO* 16-3.e.5).

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its error and assures the Assembly that all areas of the examination were conducted but not recorded separately. Presbytery is correcting its record to reflect all specific areas of the examination.

**Exception: November 13, 2012** (*BCO* 13-6) – No record of examination of TE transferring into Presbytery.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its error and assures the Assembly that the TE was examined according to *BCO* 13-6. Presbytery is correcting its record to reflect the examination.

7. That the Minutes of **Central Georgia** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **June 16, 2015; and September 8, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 9-10, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: May 12, 2015** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
  
8. That the Minutes of **Central Indiana** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 13, 2015; May 8, 2015; September 11, 2015; and November 12, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: September 12, 2014** (*BCO* 13-11) – No record of pastoral call.  
**Response:** We apologize for the omitted call to ministry and attach the correct document with this response (see attachment below).  
**Exception: September 12, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2) – (Appendix F) Presbytery’s judgment on what appears to have been a licensure

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candidate's stated difference with *WLC* 177 was not recorded in the proper manner (*RAO* 16-3.e.5)

**Response:** At the 17<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Central Indiana Presbytery, the Presbytery did not act on a candidate's apparent stated difference with *WLC* 177 for the following reasons:

- (a) An examination for licensure does not include a full examination of a candidate's understanding of the sacraments (*BCO* 19-2).
- (b) The candidate indicated that he was not yet taking an exception to the standards but simply informing the presbytery that he was currently wrestling with the issue. He wrote, "The Leadership Development Committee advised me to make it known that I am presently in process of deciding on my view of Paedocommunion, and have not made my final decision" (17<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, Attachment F).
- (c) The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting further note that the presbytery charged the licentiate to continue his studies of the Lord's Supper and to report his views to the Presbytery as they are solidified.
- (d) The candidate was preparing for ordination, at which time he would be thoroughly examined on his views of the sacraments.

Furthermore, to note that the candidate did report back to Presbytery and that he was indeed examined in his view of the sacraments: the candidate was ordained at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Central Indiana Presbytery, November 12, 2015. At that meeting, he was examined thoroughly on his views of the sacraments, and the candidate stated that he has come to embrace the position of the standards and does not hold to paedocommunion.

Accordingly, we humbly beseech the Review of Presbytery Records to find the minutes of our 17<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, September 12, 2014, in order. [Attachment omitted.]

9. That the Minutes of **Chesapeake** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **March 10, 2015; September 8, 2015; and November 11, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: January 13, 2015 and May 12, 2015** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed categories.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 18-6) – No record of annual reports from men under care.

**Response:** Chesapeake Presbytery (CP) appreciates RPR’s reminder of (*BCO* 18-6) requiring presbyteries to provide an annual report of men under their care. Even though the men under its care have been and will continue to be mentored, developed, and encouraged in ministerial growth, CP recognizes its error in not having formally reported on them in its minutes. CP appreciates this finding by RPR and has already taken action to correct this error during 2015 and moving forward. Thank you for your careful work

**Exception: November 11, 2014** (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting and vote to dissolve calls of TEs.

**Response:** Chesapeake Presbytery (CP) appreciates RPR’s reminder of (*BCO* 23-1) and (*BCO* 22-14) requirement to demonstrate congregational action for the dissolution of an associate pastor’s call to a church. The absence of a copy of the minutes of the respective congregational meetings to vote and dissolve the calls of the two TEs at hand was an oversight on the part of CP’s Stated Clerk who thanks RPR for catching the error. The attached minutes are attached to this response in order to validate the approval of the dissolutions on CP’s part in order to validate the approval of the dissolutions on CP’s part.

**(See Attachment of Minutes) [Minutes omitted]**

**Exception: May 15, 2012** (*BCO* 7-2, 9-3) – A session was improperly granted four years to come into compliance with *BCO* 7-2 and 9-3.

**Previous Response found Unsatisfactory:** CP recognizes and endorses proper doctrine and polity (i.e., that only men are to serve as ordained deacons), fully concurs with the RPR finding, and seeks RPR acceptance of the CP’s ongoing process in transitioning Loch Raven Presbyterian Church to a male- only deaconate over the next two and a half years. CP and LRPC have together been dealing with the issue for over 27 years, enduring bitterness and tears and frustration while seeking to be sensitive to the deeply-held convictions stemming from a commitment apparently made to the congregation in 1986 at the time of the original joining and receiving

from an independent status into the PCA to allow women to continue to serve as deaconesses (LRPC had originally been affiliated with the United Presbyterian Church denomination, cf., <http://www.lochravenpca.org/about/our-history/>). LRPC's plan to transition to a men-only deaconate came soon after the church received a new pastor in January of 2012 - representing a major breakthrough on this issue. As evidence of LRPC's alignment with BCO 7-2 and 9-3, we are attaching the LRPC minutes from its May 14, 2012 meeting here: (the relevant action is recorded at the bottom of pg. 2)

(Adobe document) *"In order for any individual to be elected to an office, he or she must receive a simple majority of all those voting. Only male communicant members in good standing are eligible for election to the office of Ruling Elder. Both men and women communicant members in good standing are eligible for election to the office of Deacon."*

CP will continue to monitor the situation and make sure the transition takes place as planned. CP thanks RPR for its continued oversight of this issue and asks that RPR find this answer sufficient at this time.

**2013 Rationale:** General Assembly recognizes the forbearance shown by the presbytery and appreciates its desire to shepherd this congregation. However, presbytery's response is unsatisfactory because the church is not in full compliance with the BCO.

**2014 Response:** In response to RPR's finding the CP answer to the 41st GA to be unsatisfactory, at the 52nd stated meeting of CP held on September 9, 2014, the CP Shepherding Committee was tasked to coordinate with the CP Stated Clerk and meet with the Session of LRPC in order to work toward a solution in this matter. The CP Shepherding Committee met with the LRPC Session and reported to the 53rd Stated meeting of CP held on November 11, 2014, that LRPC's progress toward a resolution be found acceptable for the current moment, and the good faith effort on the part of the LRPC Session be found commendable and that presbyters be urged to join with the LRPC Session to pray for a unified adoption of a revised set of By-Laws at the LRPC Stated Congregational Meeting on January 22, 2015. The LRPC congregation overwhelmingly approved the changes to the relevant portions of their Bylaws as follows: (new approved language highlighted in the red text, old language in strikethrough)

## **Section 2 – Nominees**



~~In order for any individual to be elected to an office, he or she must receive a simple majority of all those voting. Only male communicant members in good standing are eligible for election to the office of Ruling Elder. Both men and women communicant members in good standing are eligible for election to the office of Deacon~~

*“In order for any individual to be elected to a Board, he or she must receive a simple majority of all those voting. Only male communicant members in good standing are eligible for election and ordination to the office of Ruling Elder. Male communicant members in good standing are eligible for election and ordination to the Board of Deacons.”*

**Rationale [of Presbytery]:** The LRPC Bylaws change makes clear that the concept of a deaconess is outside the context of ordination and is placed in a proper context of providing assistance to an all-male Board of ordained deacons. As such, it fully conforms to the BCO. This change also aligns itself with previously approved historic Presbyterian polity on this matter (for example, the Digest of the Principal Acts and Deliverances of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America from 1859 to 1902 –

§XXXIII.4 – Deaconesses states: *“That while the General Assembly does not find in Scripture sufficient authority for the ordination of women to the office of deacon, it is convinced that pious women may, with profit to themselves, and with great advantage to the cause of suffering humanity and of Christ, be organized to act as assistants of the deacons; it being understood, however, that those so devoting themselves and banded together, shall not be formed into sisterhoods living apart from ordinary society, after the manner of certain Popish devotees, or even of some associations found in certain denominations of the Protestant Church. Vol. IV, p. 567, 1878”*)

**Rationale:** The original exception cited for May 15, 2012 was that the presbytery improperly granted a session four years to come into compliance with BCO 7-2 and 9-3. The relevant section from those minutes are:

(5/15/12, p. 387, Section 12.c) "MA to find the 14 May 2012 e-mail message presented to Loch Raven Pastor [name omitted] to be satisfactory and commendable

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response to the CSR request. The relevant text of the e-mail is printed here: [*The Session of Loch Raven Presbyterian Church (will) transition to a Board of Deacons, which will consist of only ordained men. Such transition will occur with(in) four years.*] (Appendix E)"

In their updated response, Chesapeake Presbytery notes that LRPC voted to approve changes in their bylaws such that male communicant members in good standing are eligible for election and ordination to the Board of Deacons. This update, however, neither reflects the full changes made to the LRPC Bylaws, nor addresses the original exception.

The new bylaws do reflect that males are eligible for election and ordination, yet they also include that women are eligible for election and commissioning. Immediately following the above quoted Bylaw change, the newly approved Bylaws continue: "Female communicant members in good standing are eligible for election and commissioning to the Board of Deacons."

This practice is contrary to *BCO 9-7*, which states, "It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons..." First, according to the LRPC Bylaws, it is the congregation, not the Session, who elects these Deaconesses. Second, there seems to be no mechanism whereby godly men may be so selected to assist the Deacons.

While these Bylaw changes do distinguish between ordained Deacons and commissioned, and therefore non-ordained, Deaconesses, they do not address the original exception from 2012 that both men and women are serving on a "Board of Deacons". Such a change does not address the statement from LRPC that there will be a transition to a Board that will consist of only ordained men. Rather, the LRPC Bylaws explicitly state that both ordained Deacons and commissioned Deaconesses will comprise the "Board of Deacons". As such, it is not explicit in the LRPC Bylaws whether these non-ordained, commissioned, Deaconesses will vote on issues before the Board. With nothing in the Bylaws to distinguish these Deaconesses from ordained Deacons beyond being simply commissioned, it seems that voting rights are assumed.

Finally, while the election of men and women to assist the deacons is provided for in *BCO 9-7*, and while the commissioning of such assistants is not prohibited by *BCO 9-7* so long as they are not ordained, the situation outlined in LRPC's Bylaws does not reflect

the spirit of the constitutional provisions. Rather than serving as assistants to help the Board, they are members of the Board with, ostensibly, voting privileges. The issue at stake is not the title given to these Deaconesses, but the function they perform. As such, they are not covered under the provision of *BCO* 9-7, even though they are only commissioned.

**Response:** In response to RPR's finding the first and second CP answer to the 41<sup>st</sup> GA to be unsatisfactory, the CP Shepherding Committee and the CP Stated Clerk continued to work with the Session of LRPC to find acceptable language for the LRPC Bylaws. The newly revised set of Bylaws were approved at the LRPC Stated Congregational Meeting on February 5, 2016 and the relevant sections are listed as follows:

ARTICLE IV – THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Section 1 – Deacons

*The Board of Deacons shall consist not more than twelve (12) communicant members of this church elected according to Article 1, Section 4, of these By-Laws. The Board of Deacons will be comprised of ordained men (Deacons). The Board will also be supported by assistants (both men and women).*

Section 2 – Officers

*The officers of the Board of Deacons shall be the Moderator, a Secretary and a Treasurer. These officers are to be elected annually by the Board of Deacons at its first meeting following the Annual Installation of Church Officers. In the absence of the Moderator, the Secretary will moderate.*

Section 3 – Duties

*The duties and rights of the Board of Deacons shall be those delegated to it by the Session of this church in conformity with these By-Laws. Unless otherwise ordered by the Session, their duties shall include:*

- 1. Caring for and ministering to the sick and needy of the congregation,*
- 2. Keeping the records of their proceedings,*
- 3. Supervision over such monies as directed to their care, such as monies for ministering to the needy and*

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*for scholarships for students preparing for church-related service.*

- 4. Supervision over the ushering services of the church and assistance in counting the offerings*

### Section 4 – Organization

*The Deacons shall maintain at all times an organization document which outlines the deacons' responsibilities and the manner in which these responsibilities are to be carried out. This document requires the Session's approval..*

## ARTICLE VI – THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Section 1- Nominating Committee

*The committee shall consist of two (2) members of the Session elected by the Session, one of whom shall be designated the chairman of the committee; a member of the Board of Deacons, elected by that Board; a member of the Board of Trustees, elected by that Board; five (5) members-at-large not members of the Session, Board of Deacons, or Trustees, elected by the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting; and the Senior Pastor shall be ex-officio a member of this committee without vote.*

### Section 2 – Nominees

*The Committee shall bring the names of all individuals whom they propose for an office to the Session for their response.*

*The names of nominees for all Boards must be presented to the Session as early as possible, but no later than November 15. The Session will then examine all nominees prior to the January Session meeting. After this meeting, the names of the nominees, if found acceptable, will be released to the congregation.*

*Nominations from the congregation will be accepted by the Session up to within two weeks of the Annual Meeting. The Session will then meet with the nominees prior to the Congregational Meeting and, if found*

## APPENDIX Q

*acceptable, the names will then be permitted to be placed in nomination at the meeting.*

*Church officers must receive a simple majority of all those voting. Only male communicant members in good standing are eligible for election and ordination to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon. Both male and female communicant members in good standing are eligible to become Assistants to the Deacons.*

*Both male and female communicant members in good standing are eligible for election and commissioning to the Board of Trustees. In addition to the above requirements, Trustees must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.*

### Section 3 – Term of Service

*The Nominating Committee shall be chosen annually and shall serve until the following Annual Congregational Meeting.*

CP believes the above newly revised set of Bylaws fully brings LRPC into conformity with BCO 7-2 and 9-3. Moreover, CP recognizes RPR's concern with the extraordinary time allocated for this transition and will seek to act with greater expediency should such circumstances arise in the future. Thank you for your careful work and support in this matter.

10. That the Minutes of **Chicago Metro** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 21, 2015 and April 15, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **July 15, 2015; October 21, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 15, 2014 (BCO 13-6) –** No record of TEs being examined on their views in theology, sacraments, or church government.  
**Response:** We agree that our records did not indicate the TEs transferred into our presbytery at this meeting were examined in the required areas. This was an error in recording and not in action, as the TEs in question were examined in committee and on the floor of presbytery on their views in the areas required by 13-6. We apologize

for our oversight in recording, have corrected our minutes to show their examinations, and will be diligent in the future to avoid this error.

**Exception: January 15, 2014 (BCO 13-11)** – Action on motions not recorded.

**Response:** We agree that we failed to note action on three motions in our missions report. Our minutes have been corrected to show that these motions were adopted. We will be diligent in the future to make sure that all motions that are adopted are properly recorded.

**Exception: April 9, 2014 (BCO 13-11)** – Action on motions not recorded.

**Response:** We agree that we failed to note action on a motion in our missions report. Our minutes have been corrected to show that this motion was adopted. We will be diligent in the future to make sure that all motions that are adopted are properly recorded.

11. That the Minutes of **Covenant** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **February 3, 2015 and October 6, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **May 18, 2015 and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
  
12. That the Minutes of **Eastern Canada** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **March 6, 2015 and October 23, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: February 28, 2014 (BCO 19-16)** – No record of  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of presbytery for waiving internship requirement.

**Response:** We presume this refers to the only candidate for ordination, [name omitted]. Presbytery did not waive the internship requirement for [name omitted], but (Minutes page 697) agreed that his internship requirements were satisfied. “MSC that the candidate be considered to have sufficiently completed the requirements for internship on the basis of reports from the pastors of Grace Toronto Church.”

**Exception: February 28, 2014** (*BCO* 13-6, *BCO* 21-4, *BCO* 19-16) – No record of exam or waiving internship for minister transferring from another denomination.

**Response:** We guess that this refers to [name omitted], who had been fully examined at the previous meeting (pp.680-682). He had not been received because, in line with the practice of his former denomination, we did not get a copy of his credentials until his exam was approved. Note in our Minutes p. 693, an amendment to the terms of the previously appointed commission, “MSC that the terms of the commission re: [name omitted] (minutes p. 683) be modified to read ‘to install him as an assistant pastor at Grace Toronto Church.’” *BCO* 19-7 affirms that ‘To provide for such a period of trial, a candidate for ordination must serve an internship.’ [name omitted] was not a candidate for ordination, so internship is irrelevant.

**Exception: February 28, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4.g) – No record of appointment of commission to ordain.

**Response:** A commission to ordain [name omitted] was appointed (Minutes, p. 698), ‘MSC that a commission consisting of our Ontario elders, convener TE [name omitted], quorum 2 ruling and 2 teaching elders, be appointed to ordain and install [name omitted].’ Since he was the only candidate for ordination, the exception is evidently incorrect.

13. That the Minutes of **Eastern Carolina** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **April 18, 2015; June 24, 2015; and December 12, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 24, 2015 and October 17, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
  
14. That the Minutes of **Eastern Pennsylvania** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **February 21, 2015; April 21, 2015; September 12, 2015; and November 17, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception:** November 8, 2014 (*BCO* 20-1) Ordination of TE: no record of call to a definite work.

**Response:** The only ordination reported in those minutes was recorded in item 14-11-05, paragraph 4. The call is recorded in sub-paragraph b as follows: [Call omitted].

Licentiate [name omitted] indicated his willingness to accept the call. A duly signed copy of the call was filed with the stated clerk's office. The Presbytery found the specific arrangements (*BCO* 20-1) and the call to be in order in light of his current needs. The Presbytery understands this to be a call to a definite work.

15. That the Minutes of **Evangel** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exception: **February 10, 2015; May 12, 2105; August 11, 2015; and November 10, 2015.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: February 11, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of completed internship, language requirements, or theological and exegetical papers.

**Response:** Evangel Presbytery agrees with this exception. Although the Presbytery approved every recommendation of the Credentials (examining) Committee at that meeting of Presbytery, those actions were left out of our Minutes. The Internship of the man in question was approved in August of 2013 and he was licensed in May of the same year. His Exegetical and Theological Papers were approved at the February meeting as noted in the Committee Report in the Indices, but not noted in the Minutes themselves. We appreciate your attention to this oversight and will work to insure it does not recur.

**Exception: November 18, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of reasons for using extraordinary clause.

**Response:** Evangel Presbytery agrees with this exception. The man in question began service with MTW as a Bible translator in 1978 and came to us requesting to be ordained at the age of 59. After years of study with Wycliffe and the Navigators, Presbytery took this as proof of God's calling on him to be ordained in his ministry with MTW to the Quicha-speaking peoples of Ecuador. This information was included in the Report and recommendations of the Credentials (examining) Committee. However, in spite of being



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approved by Presbytery, it failed to make it into the Minutes. The process of his ordination took several meetings and he was on the field in Ecuador for some of that time. Hence there was some confusion. We desire to be more diligent in the future about such unusual occurrences. Thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention.

**Exception: November 18, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of language requirements met for ordinands.

**Response:** Evangel Presbytery agrees with this exception. Each one of these men had undergone training in Greek and Hebrew in seminary and the Credentials (examining) Committee recommended the approval of that in lieu of *BCO* requirements. Presbytery agreed, and although this appeared in the Committee's Report, it failed to appear in the Minutes. We regret this oversight and will seek to be more careful in the future to note all the elements of the examination process. Thank you for your diligence in bringing our attention to this matter.

16. That the Minutes of **Fellowship** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 24, 2015; April 25, 2015; and September 24, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
17. That the Minutes of **Georgia Foothills** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 10, 2015; April 21, 2015; September 15, 2015; Directory and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: January 10, 2015 (BCO 23-1)** – Associate pastor's relationship with church dissolved without any apparent congregational vote.  
**Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO 43-2)** – Presbytery failed to consider the complaint in a timely fashion.  
**Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.7)** – Complaint not recorded in minutes.
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception: April 15, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4.a) – No record of college degree for ordinand or  $\frac{3}{4}$  approval of extraordinary circumstance.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges the mistake and will correct our practice in the future.

**Rationale:** Presbytery needs to correct the record.

18. That the Minutes of **Grace** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 13, 2015; September 8, 2015; and General.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: May 12, 2015** (*BCO* 13-11; *RAO* 16-3.e.6-7) – “Charges” submitted to Presbytery not recorded in minutes. Presbytery failed to “keep a full and accurate record.” *RAO* 16-3.e.6-7 makes provision to protect confidentiality in such circumstances.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 14, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4, *RAO* 16.3.e.5) – Stated difference on Sabbath not recorded in his own words.

**Response:** As to the first Exception, we humbly admit our error and promise to do better in the future. The error is not a matter of disobedience but due in part to the fact that the need to examine the TE at that meeting did not appear in our “White Book” (agenda). After the Examining Committee Chairman read the “Stated Difference” to the Presbytery the document was not given to the Recording Clerk. For the record here is the “Stated Difference” as prepared by the TE and read by the Chairman: [Candidate’s words omitted].

**Exception: January 14, 2014** (*BCO* 18-2, 3) – No record of endorsement by candidate’s session, no record of six months membership for candidate.

**Response:** Regarding the second Exception we humbly disagree with the Assembly’s action. The candidate in question was **transferring** his candidacy from Mississippi Valley Presbytery (see *BCO* 18-7). As he was **transferred** to us as a candidate from Mississippi Valley Presbytery we assume their action to take him under care fulfilled (*BCO* 18-2, 3 (see also pp. 29 and 30 of the January 14, 2014 Minutes for said transfer from Mississippi Valley Presbytery).

**Exception: September 9, 2014** (*BCO* 13-7) – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Response:** Regarding the third Exception we must humbly disagree with the Assembly’s action. First, we assume that the Assembly has not taken exception to our action to examine a TE in good standing in another Presbytery for licensure (see Minutes pp. 83-84). Since he remains on the TE roll of Mississippi Valley Presbytery, we do not believe we are required to have him sign our Book of the Covenant containing the Ministerial Obligation.

If, however, the Assembly believes Grace erred by not having Mr. [name omitted] sign the Book of the Covenant which contains the Ministerial Obligation after we had approved his examination for ordination, we believe he was not a Teaching Elder until the service of Ordination and Installation held on October 12, 2014. Thus he signed the Book of the Covenant at our January 13, 2015 Stated Meeting along with the Teaching Elders in attendance that day.

It would be helpful to all the Presbyteries if the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records would indicate the page number of the Minutes where the Exceptions are alleged to have been committed (*RAO* 16-3.b requires the Minutes to be numbered).

19. That the Minutes of **Great Lakes** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 10, 2015; May 2, 2015; September 18-19, 2015; and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: September 18-19, 2015 (BCO 13-11) – Full record not provided (p. 11 is missing).**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
20. That the Minutes of **Gulf Coast** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **February 9-10, 2015; May 12, 2015; and October 13, 2105.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: May 13, 2014 (BCO 13-7) – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.**  
**Response:** Gulf Coast Presbytery acknowledges the failure to properly record the signing of the Book of Ministerial Obligation in

the minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting. The Clerks have been instructed to include the omission in the permanent record.

21. That the Minutes of **Gulfstream** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 20, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **July 21, 2015; October 20, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: April 21, 2015; July 21, 2015 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to a definite work.  
**Exception: April 21, 2015; July 21, 2015 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4)** – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes.
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
22. That the Minutes of **Heartland** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **March 13-14, 2015; August 7-8, 2015; November 6-7, 2015; and December 16, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: August 1, 2014 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Stated difference not judged by the presbytery according to prescribed categories.  
**Response:** There was indeed a recording error made in this area. The court judged the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but ‘not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine’ (BCO 21-4). The minutes have been amended to reflect this vote.  
**Exception: November 7-8, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** — No record of ministerial obligation being signed.  
**Response:** There was a misunderstanding in the reading and requirements of BCO 13-7. We have had TE [name omitted] sign the Ministerial Obligation, which you will find attached. (**Attachment #1**) [attachment omitted]  
**Exception: November 7-8, 2014 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregation approving the dissolution of pastoral relationship.  
**Response:** There indeed was a clerical error. The presbytery had received the minutes of the congregational meeting. They are attached and have been inserted into the November minutes. (**See Attachment #2**) [attachment omitted]

**Exception: November 7-8, 2014** (*BCO* 13-11, *BCO* 15-1) – Commission minutes not included in the presbytery’s records.

**Response:** We did indeed fail to attach the commission minutes associated with the November 7-8, 2014 minutes. This was an oversight and we will work to ensure it doesn’t happen again. We have inserted the attached commission minutes into the presbytery minutes of said date.

**Attachment #3** Minutes of Commission to ordain and install TE [name omitted] as pastor of Anchor of Hope [attachment omitted].

**Attachment #4** Minutes of the Commission to ordain and install TE [name omitted] as Missionary with MTW to Japan [attachment omitted].

**Attachment #5** Minutes of the Commission to appoint commissioners to the 2014 General Assembly of the PCA [attachment omitted].

23. That the Minutes of **Heritage** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **September 12, 2015 and November 14, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 31, 2015; May 12, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: January 31, 2015** (*BCO* 19-2.f, *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of candidate for licensure being asked for stated differences.
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
  
24. That the Minutes of **Houston Metro** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **April 17, 2015 and November 16, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 16, 2015 and August 17, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
  
25. That the Minutes of **Illiana** Presbytery: *Adopted*
  - a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 10, 2015; April 11, 2015; and October 17, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of session minutes being reviewed.

**Exception: October 17, 2015** (BCO 13-6) – No record of judging stated differences for a transfer from another denomination.

**Exception: October 17, 2015** (BCO 13-2) – No record of concurrence from home presbytery for TE examined for licensure.

**Exception: October 17, 2015** (BCO 13-11; 38-3) – Presbytery's release of TE does not specify the judgment of the court as to the fidelity of the receiving body in maintaining the Word and Sacrament in their fundamental integrity.

**Exception: October 17, 2015** (BCO 13-9.c; 23-1) – No record of congregational concurrence with dissolution of pastoral relation.

**d. No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

26. That the Minutes of **Iowa** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **May 9, 2015; and July 11, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 14, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: March 14, 2015** (BCO 23-1) – Pastoral relation dissolved without record of church being cited to appear before the Presbytery.

**Exception: March 14, 2015** (BCO 19-2.f) – Stated difference of licensure candidate not judged with prescribed categories of RAO 16-3.e.5.

**d. No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

27. That the Minutes of **James River** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **January 10, 2015; April 11, 2015; and October 10, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **July 16, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

**d. No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

28. That the Minutes of **Korean Capital** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 20, 2015 and October 20, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: General** (BCO 13-9) – No record of Session minutes review.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: April 7, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – Stated differences of candidate not recorded.

**Response:** Korean Capital Presbytery regrets this oversight in including all the necessary details in the minutes. The candidate was required to state any differences and the presbytery approved it as a difference of substance but not striking the vitals of religion.

**Exception: October 6, 2014 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to a particular work.

**Response:** Korean Capital Presbytery regrets this oversight in including all the necessary details in the minutes. A proper call to a particular work was examined on the floor and approved.

**Exception: April 7, 2014 and October 6, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Signing of ministerial obligations not recorded.

**Response:** Korean Capital Presbytery regrets this oversight and will seek to follow *BCO* 13-7 carefully in the future. The missed ministerial obligation signing will be done as soon as possible.

e. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception: April 7, 2014 (BCO 15-1)** – Minutes of a commission not entered.

**Response:** Korean Capital Presbytery regrets this oversight. A proper commission report was received and reported to the floor through a separate document.

**Rationale:** Presbytery needs to submit a copy of the commission report to the General Assembly also.

**Exception: April 29, 2013 (BCO 21-4)** – Stated difference with standard is recorded, but the decision of the court is not recorded.

**Response:** Korean Capital Presbytery regrets this oversight in 2013. Since the citation, KCP has been making judgment on the stated differences and recording that in the minutes according to *RAO* 16-3.e.5.

**Rationale:** Presbytery needs to correct the instance cited, not just correct their practice in the future.

29. That the Minutes of **Korean Central** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 14, 2015; September 14, 2015; and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b)** – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

**Exception: General (RAO 16-10)** – No record of response to exceptions cited by GA in minutes.

**Exception: April 14, 2015 and September 14, 2015 (RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed RAO categories.

**Exception: September 14, 2015 (RAO 16-3)** – No record of attendance or absences.

**Exception: September 14, 2015 (BCO 13-6; 21-4)** – Incomplete record of transfer exam of ministers from another denomination.

**Exception: April 14, 2015 and September 14, 2015 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to a definite work for ordained candidate; no record of presbytery finding calls in order/approved.

**Exception: April 14, 2015; September 14, 2015; and October 12, 2015 (BCO 15-1)** – No record of establishing commission to install pastor.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: April 16, 2013 and October 15, 2013 (BCO 13-9.b)** – No record of review of session minutes.

**Response:** Presbytery has difficulty receiving the minutes due to lack of sessions' corporation. We will try our best to acquire them.

**Exception: April 16, 2013 and October 15, 2013 (BCO 18-6; BCO 19-12)** – No annual reports from interns or candidates.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. We will enforce the reporting requirement more strictly.

**Exception: October 15, 2013 (BCO 13-7)** – No record of ministerial obligation being signed.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. We failed to record.

**Exception: General (BCO 24-1; presbytery bylaws 17.3)** – Election of ruling elders precedes training and examination for office.

**Response:** Presbytery changed the bylaw to fit our procedure to pattern after what is prescribed in the BCO.

**Exception: April 8, 2014 (BCO 15-1)** – No record of the formation of installation and ordination commissions, or any record that Moderator was authorized to appoint, or any other provision was made for the appointment of the commission.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. We commissioned, but we failed to write their names in our minutes.



**Exception: October 14, 2014** (*BCO* 13-6) – Record does not show that all specific requirements of transfer exams were completed – for four transfer exams.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its makes. We tested but failed to record.

**Exception: October 14, 2014** (*BCO* 15-1) – No record of the formation of installation and ordination commissions, or any record that Moderator was authorized to appoint, or any other provision was made for the appointment of the commission.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. We commissioned, but we failed to write their names in the minutes.

**Exception: April 8, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Incomplete record, not showing all the items of exams were completed –for three exams: transfer, under care, and licensure.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. We failed to record accordingly.

**Exception: October 14, 2014** Insufficient record of: (1) What was the church’s request and (2) What exactly was approved by Presbytery (page 10)?

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. The church requested TE [name omitted] to be removed from the roll of the presbytery. The presbytery approved to form a committee to investigate the matter and reported to the next presbytery meeting.

e. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception: October 14, 2014** (*BCO* 18-2, 19-2; 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of candidate for licensure being asked, or stating, whether he had any differences with the Standards (*BCO* 19.2.f).

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges its mistakes. We asked and candidates stated, but we failed to record them in our minutes.

**Rationale:** Candidate’s stated differences and presbytery’s judgment according to *RAO* 16-3.e.5 need to be submitted for review.

30. That the Minutes of **Korean Eastern** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 7, 2015; September 15, 2015; and General.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: General** (*RAO* 16-10.a) – No response to GA for response to exceptions of substance in minutes.

**Exception: April 7, 2015** (*BCO* 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam.

**Exception: April 7, 2015; September 15, 2015** (*BCO* 13-6) – No record of requiring statement of differences with standards.

**Exception: April 7, 2015** (*BCO* Preliminary Principle 6) – No record that members of an interim session were approved by the congregation.

**Exception: September 15, 2015** (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements for licensure exam not recorded.

**Exception: September 15, 2015** (*BCO* 18-3) – Use of extraordinary clause not explained.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No review of session minutes.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of sessional records.

**Response:** Our Presbytery's Record Examination Committee has not been functioning properly. We reorganized members and will perform review of sessional records from now on as of April 2016.

**Exception: September 9, 2014** (*BCO* 13-6) – Insufficient record of transfer candidates including insufficient examination.

**Response:** Previous clerk apologizes that he did not record sufficient record of the components of two transfer candidates' examinations. Two candidates did receive transfer examination according to *BCO* and clerk missed to record them. Current clerk will make sure to record sufficient record of the components of transfer examinations next time.

**Exception: September 9, 2014** (*BCO* 13-7) – No record of ministerial obligation being signed.

**Response:** Previous clerk apologizes that he did not check the proper record of ministerial obligation being signed. Current clerk will make sure to check ministerial obligation being signed next time.

**Exception: September 9, 2014** (*BCO* 20-1; 13-5) – No record of call to a definite ecclesiastical work.

**Response:** Previous clerk apologizes that he did not check the inclusion of a call letter for the candidate. The candidate did receive the call letter but he did not send to the clerk at that time. Current clerk will make sure to include a call letter for transfer candidate as well.

**Exception: September 9, 2014** (*BCO* 13-11) – No record of calls issued to transferring ministers being approved by the presbytery.

**Response:** Previous clerk apologizes that he did not check the inclusion of a call letter for the candidate. Current clerk will make sure to include a call letter for transfer candidate as well.

**Exception: September 9, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of requiring statement of differences with standards for an ordination exam.

**Response:** Previous clerk apologizes that he did not record a statement of differences with standards for an ordination exam. But the candidate had no difference on the standards. Current clerk will make sure to record a statement of difference with standards for an ordination exam next time.

- e. **As no response was received in 2015, responses must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**

**Exception: April 2, 2013 (BCO 13-9)** – No record of review of sessional records.

**Exception: September 10, 2013 (BCO 13-7)** – No record of ministerial obligation being signed.

**Exception: September 10, 2013 (BCO 13-6; BCO 21-4)** – No record of statement of differences with the standards from ordinand.

**Exception: September 10, 2013 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to definite work for transfer candidate.

**Exception: September 10, 2013 (BCO 20-1)** – Terms of call not included for transfer candidate.

**Exception: General (BCO 24-1; Presbytery Bylaws 7.2)** – Election of ruling elders precedes training and examination for office.

**Exception: September 11, 2012 (BCO 21-4)** – Stated differences with our Standards not recorded in the proper manner (see also RAO 16-3.e.5).

**Exception: September 11, 2012 (BCO 20-1)** – Ordination of TE: terms of call not included (also BCO 13-11, “full and accurate record”).

**Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b)** – No record of review of sessional records.

**Exception: February 1, 2011 (BCO 34-10)** – Record indicates a TE was removed and reinstated without following proper procedures.

**Exception: June 28, 2011 and October 4, 2011 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of candidate stating differences or presbytery judging differences.

31. That the Minutes of **Korean Northeastern Presbytery:** *Adopted*  
 a. Be approved without exception: **May 19, 2015; July 21, 2015; and November 19, 2015.**

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- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **Directory.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
  - Exception: March 10, 2015 (BCO 19-2.a)** – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded.
  - Exception: March 10, 2015 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.a,c)** – Incomplete record of transfer examination for minister from another denomination.
  - Exception: September 8, 2015 (BCO 19-2.a)** – All specific requirements of transfer exam not recorded.
- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**
  - Exception: February 4, 2014 and September 9, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.
  - Response:** All parts of the exam were done. The Presbytery apologizes for not recording all the parts of the exam appropriately and will be more cautious in the future.
  - Exception: April 1, 2014 (BCO 13-8, 11; 24-1, 6)** – Incomplete record of examination of RE's of a church received into presbytery.
  - Response:** The Presbytery apologizes for the error. The Presbytery will be more thorough in its examinations of RE's of churches received into presbytery in the future.

32. That the Minutes of **Korean Northwest Presbytery:** *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 13, 2015; October 12, 2015; and Directory.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
  - Exception: General (BCO 40-1)** – No record of review of session minutes.
  - Exception: General (RAO 16-10.a)** – No response to the Assembly concerning disposition of any exceptions of substance.
  - Exception: April 13, 2015 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of candidate meeting all qualifications for ordination.
  - Exception: April 13, 2015 (RAO 16-3.e.5)** – All specific requirements of exam not recorded.
  - Exception: April 13, 2015 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5)** – No record of candidates stated differences, if any.
- d. **As no responses were received in 2015, responses must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**

**Exception: April 7, 2014** (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of TE transfer exam.

**Exception: April 7, 2014 and September 22, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of stated differences in candidate’s own words.

**Exception: April 7, 2014 and September 22, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4) – Incomplete ordination exam.

**Exception: April 7, 2014 and September 22, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2) – Incomplete licensure exam.

**Exception: April 7, 2014** (*BCO* 21-1) – No record of definite call.

**Exception: April 7, 2014** (*BCO* 13-8) – Incomplete record of ruling elder examination.

**Exception: September 22, 2014** (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of TE transfer exam.

**Exception: September 22, 2014** (*BCO* 21-1) – No record of definite call.

**Exception: September 22, 2014** (*BCO* 13-8) – Incomplete record of ruling elder examination.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-9.6) – No record of review of session minutes.

**Exception: General** (*RAO* 16-4.c.3) – No response to exceptions.

**Exception: General** (*RAO* 16-3.e.4) – Installation commission not properly formed or reported.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 21-4; *BCO* 13-6 and *BCO* 19-2) – No statement of differences with standards.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements for ordination and transfer exams not recorded.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of definite call for TE being ordained/ installed.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of sessional records for most churches.

**Exception: April 9, 2013** (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements for licensure exam not recorded.

**Exception: October 12, 2011** (*BCO* 21-4) – Incomplete record of ordination exam requirements.

**Exception: October 12, 2011** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of candidate’s stated differences.

**Exception: October 12, 2011** (*BCO* 13-10) – Church dissolved without proper notice of Presbytery approval.

**Exception: April 13, 2011** (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer examination.

33. That the Minutes of **Korean Southeastern** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 6-8, 2015; October 5-7, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: April 6-8, 2015 and October 5-7, 2015 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to a definite work.  
**Exception: April 6-8, 2015 (BCO 19-7)** – No record of internship for ordination.  
**Exception: April 6-8, 2015 and October 6, 2015 (BCO 13.6; 21.4)** – Incomplete record of transfer exam. It is unclear whether candidate transferred from the PCA or another denomination - minutes quote BCO 19-2 which does not seem to apply.  
**Exception: April 6-8, 2015 (BCO 13-10)** – Church was dissolved without record of 60 days’ notice.  
**Exception: October 6, 2015 (BCO 13-10)** – Church was dissolved without a record of a vote in Presbytery.
  - d. **As no response was received in 2015, responses must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**  
**Exception: April 7-9, 2014 and October 6-8, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Ministerial obligation form not shown to be signed.  
**Exception: April 7-9, 2014 and October 6-8, 2014 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to a definite work.
34. That the Minutes of **Korean Southern** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 20, 2015; October 20, 2014; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: October 20, 2014 (BCO 13-6, BCO 21-4)** – Differences with Standards not recorded in the proper manner.  
**Exception: April 20, 2014 and October 20, 2014 (BCO 13-4)** – Quorum not present.  
**Exception: October 20, 2014 (BCO 13-11)** – Complaint not included in minutes.
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: General (BCO 13-9; 40-1)** – Review of sessional records not recorded.  
**Response:** Although Presbytery had requested that sessional records should be checked (18-3 on page 12 of the minute), member

churches failed to do that. After this mistake, Presbytery records the review of sessional records and will continue to do that.

**Exception: October 21, 2013 (BCO 21-4)** – All requirements for ordination exam not recorded.

**Response:** Exam subjects were recorded on page 12 of the minute along with the detailed test procedures from page 12 to 14 on that minute.

**Exception: October 21, 2013 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of requiring stated differences.

**Response:** Even though no differences were found from the applicant, Presbytery failed recording the fact in the minute. Presbytery apologizes and will record this matter from now on.

**Exception: October 21, 2013 (BCO 21-5)** – Ordinand listed as a TE prior to ordination.

**Response:** Presbytery approves as a TE just after his ordination event is done even though the ordination worship service is not completed. Therefore, the “new TE” can be listed as a TE from that time on because he has been declared as a TE.

**Exception: October 21, 2013 (BCO 13-7)** – Ministerial obligation form not signed.

**Response:** The Presbytery feels very sorry for missing the signing of the ministerial obligation form for the new TE. Actually, the new TE was assigned as Associate Pastor of Open Door Presbyterian Church. Presbytery will correct this error.

**Exception: October 21, 2013 (KSP Standing Rules e. 15, sec 1)** – No record of 2/3 vote for standing rules change.

**Response:** Actually, the changes were accepted unanimously without voting. However, Presbytery will keep record of the results for the standing rule changes.

e. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception: October 21, 2013 (BCO 15-2, 21-5)** – No ordination commission established.

**Response:** Ordination commission was established with “current and past TE moderators and current RE vice-moderator” as recorded on page 15 of the minute.

**Rationale:** Commissions require 2 REs. 1 RE is not sufficient to establish a commission.

35. That the Minutes of **Korean Southwest** Presbytery:

*Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **None.**

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- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
- Exception: March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015 (BCO 21-4)** – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.
- Exception: March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015 (BCO 15)** – TEs and REs of commission not specified.
- Exception: March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015 (BCO 18-2)** – No record of call to a definite work.
- Exception: March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015 (BCO 18; 19-7)** – No record of candidates ever coming under care of Presbytery or entering internship.
- Exception: March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015 (BCO 18; 19-7)** – No record of licensure candidate orally presenting sermon.
- Exception: March 10, 2015 and September 15, 2015 (BCO 18; 19-7)** – Stated differences not recorded and judged by the court.
- Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO Preliminary Principle #6)** – No record that members of an interim session were approved by the congregation.
- Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO 15-1)** – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes.
- Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO 15-1)** – Quorum not present for commission.
- Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO 38-2)** – Resignation of TE must be executed at next stated meeting.
- Exception: September 15, 2015 (BCO 5-3)** – No record of formation of temporary governance of mission church.
- General (RAO 16-10.a)** – No response to Assembly concerning disposition of any exceptions of substance.
- General (RAO 16-10.a)** – No record in minutes of exceptions taken by GA.
- d. **As no responses were received in 2015, responses must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**
- Exception: March 11, 2014 and September 14, 2014 (BCO 9.b)** – No record of review of records of church sessions.
- Exception: March 11, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Signed ministerial obligation not included.
- Exception: March 11, 2014 (BCO 19-2)** – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded.
- Exception: March 11, 2014 (BCO 19-2.d)** – No record of candidate for licensure preaching a sermon.



**Exception: March 11, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2.f) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.

**Exception: March 11, 2014** (*BCO* 20-1) – Ordination of TE: no record of call to a definite work.

**Exception: March 11, 2014 and September 14, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

**Exception: March 11, 2014 and September 14, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4.f) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.

**Exception: March 12, 2013** (*BCO* 13-6; *BCO* 21-4) – No statement of candidate’s differences with Standards.

**Exception: March 12, 2013** (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.

**Exception: March 12, 2013** (*BCO* 13-10) – No record of transfer or dismissal of members upon dissolution of church.

**Exception: March 12, 2013** (*BCO* 13-6; *BCO* 21-4) – Incomplete transfer exam for NAPARC pastor.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 24-1; Presbytery Bylaws Article 23) – Election of ruling elders precedes training and examination for office.

**Exception: March 12, 2013** (*BCO* 13-12) – Presbytery submitted minutes for only one meeting in 2013.

36. That the Minutes of **Korean Southwest Orange County** Presbytery:

*Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **September 14-15, 2015 and March 15, 2016.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
  - Exception: September 14-15, 2015 and March 14, 2016** (*BCO* 13.9.b) – No record of the review of session records.
  - Exception: September 14-15, 2015 and March 14, 2016** (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements for licensure exams not recorded.
  - Exception: March 15, 2016** (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.
  - Exception: March 15, 2016** (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.
  - Exception: March 15, 2016** (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of candidate meeting requirements for ordination (education, languages, etc).
  - Exception: March 15, 2016** (*BCO* 38-2) – Request to be divested of office was acted upon at the same meeting.

**d. That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: September 16, 2014 and December 16, 2014** (*BCO* 13-4) – Quorum not met for presbytery meeting. All actions of these two presbytery meetings will need to be ratified by a subsequent presbytery meeting that has a quorum present.

**Response:** At its September 14-15, 2015 meeting, the Presbytery ratified the actions taken at the September 16, 2014; December 16, 2014 meetings that were held without a quorum (*RONR* (11th ed.) p. 124 lines 21-23).

37. That the Minutes of **Metro Atlanta** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **January 24, 2015; March 13, 2015; June 29, 2015; and September 15, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: May 5, 2015** (*BCO* 15-1, MAP Bylaws, Section VIII.A) – Quorum not present for commission.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 25, 2014 and September 16, 2014** – (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of who recommended dissolving pastoral relations.

**Response:** We assume you mean for a TE that went to without call. They are as follows with notes as applicable in parenthesis as to who initiated. [Minutes omitted]

**Exception: May 7, 2013** (*BCO* 13-10) – No record of 60-day notice to congregation prior to dissolution and no record of membership transfer.

**Response:** Communication to Metro Atlanta Presbytery was received from Covenant Church as Southpoint had requested to revert to mission status under Covenant. Covenant had sent 60-day letter and dealt with transfers of membership, some to Covenant and some elsewhere.

38. That the Minutes of **Metropolitan New York** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 13, 2015; March 14, 2015; November 7, 2015; and General.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**May 12, 2015 and September 15, 2105** (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.

**September 15, 2015** (BCO 46-8) – TE divested without censure was not assigned membership in a particular church.

- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: March 18, 2014; September 16, 2014 and November 4, 2014** (BCO 15-1) – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes (see also RAO 16-3.e.4).

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exceptions and corrects its record. We will add the commission reports that were noted on March 18, 2014, September 16, 2014, and November 11, 2014 as appendices to the minutes, and promise to be more careful in the future.

**Exception: September 16, 2014** (BCO 13-7) – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Response:** Presbytery respectfully disagrees with the exception. Our minutes do reflect that each minister signed the ministerial obligation form.

**Exception: September 16, 2014** (BCO 23-1) – Dissolution of pastoral relation not properly recorded by presbytery.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception and in the future will properly record the action by noting the session and congregation approval of the dissolution in the minutes.

39. That the Minutes of the **Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley:** *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **September 22, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 6-7, 2015; May 5, 2015; August 4, 2015; and November 10, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

40. That the Minutes of **Missouri Presbytery:** *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **January 20, 2015; April 21, 2015; May 29, 2015; and July 21, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **October 20, 2015 and General.**

c. Be approved with exception of substance:

**Exception: October 20, 2015** (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam.

- d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 21, 2014 (BCO 19-6)** – Licentiate removed from rolls without reason being recorded.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception. The Clerk erred in not recording the reason for the removal for the licentiate. The Clerk will make an adjustment to the January 21, 2014 minutes reflecting that “Presbytery removed Licentiate [name omitted], due to his decision to no longer pursue ordination in the PCA” and will endeavor to be more careful when recording such information in future minutes.

41. That the Minutes of **Nashville** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **February 10, 2015; May 26, 2015; August 11, 2015; November 10, 2015; and December 16, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 14, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

42. That the Minutes of **New Jersey** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **March 21, 2015; May 16, 2015; September 19, 2015; and November 21, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: November 15, 2014 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.c.4)** – Completion of each action of commission not entered into minutes; no indication of installation sermon, charge, etc.

**Response:** The Clerk failed to include the addendum to the minutes of November 15, 2014 in the materials sent to the RPR Committee. The addendum is included in the official record of minutes and is attached hereto for the RPR Committee.

**Exception: November 15, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Response:** The newly elected Stated Clerk was unaware that the notation was required in the minutes. The forms were signed by TE [name omitted] (September 20, 2014) and by TE [name omitted] (November 15, 2014). The record of those actions now appears in the minutes of March 21, 2015. The record for TE [name omitted] is

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recorded in the minutes of September 19, 2015, the date on which he signed the form.

43. That the Minutes of **New River** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **As no responses were received in 2015, responses must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**  
**Exception: January 25, 2014 (BCO 18-22)** – No motion to receive men as candidates under care.  
**Exception: October 25, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – No record of ministerial obligation being signed.  
**Exception: September 7, 2013 (BCO 19-2; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – All specific requirements for licensure not recorded.  
**Exception: September 26, 2013 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – All specific requirements for ordination not recorded.
44. That the Minutes of **New York State** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **May 16, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 17, 2015 and September 18-19, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
45. That the Minutes of **North Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **April 9, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 24, 2015 and July 11, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required:**
46. That the Minutes of **North Texas** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **May 1-2, 2015; August 14-15, 2015; and November 6-7, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: February 6-7, 2015 (BCO 13-11)** – Executive Session minutes not included.
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: May 2-3, 2014 (BCO 13-11)** – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes.

**Response:** The RPR is correct there is no copy of the three Complaints concerning the change in call of TE [name omitted] by TE [name omitted], TE [name omitted], Chairman of MNA, and RE [name omitted], Clerk of Session of Ft. Worth PCA. The Complaints were to correct a misunderstanding concerning TE [name omitted]'s call as church planter and on the staff of Ft. Worth PCA. It was not thought necessary to include the Complaints since the Administrative Committee acting as a Judicial Commission answered the Complaints and remedied the situation. However, the RPR is correct and copies of the Complaint should have been attached to the Minutes as is our usual practice. In the future we will be sure that all complaints are attached or recorded in the body of the Minutes.

**Exception: November 7-8, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Response:** [Name omitted] and [name omitted] were both examined for ordination and passed their examinations. The Minutes do not give a record of their signing the Ministerial obligation but the record book of Ministerial Obligations does show their signature. This was simply an oversight to record their signatures. We apologize and will be more careful in the future to assure that the minutes reflect this action

**Exception: November 7-8, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – All specific requirements of ordination examination not recorded.

**Response:** It appears what happened is that these men had been previously licensed and were reexamined only in the areas the committee thought necessary or were weak during their previous exam. This was not made clear in the minutes. The minutes do state they were examined in Bible content, etc. but the minutes do not reflect their seminary degree with the original languages and other items stated in *BCO* 21-4. We do usually include all items and will be more careful to state all items required in examination or state in accordance with *BCO* 21-4b. that they were previously examined in certain areas and do not need to be reexamined.

47. That the Minutes of **Northern California** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 6, 2015; May 1, 2015; July 20, 2015; October 2, 2015; and General.**

- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: May 1, 2015; October 2, 2015** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed categories.  
**Exception: July 20, 2015** (*BCO* 13-4, 12) – Quorum not present for Presbytery meeting.
- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: February 7, 2014** (*BCO* 15-1) – Commissions to ordain and install not appointed for either candidate to be ordained or TE transferring in to accept call.  
**Response:** Presbytery agrees with this exception. Presbytery erred in not recording the appointment of the commissions in the minutes. Presbytery promises to be more careful in the future.  
**Exception: February 22, 2013** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences with standards not recorded in proper manner.  
**Response to 43<sup>rd</sup> GA:** Presbytery agrees with this exception and promises to be more careful in the future.  
**Rationale of the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA:** Stated difference and presbytery’s judgment thereof should be included in response to General Assembly.  
**Response:** Presbytery agrees with this exception. Presbytery’s judgment on the recorded stated difference was not clearly indicated. Presbytery has included the stated difference and its judgment represented in the original minutes by “MSP” in bold font. Presbytery promises to be more careful in the future to record judgments rendered on recorded differences in a proper manner. [Attachment omitted.]  
**Exception: February 22, 2013** (*BCO* 13-6) – Minister transferring from another denomination not asked to state differences with the standards.  
**Response to 43<sup>rd</sup> GA:** Presbytery agrees with this exception and regrets its oversight. Presbytery did require the transferring candidate’s stated differences with the standards, but did not record such. Presbytery promises to be more careful in the future.  
**Rationale of the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA:** Stated difference and presbytery’s judgment thereof should be included in response to General Assembly.  
**Response:** Presbytery agrees with this exception. The Minister being examined did not take any exceptions to the standards, but presbytery failed to clearly indicate this in the minutes. Presbytery promises to be more careful in the future to record if a candidate or

minister takes no exceptions. In the candidate's theological statement submitted to the Candidates and Credentials committee he stated: "I have not found any exceptions to raise with regard to the Westminster Standards or the PCA Book of Church Order."

**Exception: February 22, 2013 (BCO 13-6)** – Minister transferring from another denomination only examined on views.

**Response to 43<sup>rd</sup> GA:** Presbytery agrees with this exception and regrets its oversight. The transferring candidate was asked and examined in all areas required in (BCO 21-4) Presbytery promises to be more careful in the future.

**Rationale of the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA:** Presbytery not clear on resolution. Was this a recording error, or did they go back and re-examine the minister? And if the latter, there ought to be minutes of this re-examination.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with this exception. Presbytery failed to make clear that this was a recording error. Minister transferring from another denomination was given a full exam at the February 22, 2013 stated meeting.

- e. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception: May 2, 2014 and October 3, 2014 (BCO 15-1)** – Minutes of commission not entered in presbytery minutes.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with this exception. Presbytery erred in not recording the commission's minutes. Presbytery promises to be more careful in the future.

**Rationale:** Presbytery needs to include in their minutes and provide the commission minutes to the General Assembly for review.

48. That the Minutes of **Northern Illinois** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- Be approved without exception: **January 10, 2015; May 12, 2015; July 14, 2015; and September 12, 2015.**
  - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
49. That the Minutes of **Northern New England** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- Be approved without exception: **January 17, 2015; May 16, 2015; July 25, 2015; and October 17, 2015.**
  - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**



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50. That the Minutes of **Northwest Georgia** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 31, 2015; February 28, 2015; and May 5, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **September 19, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
51. That the Minutes of **Ohio** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 3, 2015; May 2, 2015; August 25, 2015; and October 30, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: General (BCO 13.9.b) – No record of Faith Presbyterian Church session minutes being reviewed.**  
**Response:** Stated Clerk failed to note that Faith minutes were reviewed in the Fall 2014 minutes. See below from our Pastoral Care Committee: [minutes omitted]
52. That the Minutes of **Ohio Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 10, 2015; and October 20, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **May 19, 2105.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
53. That the Minutes of **Pacific** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 22-23, 2015 and September 25-26, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **May 1-2, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 24-25, 2014 (BCO 13-7) – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.**

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**Response:** Pacific Presbytery agrees with the exception and has corrected its record. The ministerial obligation form was signed but the fact was not recorded in the minutes. The January 24-25, 2014 minutes have been amended and are attached. We will endeavor to make a complete record of all requirements in the future.

[Attachment omitted.]

54. That the Minutes of **Pacific Northwest** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 22, 2015; May 19, 2015; and September 24-25, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exception of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b) – Incomplete record of review of records of church sessions.**  
**Response:** "The citation is correct. Our 2014 Minutes did not record our completion of the review of 2013 Session records. That review has been completed and is recorded in our January 2016 Minutes."
55. That the Minutes of **Palmetto** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 24, 2015; April 13, 2015, July 25, 2015; October 22, 2015; and Directory**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
56. That the Minutes of **Philadelphia** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **October 26, 2015; November 12, 2015; and November 30, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 17, 2015; General; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: January 17, 2015; May 16, 2015; and September 19, 2015 (RAO 16-3.e.5, BCO 21-4) – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed categories.**  
**Exception: September 19, 2015 (BCO 13-11) – Presbytery included two sets of minutes for September 19, 2015 that included conflicting information. They failed to maintain a “full and accurate record.”**

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: February 27, 2014** – Presbytery ordained a man who is unsure that the New Testament “itself teaches a *universal* prohibition of women eldership.”

**Response:** Just as Presbytery had originally sought guidance on this matter from a denominational level at the time of the candidate's examination, the Philadelphia Presbytery agrees with the exception and submits to the guidance now received from General Assembly and in the future will not approve of a candidate who expresses doubts about the universal prohibition on women elders. The candidate (now TE) who expressed this view has since transferred to another denomination.” **m/s/a by majority vote**

**Exception: September 21, 2013** (*BCO* 19-2.d) – Candidates submitted written copies of sermons to committee but there is no record of the candidates preaching the sermons to presbytery or a committee thereof.

**Response:** The Philadelphia Presbytery has begun to make sermons available (1) by invitation to the candidate's host church, or (2) electronically online, or (3) at the recommendation of a committee. The candidate's sermons were made available to the Presbytery, but this was not noted in the minutes (but will be noted in the future).

**Rationale:** This does not comply with *BCO* 19-2.d, which requires a candidate for licensure to “present orally his sermon or exhortation before presbytery or before a committee of presbytery.”

**The CT brought a recommendation in response to this exception: "Philadelphia Presbytery receives the correction and will in future make sure that a candidate preaches in person before either Presbytery as a whole or a committee of Presbytery." m/s/a by unanimous vote.**

57. That the Minutes of **Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery:** *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **January 17, 2015; April 6, 2015; and September 19, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 21, 2015; May 16, 2015; and November 17, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: November 17, 2015** (*BCO* 30-1, 3) – Indefinite suspension administered but mislabeled definite suspension.

**Exception: November 17, 2015** (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No review of session minutes.

**d. That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: May 17, 2014, (RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Stated differences not judged by the presbytery using prescribed categories.

**Response:** Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery has amended its minutes of May 17, 2014 to address the exception by adopting the following motion at the Presbytery's meeting of September 19, 2015:

MSC: That the Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery's minutes of May 17, 2014 be amended as follows:

1. The portion of the minutes which currently states:
  - iv. that PMWP approve Mr. [name omitted]'s exception to the Westminster Larger Catechism." be amended to read:  
"iv. that PMWP approve Mr. [name omitted]'s exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*, judging the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (BCO 21-4)
2. The portion of the minutes which currently states:  
"iv. that PMWP approve Mr. [name omitted]'s exception to the Westminster Larger Catechism be amended to read:  
"iv. that PMWP approve Mr. [name omitted]'s exceptions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*, judging the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (BCO 21-4)."

**Minority Report on Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery**

**Motion:** that an exception of substance be added to the report of this Presbytery. The exception of substance shall read: "Presbytery granted as an exception a view that seems to strike at the system of doctrine of the Westminster Standards."

The candidate's own words are quoted in full (from the November 2015 meeting of PMWP):

## APPENDIX Q

My exception, stated briefly, is as follows: I can in good conscience affirm that the Bible teaches that a due proportion of time on one day out of seven be set apart for the worship of God. I believe the Lord's Day is analogous to and in many ways the fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath. I believe that Sunday is perpetually the Lord's Day because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. Our Sunday worship follows the example of the New Testament church and stands with almost all of the global and historic church. However, I am not comfortable with how closely the Confession seems to tie the specific day of worship and rest with the essence and acceptability of our worship and rest. As a result, I believe that it is possible that certain circumstances may arise in which a church could consider gathering for weekly corporate worship and resting on a day other than Sunday.

This is not a “hot-button” issue for me. I have no ideas or desires regarding moving (church name omitted) services from Sunday to another day, or even of adding services on other days of the week (such as Saturday night, for example) that could be seen as “substituting for” the Sunday service. I also have no desire to stir up controversy or ignite debate on this issue. As a matter of deference to the Confession and to the Presbytery, I am happy to refrain from teaching my position on this. I am merely trying to guard my own conscience and keep myself from binding the consciences of others on this issue as I continue to develop and solidify my position on this matter.

Several points of interest are important here. 1. The candidate is certainly not wanting to stir up trouble or strife. 2. The candidate is showing proper deference to the Confession, and to the Presbytery. 3. The candidate is not going to change his church's worship service. 4. The candidate is willing not to teach this view. Although these caveats are important, they do not erase the problematic nature of the difference that the candidate expressed.

Only God may change the day of the Sabbath. From the creation of the world until Christ's resurrection, the Sabbath was on the last day of the week. From the resurrection of Christ until the Second Coming, the

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Sabbath is on the first day of the week (*WCF* 21.7, *WSC* 59, *WLC* 116). Israel had no authority to change anything about the Sabbath, or any of the festivals, either. God told them when, how, and why in each case. Therefore, if a church decided to change its weekly day of worship, it would not longer be the Sabbath at all. It could still be worship, but it would not be the Sabbath. This, then, would be a repudiation of the Fourth Commandment to remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy. We would not be remembering the Sabbath anymore. The candidate believes that it is acceptable to decouple worship and rest from the Sabbath Day, when the Fourth Commandment plainly teaches otherwise.

Our culture is witnessing the continuing erosion of morality. The philosopher Voltaire connected the destruction of Christianity with the destruction of the Sabbath Day. Allowing differences on recreation is one thing. Allowing a Teaching Elder to hold a position that could result in a denial of the Sabbath altogether is something quite different.

Signers

TE James Codling

RE Lee Joseph

TE Lane Keister

TE Dong Woo Kim

RE Richard Leino

TE Kenneth McHeard

TE Benjamin Shaw

TE Gerald Whitaker

The committee vote on on whether to include this exception of substance was 8-42.

58. That the Minutes of **Piedmont Triad** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 24, 2015; April 25, 2015; July 25, 2015 and November 4, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **General**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: July 25, 2015** (*BCO* 15-1, *RAO* 16-3.e.4) – No report from the commission for [name omitted] installation.  
**Exception: September 23, 2015** (*BCO* 13-11) – Executive session minutes are not included.
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

59. That the Minutes of **Pittsburgh** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 31, 2015; July 25, 2015; and October 17, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 25, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
60. That the Minutes of **Platte Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: October 26, 2013 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of requiring statement of differences.  
**Response:** “There were two candidates examined on the date in question: one for Licensure and one for Ordination. The candidate for Licensure stated his differences with the Standards and his differences were noted and judged (actions 9 & 10). Candidates for ordination are routinely asked by Presbytery whether their views have changed since their Licensure exam (since the examination in Theology is often not repeated), but this was not noted in the Minutes. This was presumably an oversight by the clerk and was not caught by the reviewers. We will seek to be more careful in our recording in the future.”
  - e. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA be found unsatisfactory:**  
**Exception: General:** No minutes from 2014.  
**Response:** [personal response from the clerk removed]  
**Rationale:** Minutes of 2014 still need to be submitted.
61. That the Minutes of **Potomac** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **February 7, 2015; February 10, 2015; March 21, 2015; June 2, 2015; September 14-15, 2015; and November 21, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 28, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4.c.2-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of thesis, exegesis, or sermon preached by candidate for ordination.

**Response:** The Potomac Presbytery respectfully disagrees with the stated exception that there is no record or thesis, exegesis, or sermon preached by candidate for ordination. The presbytery did not examine any candidate for ordination at the January meeting. We only examined an ordained minister (chaplain in the United States Army ) for transfer into the Potomac Presbytery and the PCA from another denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, which is governed by *BCO* 13-6. Potomac Presbytery believes that *BCO* 21-4c2-4 does not apply since the candidate was not on trial for ordination. The presbytery believes that it met the requirements of *RAO* 16-3e5 by (Please see the minutes of the January 28, 2014 meeting, pages 903-904, paragraph 6.a).

**Exception: March 15, 2014 and November 15, 2014** (*BCO* 13-7) – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed by transferees.

**Response:** The Potomac Presbytery respectfully disagrees with the stated exception. The Potomac Presbytery agrees that we did not record the signing of the ministerial obligation for [name omitted] in the March 2014 meeting. As has been our practice for over 20 years, and never challenged in reviews, the receipt of [name omitted]'s ministerial obligation form was recorded in the stated clerk's report for the next stated meeting which was held in September 2014 (Please see Page 2 of Appendix 3 to the Minutes of the 109<sup>th</sup> (March 15, 2014) stated meeting). While we usually have a transfer sign the ministerial obligation at the meeting in which he was received, we can find nothing in the *BCO* (specifically *BCO* 13-7) that says how and when the signing of the ministerial obligation is recorded.

**Exception: March 15, 2014 and November 15, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2.c) – No record of candidate for licensure being examined orally before presbytery.

**Response:** The Potomac Presbytery respectfully disagrees with the stated exception. Although our minutes did not explicitly state that the candidate, Mr. [name omitted], was examined orally, he was in fact present on that date and was presented before the Presbytery. Presbyters were permitted to ask questions. He was examined orally; i.e., several presbyters asked questions orally and Mr. [name omitted] passed. We use committees for doing much of the work of the presbytery. The Potomac Presbytery's Credentials Committee is required to consider and make recommendations on all matters



referred to the committee concerning the credentials of a candidate. The committee does a full, exhaustive exam in the areas referenced by *BCO* 19-2b; therefore, a full exam is not duplicated at the presbytery meeting. Under our bylaws, candidates for licensure are examined in each area specified by *BCO* 19-2.b, by the Credentials Committee. The committee reports the result of each examination, presbyters are permitted to ask questions without restrictions, and the presbytery votes to sustain each examination. That long-standing process is defined in the bylaws of Potomac Presbytery, and has always been found acceptable by the Committee to Review Presbytery Records. Thus, the Potomac Presbytery continues to believe that it has met the requirements of *BCO* 19-2c.

62. That the Minutes of **Providence** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 10, 2015; May 12, 2015; August 4, 2015; November 10, 2015; and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: August 4, 2015** (*BCO* 13-11) – Executive Session minutes not included.
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: February 12, 2013 and August 6, 2013** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words or judged by presbytery.  
**Response to the 43rd GA:** Stated differences were submitted in writing to Candidates and Credentials Committee. We failed to record them properly in Presbytery minutes and have now remedied that practice. All stated differences were judged by Presbytery to be exceptions that were “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine because the difference is neither hostile to the system nor strikes at the vitals of religion.” We failed to include that ruling in our minutes and intend to do so in the future.  
**Rationale of the 43rd GA:** Stated difference and presbytery’s judgment thereof should be included in response to General Assembly.  
**Response:** The notation in the minutes of Providence Presbytery for **February 12, 2013**, that the candidate had exceptions to the Standards was recorded and approved in error. The candidate in reality stated that he had no exceptions, and he still does not express

any exceptions to our Standards. This has been confirmed by the candidate himself and by the chairman of the Providence Presbytery Candidates and Credentials Committee. The notation in the minutes of Providence Presbytery for **August 6, 2013**, did omit the candidate's exception and the Presbytery's ruling concerning the exception. Here is his exception in his own words: [Candidate's words omitted]

The Presbytery determined the candidate is not out of accord with any of the fundamentals of our system of doctrine because the difference is neither hostile to the system nor strikes at the vitals of religion.

We members of Providence Presbytery are increasingly aware of the necessity of presenting accurate and complete information in the minutes and will continue to strive to do so in the future.

- e. **As no response was received in 2015, response must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**

**Exception: November 11, 2014** (BCO 19-2; 21-4) – Not all specific requirements for licensure recorded; no indication of requirements of licentiate to record any stated differences with our confessional standards, no recording of presbytery's judgment on those potential differences.

- 63. That the Minutes of **Rocky Mountain** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exception: **April 16, 2015**.
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None**.
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: January 22, 2015** (BCO 46-8) – Divested TE not assigned to membership in a particular church.

**Exception: October 1, 2015** (BCO 13-9) – No record of review of session minutes from a majority of churches.

- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 23, 2014** (BCO 46-8) – Divested TE not transferred to a congregation.

**Response:** The presbytery made numerous efforts to locate and contact the divested TE. We have no phone or address, therefore were unable to establish communication with him, he was not assigned membership in a local congregation.

**Exception: – April 18, 2013 and October 3, 2013** (BCO 20-1 and BCO 8-7 and BCO 13-2) – TE serving out of bounds either without concurrence of other presbytery or without assurance of BCO 20-1.

**Response:** Presbytery acknowledges the error. Verbal concurrence was provided by Korean Central Presbytery, but written concurrence was not requested nor recorded. Presbytery assures that this TE is serving with the concurrence of Korean Central Presbytery.

**Exception:** – **April 18, 2013** (*BCO* 13-2 and *BCO* 34-10) – All requirements for divesting a minister not recorded [no record of transfer; no record of divested with or without censure].

**Response:** The TE was divested without censure. The Presbytery acknowledges the failure to record this aspect of the divestiture. The Presbytery made numerous efforts to locate and contact the divested TE. We have no phone or address, therefore were unable to establish communication with him, he was not assigned membership in a local congregation.

- e. **That the following response to the 44th GA exception be found unsatisfactory:**

**Exception:** **January 24, 2013** - All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

**Response:** Presbytery has reviewed the minutes referred to and cannot find any missing requirements of an ordination exam. Please inform Rocky Mountain Presbytery with more specific information.

**Rationale:** At the meeting in question, two men were examined for ordination and the record does not reflect that their examinations included knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages or a seminary degree being accepted “in lieu of an oral examination in the original languages.” (*BCO* 21-4.c.1)

64. That the Minutes of **Savannah River** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 23-24, 2015; April 21, 2015; October 20, 2015 and Directory.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 

**Exception:** **January 23-24, 2015** (*BCO* 15-1) – No report of commissions to ordain the TEs.

**Exception:** **July 17-18, 2015** (*BCO* 13-8) – No report of Commission re: examination of REs and their names in the organization of New Covenant church plant.
- d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception:** **July 18, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2.d) – No record of sermon preached.

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**Response:** Presbytery erred in providing an improper *BCO* reference. TE [name omitted] was transferring his licensure from Northern California Presbytery. He was examined in accordance with *BCO* 19-5 which excluded the preaching of a sermon.

**Exception: July 18, 2014** (*BCO* 19-2.b.2) – No record of exam in practical Bible knowledge.

**Response:** Presbytery erred in providing an improper *BCO* reference. TE [name omitted] was transferring his licensure from Northern California Presbytery. He was examined in accordance with *BCO* 19-5 which excluded the examination in practical Bible knowledge.

65. That the Minutes of **Siouxlands** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **February 12, 2015; April 23, 2015; and June 25, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 23-24, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: January 23-24, 2015** (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to recommend dissolution of a pastoral call.

**Exception: January 23-24, 2015** (*BCO* 13-6, 21-4) – Incomplete record of examination of minister transferring from another denomination.

**Exception: January 23-24, 2015** (*BCO* 21-4) – Incomplete record of ordination exam.

**Exception: General** (*BCO* 13-11) – Minutes of September 2015 stated meeting not included.

**d. No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

66. That the Minutes of **South Coast** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 24, 2015; April 25, 2015, September 26, 2015; and Directory.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: September 26, 2015** (*RAO* 16-3.e.7) – No motion to enter or rise from executive session and no minutes from executive session included.

**Exception: September 26, 2015** (*BCO* 46-8) – TE divested without censure was not assigned membership in a particular church.

**Exception: January 24, 2015** (*BCO* 13-10) – No record in 2015 minutes of any resolution to the Presbytery's recorded uncertainty regarding the TE's call.

**Exception: April 25, 2015** (*BCO* 8-7) – A TE laboring out of

bounds had his call approved without assurances of his full freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of the church.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b)** – Review of session records for 13 churches out of 25.

**Response:** South Coast had seven churches organize in 2014. While these churches were included in the year-end rolls, their minutes were not reviewed until 2015. Five of the 25 are mission works of the presbytery, with no session. Most of these report through their mother church, though we are reviewing our reporting process for mission works. One multisite church dissolved to become five particular churches, leaving one church with missing records. These have now been reviewed.

**Exception: General (RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Candidate’s stated differences not judged with appropriate *RAO* language.

**Response:** We have not been consistent in using the *RAO* language, but will correct this going forward.

**Exception: September 27, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Response:** The forms were signed but not recorded.

67. That the Minutes of **South Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **September 22, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 10, 2015; May 12, 2015; August 11, 2015; and November 10, 2015.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

**Exception: August 11, 2015 (BCO 15-2)** – Commission established with only one RE. **Exception: August 11, 2015 (BCO 13-11)** – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes (“full and accurate record”) see also *RAO* 16-3.e.7.

**Exception: August 11, 2015 (BCO 34-9, 36-7)** – Deposition of TE not recorded in prescribed words and pastoral relation not dissolved.

**Exception: November 10, 2015 (BCO 15-1)** – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes (see also *RAO* 16.3.e.4).

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b)** – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

**Response:** The Presbytery has been negligent in fulfilling this task. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include it in the future.

**Exception: General (RAO 16-4.c.1)** – TE roll incomplete; unsure if Sessions represented; licentiates, REs, and churches not specified.

**Response:** The Attendance roll included only included the TE's. We regret the error of leaving out the RE's, licentiates, and churches, and promise to do better in the future to include those parts of the Attendance.

**Exception: General (BCO 15-1)** – No commission reports/minutes.

**Response:** There were five ordination and installation commissions, one judicial commission, one commission for the transfer of a TE into the Presbytery, and one commission for a provisional session. None of the commission reports were included in the Minutes. We included an addendum to the Minutes of the proper months with some of these reports of the commissions. Our Presbytery has not been diligent in requiring the commissions to submit reports. We regret this omission and this error and promise to be careful to include all reports for all commissions in the future.

**Exception: February 11, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Response:** The candidates all were approved for all parts of their exams and did sign the ministerial obligation (Ex Amino book), but we did not record that those signatures were done. We regret this error and promise to do better in the future to record the signatures of the ministerial obligations.

**Exception: February 11, 2014 and August 12, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of requiring statement of differences with our standards.

**Response:** It is recorded in the Minutes that the differences were approved, as “more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine”, for each candidate, but we did not include the Differences in the Candidates' own words for the candidate in the February meeting. The candidate from the August meeting did include his differences which are listed at the end of his Views and may have been overlooked. We regret the omission for the first candidate and the confusion for the second. We promise to do better in the future by including each candidate's difference in his own words.

**Exception: February 11, 2014; May 13, 2014 and August 12, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of all specific requirements of ordination.

**Response:** There were three candidates in February, one candidate in May, and one candidate in August. Each of these candidates took, passed, and was approved for all requirements of ordination. We did not include all requirements in our Minutes and regret our omission. We promise to be more careful in the future.

**Exception: May 13, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of ordination exam.

**Response:** The TE involved transferred into the Presbytery in the previous year (2013). All requirements of his transfer were not recorded in the Minutes although each requirement was propounded and approved by the Presbytery. We regret this error and promise to do better in the future to include all requirements for a TE to transfer into the Presbytery.

**Exception: April 21, 2009 (BCO 46-8)** – Presbytery divested a TE and put him “under the authority (though not necessarily member) of [a particular congregation].” They further state the TE “would no longer be a member of presbytery.”

**Response:** The South Florida Presbytery acknowledges our error. We will strive to keep better records in the future.

In addition to the Executive Minutes, the MCRC Chair sent an email which stated:

“The MCRC received a 38-1 letter from TE [name omitted]. He confessed that his “household was not in order” after over a year of doing its due diligence, the commission that made to investigate and adjudicate made the motion to presbytery to take Mr. [name omitted] credentials away because his “household was still not in order.”

Except for the attached Executive Minutes and a copy of the email stated above, there are no other records. Due to changes with the position of the Stated Clerk, there were three different Stated Clerks in the position through the time of this issue. The documents were not filed or misplaced. The only copy of the Executive Minutes that were found is the copy included with this response.

68. That the Minutes of **South Texas** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 30-31, 2015; April 24-25, 2015; August 14-15, 2015; and October 30-31, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

69. That the Minutes of **Southeast Alabama** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 31, 2015; March 31, 2015; April 28, 2015; and October 27, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **August 25, 2015 and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 22, 2013 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) –** Candidates' differences not recorded in his own words.  
**Response:** Attached is the result of diligent and thorough research to locate the candidates' statements of their differences (Appendix A 1-3). The statements of first two candidates (A, 1, 2) seem complete. An incomplete statement by (A, 3) in his own words, is attached; the files of the chairman of the Examination Committee can yield nothing further. This third candidate has responded that his files are in storage and unavailable at this time. This candidate, following ordination, transferred to another presbytery, and is no longer subject to our jurisdiction. Thence, we are unable to proceed beyond this in securing his statement.  
We also attached relevant portion of the minutes of the presbytery meeting on January 22, 2013. The inclusion of this present document in the minutes of Presbytery at this meeting (ie., the meeting in which this response is submitted and adopted) will achieve placing their exceptions in the record. We hope this diligent and good faith effort to comply will be satisfactory.  
[Attachment omitted.]
  - e. **As no response was received in 2015, response must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA.**  
**Exception: General (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) –** No record of how candidates' differences were judged by presbytery.
70. That the Minutes of **Southern Louisiana** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 24, 2015; April 25, 2015; July 25, 2015; and October 24, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**



71. That the Minutes of **Southern New England** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **May 19, 2015; May 30, 2015; and June 18, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 17, 2015; April 24, 2015; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: September 19, 2015 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of session concurrence with the dissolution of pastoral relation of assistant pastor.  
**Exception: September 19, 2015 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregational concurrence with the dissolution of pastoral relation of associate pastor.
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
72. That the Minutes of **Southwest** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 22-23, 2015 and April 23-24, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: April 23-24, 2015 (BCO 13-5, 6)** – The *BCO* permits an honorably retired minister to transfer presbyteries but he must still be examined per *BCO* 13-6.  
**Exception: April 23-24, 2015 (BCO 19-2.f; BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words. Mr. [name omitted]’s “updated statement” not included in minutes. Presbytery failed to keep a “full and accurate record.”  
**Exception: September 24-25, 2015 (BCO 18-2)** – Use of extraordinary clause for Mr. [name omitted] not explained.  
**Exception: January 22-23, 2015 and September 24-25, 2015 (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.6)** – Executive Session minutes not included.
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
73. That the Minutes of **Southwest Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **February 14, 2015; May 12, 2015; September 12, 2015; and October 10, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**

74. That the Minutes of **Suncoast Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 9, 2015 and September 15, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **May 8, 2015 and August 11, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
75. That the Minutes of **Susquehanna Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **None.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 14, 2015; September 22, 2015; and November 21, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: May 16, 2015 (BCO 13-6)** – No record of transfers' exams on their views in theology, sacraments, or church government.  
**Exception: May 16, 2015 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of citation for church to appear before Presbytery in a case of dissolution of pastoral relations.  
**Exception: September 22, 2015 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5)** – No judgment on candidate's stated differences.  
**Exception: November 21, 2015 (BCO 22-6)** – No record of Presbytery approving stated supply.  
**Exception: December 16, 2015 (BCO 13-6)** – Incomplete record of transfer exam.
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 25, 2014 and October 4, 2014 (BCO 13-11; 13-12)** – No recorded call for meeting attached for review.  
**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. The meetings were called by email and those emails are pasted below. [emails omitted]  
**Exception: February 15, 2014 (BCO 22-4; 23-1)** – Presbytery should not receive completed dissolution of call by Session but must terminate/dissolve call itself based on inputs of parties.  
**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. Presbytery believed that accepting the action of the session was the same thing as terminating the call.  
**Exception: May 17, 2014 (BCO 13-6; 21-4)** – No record of examination of TE transferring from another Presbytery.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. – TE [name omitted] was transferring as an RUF Campus Minister. He could not be present for the May meeting so to facilitate the move (something SVP was assured was common practice with transfers of RUF Ministers) the transfer was approved with the understanding (as indicated in the minutes) that further examination and action would be necessary at the September meeting – which was done. [Minutes omitted.]

**Exception: February 15, 2014; May 17, 2014; September 16, 2014; and November 15, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – No record of signing form of ministerial obligation on transfer into Presbytery.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. This was an oversight on the part of the Clerk and having been informed of the requirement all such forms have been signed and filed.

**Exception: May 17, 2014 (BCO 13-6; 21-4)** – Minister from another denomination should be fully examined or received under extraordinary clause.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. The Clerk failed to record the full examination of TE Mark Mathews, who was also fully examined by the CIE Committee.

**Exception: May 17, 2014 (BCO 21-4)** – No record of sermon or testimony.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. Three men listened to an online sermon by Trip Beans and reported their satisfaction with it to the CIE Committee in February 2014. The presbytery was informed orally that that had been done but it was not recorded by the Clerk.

**Exception: September 16, 2014 (BCO 23-1; 22-2)** – No record of congregational meeting to approve new/revised call of pastor changing status.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. New City Fellowship is a mission church so there was no call from the congregation. The meeting of the borrowed session in June approved the plan and a meeting of the “congregation” was held to inform and allow discussion before the issue was brought to presbytery.

**Exception: September 16, 2014** (BCO 22-2) – No record of congregational meeting to approve resignation prior to Presbytery acting on call.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. The congregation met and voted to accept the resignation on July 20, 2014, but it was not noted by the Clerk.

**Exception: November 15, 2014** (BCO 13-6) – No record of views exam on transfer into Presbytery.

**Response:** Presbytery agrees with the exception, corrects its actions and promises to be more careful in the future. The Reverend [name omitted] was being transferred as “Honorably Retired” and after a long examination of the previous man on the docket, while opportunity was given to ask questions from the floor, presbytery accepted his testimony as proof of his views being in accord with the Westminster Standards and the Presbyterian Church in America. The Clerk failed to record that fact.

**Exception: February 19, 2011** (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements for ordination exams not recorded.

**Response:** The action in Question: The examinations of Lic. [name omitted] continued with TE [name omitted] examining him in Theology. RE [name omitted] examined him in Church Government. M/S/C to sustain the Theology, Church History, and Book of Church Order examinations, and also to approve his theological paper. M/S/C to approve his sermon preached during the morning worship time. The ministerial obligation was signed.

M/S/C to approve the Clerk’s Proposed Response: *The examination was a continuation of one started in November 2010 as noted in the February minutes and those portions were approved in November.*

**Exception: February 19, 2011** (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged by presbytery.

**Response:** M/S/C to approve the Clerk’s Proposed Response: *The exceptions were presented and approved at the November 2010 meeting.*

- e. **As no responses were received in 2015, responses must be submitted to the 45<sup>th</sup> GA:**

**Exception: February 16, 2013 and September 17, 2013** (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements for ordination exam not recorded.

**Exception: February 16, 2013 and September 17, 2013** (BCO 13-7) – Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed.

**Exception: November 16, 2013** (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

**Exception: February 18, 2012; September 18, 2012; and November 17, 2012** (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer examination from another denomination.

**Exception: February 18, 2012 and May 19, 2012** (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5) -Candidates' exceptions are not stated in his own words.

**Exception: September 18, 2012** (BCO 20-1) – Ordination of TE, no record of call to a definite work.

**Exception: February 18, 2012; September 18, 2012; and November 17, 2012** (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer examination from another denomination.

**Exception: February 18, 2012 and May 19, 2012** (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) –Candidates' exceptions are not stated in his own words.

**Exception: September 18, 2012** (BCO 20-1) – Ordination of TE; no record of call to a definite work.

**Exception: February 19, 2011** (BCO 13-10) – No record of transfer or dismissal of members after dissolution of a church.

**Exception: November 19, 2011** (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational approval of dissolution of call.

**Exception: May 15, 2010; September 18, 2010; and November 20, 2010** (BCO 18-2) – No record of 6-month membership.

**Exception: February 20, 2010** (BCO 21-4) – Not all required elements of ordination exam included in the minutes.

76. That the Minutes of **Tennessee Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **January 10, 2015; April 18, 2015; July 14, 2015; and October 20, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 11, 2014** (BCO 23-1) – No record of request for dissolution of assistant pastor relationship; no record of dissolution of assistant pastor relationship.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee's assistance in correcting this oversight. On November 26, 2013, TE [name omitted] notified the Pastoral Care Committee of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery (TVP) of his resignation from East Ridge Presbyterian Church

(ERPC), and requested a change of call. On December 4, 2013, the Clerk of Session of ERPC, reported to the Pastoral Care Committee of the TVP that the Session of ERPC had voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Session and TE [name omitted], and to further request that the TVP approve the dissolution.

**Exception: April 12, 2014** (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregational concurrence in dissolving a pastoral relationship.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee's assistance in correcting this oversight. The congregation of Evergreen Presbyterian Church voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship of TE [name omitted] on February 23, 2014. The minutes of this congregational meeting were received by (and are on file with) the Pastoral Care Committee of the TVP. Similarly, the Session of Hixson Presbyterian Church reported to the Pastoral Care Committee of the TVP that the Session of Hixson Presbyterian had voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Session and TE [name omitted] on March 14, 2014, and it was further requested that the TVP approve the dissolution.

**Exception: July 8, 2014** (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call from congregation.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee's assistance in correcting this oversight, and we apologize for not recording TE [name omitted] call to Smoky Mountain Presbyterian Church. The call from the congregation was received, and was found to be in order. The call reads as follows: [call submitted and reviewed]

**Exception: July 8, 2014** (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of dissolution of assistant pastor relationship.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee's assistance in correcting this oversight. On May 7, 2014, the Session of New City Fellowship Church voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship of TE [name omitted]. This action was reported to the Pastoral Care Committee and the Stated Clerk of the TVP on May 9, 2014, and it was further requested that the TVP approve the dissolution.

**Exception: July 8, 2014** (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not evaluated by the presbytery according to prescribed categories.

**Response:** We respectfully disagree that this is required in these instances. On July 8, 2014, each of the men examined were being examined for transfer into the TVP from other presbyteries within the PCA, in accordance with *BCO* 13-9 and 20-9. In each exam, the minutes summarily reflect that each man was asked if his views on theology, Sacraments, church government, or the constitution of the

PCA had changed since his ordination. Each man stated that his views had not changed. Their respective exceptions are listed in their views as submitted in writing. However, based on their testimony that these views have not changed since ordination, and that such evaluations were made during their ordination exams in previous presbyteries, we do not believe it necessary to evaluate them according to the prescribed categories.

**Exception: October 14, 2014 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of session’s concurrence in dissolving an assistant pastor relationship.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee’s assistance in correcting this oversight. On October 3, 2014, the Session of Hixson Presbyterian Church voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship of TE John Southworth.

**Exception: October 14, 2014 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregational concurrence in dissolving a pastoral relationship.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee’s assistance in correcting this oversight. On September 17, 2014, the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church of Lookout Mountain, GA, voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship of TE [name omitted].

**Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b)** – Incomplete review of records of church sessions.

**Response:** We appreciate the Committee’s assistance in correcting this oversight, and we are currently discussing a more careful means of reviewing the records of each session within the TVP. Each session is asked to have their minutes reviewed, based on a predetermined schedule announced in the TVP directory. Sessions failing to appear are listed in the TVP minutes. However, to better follow-up with sessions who fail to have their minutes reviewed by our Review of Sessional Records Committee, in 2015 we started recording which sessions appeared and which sessions failed to appear on a spreadsheet; and we are discussing ways to better follow up with the sessions who failed to have their minutes reviewed.

77. That the Minutes of **Tidewater** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **June 4, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 7, 2015; April 28, 2015; October 1, 2015; General; and Directory.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: February 7, 2015 (BCO 21-4)** – Reasons for omitting portions of transfer exam not noted – no record of  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote.

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: February 1, 2014** (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.f.1) – Substitute motion mentioned but not included in minutes.

**Response:** This was an error on my part and will be noted for future use. I will work to ensure all motions and substitutes are clearly noted.

**Exception: June 3, 2014** (BCO 21-4.c) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

**Response:** This is an oversight that I thought was covered in the Membership Committee report that was attached as an appendix. I will note and correct this error.

**Exception: October 2, 2014** (BCO 23-1) – Congregational concurrence with dissolution of call not shown.

**Response:** This was an oversight on my part as I did not ask for the results of the Congregational meeting. This will be corrected.

78. That the Minutes of **Warrior** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exception: **January 20, 2015; April 28, 2015; July 7, 2015; and October 20, 2015.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **Directory.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

**d. That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**

**Exception: January 21, 2014** (BCO 46-8) – Membership of TE divested not recorded.

**Response:** Warrior Presbytery acknowledges that the record did not include the transfer of membership of the divested TE. This individual no longer lives within the bounds of Warrior Presbytery. The stated clerk made multiple attempts to contact him to ascertain where he would prefer to have his membership transferred. He never responded to these attempts. In the future, Warrior Presbytery will work to provide explanation in the record of such omitted items.

**Exception: January 21, 2014** (BCO 15-1) – Membership committee empowered to act as a commission; minutes of commission not entered into Presbytery minutes.

**Response:** The presbytery agrees with the finding of GA and is grateful that this oversight has been brought to our attention. As no minutes were kept during this portion of the membership committee meeting, we are unable to provide them for review. We will,



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however, work to keep minutes of this portion of future meetings and include them in presbytery minutes.

**Exception: October 12, 2014 (BCO 15-1)** – Minutes of commission not entered in record.

**Response:** Warrior Presbytery agrees that minutes of the commission were not entered in the record. Though a report concerning the commission was provided, the commission had not had any formal meetings and therefore had no minutes to provide. We will work to clarify this in future minutes.

79. That the Minutes of **Western Canada** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **October 2, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 6, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **No response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA or previous assemblies is required.**
80. That the Minutes of **Western Carolina** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **November 10, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 28, 2015; May 5, 2015; and August 1, 2015.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: February 28, 2015 (BCO 24-1; 12-3; Preliminary Principle 6)** – Presbytery approved a commission to act as the session of a particular church without record of congregational approval.  
**Exception: May 5, 2015 and August 1, 2015 (BCO 19-2)** – No record of required statement of differences with Standards.  
**Exception: May 5, 2015 (BCO 13-2)** – No record of “full concurrence” and agreeability of circumstances of a TE laboring out of bounds within the boundary of another Presbytery.
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: February 22, 2014 (BCO 13-7)** – No record of the ministerial obligation having been signed.  
**Response:** ‘On motion the following response to the Review of Presbytery Records Committee was approved: “Presbytery respectfully disagrees with the exception as the TE in question was already a member of the Presbytery and had previously signed the ministerial obligation.”’

81. That the Minutes of **Westminster** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **November 14, 2015 and December 1, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **July 11, 2015 and General.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:  
**Exception: January 10, 2015 (BCO 13-6, 21-4)** – No record of  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote to omit parts of exam of TE transfer.  
**Exception: January 10, 2015 (BCO 38-2)** – TE’s request for divestiture received and acted upon at same meeting.  
**Exception: March 14, 2015 (BCO 38-1)** – TE divested without full statement of facts or judgment rendered.  
**Exception: July 11, 2015 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5)** – No record of requiring stated differences with our standards.
  - d. **That the following response to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: Manual (RAO 16-3.e.5, 16-6.c (1))** – Includes a declaration that all officers and candidates must affirm, in violation of court’s power. SJC 2009-25/2009-26 (M39GA pp.548ff.) **(Note: vote on motion to strike failed 21-26-0)**  
**Response:** We are grateful for the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records, and your diligent work in the service of our Lord. In response to the exception of substance taken by the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly to resolution #4 of Appendix 2 of the Presbytery Manual, titled *Declaration on the Special Creation of Adam and Eve*, Presbytery unanimously voted a change in its Manual, effective as of its Stated Meeting on November 14, 2015, that has removed Appendix 2 in its entirety from the Manual.
82. That the Minutes of **Wisconsin** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 26, 2013; January 26, 2015; April 25, 2015; and September 6, 2015.**
  - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None.**
  - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
  - d. **That the following responses to the 44<sup>th</sup> GA exception be found satisfactory:**  
**Exception: January 26, 2013 (BCO 40-1; RAO 16-1)** – Missing minutes of called meeting.  
**Response:** This is most curious. The presbytery Stated Clerk e-mailed the minutes of the January 26, 2013 Called Meeting to the PCA Administrative Committee’s office on April 27, 2015. In

checking the .pdf file of the minutes attached to the e-mail, all three pages were present. Without speculating on what may have happened to the missing page 2, of the January 26, 2013 minutes, the Clerk will resend the minutes in question.

**Exception: September 13, 2014** (*BCO* 34-10; *BCO* 46-8) – Removed divestiture from a previous TE rather than followed ordination procedures.

**Response:** The presbytery consulted the PCA Stated Clerk’s office on how to remove divestiture but no one seemed to know the procedure. Advice given to the presbytery was to proceed as we thought best. The man was without call for three years, therefore presbytery divested him. Later, when the man received a call, presbytery removed the divestiture. The presbytery did make a good faith effort to determine the correct course of action in this matter.

## VI. Officers Elected for 2016-2017

Chairman: TE Patrick Morgan, Siouxlans Presbytery

Vice-Chairman: TE Matthew Bradley, Nashville Presbytery

Secretary: TE Hoochan Paul Lee, Korean Northeastern Presbytery

Assistant Secretary: TE Kenneth McHeard, New York State Presbytery

## VII. Members Present

Ascension	TE Stephen B. Tipton
Blue Ridge	TE Andy Wood
Calvary	TE Benjamin Shaw
Catawba Valley	TE Stephen O. Stout
Central Carolina	RE Flynt Jones
Central Georgia	TE Elliott Everitt
Central Indiana	TE Daniel Todd Herron
Chesapeake	TE J. Paul Warren
Chicago Metro	TE Dan Adamson
Covenant	TE James Llewellyn Codling
Eastern Canada	RE Allan Alexander Buist
Eastern Carolina	TE Todd Gwennap
Eastern Pennsylvania	TE David John Brewer
Evangel	TE Todd D. Gothard
Fellowship	RE Donald Gillespie
Great Lakes	TE Elliott S.W. Pinegar
Gulf Coast	RE Ben Brown

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**Members Present, continued**

Gulfstream	TE Timothy P. Weldon
Heartland	RE Peter Griffith
Heritage	TE Robert Schmidtberger
Houston Metro	RE Lee Joseph
Illiana	TE Jason Knox
Iowa	TE Timothy P. Diehl
James River	RE Richard E. Leino
Korean Capital	TE Dong Woo Kim
Korean Central	TE Luke Kyungmoon Kim
Korean Northeastern	TE Hoochan Paul Lee
Korean Southeastern	TE Edward Lim
Metro Atlanta	TE Dave Lindberg
Metropolitan New York	TE Jeffrey Choi
Mississippi Valley	TE J. Scott Phillips
Missouri	TE Timothy LeCroy
Nashville	TE Matthew Todd Bradley
New River	RE Barry Sheets
New York State	TE Kenneth McHeard
North Florida	RE Ernest Jennings
North Texas	TE Bobby G. Griffith, Jr.
Northern California	TE Sam Wheatley
Northern New England	TE Per Almquist
Northwest Georgia	TE Gregory A. King
Ohio	RE Peter T. Miller
Ohio Valley	RE Cecil New
Pacific	RE Dan Kaiser
Pacific Northwest	RE Michael Pfefferle
Palmetto	TE Lane Benton Keister
Piedmont Triad	TE Brian K. Deringer
Pittsburgh	TE Frank D. Moser
Potomac	TE William Evan Boyce
Rocky Mountain	TE Douglas Tharp
Savannah River	TE John Barrett
Siouxlands	TE Patrick J. Morgan
South Coast	TE Adam Feichtmann
South Florida	RE Terence Murdock
South Texas	TE Jon Christopher Anderson
Southeast Alabama	RE Gerald L. Whitaker
Southern Louisiana	RE Jack Owens
Southern New England	RE Chris Shoemaker

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**Members Present, continued**

Southwest	TE Thomas Edward Troxell
Southwest Florida	TE Freddy Fritz
Suncoast Florida	TE Jonathan Loerop
Susquehanna Valley	TE Erik David Swanson
Tennessee Valley	TE Doyle Allen
Tidewater	TE David Kenneth Christian
Warrior	TE Jeffrey Glenn Pate
Western Canada	TE Bradley Jones
Western Carolina	TE Jonathan D. Inman
Westminster	TE Rodney Barton

## APPENDIX R

### REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA June, 2016

#### I. Introduction to the Committee's Work

##### A. Purpose and Scope of Examinations

According to our *Book of Church Order*, Teaching Elders should seek office “out of a sincere desire to promote the glory of God in the Gospel of his Son.” In this same spirit, the Theological Examining Committee (comprising 3 Teaching Elders, 3 Ruling Elders, and 2 alternates) serves the General Assembly by ensuring that candidates for positions of influence in our denomination are both gifted for and committed to promoting the glory of God by promoting the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ. Our task according to *The Book of Church Order*, chapter 4, section 1.14, is to 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.”

##### B. Nature of Examinations

The examinations we administer resemble those for the ordination of Teaching Elders in the PCA, covering the following areas: Christian experience, theology, the sacraments, church government and the *BCO*, Bible content, church history, and the history of the PCA. Our standard procedure is to administer a written examination covering theological views, followed by an intensive oral examination, which covers not only views but knowledge in these areas.

#### II. Summary of the Committee's Work

In the past year, our committee has conducted two examinations:

- A. On October 13, 2015, we examined Mr. Jeff Sandhoff, Nominee for Vice President of Development at Covenant College. All areas of Mr. Sandhoff's exam were sustained and unanimously approved by the committee.

The Committee reviewed Mr. Sandhoff's written statement of personal difference with the Westminster Standards, included below, and deemed this difference "to be more than semantic, 'but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine' (*BCO 21-4*)."

*WCF 21:8* – I do take exception with reference to "recreation." I do believe some private recreational activities with my family are acceptable. I do exclude organized recreational activity to not be acceptable.

- B. On April 26, 2016, we examined TE Paul Hahn, Nominee for Coordinator of Mission to North America. All areas of Rev. Hahn's exam were sustained and unanimously approved by the committee.

The Committee reviewed Rev. Hahn's written statement of personal difference with the Westminster Standards, included below, and deemed this difference to be "more than semantic, 'but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine' (*BCO 21-4*)."

Tennessee Valley Presbytery had previously noted Rev. Hahn's difference (stated in different form) to be "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine because the difference is neither hostile to the system nor strikes at the vitals of religion" (*BCO 21-4*).

I take exception to the recreation and works of mercy clauses found in *WCF 21.8*; *WLC 117, 119*; and *WSC 60, 61* in the following manner:

As Holy Scripture and our standards affirm, there is an abiding validity to the Fourth Commandment. The emphasis of the commandment, it seems to me, is on rest and celebration – resting from our ordinary labors to uniquely worship the Living God, following him in his own rest, to celebrate his works of creation (as he did on the first Sabbath) and redemption.

The Christian Sabbath – now the Lord's Day, after the resurrection of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit – is to be set apart for meeting with the saints in gathered public worship through word and sacrament, resting uniquely in the grace of God as we do so, celebrating with the assembled saints the power and

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

wonder, and the love and mercy of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, through and because of the Gospel of Christ.

We should encourage and admonish the saints to embrace gathered worship with Christ's people and to cease from their ordinary labors. However, I do not believe that we to restrict what their rest should, or could, look like or to state explicitly that it cannot involve recreational activity that does not supplant the gathered worship of the saints.

Furthermore, I believe that works of mercy by Christians are to be encouraged on the Lord's Day, not mandated or enforced, or to function as a bounding on all other Lord's Day activity besides acts of public and private worship and deeds of necessity. In my view, there can, and should be, freedom in how Christians spend their Lord's Day in rest and worship, beyond attendance to the stated worship services of the church.

I have not held or taught these views in any proud or divisive manner, or disseminated them in any way to the detriment of the church, by God's grace. It is my privilege to submit to my brethren in the Lord!

I take no further exceptions to our standards.

### **III. Committee Correspondence**

As the previous chairman (Teaching Elder P. Clay Holland) and previous secretary (Ruling Elder Charles Waldron) rotate off the committee this year, Teaching Elder Guy Prentiss Waters (Mississippi Valley) and Ruling Elder William Blake Temple (Providence) have been elected to serve as Chair and Secretary, respectively. The Committee's minutes may be obtained through the Office of the Stated Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Guy Prentiss Waters, Chairman

RE William Blake Temple, Clerk



## APPENDIX S

### ATTENDANCE REPORT

City/State	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
<b>Ascension</b>			
Beaver, PA	Chapel	Tom Stein, Jr.	
Beaver Falls, PA	Christ	Larry Elenbaum	
Butler, PA	Westminster	Dan Ledford	Towner Scheffler
Ellwood City, PA	Berean	Bruce Gardner	
Erie, PA	West Erie	Marc Miller	
Franklin, PA	Christ Covenant Fel	Jeremy Coyer	
Harrisville, PA	Rocky Springs	Scott Fleming	
Industry, PA	Fairview Reformed	Jeffrey Zehnder	
Volant, PA	Hillcrest	Stephen Tipton	Steven Morley Jay Neikirk
<b>Blue Ridge</b>			
Blacksburg, VA	Grace Covenant	Taylor Rollo	Donald Weyburn
Charlottesville, VA	Grace Community	Tag Tuck Don Ward, Jr.	
	Trinity		Bill Porter
Culpeper, VA	Christ Covenant	Joe Holland, Jr.	
Draper, VA	Draper's Valley	Roland Mathews	
Harrisonburg, VA	Christ Covenant	Bill Leach Todd Pruitt	
Martinsville, VA	Hope	Dave Gilleran	
Roanoke, VA	Westminster	Kyle Ferguson Sean Morris	
Winchester, VA	Eagle Heights	Clenton Ilderton  Eric Noll	
<b>Calvary</b>			
Abbeville, SC	New Hope	John Fastenau	Pat Hodge
Clemson, SC	Clemson	Steve Dickey	Will Huss
Clinton, SC	Westminster	Jim Roberts	
Conestee, SC	Reedy River		Bill Boney
Easley, SC	Covenant	Larry Ferris, Jr.	
Greenville, SC	Downtown	Brian Habig	Mike Swart
	Eastside	Mark Auffarth	
	Horizon	Jim Stephenson	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Calvary, continued</b>			
Greenville, SC	Mitchell Road	William Castro Andy Lewis Rod Mays Mark Reed	Philip Temple
	Second	Rick Phillips	Mel Duncan Ken Safford Garry Moes
Greer, SC	Fellowship	Marty Martin	
Laurens, SC	Friendship	Robert Cathcart, Jr.	
Roebuck, SC	Mount Calvary	Richard Thomas	EC Burnett Frank Griffith
	Roebuck	Richard Winston	
Seneca, SC	Crossgate	Tom Musselman	
Simpsonville, SC	Christ Community	Paul Sanders Roger Sowder	
	Palmetto Hills	Joseph Franks IV Jacob Morrison	
	Woodruff Road	Scotty Anderson Dan Dodds Berti Kona Carl Robbins	Joe Harris George Hopson Fredric Marcinak Stephen Richman
Spartanburg, SC	Grace Trinity	Justin Kendrick Andrew Dionne	
		Joey Pipa	
<b>Catawba Valley</b>			
Belmont, NC	Goshen	James Almond	
Charlotte, NC	StoneBridge	Tim Mascara	
Huntersville, NC	Southlake	Adam Mumpower	
Mooreville, NC	Harbor	Michael Colvard	
Mount Ulla, NC	Back Creek	Bill Thrailkill	
		Sid Druen	
<b>Central Carolina</b>			
Albemarle, NC	Second Street	John Black	
Charlotte, NC	Christ Central	Howard Brown Drew Martin Charles McKnight III	

APPENDIX S

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>C. Carolina, continued</b>			
Charlotte, NC	Hope Community Sovereign Grace Uptown	Mark Upton Bill Barclay Tom Hawkes Mike Kruger Dave Kulp	Forde Britt
Ellerbe, NC	First	Stan Layton	Timm Dazey
Fayetteville, NC	Cross Creek	Monty Kirk III	Brent Andersen
Matthews, NC	Christ Covenant	Brian Peterson Mike Ross	Jim Sutton
Waxhaw, NC	Grace Community	Harrison Spitler  Dean Faulkner	
<b>Central Florida</b>			
Eustis, FL	New Hope	Richard Burguet	
Homosassa, FL	Nature Coast Comm	Brad Bresson	
Lake Mary, FL	River Oaks	David Camera	
Lecanto, FL	Seven Rivers	Paul Manuel	
Maitland, FL	Orangewood	Joe Creech	
Orlando, FL	Christ United Fell St. Paul's University	Mike Aitcheson Justin Borger Michael Hart BJ Milgate Matthew Ryman	John Maynard
Ormond Beach, FL	Coquina	Neal Ganzel, Jr.	
Palm Bay, FL	Covenant	Ben Harris	
Port Orange, FL	Spruce Creek		Rick
Bartholomew			Vic Headley
Spring Hill, FL	Dayspring	Robert Barnes	
Vero Beach, FL	Christ the King		Zach Aills
Winter Springs, FL	Willow Creek	Kevin Labby  Don Bailey, Jr. Burk Parsons Kevin Struyk John Tweeddale Chuck Williams Lee Wright	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Central Georgia</b>			
Eatonton, GA	Lake Oconee	Sam Smith	George Rountree Rush Utley
Forsyth, GA	Dayspring	Dean Conkel	
Kathleen, GA	Houston Lake	Paul Bankson Randy Saye	
Macon, GA	First	John Kinser Justin Leslein Andy Wyatt	Chuck Duggan Mike Peed
	North Macon	Joshua Garrett Hunter Stevenson	Jason Churchwell Rob Morton
Milledgeville, GA	Strong Tower Fell Covenant	Gary Leibovich	Doug Pohl
Valdosta, GA	Redeemer Valdosta	Scott Horne  Elliott Everitt	
<b>Central Indiana</b>			
Bloomington, IN	Hope	Dan Herron	
Indianapolis, IN	Redeemer	Pat Hickman Jamie MacGregor	
Muncie, IN	Westminster	Kristofer Holroyd	
Richmond, IN	Christ		Jon Ford
<b>Chesapeake</b>			
Aberdeen, MD	Living Hope	Donald Dove	
Annapolis, MD	Evangelical	Bruce O'Neil Dan Smith	
Baltimore, MD	Abbott Memorial	Hansoo Jin	
	Faith Christian Fell	Craig Garriott Stan Long	
	Inverness	Arch Van Devender	
	New Song Comm	Louis Wilson	
Columbia, MD	City of Hope	Irwyn Ince, Jr.	
Forest Hill, MD	Forest Hill	Jason Van Bommel	
Lutherville, MD	Valley	Fowler White	
Marriottsville, MD	Chapelgate	Mike Khandjian Jim McKee Dan Passerelli	Ronnie Tallent Ed Wright
Millersville, MD	Severn Run Evan	Jesse Crutchley	Jeremiah Horner

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Chesapeake, continued</b>			
Pasadena, MD	Pasadena Evan	Tom Wenger	
	Severna Park Evan	Glenn Parkinson	
Relay, MD	Grace Reformed	Josiah Katumu	
Severn, MD	Grace Point	Josh Sillaman	
Stevensville, MD	Safe Harbor	Tony Lombardo	
		Todd Williams	
		Daniel Iverson III	
		Wy Plummer	
<b>Chicago Metro</b>			
Chicago, IL	Lincoln Square	Chad Lewis	
Frankfort, IL	Peace Community	Kurt Kruger	
Lansing, IL	First	Ben Kappers	
	Grace		Leroy Childress
New Lenox, IL	Missio Dei	Paul Vroom	
Winnetka, IL	Grace	Jason Little	
		Ted Powers	
		Paul Taylor III	
<b>Covenant</b>			
Carrollton, MS	Carrollton		Mike Allday
Cleveland, MS	Covenant	Ashley Dusenbery	
Columbus, MS	Main Street	Todd Matocha	
Conway, AR	Christ	Kevin Hale	
Cordova, TN	Grace Community	Nathan Tircuit	
Corinth, MS	Trinity	Sam McDonald	
Fayetteville, AR	Christ Community	Hunter Bailey	
	Covenant		Lee House
			John Redwine
Greenwood, MS	Westminster	Richard Owens	
Houston, MS	Houston	Don Locke	
Indianola, MS	First	Eric Zellner	
Jackson, TN	Covenant	Steven Wright	
Joplin, MO	Christ the King	Reed Dunn	
Little Rock, AR	Central	Daniel Anderson	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Covenant, continued</b>			
Memphis, TN	Independent	Samuel Husband Parker Tenent	Cannon Allen
Olive Branch, MS	Redeemer	Jeffrey Lancaster	
Oxford, MS	Christ	Robert Browning	
	Christ	Jamie Peterson, Sr. Curt Presley III	
Rogers, AR	College Hill	Justin McGuire	
	Trinity Grace	Chris Miller Christopher Taylor	
Sherwood, AR	Trinity Fellowship	Mike Fennema	
Siloam Springs, AR	Redeemer	Ted Wenger	
Starkville, MS	Grace	Bill Heard	
Tupelo, MS	Lawndale	Andy Coburn	
Water Valley, MS	First	Harold Spraberry	
		Carl Chaplin Alan Cochet James Codling Ed Eubanks, Jr. Tom Mirabella Brian Sorgenfrei	
<b>Eastern Canada</b>			
Bedford, NS	Bedford	Bill Radford	
Ottawa, ON	Resurrection	Ben Jolliffe	
Toronto, ON	Grace Toronto	Kyle Hackmann	
<b>Eastern Carolina</b>			
Cary, NC	Peace	Doug Domin	Bill Haynes
Clayton, NC	Clayton Community	John Musgrave	
Durham, NC	Christ Central	Timothy Price	
	Good Shepherd	Chuck Jacob	John Sanders Ray Toher Bruce Wells
Jacksonville, NC	Harvest	Grant Beachy	
Morrisville, NC	Trinity Park	Corey Jackson	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Eastern Carolina, continued</b>			
Raleigh, NC	Calvary	Nate Wilks	
	Christ The King	James Sutton	
	Midtown Community	Gorden Fleming Lindsey Williams	
Wake Forest, NC	Redeemer	Daniel Seale	
	Christ Our Hope	Timothy Sharpe	
	Christ	Todd Gwennap David Osborne	
Winterville, NC		Crawford Stevener	
<b>Eastern Pennsylvania</b>			
Dresher, PA	New Life	Anthony Gammage	
	Emmaus, PA	West Valley	Mark Howard
		John Burch Jonathan Eide David Green	
<b>Evangel</b>			
Alabaster, AL	Cornerstone	Jeph Guinan	Levoy Bankson
Alpine, AL	Salem	Bill Maynor	
Birmingham, AL	Altadena Valley	Brad Allison	
	Briarwood	Frank Barker, Jr.	Roger Cartwright
		Mark Cushman	Tom Harris, Jr.
		Lynn Downing	Doug Haskew
		Howard Eyrich	Jim Jackson
		Kotaro Hamamatsu	Lee McCarty
		Jacob Jasin	Dave Morey
		Dave Matthews	Bert Mullis, Jr.
		Bobby Parks	Lamar Thomas
		Harry Reeder III	Dave Wood
		Seth Richardson	Charles Woodall
		Benny Youngblood, Jr.	
		Cahaba Park	Matthew Goodman Murray Lee Ken Stuart III

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Evangel, continued</b>			
	Covenant	Bill Boyd Danny Giffen Bill Hay	
	Faith	Alan Carter Carl Smith Martin Wagner	
	Household of Faith Oak Mountain	Larry Cockrell Bob Flayhart Tom Patton III Gary Purdy	
	Red Mountain	Will Spokes	Miles Gresham John Pickering
Fairfield, AL	Third Urban Hope	Hunter Twitty Alton Hardy	
Hoover, AL	Cross Creek	Chris Peters	Paul Johnson
Moody, AL	Community	Burt Boykin, Jr. Quinn Hill	
Pell City, AL	Lakewood	Daniel Leavengood	
Pleasant Grove, AL	Pleasant Grove	Jim Maples	
Rainbow City, AL	Rainbow	Robbie Hendrick	
San Juan, PR	Iglesia La Travesía	Ronnie Garcia	
Springville, AL	Christ Community	Rick Hutchinson	
Talladega, AL	Southwood		Paul Golden
Trussville, AL	Christ	James Dickson	Taylor Denard
		Tom Cannon	
<b>Fellowship</b>			
Chester, SC	Trinity	Richard Wheeler	Joe Branham, Sr.
	Zion	Al Ward, Jr.	
Clover, SC	Bethel	Marcus Van Blake	Ruling Elder
Fort Mill, SC	Christ Ridge	Michael Dixon	Tom Neagle
Gaffney, SC	Salem	Toby Pope	
Lake Wylie, SC	Scherer Memorial	Aaron Morgan Alan Wiley	Joe Glenn Mark Myhal
McConnells, SC	Olivet	Chip McArthur	
Rock Hill, SC	Westminster	Mike Honeycutt	Donald Gillespie
Van Wyck, SC	Trinity	Dieter Paulson	
York, SC	Filbert	David Hall Wallace Tinsley, Jr.	Randy Gieselmann Dan Hall



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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Georgia Foothills</b>			
Athens, GA	Lord of Glory Redeemer	Parker James Hal Farnsworth	Matt Siple
Blairsville, GA	Grace	Daniel Henderson Jon Jacobs	
Chestnut Mtn, GA	Chestnut Mountain	Dee Hammond Ben Phillips	Bryan Black Steve Bennett Jack Wilson Richard Dolan
Clarkesville, GA	Christ	Brandon Meeks	
Duluth, GA	Old Peachtree	Alan Johnson	
Lawrenceville, GA	Ivy Creek	Charles Garland	
Suwanee, GA	Chris	Jeff Wreyford	
Watkinsville, GA	Faith	Steven Brooks Bob McAndrew	
		Justin Clement Stephen Estock Bruce Owens Roy Taylor	
<b>Grace</b>			
Bay St. Louis, MS	Lagniappe	Carey Hammett	Bob Lee Tim Murr Sam Duncan Grant Bennett Robert Jackson Bill Stanway
Biloxi, MS	First	Tim Horn	
Centreville, MS	Thomson Memorial	Eric Greene	
Crystal Springs, MS	First	Jim Shull	
Gulfport, MS	First	Guy Richard	
Hattiesburg, MS	Bay Street	Brian Davis	
	First	Benjamin Griffith Sean Lucas	
	Woodland	Joe Steele III	
McComb, MS	New Covenant	Jim Plunk	
Moss Point, MS	Moss Point	Randy Kimbrough	
Picayune, MS	First	Chris O'Brien	
Waynesboro, MS	Waynesboro	Allen Stanton	
		Jack Chinchin Larry Mills Matthew Schilling	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Great Lakes</b>			
Ann Arbor, MI	Christ	Kevin Chen	
East Lansing, MI	University Reformed	Jason Helopoulos Jon Saunders	Allan Knapp Peeter Lukas Tim McCormick Greg Molin Roger Dean
Ft. Wayne, IN	Providence		
Harrison T'ship, MI	Knox	Doug Graham	
Holland, MI	Redeemer	Chip Byrd	
Midland, MI	Christ Covenant	Dave Sarafolean	Wes Reynolds
Royal Oak, MI	New City	Ryan McVicar	
Traverse City, MI	Redeemer	Scott Korljan	
		Elliott Pinegar	
<b>Gulf Coast</b>			
Atmore, AL	First	Jim Thorpe	
Cantonment, FL	Pinewoods	Joel Treick	
Crestview, FL	Grace Redeemer PCA	David Young	
Destin, FL	Cornerstone	Dewey Roberts	
	Safe Harbor		Bill Croysdale
Fairhope, AL	Eastern Shore	Michael Brock	Mike McCrary
		Pat Davey	
Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Westminster	Bill Tyson	Gordon Eldridge Mark Koch
Gulf Breeze, FL	Concord	Jonathan Becker	Nathan Witter
Gulf Shores, AL	Grace Fellowship	Rick Fennig	T.J. Neely
Loxley, AL	Loxley	Timothy Rott	Henry Russell
Mobile, AL	Christ	Joshua Sparkman	
	Grace Community	Jim Bryars	
		Ben Nelson	
	Trinity Family	Scott Moore	
Niceville, FL	First	Joe Grider	Clark Furlong Bill Kuh
Panama City, FL	Covenant	Cory Colravy	
	First	Ron Brown	Lawrence Howell
Pensacola, FL	Fairfield	Ralph De LaGuardia	
	McIlwain Memorial	Rob Looper	George Earles
		Dennis Louis	Brent McMahan
Tallahassee, FL	CenterPoint	Jonathan Robson	
	Wildwood	Tom Rubino	Ben Brown
		Dennis Eide	
		Bob Hornick	
		Lanier Wood	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Gulfstream</b>			
Boca Raton, FL	Spanish River	Tommy Kiedis Dan Myers	Ron Tobias
Jupiter, FL	Sand Harbor	Andrew Jacobson	
Lake Worth, FL	Lake Osborne	Tim Weldon	
Port St. Lucie, FL	Christ the King	JC Cunningham	
Stuart, FL	Grace	Bernie van Eyk	
Wellington, FL	Christ Community	Peter Bartuska	
<b>Heartland</b>			
Kansas City, MO	Christ	Andrew Barnes	
Olathe, KS	New Hope	Jim Baxter Paul Reynolds	
Wichita, KS	Evangel Heartland Community	Tim Rackley Rick Franks	Brad Hansen
<b>Heritage</b>			
Dover, DE	Grace	Kenny Foster Jonathan Seda	
Kemblesville, PA	Cornerstone		Bruce Boone George Pauley
Lewes, DE	New Covenant	Robert Dekker	
Newark, DE	Evangelical	Jay Harvey III	Bill Zinkand
Painter, VA	Shore	Steve Jones	
Salisbury, MD	Providence	Jason Shelton	
Wilmington, DE	Faith	Thomas Harr, Jr.  Rick Gray William Haines	
<b>Houston Metro</b>			
Cypress, TX	King's Cross Cypress	Dennis Hermerding	
Houston, TX	Covenant	Lou Veiga Julian Zugg	
Katy, TX	Christ	Fred Greco Duncan Rankin	Neal Hare David Morris
Lufkin, TX	Covenant	Mark O'Neill	
Spring, TX	Spring Cypress	Dave Muntsinger Mitch Welborn	
The Woodlands, TX	Grace	Blake Arnoult Jim Bland III	Danny McDaniel

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Illiana</b>			
Carbondale, IL	Grace	Curran Bishop	
Coulterville, IL	Grandcote Reformed	James Stark	Phillip Birchler
Cutler, IL	Reformed	Curt Rabe	
Edwardsville, IL	Center Grove	Craig Frazier	
		Wes James	
	Providence		Tom Rayborn
Marissa, IL	Marissa	James Ryan	
Newburgh, IN	Providence	Jerry Straight	
<b>Iowa</b>			
Ames, IA	New Parish	George Edema	
Des Moines, IA	Redeemer	Wayne Larson	
Hospers, IA	Hospers	Brian Janssen	
Ledyard, IA	Bethany Evan& Ref	Sam Belz	
Orange City, IA	Harvest	James Hakim	
<b>James River</b>			
Chester, VA	Centralia	Dan Lipford	
Fredericksburg, VA	Evident Grace Fell	Gordon Duncan	Jeremy
Greenberg			
	New City Fell	Bob Becker	Jeff Cox
			Doc Murdock
	New Life in Christ	Douglas Kittredge	Robert
Rumbaugh			
Hopewell, VA	West End	Eddie Reed, Jr.	
	West Hopewell		Pat Maddox
Mechanicsville, VA	Knox Reformed	Clyde Bowie	
Midlothian, VA	Sycamore	Harry Long	
Richmond, VA	All Saints Reformed	Dennis Bullock	
	City	Erik Bonkovsky	James Murphy
	Crown and Joy	Leon Brown	
	Northside	Matt Lorish	
	Stony Point Ref	Steven Constable	Dan Carrell
			Leonard Joyce
	West End	Joe Brown	
Stafford, VA	Hope of Christ	Leonard Bailey	Rich Leino

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City/State	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
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**Korean Capital**

Centreville, VA	Christ Central	Owen Lee	
Chantilly, VA	Korean	Yong Ho Cha	
Vienna, VA	Church All Nations	Wonki Hong	

**Korean Central**

Elmhurst, IL	Vineyard	Sun Sik Park	
St. Louis, MO	Korean	Luke Kim	
		Abraham Hong	

**Korean Eastern**

State College, PA	State College Korean	Jonathan Kim	
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**Korean Northeastern**

Cliffside Park, NJ	Glory Community	Paul Lee	
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**Korean Southeastern**

Auburn, AL	Se Um	John Kim	
Charlotte, NC	Charlotte	Sung Kyun Na	
Ft. Walton Beach, FL	FWB Intnat'l Comm	Joshua Jea	
Knoxville, TN	Korean Sarang	Jin Eun Jung	
Melbourne, FL	Open Kingdom	Paul Cha	
Orlando, FL	Orlando Korean	Jae Lee	
Peachtree Crnrs, GA	New Church	Bill Sim	Yangsup Shim
Pike Road, AL	MontgOpen Kingdm	Kyung Jae Seo	
Suwanee, GA	Grace Community	Eddie Lim	
		Billy Park	

**Korean Southwest**

San Fernando, CA	Gateway	Sang Kim	
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**Korean Southwest Orange County**

Fullerton, CA	New Life		Alex Jun
		Jaymes Jung	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Lowcountry</b>			
Beaufort, SC Charleston, SC	First Scots	Alex Mark	Dean Ezell
	Church Creek Christ Church	Ross Hodges Jon Payne	
Hilton Head Is, SC	Hilton Head	William McCutchen	Rich Wyllly
		Andrew Shank	
Orangeburg, SC	Eastbridge	John Mark Patrick	William Schweitzer
	Trinity		
<b>Metro Atlanta</b>			
Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Westside	Walter Henegar Chris Talley	Curtis Brown
	Brookhaven	Zach Bradley Hace Cargo	
	ChristChurch	Peter Jackson Dave Lindberg	
	Church Redeemer	James Brock Ewan Kennedy	
	City	Scott Armstrong Mike Boland	
	Intown Community	Jimmy Agan	
	Shalom City	Daniel Iverson IV	
	St. Paul's	Hung Truong Tolivar Wills	
	Village	Matthew Armstrong	
	Westminster	Aaron Messner Erik Veerman	
Covington, GA Fayetteville, GA Johns Creek, GA	Trinity	Rob Rienstra	Dan Case Gordon Moore John Purcell III Randy Renbarger Bryan White
	Covenant	Jamie Lambert	
	Perimeter	Ryan Brown Bob Cargo	
		Charles Hooper, Jr.	
		Randy Pope	
		Randy Schlichting	
		Jerry Schriver	
		Robert Scott	
		Allen Smith	
		Monte Starkes Chip Sweney	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
Marietta, GA	East Cobb	Paul Owens	
Norcross, GA	Christos Community	Alex Villasana	
Peachtree City, GA	Carriage Lane	Doug Griffith	Bob Abernathy
		Timothy Gwin	Spencer Gray
		Chris Sewell	
		Dale Zarlenga	
Snellville, GA	Brookwood		Ray Holton
Stockbridge, GA	The Rock	Chad Bailey	
Stone Mountain, GA	Grace	David Balzer	
		Al LaCour III	
		Stephen Maginas	
		Brian Oaks	
		Michael Phillips	

**Metropolitan New York**

Astoria, NY	Queens	Jeffrey Choi	
		Jon Storck	
Manhasset, NY	Living Faith Comm		Peter Ong
Montclair, NJ	Redeemer	Daniel Ying	
New York, NY	Redeemer	Aaron Bjerke	William Gough
		Abraham Cho	Bruce Terrell
		Tim Keller	
		Bijan Mirtolooi	
		Ed Sirya	
		Jeffrey White	
	Uptown Comm	Reyn Cabinte	
Oyster Bay, NY	North Shore Comm	John Yenchko	
Short Hills, NJ	Covenant	Donny Friederichsen	
Suffern, NY	All Souls Comm	William Reinmuth	
Teaneck, NJ	Grace Redeemer	Peter Wang	
		Mark Robinson	

**Mississippi Valley**

Bailey, MS	Bailey	Eric Mabbott	
Belzoni, MS	First	Jonathan McGuire	Richard Cobb
		Richard Wiman	
Brandon, MS	Brandon	John Dawson	
Byram, MS	Grace	Roger Collins	
Carthage, MS	Carthage	Perry McCall	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Mississippi Valley, continued</b>			
Clinton, MS	Providence		Brian Gault
Delhi, LA	Delhi	Chris Wright	Troy Richards
Jackson, MS	First	Billy Dempsey	Bud Bratley
		Gabriel Fluhrer	Crane Kipp
		Ralph Kelley	Bill Moore
		Wiley Lowry III	Jim Tohill
		David Strain	Alan Walters
			Mark Windham
	Redeemer	Ryan Dean	
Kosciusko, MS	First	Trey Owens III	Hugh Potts, Jr.
Lexington, MS	First	Scott Huber	
Louisville, MS	First	Scott Phillips	
Meridian, MS	Northpointe	Bob Schwanebeck, Jr.	
Raymond, MS	Raymond	David Irving	Paul Adams
Ridgeland, MS	Highlands	Lee Hutchings	Ford Mosby
		Bradford Mercer	Kevin Russell
		Joseph Wheat III	
Vicksburg, MS	Westminster	Scott Reiber	
Winona, MS	First	Ryan Biese	
Yazoo City, MS	First	Charles Wingard	
	Second	Nicholas Bullock	Will Thompson
		Jim Baird	
		Bruce Baugus	
		Nate Bonham	
		Hunter Brewer	
		Ligon Duncan III	
		Wayne Herring	
		Mark Lowrey, Jr.	
		Fred Marsh	
		Seth Starkey	
		Guy Waters	
<b>Missouri</b>			
Ballwin, MO	Twin Oaks	Russell St. John	Terry Jones
		Bob Stuart	
Chesterfield, MO	Chesterfield	Hugh Barlett	Carl Gillam
		Matt Esswein	
		Tim Jackson	
Columbia, MO	Christ Our King	Tim LeCroy	
	Redeemer	Ryan Speck	



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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Missouri, continued</b>			
Kirkwood, MO	Trinity	Chris Polski Nate Taylor	
Maplewood, MO	Crossroads	Daniel Song	
St. Louis, MO	Cornerstone	Aaron Hofius	
	Covenant	Ryan Laughlin Eric Whitley	
	Good Shepherd	Bill Wade, Jr.	
	Grace & Peace Fel	Kurt Lutjens Thurman Williams	
	Kirk of the Hills	Craig Doctor	John Tubbesing
	New City Fellowship	Barry Henning Tony Myles	
	New City South City	Kevin Vanden Brink	
	South City	Sam Haist Mike Higgins	KJ Drake
Wentzville, MO	New Creation	Loren Bell  Jake Bennett Wilson Benton, Jr. Chris Bryan Terrance Clarke, Jr. Michael Curtis Mark Dalbey Ross Dixon Jim Hatch Matthew Haynes Dale Hollenbeck Jason Polk William Yarbrough	
<b>Nashville</b>			
Brentwood, TN	All Saints	Matthew Bradley	
Columbia, TN	Zion	Paul Joiner	Thomas Quinn
Cookeville, TN	Grace	Chris Donnelly	
Franklin, TN	Christ Community	Ken Leggett Tony Giles Nathan Shurden	
	Cornerstone		
	Parish	Cameron Clausing George Grant	Nathan George
Goodlettsville, TN	Faith		John Pink

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Nashville, continued</b>			
Mt. Juliet, TN Nashville, TN	Hickory Grove Christ	Michael Graham David Filson Scott Sauls	Bob Stewart
	City Covenant	Jeff Wilkins Billy Barnes	Bryce Sullivan Jack Watkins
	Midtown Fellowship West End Comm	Russ Ramsey Eric Ashley Steven Edging	
Nolensville, TN Tullahoma, TN	Southpointe Comm Covenant	Matt Ballard Len Hendrix, Jr.	
		Gavin Breeden Charles DeWitt Charles McGowan Marvin Padgett, Jr. Steve Robertson Kevin Twit	
<b>New Jersey</b>			
Allenwood, NJ Fairton, NJ Mount Laurel, NJ Sewell, NJ	Calvary		Ric Springer
	Fairfield	Mike Schuelke	
	Grace	Ted Trefsgar, Jr.	John Mardirosian
	Mercy Hill	Phil Henry Brent Kilman	
<b>New River</b>			
Barboursville, WV Morgantown, WV	Providence Ref Mercy	Mark Kozak Curtis Stapleton	Matt Kim
<b>New York State</b>			
Ballston Spa, NY Duanesburg, NY Ithaca, NY Queensbury, NY Rochester, NY	Hope	Nate Thompson	
	Duanesburg Ref	Kenneth McHeard	
	New Life	Steve Froehlich	
	Redeemer Ref	John Stovall	
	Grace	Marc Swan	
Syracuse, NY Wellsville, NY	New City Fell	Chris Holdridge	
	Christ	Jonathan Hood	
	Presbyterian	Tom Kristoffersen	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>North Florida</b>			
Jacksonville, FL	Christ	Dave Abney Chuck Colson Keith Dickerson	
Live Oak, FL	Westminster	Jim McCarthy	
St. Johns, FL	Community Cross Creek	Joseph Hatcher Keith Snow	
		Tim Carper Tommy Park, Jr. Rod Whited	
<b>North Texas</b>			
Amarillo, TX	Redeemer	Christopher Thomas	
Carrollton, TX	Christ	Bill Lovell	
Colleyville, TX	Colleyville	Josh Anderson	
Dallas, TX	Bethel	Anton Heuss	
	New St. Peter's	John Buerger	Jeff Murray
		Colin Peters	Jim Pocta
	Park Cities	Matthew Fray	Brad Bradley
		Paul Goebel	Tim Jeffress
		William Lamberth, Jr.	Bill Thomas
		Jeffrey White	Steven
Vanderhill			
Denton, TX	Denton	Robert Wagner	
Flower Mound, TX	Christ	John Canales	
Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth	Ryan Moore	
	Grace Community	Kyle Oliphint	
	Trinity	Brian Davis	
Frisco, TX	Christ Community	Patrick Poteet	
Gordonville, TX	Sherwood Shores	David Frierson	
Harker Heights, TX	Hill Country PCA	Lou Best	
Lancaster, TX	Christ the King	Kevin Gladding Patrick Lafferty	
Lubbock, TX	Providence	Ronnie Rowe	
McKinney, TX	Redeemer	Bryant McGee	Charles Broom
Norman, OK	Christ the King	Mike Biggs	
Oklahoma City, OK	City	Bobby Griffith Doug Serven	
Owasso, OK	Trinity	Blake Altman	Mike Phelps
Plano, TX	Trinity	Michael Wichlan	
Richardson, TX	Town North	David Rogers	David Hitt

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>North Texas, continued</b>			
Stillwater, OK	Grace	Ryan Baker	
Temple, TX	Redeemer	David Rapp	
Tulsa, OK	Christ	Jason Bobo	
		Jeremy Fair	
Tyler, TX	Redeemer	Ben Wheeler	
		Ryan Anderson	
		Keith Berger	
		Richard Boyd	
		Brent Corbin	
		Shane Hatfield	
		David O'Dowd	
		Matthew Odum	
		Daniel Smith	
<b>Northern California</b>			
Clovis, CA	Grace Clovis	Brad Mills	
Elk Grove, CA	Soaring Oaks	Lance Lewis	
Fresno, CA	Sierra View	Sean Henderson	
Kailua Oahu, HI	Trinity	Nathaniel Thompson	
Palo Alto, CA	Grace	Robert Crossland	
Paradise, CA	Ridge	Tom Savage	
Paso Robles, CA	Covenant	Daniel Katches	
Riverton, UT	Gospel	Doug McNutt	
Roseville, CA	Valley Springs	Brad Anderson	John Christopher
Salt Lake City, UT	City	Mark Peach	
	New Song	Sam Wheatley	
San Luis Obispo, CA	Trinity	Jon Medlock	
		Mark Fairbrother	
		Chris Robins	
<b>Northern Illinois</b>			
Aledo, IL	Trinity	Daren Dietmeier	
Freeport, IL	Grace Fellowship	Justin Coverstone	Rob Vock
Hanna City, IL	Hanna City	David Keithley	Fred Winterroth
Normal, IL	Christ	Brad Lucht	
Paxton, IL	Westminster	Steve Jones	
Urbana, IL	All Souls	Luke Herche	
Watseka, IL	Amazing Grace	Scott Ki II	

APPENDIX S

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Northern New England</b>			
Lewiston, ME	Free Grace	Per Almquist	
Portland, ME	Christ the Redeemer	Sean Roberts	
<b>Northwest Georgia</b>			
Canton, GA	Cherokee	Ross Ritter	
Carrollton, GA	King's Chapel	Andrew Hendley	
Dallas, GA	Grace Covenant	Ben Duncan	
Douglasville, GA	Chapel Hill	Thomas Myers	
	Grace	Clif Daniell	
		David Gilbert	
Marietta, GA	Christ	Toby Holt	Bruce Avery
	Hope	Martin Hawley	
Powder Springs, GA	Midway	Ben Thomas	Clay David
			Rodney Pritchett
			Bob Whitaker
Rome, GA	Seven Hills Fell	Bob Burns	Patrick Matson
Woodstock, GA	Christ Covenant	Ted Lester, Jr.	Tom Chapman
		Robert Lester	
		Wes Calton	
		Legree Finch, Jr.	
<b>Ohio</b>			
Columbus, OH	Grace Central		Sean Dockery
	Grace Grandview	Joe Haack	
Dublin, OH	Northwest	Dave Schutter	
Hilliard, OH	New City	James Kessler	
		Mike Sloan	
Hudson, OH	Grace	Rhett Dodson	
	Redeemer		Mark Van Drunen
		Nate Bower	
<b>Ohio Valley</b>			
Cincinnati, OH	New City	Brian Ferry	
		Josh Reitano	
Danville, KY	Grace PCA	Shane Terrell	Kevin Dilbeck
Elizabethtown, KY	Grace		Jerry Pierce

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Ohio Valley, continued</b>			
Lexington, KY	Tates Creek	Robert Cunningham Mark Randle Will Witherington	Ronald Whitley
Louisville, KY	Redeemer		Steve King
Ludlow, KY	Trinity	Charles Hickey	Shay Fout
Mason, OH	N Cincinnati Comm	Michael Craddock	
Middlesboro, KY	Grace Fellowship		Floyd Johnson
		Dave Dively Larry Hoop Walter Wood, Jr.	
<b>Pacific</b>			
Bakersfield, CA	Covenant	Randy Martin	
Glendale, CA	Calvary	Philip George	
Las Vegas, NV	Spring Meadows	Tim Posey	
Long Beach, CA	King's	Robin Lee	
Los Angeles, CA	Pacific Crossroads	Joshua Geiger	
North Hills, CA	Valley	Ron Svendsen	
Santa Barbara, CA	Christ	Paul Ranheim	Edd Noell
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>			
Anchorage, AK	Faith	John Jones IV	
Beaverton, OR	Evergreen	Nathan Lewis	
Bellingham, WA	Christ	Daniel Robbins Nate Walker Brad Chaney	
Boise, ID	All Saints	E.C. Bell	
Newberg, OR	Chehalem Valley	Andy Krasowski	
Poulsbo, WA	Liberty Bay		Howie Donahoe
Redmond, WA	Redeemer Redmond	Jason Davison	
Seattle, WA	Green Lake	Michael Kelly	
	Living Hope	Matt Bohling	
Spokane, WA	Coram Deo	Kyle Parker	
Vancouver, WA	Westminster	Jerid Krulish	

APPENDIX S

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Palmetto</b>			
Aiken, SC	New Covenant	Jeremiah Rivera	
Blythewood, SC	Blythewood	Jim Powell	
Columbia, SC	Cornerstone	Robert Korn	
	St. Andrews	Jason Hunt	Bob Bryant Bryan Clifton Adam Williams
Irmo, SC	Faith	Karl McCallister	
Lexington, SC	Lexington	Cameron Kirker	
Winnsboro, SC	Lebanon	Lane Keister	
<b>Pee Dee</b>			
Andrews, SC	Andrews	Clint Stockton	
Cheraw, SC	Faith	Joe Arnold	
Florence, SC	Faith	Jordan Gallo	
Manning, SC	New Covenant	Jon Beane	
Sumter, SC	Westminster	Stuart Mizelle	John Stodghill
<b>Philadelphia</b>			
Glenside, PA	New Life	Mark Moser	
		Steve Smallman, Sr.	
Philadelphia, PA	Northeast Comm Renewal	Maranatha Chung	
		Charles Han	
		Dwight Yoo	
	Tenth	Deryck Barson	
		Liam Goligher	
		Enrique Leal	
	Third Reformed	Daniel Schrock	
		Will Barker II	
<b>Philadelphia Metro West</b>			
Bryn Mawr, PA	Proclamation	Benjamin Falconer	Gerald Kunze
Harleysville, PA	Covenant	James Rich	
Upper Darby, PA	Crossroads Comm	Michael Quillen	
West Chester, PA	Reformed	Stan Gale	
		Phil DeHart	
		Dave Garner	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Piedmont Triad</b>			
Greensboro, NC	Christ	Jeff Miller	
Jamestown, NC	Friendly Hills	Nathan Kline	
Lexington, NC	Meadowview Ref	Chris Bitterman	Paul Koepfel
		Kirk Blankenship	Dan Rhodes
Winston-Salem, NC	Salem	Austin Pfeiffer	
		John Bourgeois IV	
		Brian Deringer	
		Darin Stone	
<b>Pittsburgh</b>			
Bovard, PA	Laurel Highlands	Adrian Armel	
Eighty Four, PA	View Crest	Shaun Nolan	
Johnstown, PA	Trinity	Jared Havener	
		David Karlberg	
LaVale, MD	Faith	Lee Capper	Craig Felton
Leechburg, PA	Kiski Valley	Allan Edwards	Tom Marshall
Murrysville, PA	Murrysville Comm	Jason Leist	
N Huntingdon, PA	Calvin	Aaron Garber	
Pittsburgh, PA	City Reformed		Jim Partridge
	First Reformed		David Snoko
			Stanley Jenkins
			Dale McLane
	Grace and Peace	Sam DeSocio	
Washington, PA	Washington	Don Waltermeyer, Jr.	
Wexford, PA	Covenant Comm	Jon Price	
<b>Platte Valley</b>			
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer PCA	Michael Gordon	
		Abel Sisco	
<b>Potomac</b>			
Alexandria, VA	Alexandria	Josh Diack	
		Christopher Sicks	
Arlington, VA	Christ	Billy Boyce	Bob Mattes
Bowie, MD	Reformed	Stephen Fix	Steve Hollidge
California, MD	Cornerstone	Walt Nilsson	



APPENDIX S

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Potomac, continued</b>			
College Park, MD	Wallace	Scott Bridges	Bashir Khan
Fairfax, VA	New Hope	Stephen Coleman	Charles Robinson
		David Coffin, Jr.	
		Paul Wolfe	
Falls Church, VA	Chinese Christian	John Chua	
Frederick, MD	Faith Reformed	John Armstrong, Jr.	Bruce Brierly
Fulton, MD	Good Hope	Jack Waller	
Gainesville, VA	Gainesville	Jack Lash	
Herndon, VA	Grace Christian	Zhiyong Wang	
Laurel, MD	Christ Reformed	Jerry Maguire	
Leesburg, VA	Potomac Hills	Dave Dorst	
		Dave Silvernail, Jr.	
Lusby, MD	Harvest Fellowship	Rich Good	
Manassas, VA	Spriggs Road		Britt McNeill
Martinsburg, WV	Pilgrim	Jerry Mead	
McLean, VA	McLean	Robert Binion, Jr	
		Paul May	
Rockville, MD	Cross Community	Ben Wikner	
Silver Spring, MD	Mosaic Community	Danny Edwards-Luce	
		Joel St. Clair, II	
Springfield, VA	Harvester	Thomas Eddy	
Warrenton, VA	Cristo Redentor	Robert Amsler	
Washington, DC	Grace	Glenn Hoburg	
		Duke Kwon	
		Mike Park	
		Russell Whitfield	
		Chris Garriott	
		Joseph Ko	
		Timothy Mountfort	
<b>Providence</b>			
Albertville, AL	Grace Fellowship	Jackie Gaston, Jr.	
Brownsboro, AL	Cornerstone	Brian Russ	John Bise
		Wilson Shirley	Frank Cohee
Cullman, AL	Christ Covenant	Andrew Siegenthaler	
Decatur, AL	Decatur	John Gordy III	Blake Temple
Florence, AL	Redeemer	Scott Barber	
Fort Payne, AL	Grace	Daniel Hightower	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Providence, continued</b>			
Huntsville, AL	Southwood	Will Spink	David Clark Ray Sheppard
	The Village Westminster	Alex Shipman Bob Brunson Nathan Eldridge	
Madison, AL	Valley	William Plott	Al Willis
Meridianville, AL	North Hills	Adam Tisdale	
Tuscumbia, AL	First	Randy Thompson	
		Ron Brady Roy Hubbard Reid Jones Joel Linton	
<b>Rocky Mountain</b>			
Castle Rock, CO	Cornerstone	Shawn Young	E. J. Nusbaum
Centennial, CO	Skyview	Rick Vasquez	
Cheyenne, WY	Northwoods	Milan Norgauer	
Colorado Sprgs, CO	Forestgate	Matt Giesman	
	Village Seven	Drew Lints Doug Tharp	
Denver, CO	Westside	Jason Tippetts	
	Denver	Bill Connors Matt Morginsky Jason Walch	
Lander, WY	Covenant	Scott MacNaughton	
Pueblo West, CO	Covenant Reformed	Matt Eide	
		Kevin Allen Larry Wilkes	
<b>Savannah River</b>			
Augusta, GA	Cliffwood	Geoff Gleason	Sylvester Brown
	First	John Barrett Mike Hearon Michael Phillips George Robertson	
	Lakemont	Dave Vosseller	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Savannah River, continued</b>			
Evans, GA	Christ Church Redeemer	Josiah Jones Charlie Stakely IV	
Martinez, GA	Westminster	Mark Scholten	Dan Nielsen
Richmond Hill, GA	New Covenant	Nick Batzig	
Savannah, GA	Grace Islands	Charlie Turner Brad Waller	Thomas Taylor Jr.
	Kirk O' the Isles	Peter Whitney	Jim Vainas
St. Simons Is, GA	Golden Isles	Alexander Brown	
Statesboro, GA	Trinity	Roland Barnes Henry Beaulieu	
Waynesboro, GA	First	Logan Almy	
		Larry Gilpin Terry Johnson Ron Parrish Ro Taylor	
<b>Siouxlands</b>			
Duluth, MN	Grace	Nathan Lee	
Lemmon, SD	Reformed	John Irwin	
Lennox, SD	Lennox Ebenezer	Ethan Saylor	
Minnetonka, MN	Good Shepherd	Judson Marvel	
Rapid City, SD	Black Hills Comm	Art Sartorius	
Rochester, MN	Trinity	Chris Harper	
Spearfish, SD	New Covenant	Jason Dalton	
<b>South Coast</b>			
Encinitas, CA	Redeemer	Bryan Schafer	
Escondido, CA	New Life	Eric Chappell Peter Jones	
Irvine, CA	Christ Church	Nicholas Davis	
	New Life	Jeffrey Suhr	
La Mesa, CA	New Life	Trey Jasso Brian Tallman	
Newport Beach, CA	Redeemer	Adam Feichtmann David Juelfs	
Poway, CA	North City	Mark Lauterbach	
San Diego, CA	North Park	Adriel Sanchez	
Spring Valley, CA	Pilgrim	Ben Rochester	
Yorba Linda, CA	Grace	Ron Gleason	
		Lloyd Kim	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>South Florida</b>			
Coral Gables, FL	Granada		Terry Murdock
Cutler Bay, FL	Pinelands	Nathan Parker	
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Coral Ridge	Paul Hurst	
Hollywood, FL	St. Andrews	T.J. Campo	
Miami, FL	Kendall	Victor Labrada	
SW Ranches, FL	Christ Covenant	Brian Kelso	
		James Carter	
		Samuel Lamerson	
<b>South Texas</b>			
Austin, TX	All Saints Redeemer	Josh Eby Eric Landry Jack Smith Greg Ward	
Beeville, TX	Providence	George Lacy, Jr.	
Bryan, TX	Westminster	Jon Anderson Wade Coleman	
Corpus Christi, TX	Southside Comm	Rob Bailey, Jr. John Bennett	
Harlingen, TX	Covenant	Scott Floyd	
San Antonio, TX	Redeemer	Tom Gibbs	Jeremy Whitley
Victoria, TX	Christ	Mike Singenstreu	
		Ben Hailey	
<b>Southeast Alabama</b>			
Auburn, AL	Covenant	JereScott Bradshaw	Steve Dowling David Rouse
Brewton, AL	First	Parker Johnson	
Clanton, AL	Grace Fellowship	Kevin Corley	
Clio, AL	Pea River		Denny Crowe
Dothan, AL	First Westwood	Henry Morris Lynn Miley	
Eufaula, AL	Covenant	Caleb Galloway	
Hayneville, AL	Hayneville	Lincoln Speece	
Lowndesboro, AL	Lowndesboro		George McCurdy
Monroeville, AL	Monroeville	Michael MacCaughelty	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Southeast Alabama, continued</b>			
Montgomery, AL	2Cities Eastwood Trinity	Brian MacDonald Billy Joseph III Patrick Curles Michael Howell Robert Pendley	Forrest Marion John Albritton, Jr. Mark Anderson III Bob Champion Bart Harmon Bill Joseph, Jr.
Opelika, AL Pike Road, AL Prattville, AL Troy, AL Union Springs, AL Wiesbaden, GER	Trinity First First First Bethel Christ	Bruce Bowers Reed DePace Allan Bledsoe Michael Alsup Henry Lewis Smith Phil Gelston  Matthew DeLong Wes Simmons	David Smith
<b>Southern Louisiana</b>			
Baton Rouge, LA	Grace South Baton Rouge	Don Hulsey Scott Lindsay Woody Markert Josh Martin Brandon Bernard	John Jennings
Clinton, LA DeRidder, LA Lafayette, LA Lake Charles, LA Metairie, LA New Orleans, LA	Westminster Faith DeRidder Parish Bethel Grace St. Peter's St. Roch Community	Kelly Dotson Jim Jones, Jr. Josh Kines Ricky Glenn Richard Davies Shane Gibson JB Watkins	Aaron Collier Jim Boring Jeff Moore Jack Owens
Zachary, LA	Plains	Josiah Carey	
<b>Southern New England</b>			
Cambridge, MA	Christ The King CTK JP/Roxbury CTK Newton CTK Somerville	Logan Keck Bradley Barnes David Richter	Nathan Barczi

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Southern New England, continued</b>			
Concord, MA	Redeemer	Matthew Kerr	
Coventry, CT	Coventry	Lawrence Bowlin Brad Evans	
Danbury, CT	Christ the Shepherd	David Hutchinson	
Millers Falls, MA	Covenant	Allen McClure	
New Haven, CT	Christ	Preston Graham, Jr. Andrew Holbrook Kevin Nelson	
Richmond, RI	Christ Our Hope	Daniel Jarstfer	Chris Shoemaker Mark Slater
		Solomon Kim	
<b>Southwest</b>			
Albuquerque, NM	Crossroads Fell	Justin Edgar	
Las Cruces, NM	University	Patrick Tebbano	
Mesa, AZ	Immanuel	Mark Rowden	
Tucson, AZ	Rincon Mountain	Philip Kruis	
<b>Southwest Florida</b>			
Brandon, FL	Westminster	Wesley Holland, Jr.	
Clearwater, FL	Christ Community	Bob Brubaker	
Lakeland, FL	Christ Community	Lyle Caswell, Jr. Dax Gibson	
	Covenant Redeemer	Jeff McDonald	Hart Hogan Dan Medina
	Strong Tower Trinity	Ben Turner Stan McMahan, Jr. Tim Rice	Frank McCaulley
Palm Harbor, FL	Grace Community	Brent Bergman	
Riverview, FL	Redeemer	Craig Swartz	Jean Owens
Sebring, FL	Covenant	Tom Schneider	
Tampa, FL	Holy Trinity	John Larson	
	Seminole	Danny Dalton	
	Tampa Bay	Freddy Fritz	
Winter Haven, FL	Redeemer	Drew Bennett Jeff Skipper Jonathan Winfree	Barry Bennett
		Ken Matlack James Nichols	

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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Suncoast Florida</b>			
Bradenton, FL	Cornerstone	Justin Chappell Phil Woods	
Estero, FL	Gulf Coast	Doug Warren	
Ft. Myers, FL	Westminster	Byron West	Bruce Stanley
Lake Suzy, FL	Grace	David Stewart	David Greenwald Andy Mitchell
Marco Island, FL	Marco	Steven Schoof	
Naples, FL	Covenant	Mike Kendrick Paul Wrigley	
	Cypress Wood	Jonathan Loerop	
North Ft. Myers, FL	North Ft. Myers	Dann Cecil	Dennis Royall
Sarasota, FL	Covenant Life	Steve Jeantet	
<b>Susquehanna Valley</b>			
Carlisle, PA	Carlisle Reformed	Matt Purdy	
Harrisburg, PA	Second City	Peter Rowan	
	Trinity	Bob Eickelberg	
Lancaster, PA	New City Fellowship	Stanley Morton	
	Westminster	Tucker York	Thomas Lints Andrew Soule
	Wheatland	Bruce Mawhinney	
Mount Joy, PA	Proclamation	Troy DeBruin	
Shippensburg, PA	Hope Reformed	David Fidati	
State College, PA	Oakwood	Dan Kiehl	
York, PA	New Life	Erik Swanson	
	Providence	Vince Wood	
		David Chen	
		Joe Dentici	
		Richard Smith, Jr.	
<b>Tennessee Valley</b>			
Chattanooga, TN	Brainerd Hills		Vaughn Hamilton
	Covenant	Render Caines	
		Jesse Pirschel	
	First	Robert Row	Mark Casson Chip Fellers Don Holwerda

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Tennessee Valley, continued</b>			
Chattanooga, TN	New City Fell	Billy McKillop Randy Nabors Jim Pickett Kevin Smith	Oliver Trimiew Richard Williams
	North Shore Fell	Robby Holt Chris Powell	
Cleveland, TN	St. Elmo	Cal Boroughs III	David Peterson
Crossville, TN	Trinity First	Philip Caines	Robert Berman Jim Sparks
Dalton, GA	Grace	Pablo Ayllon Randy Jackson	
Flintstone, GA	Chattanooga Valley	Clay Walkup	
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	First	Doyle Allen	
Hixson, TN	Hixson	Robert Johnson	
Jasper, TN	Grace	Erik McDaniel	
Knoxville, TN	West Hills	John McKenzie	
LaFayette, GA	Highlands	Tom May	Dan Hudson
Lookout Mtn, TN	Lookout Mountain	Jared Huffman Joe Novenson Brian Salter	Bob Boone Bill Davis Keith Michaels
Maryville, TN	Trinity	David Anderson	
Oak Ridge, TN	Covenant	Nick Willborn	
Rising Fawn, GA	Rock Creek Fell	Corby Shields	
Signal Mountain, TN	Mountain Fell Wayside	Daniel McKinney Chuck Barrett Brian Cosby	
Sweetwater, TN	Christ	Wes Alford	
Trenton, GA	Grace Community	Hutch Garmany  Stan Armes Jeremy Coenen Carl Ellis, Jr. Paul Hahn, Jr. John Southworth , Jr.	
<b>Tidewater</b>			
Chesapeake, VA	Crosswater	David Dickson Dan Kerley	
Elizabeth City, NC	Harbor	Jason Schubert	



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<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Tidewater, continued</b>			
Hampton, VA	Calvary Reformed	Jeff Ferguson	Scott Mericle
Virginia Beach, VA	New Covenant	Jeff Elliott	
	New Life	Ken Christian	
		Cal Frett	
<b>Warrior</b>			
Aliceville, AL	First	Jason Housewright	Jason McBride
Brent, AL	Brent	Mitchell Haubert	Richard Moeck
Eutaw, AL	First	Jim Richwine	
	Pleasant Ridge		Edward Owens
Tuscaloosa, AL	Riverwood	Jeff Pate	
		Tom Kay, Jr.	
		Paul Kooistra	
		John Robertson	
		Stewart Swain	
<b>Western Canada</b>			
Calgary, AB	Woodgreen	Brad Jones	Paul Mandry
Vancouver, BC	Grace Vancouver	Mark Swanson	
<b>Western Carolina</b>			
Arden, NC	Arden	Craig Sheppard	
		Chad Watkins	
Asheville, NC	Covenant Reformed	Sean McCann	Joel Belz
	Grace & Peace	Jonathan Inman	
	Trinity	Joe Mullen III	Tim Carlson
			Stephen Todd
Boone, NC	Westside	Mark Whipple	
	CrossPoint Comm	Chuck Berry	
	Grace Highlands	Graham Svendsen	
Brevard, NC	Cornerstone	Andy Silman	Allen Monroe
Franklin, NC	Emmanuel	Tim McQuitty	Wes Barton
Hazelwood, NC	Hazelwood	Patrick Womack	
Hendersonville, NC	Covenant		Jim Toms
			James Wert

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>City/State</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder</b>	<b>Ruling Elder</b>
<b>Western Carolina, continued</b>			
Marion, NC	Landis	William Hill	
	Story Memorial	Matt Stevens	
Newport, TN	Fellowship	Jim Loftis	
		Chris Horne	
<b>Westminster</b>			
Bristol, TN	Walnut Hill	Andy Moehn	
Cedar Bluff, VA	Covenant	Carl Howell, Jr.	
Greeneville, TN	Meadow Creek	Jeffrey Neikirk	
Johnson City, TN	Westminster	Jim Richter	Steve Leutbecher
			Frank McCollum
Jonesborough, TN	Midway		Joe Neumann
Kingsport, TN	Arcadia	Rodney Barton	
		Andy White	
<b>Wisconsin</b>			
Delafield, WI	Cornerstone	Ben Sinnard	Steve Iler
Green Bay, WI	Jacob's Well	Chad Baudhuin	
La Crosse, WI	Christ Covenant	James McCune	
Madison, WI	Lake Trails	Shaun Spencer	
Milwaukee, WI	Friend of Sinner's	Dan Quakkelaar	
Total Number of Teaching Elders		1029	
Total Number of Ruling Elders		287	
Total Number of Commissioners		1316	
Total Number of Churches Represented		743	
Total Number of Presbyteries Represented		83	

## APPENDIX T

### REPORT OF THE STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Since its report to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, the Standing Judicial Commission has held five meetings: a video conference meeting on April 29, 2015; an in-person special meeting (at General Assembly) on June 9, 2015; a video conference special meeting on August 12, 2015; a video conference stated meeting on October 15, 2015; and an in-person annual meeting on March 3-4, 2016. A video conference special meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2016, which is after the submission of this Report.

Members of the Standing Judicial Commission:

TE William S. Barker II	2017	RE Terry L. Jones	2019
RE John R. Bise	2017	TE Paul D. Kooistra	2016
RE E. C. Burnett	2016	TE Charles E. McGowan	2018
TE Raymond D. Cannata	2017	TE D. Steven Meyerhoff	2019
RE Daniel A. Carrell	2018	RE Frederick Neikirk	2016
TE Bryan S. Chapell	2018	RE EJ Nusbaum	2017
TE David F. Coffin Jr.	2016	RE John Pickering	2017
RE Howie Donahoe	2019	TE George W. Robertson	2018
RE Samuel J. Duncan	2019	RE Bruce W. Terrell	2018
TE Brad D. Evans	2019	RE John B. White Jr.	2018
TE Paul B. Fowler	2019	RE Robert Jackson Wilson	2016
TE Fred Greco	2017	TE L. Roy Taylor Jr.,	
TE Grover E. Gunn III	2016	Clerk of Commission	

#### II. JUDICIAL CASES

2014-01	Complaint of TEs Don Aven/David Dively vs. Ohio Valley Presbytery
2015-01	Complaint of RE D. G. Sanfacon vs. Philadelphia Presbytery
2015-02	Complaint of TE Chris Gearhart vs. Chicago Metro Presbytery

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- 2015-03 Complaint of REs Steve Flesher/RandyWeekly vs. Metro Atlanta Presbytery
- 2015-04 Complaint of John B. Thompson vs. South Florida Presbytery
- 2015-05 *BCO* 40-5 Application of John B. Thompson, re: Grenada Session
- 2015-06 Citation of South Florida Presbytery, re: Failure to Respond to Exceptions
- 2015-07 Complaint of John B. Thompson vs. South Florida Presbytery
- 2015-08 Appeal of TE John Hardie vs. Metro Atlanta Presbytery
- 2015-09 *BCO* 40-5 Application of Brad Bumgarner, re: Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley
- 2015-10 *BCO* 40-5 Application of John B. Thompson, re: South Florida Presbytery
- 2015-11 Complaint of John B. Thompson vs. South Florida Presbytery
- 2015-12 Complaint of TE Toliver Wills vs. Metro Atlanta Presbytery
- 2015-13 Complaint of TE Andrew Barnes vs. Heartland Presbytery
- 2016-01 Complaint of TE Don Aven vs. Ohio Valley Presbytery
- 2016-02 Complaint of TE Arnold J. Robertstad vs. North Texas Presbytery
- 2016-03 Complaint of John B. Thompson vs. South Florida Presbytery
- 2016-04 Complaint of John B. Thompson vs. South Florida Presbytery

At this time, Cases 2015-13 and 2016-01 are being considered by panels. The SJC has determined Cases 2015-01, 2015-02, 2015-04, 2015-05, 2015-07, 2015-09, 2015-10, and 2015-12 are either administratively or judicially out of order. The SJC has determined Case 2015-03 is moot. The SJC notes Cases 2016-03 and 2016-04 were withdrawn. The SJC has not considered the SJC Officers' recommendation that Case 2016-02 is administratively out of order. The SJC has completed its work on Cases 2014-01, 2015-06, 2015-08, and 2015-11.

The report on those cases follows.

### **III. REPORT OF THE CASES**

#### **CASE 2014-01**

#### **TE DON AVEN AND TE DAVID DIVELY VS. OHIO VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

#### **DECISION ON COMPLAINT JUNE 9, 2015**

#### **SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

A minister notified his Presbytery his view had changed on Larger Catechism 177, now disagreeing with the final clause regarding the admission requirement for the Lord's Supper ("... only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves.") Presbytery adopted a recommendation from its Credentials Committee and judged the minister's difference as being "more than semantic, but neither striking at the vitals of religion nor hostile to our system of doctrine." Two ministers filed a complaint against that judgment, Presbytery declined to sustain it, and the two then filed a complaint with the SJC. The full SJC heard the Complaint, declined to either sustain or deny, and is now sending the matter back to the Presbytery, due to an insufficient Record.

#### **I. SUMMARY OF THE FACTS**

12/04/13 TE Charles Hickey, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Ludlow, KY, officially notified Ohio Valley Presbytery (OVP) of a change in his view regarding the final clause in the answer to Larger Catechism question 177. He included the following as an attachment to that email notification:

Exception of TE Hickey to Westminster Larger Catechism Answer to Question 177:

I find in the Bible that participation in the sacramental meals on the part of the members of the covenant community, in good spiritual standing, was never limited by any factor other than the ability to ingest solid food (Exodus 12:4)

and do find the assumption everywhere that covenant children were included in the sacred meals of the covenant community (Lev 10:14; 22:10-11; Deut. 12:6-7, 12, 18; 14:26, 16:11, 14). I am unconvinced that the warnings found in 1 Corinthians 11 regarding unworthy participation, similar as they are to what are found in the ancient prophets, are in any way directed at little children. Therefore, I take exception to the phrase contained in Westminster Larger Catechism answer 177; "...and that only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves" as being an extra-biblical requirement for covenant participation at the sacramental meal.

#### Rationale

In taking this exception I wish to make clear that I am not denying the necessity of faith for salvation, or, for that matter, for participation in the Lord's Supper. I believe that, as the Westminster divines assert in their Directory of Worship, baptized covenant children are "Christians." Not only can I not find in the Bible our traditional teaching that some Christians must not participate in the sacramental life of the church, but I find the Bible regularly numbering covenant children among the believers. Covenant children are in Holy Scripture artlessly identified as those who trust in the Lord (Psalm 22:9-10; Psalm 71:4-6; Luke 1:44), who offer a sacrifice of praise (Psalm 8:1-2), as saints (Eph. 1:1; 6:1-2), as heirs of the promise (Acts 2:39), as the saved (Acts 16:31), as those inhabited by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39), and as citizens of the kingdom of God (Luke 18:16). They are with a similar artlessness included among the repentant (Joel 2:12-17). Certainly if a covenant child can rejoice in the presence of the Son of God, or trust in the Lord while at his mother's breast, or know the Scripture's [*sic*] from his infancy, it cannot be said that the Bible regards covenant children as incapable of spiritual acts.

The only other qualification necessary for participation in the Supper that I can find in the Bible is the ability to eat solid food and drink from a cup (Exod. 12:4). Furthermore, if the children of believers are recipients of the promise of the remission of their sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:29), then surely the signs and seals of those promises, both sacraments, should attend the recipients of the promise.

Though John Calvin did not embrace the communing of small children at the Lord's Table, I believe that Calvin's concept of covenant children possessing "faith in the seed" is a helpful way to describe the burden of this large body of biblical material (Institutes, IV, xvi, 16-20). In my view, given that both the Bible and the Westminster divines identify covenant children as Christians, it follows by rigorous necessity that their Christian life, their faith, if you will, should be nurtured by the ordinary means of grace (Acts 2:42). But if nurtured by hearing and learning the Word of God (certainly an activity that presumes some capacity for spiritual development (cf. 2 Tim. 3:14-15; Deut. 6:4-7), why not by the sacrament as well, which, it is to be remembered, has often been identified in our tradition as "a visible word"? Our authorities have often described the Lord's Supper as the "sacrament of nutrition," but if so, why would the infant faith of covenant children not be nourished by this means? Calvin's insistence that covenant children are to grow into a fuller understanding of their baptism as they get older serves as well to describe their developing relationship to the Lord's Supper [xvi, 21].

In short, covenant children are reckoned in the Bible as believers in God and Christ, even if their faith is in the seed and not yet in the mature fruit, and as believers they have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper precisely so that their faith may be nourished unto maturity.

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- 01/11/14 OVP Stated Meeting. The change in view was discussed in Executive Session, and the minutes record the following: “When Presbytery rose from executive session, it was reported that action on the TE’s view would be postponed until the May Stated Meeting, and that all TEs who are members of Ohio Valley Presbytery and all REs serving Ohio Valley Presbytery churches, may take part in discussion outside the meeting concerning the change in the TE’s views.”
- 05/20/14 OVP Stated Meeting. The Minutes recorded the minister’s stated difference (minus rationale), followed by Presbytery’s two actions:
- A Presbytery Committee recommended his difference be judged as “more than semantic, but neither striking at the vitals of religion nor hostile to our system of doctrine.” Presbytery concurred, and adopted the following:
- MSA that Presbytery receive Pastor Hickey’s difference as more than semantic, but neither striking at the vitals of religion nor hostile to our system of doctrine.
- MSA that Presbytery not allow Pastor Hickey to practice or promote from the pulpit this difference in order to preserve the peace and unity of the church.
- 07/18/14 Revs. Aven and Dively filed a Complaint with OVP against Presbytery’s judgment on the difference (first motion above).
- 07/23/14 Rev. Dively, who was then the Presbytery Clerk, emailed presbyters the Complaint three months prior to OVP’s October Stated Meeting.
- 10/21/14 OVP Stated Meeting. Complaint was considered and denied.
- 11/07/14 Revs. Aven & Dively filed Complaint with SJC. The Case was assigned to a Panel of three SJC members who had been randomly selected (for the next case) before the Case was filed.



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12/8/14 OVP Clerk Dively filed initial Record of the Case (80 pages).

01/08/15 Additional documents were added to the Record at the request of the parties and the Panel, and the Record was finalized at 133 pages. The Panel then requested the SJC officers to consider conducting a full SJC Hearing on the case because of the significance of the Case and because the Panel could not likely hold a Hearing and render a proposed judgment in time for consideration at the March SJC meeting. The Parties did not oppose this request, and the officers assigned the case to the full SJC.

01/23/15 Complainants filed a Preliminary Brief.

02/17/15 Presbytery filed a Preliminary Brief.

03/05/15 Hearing was conducted before the full SJC at its stated meeting in Atlanta, GA. Rev. Hickey was present as a visitor. At the Complainants' request, Rev. Dominic Aquila assisted them and presented their case. Following a lengthy SJC discussion, a committee was appointed to draft and recommend a proposed Decision.

06/09/15 The SJC considered the Committee's recommendation, and after amendment, adopted this Decision.

### III. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Should the Complaint be sustained, which alleges Presbytery erred on May 20, 2014, when it granted an exception to TE Hickey's stated difference as to Larger Catechism 177, with respect to limiting participation in the Lord's Supper to those "such as are of years and ability to examine themselves," as being more than semantic but neither striking at the vitals of religion nor hostile to our system of doctrine?

### IV. JUDGMENT

The Complaint is neither Sustained nor Denied. The Commission cannot render judgment because the Record is insufficient regarding this minister's *particular expression* of his view. Therefore, the Commission sends the matter back to OVP to hear further from TE Hickey regarding his stated difference in order to create a more comprehensive Record.

## V. REASONING

Our polity related to our system of doctrine depends on the diligence and integrity of our ministers to identify fundamental changes in their views and to make them known to the presbytery (*BCO* 21-5.2). Once such a disclosure is made, our *BCO* does not provide express procedural guidance in dealing with the matter. However, by analogy the court should be guided by *BCO* 21.4.e and 21.4.f.

When reviewing whether a man's stated difference is "out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (i.e., because it is "hostile to the system [or] strikes at the vitals of religion"), the court will ordinarily need to consider more than the man's mere citation of the confessional section, and in many cases, even more than a summary statement of the difference. The court will often need also to consider the Biblical and Confessional exegesis, and the theological reasoning that is used to support the difference. It is that underlying exegesis and reasoning that will evidence how the man and the court is understanding the Constitution of the Church and thus should be an important part of the higher court's review of the lower court's decision. This could be warranted even with commonly expressed confessional differences, at least in part because there could be instances where two men disagree with the same confessional statement, but for different reasons. And while one man's reasons might be acceptable to the Presbytery, the other man's might not be. Consider two examples.

First, consider two men who take exception to the language of Larger Catechism 191 that states that the church is to be "countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate" arguing that this statement goes beyond the God-given authority of the civil magistrate. One man, however, might defend his difference by reasoning that Scripture (e.g., Mt. 22:21) and the Confession (e.g., 23:3) point to a greater separation of civil and ecclesiastical authority than is apparently recognized by his reading of LC 191. The other might support his difference by arguing that because all authority on heaven and earth has now been given to Christ (Mt. 28:18) and because Christ has delegated his earthly authority to the church (Mt. 16:17-19), therefore the civil magistrate has no authority over the church (or individual Christians, for that matter), and indeed, by virtue of Mt. 16, the church should have authority over the civil magistrate. Whatever is right or wrong with either of these views, surely the second raises more serious questions about the nature of the

difference, not because of the mere statement of the difference, but because of the issues raised in the supporting argumentation.

Similarly, consider two men who take exception to the phrase “without body, parts, or passions” in WCF 2:1. One man states he objects to the phrase because he believes saying God does not have “passions” means God cannot love. A second man states he objects to the phrase because he believes God has “passions” that are contingent upon the actions of men. Again, whatever one thinks of these reasons, the second raises more serious questions than the first because of the underlying reasoning.

In the same manner, in this case the question before OVP and this Commission is not simply whether or not paedocommunion is an allowable exception, but whether this particular formulation of that confessional difference, as developed in TE Hickey’s reasoning, is allowable, or whether it “strikes at the vitals of religion” or is “hostile to the system of doctrine.” Given that, it is not sufficient to conclude that because “paedocommunion” has been deemed an allowable exception in other settings, TE Hickey’s expression of it must be so deemed here. The question that must be addressed is whether this particular formulation of that difference justifies the granting of an exception.

Apart from his statement of difference, certain statements in TE Hickey’s rationale require further explanation for the Record. It is not clear from the Record how Presbytery understood these statements, or whether Presbytery required or received such further explanation. Further, before the SJC renders a judgment, TE Hickey should have an opportunity to provide a fuller statement of his view than what is contained in the Record, should he desire to do so.

The Record was insufficient in the following respects:

1. The Record does not indicate: a) whether the following statements in the minister’s “rationale” mean he believes all covenant children have some degree of faith, or b) what he believes is the nature of “infant faith” with respect to the child’s capacity for spiritual discernment.

*[Opening to Rationale]* In taking this exception I wish to make clear that I am not denying the necessity of faith for salvation, or, for that matter, for participation in the

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Lord's Supper. I believe that, as the Westminster divines assert in their Directory of Worship, baptized covenant children are "Christians."

. . . Though John Calvin did not embrace the communing of small children at the Lord's Table, I believe that Calvin's concept of covenant children possessing "faith in the seed" is a helpful way to describe the burden of this large body of biblical material (Institutes, IV, xvi, 16-20).

[*Conclusion to Rationale*] In short, covenant children are reckoned in the Bible as believers in God and Christ, even if their faith is in the seed and not yet in the mature fruit, and as believers they have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper precisely so that their faith may be nourished unto maturity.

2. The Record does not indicate whether Presbytery judged this minister's confessional difference to only pertain to LC 177, or whether it logically results in a difference with other sections. For example, in this instance should the stated difference also require expressing differences to six other questions of the Larger Catechism, with respect to:
  - those who "worthily communicate" (LC 170, as well as *WCF* 29:7),
  - the requirements of preparation (171),
  - the appropriate resolution of doubts or lack of preparation (172),
  - concerning the "ignorant" professors (173),
  - concerning the duties of participants at the time of administration (174),
  - and the duties of participants after they have received the sacrament (175)?
  
3. If the stated difference does result in differences with other sections, what are the implications of that for the nature of the exception? Given that *Confession of Faith* 28:6 makes specific provision for the efficacy of baptism to be delayed in time from its administration, and that there is no like provision for the efficacy of the Lord's Supper, does not the stated difference also require an expression of corresponding differences to questions 171-175 of the Larger Catechism?

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4. The Record does not make clear whether the minister reached his position solely on his view that “covenant children were included in the sacred meals of the covenant community” simply on the basis of their being covenant children and his exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, or whether there are additional theological reasons for his particular difference (e.g., the child’s personal discerning faith, as distinguished from the representational faith of the child’s parents).
5. If the minister’s reasons are based upon the exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, then the Record does not indicate how the minister exegetes that passage or related Standards (possible examples being LC 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, and 177 (where it is the only text cited)). Further, how, for example, would the minister’s exegesis fit with “remembrance passages” like Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25?
6. The Record does not indicate how the stated difference affects the minister’s approval of the PCA’s form of government and discipline as being in conformity with the general rules of biblical polity (*BCO* 21-5.3), given the *BCO*’s frequently expressed distinction between communicant and non-communicant members. Further, with the stated difference, the Record does not indicate how the minister will comply with and enforce the above-mentioned distinctions of the *BCO*.

We conclude that the Record before us is insufficient to allow us to reach a determination on this case. Accordingly, we remand this case to the Presbytery to hear further from TE Hickey regarding his change in view. Such a remand has been an option (*BCO* 43-10) for higher courts for over a century. For example, in his comments on the same provision in the 1898 Book of Church Order, F. P. Ramsay observed that the higher court “may wait for fuller records before deciding the issue.”<sup>1</sup>

Finally, if this matter comes back to the SJC, the Record shall include the 133-page Record from Case 2014-01, and any additional material considered by Presbytery when it hears the matter, including any supplemental or clarifying material submitted by TE Hickey.

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<sup>1</sup> *Exposition of the Book of Church Order*, 1898, pp. 255-256, on Chapter XIII, Sec. 4, para. 4. Ramsay, an expert in ecclesiastical law, was President of Fredericksburg College, Virginia in 1898. <http://pcahistory.org/bco/rod/43/10.html> & <https://archive.org/details/expositionofform00rams>

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A committee of five SJC members initially drafted this Decision. After amendment, it was adopted by the SJC on June 9, 2015 by a vote of 15-0-1. Vote on Decision in Case 2014-01. (<sup>R</sup> denotes Ruling Elder.)

Barker, <i>Absent</i>	Duncan <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>
Bise <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>
Burnett <sup>R</sup> , <i>Absent</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent</i>	Haigler <sup>R</sup> , <i>Absent</i>	Robertson, <i>NotQual*</i>
Carrell <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Absent</i>	Terrell <sup>R</sup> , <i>Absent</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Lyle, <i>Absent</i>	White <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe <sup>R</sup> , <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>	

**CONCURRING OPINION  
JUDICIAL CASE 2014-01  
TE DON AVEN AND TE DAVID DIVELY  
VS.  
OHIO VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

**JULY 22, 2015**

Concurring Opinion of RE Howard Donahoe

As I understand it, the Complainants alleged two Presbytery errors. First, they alleged Presbytery erred by allowing *anyone* to disagree with the final clause of Larger Catechism 177. Here's the assertion from their Brief:

The specific phrase that is the object of the difference: “. . . and that only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves” is such a significant part of the fundamentals of the system of doctrine that to grant an exception to it tears at the very fabric of the system so as to disfigure and distort the whole system.<sup>2</sup>

Second, they alleged Presbytery erred by granting the exception in this particular instance given the minister's “specific statements” and his “expanded reasoning.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Complainant's Preliminary Brief, page 5 lines 37-40

<sup>3</sup> Complainant's Preliminary Brief, page 2 line 17 and page 5 line 14.

I concurred with the SJC that the Record was insufficient as it pertained to the second part regarding the minister's *particular expression* of his view.<sup>4</sup> My concern was not Presbytery's judgment granting the exception for the difference per se, but whether Presbytery exercised appropriate or sufficient judgment on some things in the minister's rationale, or at least on how he expressed them (i.e., his *particular expression*). And a fuller Record could address that.

There's a distinction between a man's confessional "difference" (i.e., the specific part of the Standards with which he disagrees or has reservations - *BCO* 21.4.f.)<sup>5</sup> and the rationale he might provide to support or explain his view ("in their own words" - *RAO* 16.3.e.5). As the SJC shows with its illustrations on LC 191 and *WCF* 2:1, a Presbytery might judge a difference to be permissible in and of itself, but might have different concerns arising from a man's rationale for holding the difference.

On the other hand, there are certain parts of the Standards on which disagreements have already been judged, or probably would be judged, as unacceptable *regardless* of a man's rationale. Below are some examples.

- cessation of certain kinds of revelation (*WCF* 1:1, 6)<sup>6</sup>
- divine inspiration of Scripture (*WCF* 1:8)
- particular redemption (*WCF* 3:4-7)<sup>7</sup>
- infant baptism (*WCF* 28:4)<sup>8</sup>
- existence of hell (*WCF* 32:1)
- marriage only between a man and a woman (*WCF* 24:1)

The examining court, and the appellate Church courts, would likely judge any disagreement with one of those fundamental doctrines as disqualifying, regardless of a man's particular expression of his view.

Unlike the six examples above, a disagreement with the final clause of LC 177 should not automatically be judged as disqualifying - and no GA or SJC

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<sup>4</sup> Italics are original in the SJC Judgment.

<sup>5</sup> For use of the noun "difference" in the Record of the Case, see p. 2 fifth paragraph; p. 59 item 13h; p. 62 second paragraph, and p. 68 item 2.

<sup>6</sup> *Landrum v. MS Valley*, Case 95-11, *M26GA* pp. 222-227, [http://pcahistory.org/ga/26th\\_pcaga\\_1998.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/26th_pcaga_1998.pdf)  
*Bogue v. Ascension*, *M8GA* pp. 50, 63, 92, [http://pcahistory.org/ga/8th\\_pcaga\\_1980.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/8th_pcaga_1980.pdf)

*Gentry v. Calvary*, Case 86-01, *M14GA* p. 229, [http://pcahistory.org/ga/14th\\_pcaga\\_1986.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/14th_pcaga_1986.pdf)

*Serio v. Palmetto*, Case 88-10, *M16GA* pp. 191-198, [http://pcahistory.org/ga/16th\\_pcaga\\_1988.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/16th_pcaga_1988.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> *Bowen v. E. Carolina*, Case 1990-8, *M19GA*, pp. 537-564, [http://pcahistory.org/ga/19th\\_pcaga\\_1991.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/19th_pcaga_1991.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

has ever judged it to be so.<sup>9</sup> I concurred with the SJC's Judgment in this Case largely because the SJC did *not* judge it to be so. If the SJC had agreed with the Complainant's key assertion in the excerpt from their Brief above, it could have sustained the Complaint rather than remanding for a more comprehensive Record.

/s/ RE Howard Donahoe

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**JULY 22, 2015**

Concurring Opinion of TE Grover Gunn, joined by RE John Bise

The change in views at the center of this case involves paedocommunion, a term that can cover a broad range of possible opinions on the admitting of baptized covenant children to the Lord's Supper. The term could possibly refer merely to a rejection of adult only communion and an openness to the possibility that a baptized covenant child may, at an age younger than usual or traditional, have a profession of faith that provides credible evidence that he has the maturity of faith needed for partaking of the Lord's Supper meaningfully and responsibly. I do not regard this degree of paedocommunion as an exception to our Standards, provided that one is not significantly and artificially lowering our Standards' measures of readiness to partake. At the opposite extreme of possible meanings is the view that every covenant infant should partake of the Lord's Supper as soon as possible after his baptism through someone's inserting into his mouth at a communion service a small crumb of communion bread that has absorbed a small drop of communion wine. This view totally eliminates the distinction between

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<sup>9</sup> Most recently, by a 69-31% margin, the June 2015 Chattanooga GA adopted a recommendation from a minority of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records and *declined* to cite Susquehanna Valley Presbytery for its judgment allowing such a difference with LC 177. The RPR Committee had, by a vote of 29-22, recommended the GA cite Presbytery simply for granting the exception, without RPR noting any specific concern about the man's rationale or particular expression of his view. But instead, the RPR Minority's recommendation *against* any citing was adopted. See also the June 2013 action of the Greenville GA judging Pacific NW Presbytery's response "Satisfactory." *M41GA*, pp. 464-465 for GA's action and pp. 500-514 for PNW's Response. [http://pcahistory.org/ga/41st\\_pcaga\\_2013.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/41st_pcaga_2013.pdf)



communing and non-communing baptized members in the visible church. I regard this degree of paedocommunion as an exception to our Standards that is out of accord with the fundamentals of our system of doctrine. Because the term “paedocommunion” has such a wide range of possible meanings, I agree with the opinion in the SJC decision that a presbytery should examine in thorough detail on a case by case basis the new views of any TE who reports a change in views that involves paedocommunion. I also agree that the presbytery should also record in its minutes a detailed explanation of its evaluation of such changed views.

I commend the TE at the center of this case for his honesty in reporting to his Presbytery with transparent candor the changes in his views since he took his ordination vows. He has specified where his new view fits within the broad spectrum described above. He believes that all covenant children are believers who should be admitted to the Lord's Table as soon after baptism as they can ingest solid food. This view limits baptized, non-communing members in the visible church to baptized covenant children who are not yet able to ingest solid food. I believe that he has expressed his new view in the current record of the case with sufficient clarity and detail to allow the SJC to render an informed judgment on the compatibility of his new view with our Standards. In my opinion, his new view as expressed in the current record is out of accord with the fundamentals of our system of doctrine. Nevertheless I am willing to concur with the decision of the majority of the SJC to remand the case back to the Presbytery without denying or sustaining the complaint. The degree of paedocommunion in this case is far enough along the spectrum to have serious theological implications that contradict fundamentals of our system of doctrine beyond the explicit contradiction which I profess to see as noted above. This possibility is largely not addressed in the current record of this case. As suggested in the decision, there are questions that still need to be asked and areas that still need to be investigated. My hope is that remanding this case back to the Presbytery will give the Presbytery an opportunity to supplement the current record so that it becomes more complete and provides greater clarity. I would, of course, re-evaluate my judgment in response to any substantial clarifications and modifications in a new record.

/s/ TE Grover Gunn, joined by RE John Bise

**CONCURRING OPINION  
JUDICIAL CASE 2014-01  
TE DON AVEN AND TE DAVID DIVELY  
VS.  
OHIO VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

**JULY 15, 2015**

Concurring Opinion RE Jack Wilson, joined by RE Howie Donahoe and RE John White

I concur in the Judgment and Reasoning of the Commission. I write separately to note that not every difference with our Standards warrants the formation of a record with the level of analysis outlined in this decision. In my view, not every difference demands an evaluation of the implications of that difference with respect to other parts of our Standards. It is, in the first place, the duty of an officer or candidate to make his differences known in his own words with specificity and clarity. It is then the duty and purview of the Presbytery to evaluate those differences by the benchmarks outlined in *BCO* 21-4(f). Our decision should not be misconstrued as a framework for evaluating all differences with our Standards; or as a methodology to be employed in every instance of a change in views; or as an infringement upon the discretion of our presbyteries to determine generally the manner of inquiry or the means employed to evaluate the views of candidates and officers subject to their jurisdiction.

/s/ RE Jack Wilson, joined by RE Howie Donahoe and RE John White

**CASE 2015-01**

**D. G. SANFACON  
VS.  
PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERY**

**DECISION ON COMPLAINT  
April 29, 2015**

The Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) finds that the above-named Complaint is Administratively Out of Order and cannot be put in order (*OMSJC* 9.1.a.). This ruling is based on the fact that the original Complaint was not timely filed, and therefore this ruling voids every action taken on the Complaint(s) by the lower courts.

Rationale: Mr. Sanfacon is an inactive ruling elder and member of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. The Record indicates his original Complaint was filed with the Session 18 days after the 60-day window had expired (*BCO* 43-2). Thus, it was not timely filed. It was filed on June 16, 2014, against a Session action of March 30, 2014, thus 78 days afterwards. A “second” subsequent Complaint was filed with the Session on August 7, purportedly against a Session action of July 13, but this was essentially just an extension of the earlier Complaint and thus tied directly to it and therefore out of order. The Session recognized the Complaint was filed outside the 60-day window, yet addressed it anyway. Presbytery also recognized it was untimely filed yet also addressed it. This SJC ruling is similar to one in a 2001 case where the SJC ruled a Complaint out of order because the original complaint was not timely filed with the original court, despite the Session and Presbytery later having considered it anyway. (Case 2001-32 Christ Covenant v. Central Carolina Presbytery, M31GA, Charlotte 2003, pp. 107-109 [http://pcahistory.org/ga/31st\\_pca\\_2003.pdf](http://pcahistory.org/ga/31st_pca_2003.pdf) )

**CASE 2015-02**  
**TE CHRIS GEARHART**  
**VS.**  
**CHICAGO METRO PRESBYTERY**

**DECISION ON COMPLAINT**  
**April 29, 2015**

The Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) finds the above-named Complaint Administratively Out of Order (*OMSJC* 9.1.a.) in that the minister who would have had standing to file did not notify the PCA Clerk’s office within the 30-day window required by *BCO* 43-3. Furthermore, that minister did not subsequently give an unqualified ratification of the Complaint. The Complaint cannot be put in order, and therefore it is dismissed.

Rationale - TE Chris Gearhart was and is a member of Chicago Metro Presbytery. An unsigned document alleged to be a Complaint from TE Gearhart was sent to the PCA Clerk’s office on February 19, 2015, by an individual who did not have standing. Despite repeated attempts by the PCA Clerk to contact TE Gearhart, he did not contact the PCA Clerk until April 8, which was 77 days after the January 21 Presbytery action complained against (47 days after the *BCO* 43-3 deadline). In that e-mail he indicated, “I would like to submit this in my name,” but his lack of timely notification renders

this Complaint Administratively Out of Order. Furthermore, in the same e-mail he indicated he was “not sure if the wording of the request fully represents my heart in the matter” and also that he “was not able to review the wording of the document” prior to it being filed.

**CASE 2015-03**  
**RE STEVE FLESHER AND RE RANDY WEEKLY**  
**VS.**  
**METRO ATLANTA PRESBYTERY**  
**DECISION ON COMPLAINT**  
**March 3, 2016**

Because the issues raised in Complaint 2015-03 were adjudicated in Appeal 2015-08, the Complaint 2015-03 is moot. The SJC approved this decision on the following vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnet, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Recused</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CASE 2015-04**  
**COMPLAINT OF JOHN B. THOMPSON**  
**VS.**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**  
**DECISION ON COMPLAINT**  
**MARCH 3, 2016**

The SJC finds the Complaint judicially out of order as the objections raised in the Complaint ought to be raised by a defendant during process with the court of original jurisdiction (*BCO* 32-14), or thereafter, if not satisfied, by an appellant on appeal (*BCO* 42-3).

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The Panel's proposed decision was amended by the SJC and adopted on the following vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i> ,	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i> ,	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent, Recused</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

Note: RE Howie Donahoe timely submitted a Concurring Opinion, which was considered at the May 9, 2016, SJC meeting. See Attachment 2 (Supplement) for this Concurring Opinion.

**CONCURRING OPINION  
CASE 2015-04  
JOHN B. THOMPSON  
VS.  
SOUTH FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

**March 7, 2016**

Concurring Opinion of RE Howard Donahoe.

I heartily concur with the SJC Decision but believe further background and rationale would be helpful. To summarize, the plaintiff contended his indictment from the Session was illegitimate, and he filed what he regarded as a *BCO* 43-1 complaint, but the Session and Presbytery ruled it out of order. He carried the complaint to the SJC, and the SJC Panel recommended the case also be ruled out of order, specifically because a defendant should not be granted appellate review of a decision of a trial court or commission via a *BCO* 43-1 complaint *while the judicial case is in process* (absent a demonstration of irreparable impending harm).

The procedural issue in this Case is similar to one decided by the SJC last year in which an accused person filed a complaint, prior to his trial, alleging the indictment was incomplete (Case 2013-03: *Marshall v. Pacific*). In *Marshall*, the SJC ruled as follows:

The Complaint is Judicially Out of Order, because it has to do with matters in a judicial case that an accused should reserve for proper disposal in an appeal, not through a complaint (*BCO* 32-14; 42-3), and because it arose in a judicial case in which an appeal is now pending (*BCO* 43-1).<sup>10</sup>

The first part of the SJC's reasoning in *Marshall*, and its reference to *BCO* 32-14 and 42-3, also apply to this present Case.

In his Complaint to the Session, Mr. Thompson wrote:

Chapter 43 of the *BCO* happily provides that the victim of "some act or decision of a court of the Church" may bring a stand-alone complaint against the Church, separate and apart from and before an appeal of a final decision of the Church in any disciplinary proceeding against him.

In his Complaint to Presbytery, he wrote:

Such a Complaint could be loosely analogized to an interlocutory appeal in a secular court system. It seeks a remedy from an unjust judicial act or proceeding before that proceeding is completed.

But our *BCO* does not explicitly allow for what's known in U.S. law as an "interlocutory appeal" (i.e., appealing a lower court's ruling to an appellate court prior to the final judgment of the lower court). And even in civil cases in U.S. courts, it's extremely rare and only allowed if it meets narrow requirements. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court specified requirements for U.S. Federal Courts, holding that a pre-judgment appeal would be permitted only if three facts were each demonstrated:

1. The outcome of the case would be conclusively determined by the disputed question;
2. The matter appealed was collateral to the merits (i.e., of a secondary nature to); *and*
3. The matter was effectively unreviewable if immediate appeal were not allowed.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Case 2013-03: *Marshall v. Pacific Presbytery*, *M43GA*, Chattanooga 2015, p. 548.

<sup>11</sup> *Lauro Lines v. Chasser*, 1989, <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/490/495/case.html>

Interlocutory appeals are even more rare in criminal cases. Appellate courts are understandably reluctant to consider this when the defendant has not yet been convicted. A defendant's petition for permission to appeal a trial court's pre-judgment ruling usually must demonstrate he will be irreparably harmed if he must wait until the end of the trial to appeal. For example, irreparable harm is probably at risk where a juvenile is waived from children's court into adult court. If the juvenile were forced to wait until the end of the case to appeal the waiver order, the children's court may lose jurisdiction (because the child becomes a legal adult) by the time the Court of Appeals reverses the waiver order. But examples like this are rare.

Even if the *BCO* explicitly allowed for such interlocutory appeals, the circumstances in this present Case do not rise to the level of something warranting the allowance of such an unusual and trial-delaying action. There was no demonstration of impending irreparable harm.

And if this Complainant's broad interpretation of *BCO* 43-1 is correct, and such interlocutory appeals are allowed for any and all objections to a trial court's many rulings, there could be an unlimited number of *BCO* complaints in a judicial case – even prior to the convening of the actual trial. If a defendant were allowed to file complaints against any and all actions of a trial commission, it could significantly and needlessly delay a trial. For example, the accused might file complaints against:

1. the appointment of a particular prosecutor;
2. alleged deficiencies in the indictment;
3. the appointment of a particular member of a trial commission;
4. the date of the trial;
5. any pre-trial rulings of the court or trial commission (allowable defense counsel, witness citations, admissibility of evidence, length of briefs, scheduled length of trial, time allotted for closing arguments, etc.).

If a defendant were allowed to file a *BCO* 43-1 complaint simply because he believed an indictment was faulty, as the plaintiff alleged in this Case, it could delay the trial for a year or more while the *BCO* 43 Complaint was adjudicated by the Session, and then by the Presbytery, and then by an SJC Panel, and then by the SJC.

Finally, it should be noted the Complainant's objection to the indictment was eventually one of the matters considered in his subsequent Complaint in SJC Case 2015-11. But that part of his Complaint was not sustained.

/s/ RE Howard Donahoe

**CASE 2015-05**

**BCO 40-5 APPLICATION OF JOHN B. THOMPSON TO CITE  
GRANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR “GROSSLY  
UNCONSTITUTIONAL PROCEEDINGS” AND “DELINQUENCIES”  
IN REGARD TO ALLEGED IMPROPER, ILLEGAL, AND  
UNCONSTITUTIONAL USE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE.**

**DECISION ON BCO 40-5 APPLICATION  
AUGUST 12, 2015**

The Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) finds the above-named Case Administratively Out of Order (*OMSJC* 9.1.a.) in that The Stated Clerk of South Florida Presbytery has advised that this matter is on the Docket of its August 11, 2015, Stated Meeting. Accordingly, this case cannot be put in order within the Rules of Discipline of the *BCO* and the requirements of the *OMSJC*, and that this *BCO* 40-5 Application is dismissed for the reasons that it was prematurely filed with the SJC. Assuming a “credible report,” “the first step shall be to cite the court alleged to have offended (Granada Presbyterian Church) to appear before the court having appellate jurisdiction (South Florida Presbytery) (*BCO* 40-5). South Florida Presbytery has docketed this matter for the August 11, 2015, Stated Meeting and has not had an opportunity to rule on said Application.

Officers’ Recommendation finding this case Administratively Out of Order was approved as modified unanimously because the Petitioner’s *BCO* 40-5 Application was prematurely filed with the SJC. Roll call vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Concur</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Absent</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Absent</i>	White, <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>



**CASE 2015-06**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
VS.  
SOUTH FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

**CITATION ON FAILURE TO RESPOND TO EXCEPTIONS  
MARCH 3, 2016**

The Standing Judicial Commission reports to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that South Florida Presbytery responded to the citation issued by the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, and to all outstanding exceptions of substance, by written responses properly adopted by Presbytery.

After reviewing the responses, the SJC took the following actions:

That the minutes of the Presbytery's executive session of April 21, 2009 (not previously submitted for review) be approved with the following exception of substance:

**Exception:** Presbytery divested a TE and put him "under the authority (though not necessarily member) of [a particular congregation]." They further state the TE "would no longer be a member of presbytery."

**Grounds:** As written, this action appears to violate *BCO* 46-8. (Note: A response to this exception should be sent to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly as part of the normal review process.)

That, except as noted below, the Standing Judicial Commission finds all the responses of South Florida Presbytery (see Attachment 1, p. 2048) to be satisfactory.

That the following response be found to be unsatisfactory:

**Exception:** November 8, 2011 - Minutes report several charges were laid against a TE. Rather than proceeding with judicial process, the moderator appointed a commission as to avoid scandal and hearsay before all the facts are presented, citing *BCO* 34-2 (*BCO* 31-2 and *BCO* 32-2 and 3).

**Response:** The TE was accused of mismanagement of funds regarding the sale of some land and some loans that were taken out.

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All of the paperwork turned out to be in order because he did it with the approval of the Session. A Commission dealt with their situation and reported to the Presbytery. The Commission Report was not included in the Minutes. We admit our error and regret the error. We promise to do better in the future. After a diligent search, the Commission Report was not found. This Response relies on the information provided via e-mail from the Chair of the MCRC Committee:

yes now I remember, there was a man who accused him of mismanagement of funds. He had made decisions about the sale of land and loans taken out but—all the paperwork was in order (meaning that he did it with session approval) and did not do it alone. This was dealt with by a commission that was set up for another issue and I asked that commission to do both cases.

It was dealt with on a commission and reported I remember—I do not have the written info—but I know we denied the charges.

**Grounds:** Presbytery's response does not address the concern that *BCO* 32-2 requires the Court to move to process once an individual makes out a charge against an alleged offender.

Presbytery is reminded that, where its response included the addition of specific language to its minutes not included in the original response (for example, the recording of exceptions in the candidate's own words), the amended minutes must be presented for review at the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly so that all portions and additions of Presbytery's minutes that may be reviewed (*BCO* 13-9.b; 40-1).

Presbytery is further reminded that it still has the duty to review the records of Sessions for all years in which reviews were not accomplished by Presbytery (*BCO* 40-1; *cf.*, M14GA14-52.46 (p.128; *cf.*, p. 336)). Therefore, if Presbytery has not already done so, it is directed to accomplish these reviews prior to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, or to include in its minutes some plan to accomplish this review and to report such plan to 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The SJC approved this decision on the following roll call vote:

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Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>NotQual</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Absent</i>	White, <i>Absent</i>
Donahoe, <i>Abstain</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CASE 2015-07**  
**JOHN B. THOMPSON**  
**VS.**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**  
**DECISION ON COMPLAINT**  
**AUGUST 12, 2015**

The Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) finds the above-named Complaint Administratively Out of Order (*OMSJC* 9.1.a.) in that the next Stated Meeting of South Florida Presbytery was August 11, 2015, and it had not yet considered the complaint. The SJC finds this case cannot be put in order within the Rules of Discipline of the *BCO* and the requirements of the *OMSJC*, and that this case should be dismissed for the reason that it was prematurely filed, i.e., *BCO* 43-2 does not require a court to consider the complaint until “its next stated meeting.”

Officers’ Recommendation finding this case Administratively Out of Order was approved unanimously because the Petitioner’s *BCO* 40-5 Application was prematurely filed with the SJC. Roll call vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Concur</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Absent</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Absent</i>	White, <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CASE 2015-08**

**TE JOHN HARDIE  
VS.  
METRO ATLANTA PRESBYTERY**

**DECISION ON APPEAL  
MARCH 3, 2016**

On September 16, 2014, Metropolitan Atlanta Presbytery (MAP) appointed a Commission in response to a request submitted by the Session of Grace North Atlanta (GNA). On January 24, 2015, that Commission made its report to MAP. After receiving the report, MAP appointed a judicial commission, appointed a prosecutor and suspended TE John Hardie (Appellant), without censure, from all official functions while he was under process.

The MAP Judicial Commission conducted the trial and found Appellant guilty of three charges and imposed the censure of indefinite suspension. Appellant filed an appeal citing numerous irregularities in the proceedings and prosecution of the case. The SJC is denying the Appeal.

**I. SUMMARY OF THE FACTS**

09/15/14 The Session of Grace North Atlanta submitted a request asking

the Shepherding Committee which has already met with us, to provide appropriate help as needed as we initiate pursuing reconciliation with various staff members in keeping with Matthew 18:15-18 and Matthew 7:1-5. We as a Session recognize we need ongoing help in living out repentance and putting into place safeguards to wisely shepherd the church community of Grace North Atlanta so that we, congregation and Session, may grow more in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

09/16/14 At the September 16, 2014 Stated Meeting of MAP, the Presbytery passed the following motion:

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To form a Commission to come alongside of the Session, to meet with elders, members, and the pastor of a MAP church [TE John Hardie and Grace North Atlanta] in a holy attempt to investigate, discern and help all work through disorder that has come to the surface.

- 09/23/14 The Commission (referred to hereafter as the “9/16/14 Commission”) convened and began its work.
- 01/24/15 The 9/16/14 Commission presented its report and recommendations to MAP at the January 24, 2015, Stated Meeting. The 9/16/14 Commission’s report included a finding that there was a “strong presumption of guilt regarding TE Hardie’s violation of his ordination vows, *BCO 31-2*.”

At the January 24, 2015 meeting, MAP passed the following motions:

MSP that Presbytery begin process concerning TE Hardie per *BCO 31-2*;  
MSP that Presbytery appoint a judicial commission and appoint a prosecutor per *BCO 31-2*; and  
MSP while TE Hardie is under process, Presbytery suspended him from all official functions without censure per *BCO-31-10*.

- 03/24/15 Appellant met with the Judicial Commission to hear charges and enter a plea.
- Appellant waived the reading of the charges and entered a plea of not guilty to all charges.
- 05/09/15 The Judicial Commission of MAP began the trial. The trial continued on May 16, 2015 and May 30, 2015.
- 06/29/15 MAP held a Called Meeting to consider the report of the Judicial Commission. At that meeting, the Commission reported “The commission found TE Hardie guilty of three counts of breaking his ordination vows and indefinitely suspended him from the exercise of his office until he gives

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satisfactory evidence of repentance.” (Underline in original)  
A motion to approve the commission’s judgment was made and passed.

At that same meeting, the MAP inflicted the censure: “We, the Metropolitan Atlanta Presbytery in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, do now declare you suspended from the exercise of your office, until you give satisfactory evidence of repentance.”

MAP also approved a resolution that read in part and concluded:

WHEREAS, Should TE John Hardie give, or subsequently file, notice to appeal the Judicial Commission trial, verdict and censure, as approved by Metropolitan Atlanta Presbytery, the following action is deemed proper and appropriate to be recorded as an official act of Metro Atlanta Presbytery and inscribed in the official minutes of this said meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Metropolitan Atlanta Presbytery does hereby evoke the provisions of BCO 42-6; to-wit, “prevent him from exercising...all of his official functions, until the case is finally decided. (cf BCO 31-10).”

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this action is not taken in the way of inflicting censure, but rather is to protect the peace, purity and unity of the Church. (bold and underline in original)

07/13/15 Appellant filed an Appeal.

01/15/16 The Panel conducted its hearing.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Shall the specifications of error raised by the Appellant be sustained?

### III. JUDGMENT

No. The Appeal is denied.

### IV. REASONING AND OPINION

The standard of review for this Court is set forth in *BCO 39-2* and 3:

2. A higher court should ordinarily exhibit great deference to a lower court regarding those factual matters which the lower court is more competent to determine, because of its proximity to the events in question, and because of its personal knowledge and observations of the parties and witnesses involved. Therefore, a higher court should not reverse a factual finding of a lower court, unless there is clear error on the on the part of the lower court.

3. A higher court should ordinarily exhibit great deference to a lower court regarding those matters of discretion and judgment which can only be addressed by a court with familiar acquaintance of the events and parties. Such matters of discretion and judgment would include, but not be limited to: the moral character of candidates for sacred office, the appropriate censure to impose after a disciplinary trial, or judgment about the comparative credibility of conflicting witnesses. Therefore, a higher court should not reverse such a judgment by a lower court, unless there is clear error on the part of the lower court.

This Court is charged, therefore, to give “great deference” to MAP’s decision and to reverse only if there is “clear error.”

Appellant alleged seventeen specifications of error under six categories. These errors will be addressed in the order they were raised in the Appeal. The format for addressing these errors will be to summarize the alleged error in *italics* and present the reasoning and opinion in regular font.

#### **Category I-Irregularities in the Proceeding of the Presbytery**

- a. *The Presbytery erred in how it formed its Judicial Commission. There is no record of a BCO 31-2 investigation, no finding of a*

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*strong presumption of guilt and no indictment was drawn. Further, MAP invoked BCO 31-10 to suspend TE Hardie from his official functions.*

The issues raised in this specification of error are essentially the same issues raised in the Complaint SJC 2015-03. The only documents in the ROC that address these issues are materials from Case 2015-03 that were included in this ROC by reference.

At its January 24, 2015 meeting, MAP heard the report of its 09/16/14 Commission, which commission had been charged, in part, “to meet with elders, members, and the pastor of a MAP church [TE John Hardie and Grace North Atlanta] in a holy attempt to investigate, discern and help all work through disorder that has come to the surface.”

In the course of its work, the 09/16/14 Commission, which was not established to conduct judicial process, (but was commissioned “to investigate”) came to the conclusion that judicial process should begin against Appellant. The 09/16/14 Commission concluded that there was a strong presumption of Appellant’s guilt and recommended that MAP begin process against Appellant, appoint a judicial commission to try Appellant, and appoint a prosecutor. Further, the 09/16/14 Commission recommended that Appellant be suspended from all official functions while under process, without censure, per *BCO-31-10*.

MAP passed motions consistent with the recommendations of the 09/14/16 Commission. It was at this point that MAP authorized the appointment of a judicial commission. The Judicial Commission then began its work.

*BCO 31-2* provides:

31-2. It is the duty of all church Sessions and Presbyteries to exercise care over those subject to their authority. They shall with due diligence and great discretion demand from such persons satisfactory explanations concerning reports affecting their Christian character. This duty is more



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imperative when those who deem themselves aggrieved by injurious reports shall ask an investigation.

If such investigation, however originating, should result in raising a strong presumption of the guilt of the party involved, the court shall institute process, and shall appoint a prosecutor to prepare the indictment and to conduct the case. This prosecutor shall be a member of the court, except that in a case before the Session, he may be any communing member of the same congregation with the accused.

The investigation (which included a finding of a strong presumption of guilt) in this case originated from the work assigned to the 09/16/14 Commission; as such it was an investigation consistent with the provisions of *BCO* 31-2. The results and recommendations from the investigation were presented to MAP in the 9/16/14 Commission's report of January 24, 2015. MAP's action to form a judicial commission based on the report and recommendation of its 09/16/14 Commission was not, therefore, improper.

This Court is at a loss to give credence to Appellant's argument that "no indictment" was drawn, as this was in fact done by the prosecutor consistent with MAP's actions of January 24, 2015.

Finally, as to MAP's action to suspend Appellant from all official functions while under process, without censure, per *BCO*-31-10, the authority for such action is provided in *BCO* 31-2, and Appellant offers no evidence to show clear error on the part of MAP.

The Appellant has failed to show that MAP clearly erred in establishing the Judicial Commission or in appointing a prosecutor, or invoking *BCO* 31-10 to suspend Appellant from his official functions while the case was pending.

- b. The indictment was improperly drawn and the citation was improperly signed. On February 28, 2015, TE Hardie was served with an indictment along with a citation to appear before*

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*the Judicial Commission on March 11, 2015. The indictment was signed by the Moderator of MAP, TE Rienstra; TE Reinstra's involvement in the process was out of order since a Judicial Commission had been appointed.*

The ROC does not include a copy of the indictment, but the ROC does show:

- On January 24, 2015, MAP passed the following motion: that *Presbytery* appoint a judicial commission *and* appoint a prosecutor per *BCO 31-2* (emphasis ours). Therefore, MAP did not give the judicial commission the power to appoint the prosecutor.
- One of the duties assigned to the prosecutor is the preparation of the indictment. (*BCO 31-2*).
- The Judicial Commission conducted a proper “first meeting” of the court given that the Presbytery did not give the Commission power to appoint the prosecutor. (*BCO 32-3*)
- The Judicial Commission cited Appellant to appear on March 24, 2015.
- On March 24, 2015, Appellant met with the Judicial Commission to hear charges and enter a plea, at which time Appellant waived the reading of the charge and entered a plea of not guilty.
- The Judicial Commission's March 24, 2015 meeting was, therefore, a proper “second meeting” of the court. (*BCO 32-3*)

It is the responsibility of the prosecutor to prepare the indictment (*BCO 31-2*). The Court will assume for the sake of argument that the MAP moderator signed the indictment prepared by the prosecutor. The Court fails to see, however, how the signature of the MAP moderator on the indictment is a violation of *BCO* procedure, much less a basis for finding clear error on the part of MAP.

- c. *The Presbytery erred in allowing RE Bob Edwards to serve as a member of the Judicial Commission.* *In this specification of error, the Appellant raises two issues.*

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- 1) *That RE Edwards should not be allowed to be a member of the commission “since he is a ruling elder in the church pastored by a member, who was also the chairman, of the Presbytery Commission that brought charges against the Appellant.”*

Appellant made this objection at the March 24, 2015 meeting of the court. The Commission denied his request. Appellant produced no evidence that RE Edwards was biased because of his relationship to the Chairman of the Presbytery Commission and therefore there is no clear error mandating reversal.

- 2) *That RE Edwards should have been disqualified from sitting on the Commission because he was not present for the final day of the trial, May 30, 2015.*

On May 16, 2015, the Court decided to reconvene the trial on May 30, 2015. On May 30, 2015, a quorum (two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders) was present for the proceedings. RE Edwards’s absence from the May 30, 2015, proceedings was noted and discussed, and Appellant did not object to RE Edwards’s absence.

There is nothing in the *BCO* that requires a member of a Judicial Commission to be physically present to hear all testimony in a trial. In fact, *BCO* 32-17 allows the court to grant permission to a member of the court to be absent from a sitting of the court. Appellant’s failure to object to the Judicial Commission’s decision to allow RE Edwards to be absent and to hear the case in video format constitutes a waiver of the objection. Appellant did not even ask the Judicial Commission to consider an alternative. Therefore, Appellant cannot raise the issue after the trial.

The ability of a commission member to perform his duties is a matter of discretion and judgment on the part of the lower court. This court notes that allowing a temporarily absent member of a judicial commission to vote on a decision could be the basis of a challenge to a

lower court's decision, but we do not have sufficient information to make that determination in this case.

Finally, the Court notes that had the Judicial Commission decided to disqualify RE Edwards, the required quorum would have still been present.

This Court is compelled to defer to the lower court unless there is clear error on the part of the lower court. Appellant has failed to prove clear error.

- d. The Commission received advice from the Presbytery's Parliamentarian. *The appellant contends that once a case is committed to a Judicial Commission, seeking and receiving outside advice constitutes interference in the trial process.*

To commit a case to a commission is to place the commission in charge of the case; it does not isolate or quarantine the commission. In the course of a case, it is advisable that a court consult competent authority for advice. Appellant provides no evidence to show that consulting the MAP Parliamentarian interfered with the trial, and therefore there is no clear error mandating reversal.

- e. The Commission allowed two witnesses (RE John Norris and RE Chuck Lia) to join the Prosecution team after they had testified. *In this specification of error, the Appellant raises two issues:*

- 1) *That both witnesses were disqualified because "these men were known to 'indulge a malignant spirit towards the accused' and were 'deeply interested in any respect in the conviction of the accused.' (BCO 31-8)"*

Appellant raised this objection at trial and the Commission denied the objection. Making a determination on the presence of a malignant spirit or deep interest in the conviction of an accused is a matter of judgment and discretion for the lower court. Appellant did not produce any evidence that a malignant spirit or deep interest in conviction existed in John Norris. Appellant did cite a reference in ROC 2356 concerning Chuck Lia, to wit "To write a formal rebuke

from the commission to Chuck Lia and refer his disciple [sic] to the provisional session for refusing to met [sic] with John and the commission.”

The matter of qualifying witnesses is a matter of judgment and discretion for the lower court. In the absence of clear error, the higher court must defer to the lower court. (*BCO* 39.3.3)

- 2) *There was a possibility that these two ruling elders could be recalled to testify as witnesses for the defense*

Although it may be argued that the two ruling elders could not be recalled, Appellant did not raise the issue of *possibly* recalling either witness, and therefore this aspect was not raised in trial by objection. Appellant had opportunity to cross-examine both witnesses when they testified. Appellant has presented no evidence that he even considered recalling either witness or that the inability (if there was, in fact, an inability) to recall the witnesses was detrimental to his defense. Appellant has not established clear error on the part of the lower court.

## **Category II-Receiving Improper Evidence**

- a. *The Judicial Commission allowed Prosecution witnesses to be asked questions that were not specific to the questions listed in the charges*

Appellant has failed to show from the ROC that MAP committed clear error regarding the questions that were asked during the trial.

- b. *Witnesses could not testify to specifics since the indictment itself was not specific regarding when alleged offenses occurred*

Though the Specifications of the Indictment were not included in the ROC, the Record does not show that objections were made or properly preserved that testimony was non-specific or irrelevant to the indictment, or that testimony was generally disadvantaged by the state of the indictment.

- c. *The Commission allowed witnesses to present other than firsthand, eyewitness testimony that was based on hearsay.*

In support of this specification, Appellant cited incidents found in ROC 133, 163, 171, 177, 271, 328, 458, 510, 517, 528, 819, 1159, 1160, and 1161. In examining those incidences, it is our opinion that the Commission acted properly in responding to the objections and issued proper warnings and guidance to the parties and witnesses. On numerous occasions, the members of the court cautioned witnesses about the nature of their testimony. When testimony was found to be improper, the Court declined to hear it or explained that they would grossly discount its value as evidence. [E.g., ROC 153-158, 165-166, 271, 298, 510-511, 516-517] Appellant failed to produce evidence that the testimony taken at the trial violated the rules of evidence as outlined in the *BCO*; therefore, there is no clear error on the part of the Commission.

- d. *The Commission allowed emails and written statements as documentary evidence from a number of individuals that declined to testify. Appellant contends that these documents should not have been entered into evidence since the Appellant would not have an opportunity to cross examine the authors of those documents.*

In support of this specification, Appellant cited ROC 161-164, 1946, 2067-2077 (regarding Morgan Havig); 167 (regarding David Conner); 237 (regarding David Wilhite); and 2135 (regarding Mary Stewart).

In examining Appellant's citations, it is our opinion that the Commission gave proper consideration to the evidence and testimony properly presented to the Commission. In considering the interaction between Morgan Havig and Appellant, the Judicial Commission relied on the testimony of HL Jackson, Kimberly Jackson and Tom Schuler. Information that may have been provided by David Conner and David Wilhite is not cited in the Commission's finding of fact and Mary Stewart did testify and was questioned regarding her diary entries.

The Court notes that Appellant presented written statements from witnesses who did not appear before the Judicial Commission and who were not subject to cross-examination, e.g., ROC 2188, 2190, 2193 and 2293. Appellant's claim of harm due to the fact that he could not cross-examine certain witnesses and their written statements is weakened by the fact that Appellant submitted to the Judicial Commission substantial amounts of the same type of evidence.

Appellant has failed to produce evidence that the Commission committed clear error by giving undue consideration to any of these documents.

- e. *The Commission allowed testimony from individuals that should have not been allowed to testify under provisions of BCO 31-8.*

Making a determination on the presence of a malignant spirit or deep interest in the conviction of an accused is a matter of judgment and discretion for the lower court. The question for this Court is whether MAP committed clear error in reaching its decision. Appellant has not produced any evidence from the ROC that would demonstrate that any of the individuals who testified were not qualified and has not demonstrated that the lower court committed a clear error; therefore, the higher court must defer to the lower court. (BCO 39.3.3)

### **Category III-Refusal of Reasonable Indulgence**

- a. *The Court repeatedly changed the date for the beginning of the trial such that it affected the Appellant's ability to inform its witnesses when they could be expected to be called to testify. The Appellant contends that the trial was originally scheduled for April 18, then rescheduled for May 2, and then, at the request of the Prosecutor, was delayed until May 9.*

According to the ROC, the trial date of May 9, 2015 was set by the Court on April 17, 2015 during a conference call attended by Appellant. During the second day of the trial, May 16th, all parties were involved in setting May 30, 2015 as the third day of the trial. Appellant raised no objection to the date at that time. By setting May 30, 2015 as the date for the trial to continue,

Appellant had 14 days to notify and line up witnesses. Appellant has failed to provide any evidence from the ROC that would demonstrate that the scheduling was a refusal of reasonable indulgence and constituted clear error on the part of the Court.

- b. The Commission directed the Appellant to present and conclude his case on May 30, 2015.

There is nothing in the ROC that indicates that the Commission ever gave such direction to Appellant. Further, there is no evidence in the Record that Appellant asked for more time and was denied, or that Appellant objected to any time limits alleged to have been imposed. Consequently, this Court cannot say that MAP clearly erred and refused reasonable indulgence to the Appellant.

#### **Category IV-Manifestation of Prejudice in the Case**

- a. Manifestation of prejudice is evidenced by beginning the judicial process in an unconstitutional manner, the improper drafting and lack of proper approval of an indictment, the unconstitutional interference of persons in the judicial process, the Court being deferential to the prosecution, failing to heed the concerns of the Appellant and the development of factual findings without corroborative evidence, the use of hearsay and the testimony of witnesses not supported by other witnesses.

This Court has addressed above Appellant's claims of error which are set out in summary fashion in this specification of error. The Appellant failed to demonstrate from the ROC that MAP clearly erred and manifested prejudice in this case.

- b. The Court manifested prejudice on January 24, 2015, when it suspended TE Hardie under the provisions of BCO 31-10. Appellant contends that the suspension sent a prejudicial signal that only a guilty verdict would be the right outcome.

The decision to suspend a member under process is a decision that is made at the discretion of the court. Appellant failed to produce any evidence in the ROC to indicate that MAP's



decision to suspend TE Hardie on January 24, 2015, was a clear error or prejudiced the eventual outcome of his case in any way.

- c. The Court manifested prejudice when it stated its intent to invoke the provisions of BCO 42-6 and to continue the suspension from all official duties of office before the Appellant gave notice of appeal. Appellant contends that the notice of appeal must be given before the court can consider the continuation of a suspension and to take the preemptive action was indicative of prejudice against the Appellant.

There is nothing in BCO 42-6 that would require a court to wait for a notice of appeal to be filed before considering the question of suspension. It is reasonable and prudent for a court to anticipate that a notice of appeal would be filed and make a determination regarding suspension immediately following the pronouncement of censure. By anticipating the notice of appeal, the court prevents any confusion regarding the status of a person between the time that the notice is received and the court is able to reconvene. The Appellant failed to provide evidence from the ROC to support his assertion that this action by MAP was a clear error or was indicative of any prejudice against him.

### **Category V-Hurrying to a Decision before All the Testimony Was Taken**

The Appellant contends that the Court gave great latitude to the Prosecution to present its case and then informed the Defense that it had to complete presenting its case in a short period of time.

The Appellant failed to produce evidence from the ROC to substantiate this claim. The Appellant began his defense at about 5:15 PM on May 30, 2015. [ROC 1596]. Twelve witnesses, including Appellant, were examined and cross examined. Nothing in the ROC suggests that Appellant asked for additional time or that the Commission put any restriction on the time allowed for Appellant to make his defense. The Commission asked the defense if they were resting and the only response was “We’ll make a closing.” Appellant has failed to prove clear error.

## Category VI-Mistake and Injustice in the Judgment

Appellant contends that in addition to the suspension imposed on January 24, 2015, the censure of Indefinite Suspension from Office is not commensurate with the offenses. The Appellant argues that a censure of Admonition or Definite Suspension from office would be more commensurate.

Appellant was convicted of three offenses; each offense involving the breaking of one of his ordination vows. BCO 30-1 states that definite suspension is only appropriate for “an accused who, upon conviction, satisfies the court as to his repentance and make restitution as appropriate.” The issue of whether or not the Appellant is repentant is left with MAP. MAP issued the only censure that was appropriate for the conviction, that is:

We, the Metropolitan Atlanta Presbytery in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, do now declare you suspended from the exercise of your office, until you give satisfactory evidence of repentance.” (underline in original).

For the reasons stated above, Appellant has failed to sustain any of the specifications of error raised in his appeal. The judgment of MAP is upheld.

BCO 35-7 allows the court of final appeal to assess the cost of transcription equitably among the parties. The SJC assesses the cost of transcribing this trial equally between the parties. However, we encourage MAP, as an act of mercy, to consider absorbing the entire cost.

The Panel’s Proposed Decision was drafted by RE Jones and RE Nusbaum and edited by the Panel, and further amended and approved by the SJC on the following roll call vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Dissent</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn’ <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Recused</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CASE 2015-09**

**BRAD BUMGARNER  
VS.**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY**

**DECISION ON *BCO* 40-5 APPLICATION  
MARCH 3, 2016**

The Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) finds the Request/Application Administratively Out of Order and cannot be put in order (OMSJC 9.1.a.) because it deals with proceedings in a judicial case, and that the case be dismissed pursuant to OMSJC 9.2(d). See *BCO* 40-3: "Proceedings in judicial cases, however, shall not be dealt with under review and control when notice of appeal or complaint has been given the lower court." Further, the claimant stated on November 1, 2012 upon withdrawing a complaint on this matter: "Please consider this my official request to withdraw my complaint...I understand that once my complaint is withdrawn it cannot be resubmitted."

The SJC approved this decision on the following roll call vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>DisQual</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Recused</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Absent</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CONCURRING OPINION  
CASE 2015-09  
BUMGARNER  
VS.  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

**March 15, 2016**

Concurring Opinion of RE Howard Donahoe.

I concur with the SJC Decision in this Case, but believe fuller explanation is warranted. This Case is administratively out of order for two reasons. First, in his August 2015 letter to the PCA, the claimant essentially seeks to re-file his previously filed Complaint, which he withdrew almost three years prior on November 1, 2012. To allow this would be to disregard the filing deadlines stipulated by the *BCO*.

Second, his letter seeks the reversal of a judicial censure via the avenues of *BCO* Chapter 40. But *BCO* 40-3 stipulates, “*no judgment of a lower court in a judicial case shall be reversed except by appeal or complaint.*” In his letter, he mistakenly asserts the following: “While the court can not overturn a judicial case, this was not a judicial case as I was deposed without a trial despite requesting one.” But it was a judicial case and he is seeking reversal of the censure via *BCO* 40, which cannot be done.

According to the Record, in 2012 the claimant was a ruling elder on leave of absence. That summer, the Session encouraged him to resign, noting that if he declined, the Session would likely proceed to indictment. He declined to resign, and the Session indicted him on four charges. At the arraignment on August 5, 2012, the Session regarded his response to two of the charges as being guilty pleas. To one charge, he responded, "Yes, I have fallen short in this area." And to another charge he responded, "I have certainly fallen short in this area, too." The Session considered these responses as admissions of guilt, advised him of such at the arraignment, and proceeded that evening to impose the censure of deposition from office.

He filed a Complaint against that censure in September 2012. But on November 1, 2012, he withdrew his Complaint, acknowledging, “I understand that once my complaint is withdrawn it cannot be resubmitted.” Over 30 months later, in July 2015, he filed what he purported to be a *BCO* 40-5 letter asserting Presbytery was guilty of grossly unconstitutional proceedings and important delinquency for allegedly failing to investigate his August 2012 deposition. Presbytery rightly judged the matter to be closed and his letter to be administratively out of order for reasons similar to the SJC’s.

/s/ RE Howard Donahoe

**CASE 2015-10**

**JOHN THOMPSON  
VS.  
SOUTH FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

**DECISION ON BCO 40-5 APPLICATION  
MARCH 3, 2016**

The Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) finds this Case Administratively Out of Order and cannot be put in order (*OMSJC* 9.1.a.) because it deals with proceedings in a judicial case in which a complaint was filed. Accordingly, the case is dismissed pursuant to *OMSJC* 9.2(d). See *BCO* 40-3, “Proceedings in judicial cases, however, shall not be dealt with under review and control when notice of appeal or complaint has been given the lower court.”

The SJC approved this decision on the following roll call vote:

Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent, Recused</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CASE 2015-11**

**JOHN B. THOMPSON  
VS.  
SOUTH FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

**DECISION ON COMPLAINT  
MARCH 3, 2016**

**SUMMARY OF THE FACTS**

A member of Granada Presbyterian Church (and PCA ruling elder not actively serving on a session) was indicted for violating his membership and ordination vows for allegedly inappropriate emails sent to officers and other members of his church, and he pled not guilty. A week prior to the trial, he

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changed his plea and proposed handling the matter as a *BCO* 38-1 case without process and proposed a 23-page “full statement of the facts.” The Session Commission then proposed a different two-page statement, but an agreement was not reached on a 38-1 statement. Prior to trial, the accused was convicted of contumacy for allegedly failing to appear at two citations for *BCO* 38-1 discussions and “refusing to cooperate with lawful proceedings,” and the censure of excommunication was imposed. His subsequent Complaint to the Session was ruled Administratively Out of Order, and his Complaint to Presbytery was denied.

06/06/14 Granada Session charged its Commission for Care (SCC) “to administer discipline, as deemed necessary” regarding Mr. John B. Thompson. He is a PCA ruling elder, but not serving on a session.

01/07/15 Six months later, the Commission adopted the following:

“That RE Jack Thompson be instructed to cease sending emails regarding Granada Presbyterian Church business. (This will be communicated to him in person and contemporaneously in writing at our next planned Commission meeting to take place on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.)”

01/13/15 Mr. Thompson was notified to appear at a Commission meeting the next day.

01/14/15 Commission meeting, with five REs present: Woody Lippincott, Dale Haywood, Ernesto Escoto, Nathan Adler, and Marcos Ruiz. Granada TE Phil Binnie was present as a guest and consultant. Below is an excerpt from the minutes:

Jack Thompson did not appear at the SCC meeting as verbally requested by telephone by RE Lippincott and TE McCloud earlier in the week. The meeting was scheduled to start at 6:45 pm (15 minutes before the start of choir practice) in order to accommodate Thompson. It is noted that while the commission waited for Thompson to appear, he attended choir practice in the same building.

After discussion, the following motion resulted due to the finding of a strong presumption of guilt of the party involved: SCC- 2015-3: That the Granada Session authorize

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the SPC [sic] to proceed with judicial process and to allow the commission to invite a Presbytery member familiar with judicial procedures to act as moderator. Motion passed without objection.

01/23/15

Date the Indictment was signed by prosecutor RE Elwood T. [Woody] Lippincott, Jr., which included the following:

4. On June 17, 2014 commission members [three REs] initiated a meeting in person with JBT and admonished him to stop sending emails regarding GPC business.
5. In contravention of this admonition, JBT continued to initiate emails regarding GPC business.
6. As a result of this contravention, on September 17, 2014, commission members [RE and TE] initiated another meeting in person with JBT. [The senior pastor] was also in attendance. The commission members again admonished JBT to stop sending emails regarding GPC business.
7. In contravention of this admonition, JBT continued to initiate emails regarding GPC business.
8. Since the first meeting of commission members and JBT on June 17, 2014, JBT has initiated in excess of 369 emails regarding GPC business. A number of these emails were sent to, among others, church members who are not Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders, children of church members, the wives of some session members and the elderly mother of at least one church member.
9. The continuing initiation of emails after June 17, 2014 regarding GPC business constitutes multiple clear violations of the vows of membership and eldership taken by JBT, "against the peace, unity and purity of the Church, and the honor and majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the King and Head thereof'.

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- 01/24/15 Indictment was delivered. Mr. Thompson submitted a written plea of “not guilty.” Eventually, a trial was scheduled for July 1.
- 06/23/15 Five months later, and one week prior to the trial, Thompson notified the court he was changing his plea to guilty, not to the charges in the indictment, but rather, guilty to what was in his 23-page document that accompanied his change in plea. He proposed the matter be handled as a *BCO* 38-1 case without process. [For the June 23 date, see ROC 229, paragraph #1, last sentence. Mistakenly, his Complaint to the Session stated this confession was delivered June 25.]
- The Commission then “cited” him to appear at a meeting on June 25 “to approve a full statement of facts in accordance with *BCO* 38-1.” The Commission attached a two-page document it proposed as the appropriate 38-1 statement. (The citation was dated June 22, but apparently was drafted after the court received Mr. Thompson’s June 23 change in plea.)
- 06/25/15 Thompson did not appear. The Commission “cited” him a second time, to appear at a 6/26 meeting “to approve a full statement of facts in accordance with *BCO* 38-1.” The Citation read in part, “If you appear and the parties are not able to approve a full statement of the facts, the case will proceed to trial as scheduled on July 1....”
- 06/26/15 Meeting between Thompson and the Commission. In his Complaint to the Session, Thompson contended he was “ordered not to speak” and contended the Commission said it was “because that is not on the agenda.” Thompson was accompanied by a retired police chief who attested to the accuracy of that contention.
- 06/27/15 Mr. Thompson was served by a process server at his home with a citation to appear at Granada the next day for the purpose of having a “judgment” entered against him.
- 06/28/15 Commission Meeting with four REs present: Woody Lippincott, Marcos Ruiz, Nathan Adler, and Dale Haywood,



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with TE McCloud present as a guest and consultant. Mr. Thompson attended the meeting with his wife. Commission Minutes record:

The Judgment [of excommunication] was read in accordance with *BCO* 36-6.

A trespass warning was also read to Thompson, and he received copies of the Judgment and the trespass warning. Judgment read as follows:

- Whereas the session of Granada Presbyterian Church charged its standing Commission for Care on June 5, 2014, to administer discipline, as deemed necessary, to John Bruce Thompson, a member of Granada Presbyterian Church and a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, and
- Whereas the Commission for Care served an Indictment on John Bruce Thompson on Jan 24, 2015, and Whereas the accused, John Bruce Thompson, initially submitted a written plea of not guilty to the charges in the Indictment and
- Whereas the accused subsequently submitted a written change of plea from not guilty to guilty and
- Whereas the accused received a Citation to Appear before the commission to approve a Statement of Facts per *BCO* 38-1 and
- Whereas the accused refused to attend as cited and
- Whereas the accused received a second Citation to Appear before the commission to approve a Statement of Facts per *BCO* 38-1 and
- Whereas the accused refused to attend as cited a second time and

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- Whereas the accused, both before and after his guilty plea, has intentionally engaged, and continues intentionally to engage, in the behavior which is the subject of the Indictment and
- Whereas the accused refuses to cooperate with these proceedings and has displayed no sign of repentance as to his contumacy and as to the charges in the Indictment and
- After much admonition and prayer and further endeavor by the court to bring the accused to a sense of his guilt, the accused has persisted in his contumacy and obstinately refuses to hear the Church. Therefore, in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, the standing Commission for Care of the session of Granada Presbyterian Church of the Presbyterian Church in America, do pronounce you, John Bruce Thompson, to be excommunicated from the Presbyterian Church in America and cut off from the fellowship of the Church.”

- 07/01/15      The date originally scheduled for the trial, but no trial was held.
- 07/02/15      Called Session meeting. Approved the Judicial Commission’s recommended Judgment and Censure of excommunication.
- 07/06/15      Mr. Thompson filed a 14-page Complaint with the Session. The 14-page Complaint did not allege error in the Session’s trespass warning.
- 07/16/15      Stated Session Meeting. Three TEs and seven REs were present. Below is the only excerpt from the Minutes regarding the Thompson Complaints:

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Item 4: Correspondence - Clerk Haywood distributed a letter sent to the session by several Granada members regarding the Jack Thompson situation. Discussion was deferred until later in the meeting. Also, Thompson's complaints (#'s 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) were ruled administratively out of order, thus not received.

Jul/Aug Mr. Thompson filed several complaints with Presbytery, including this present one.

08/11/15 Presbytery Stated Meeting at Granada. Excerpts from Executive Session Minutes include:

In the matter of John Thompson: TE Matt Dubocq reported 8 complaints were received from former RE of Granada John Thompson. TE Matt Dubocq - on behalf of the MCR [Minister and Church Relations] committee made a motion to rule these complaints (united as one complaint) by John Thompson out of order. TE Phil Binnie, TE Matt Dubocq, and RE Marcos Ruiz (members of the MCR committee) abstained from voting on this motion as they are either members of Granada or involved in the complaint.

A motion was made to amend the motion and substitute "denied" instead of "out of order" in regards to complaints by John Thompson. The motion was passed to deny the complaints of John Thompson. *BCO* 43-2, 43-3 rules these complaints are denied. The session did not err, nor was there any misconduct or delinquency on the part of the Clerk of Presbytery or the Chairman of the MCR. (Note: The Teaching and Ruling Elders of Granada abstained from voting on this this motion and all other motions regarding this case.)

08/12/15 SFL Moderator TE Moran sent Mr. Thompson a letter, which included the following:

The South Florida Presbytery met on August 11, 2015 and considered all of the judicial matters

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that you submitted to the clerk of Presbytery. The Presbytery passed the following motion: “Motion to deny the complaints made by John Thompson.” Please find this decision with its accompanying rationale in the document attached.”

A three-page “Judicial Decision” was attached, which contained 11 bullet points under “Reasoning.” (This seems to come from the MCR Committee report. It’s unclear if the Presbytery ever adopted this. The August 11 Minutes don’t reflect adoption, but at the ROC Hearing the Respondent indicated he believed Presbytery had adopted it.) The document included the following as the conclusion:

Under *BCO* 38-1; 43-1, one who cooperates with the court in a case without process has 60 days to file a complaint against the imposed censure. The censure was ratified by the Church Session July 2. The sixty-day deadline for filing such a complaint against the censure would be September 7. That complaint would have to be filed first with the session. Filing with the Presbytery or SJC without first filing with the session and giving the session opportunity to deal with it would be pre-mature.

The difficulty for the complainant to win his complaint regarding the *BCO* 38-1 process is, in the MCRC committee chairman’s opinion, not possible because:

- He did not plead guilty to the charges specified in the indictment as required by *BCO* 38-1.
- He did not agree to the statement of facts as required by *BCO* 38-1.
- He did not agree that his guilty plea and the statement of facts could be used by the court to impose whatever censure the court deemed appropriate. He agreed only to a censure of admonition.
- He walked out of the proceedings (as he had walked out of his disbarment proceedings in 2008).

Since the complainant did not appear for a trial, he does not have the right to appeal (*BCO* 42-2).

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- 08/13/15 Mr. Thompson filed his Complaint with the PCA.
- 09/30/15 SJC Panel received 222-page Record.
- 10/30/15 Mr. Thompson filed many objections to the Record.
- 12/04/15 Panel Hearing on Mr. Thompson's objections to the Record.
- 12/07/15 Panel notified parties of the contents of the final Record.
- 12/22/15 PCA received Complainant's Brief (10 pages).
- 01/05/16 PCA received Respondent's Brief (6 pages).
- 01/20/16 Panel Hearing on the Case in Birmingham, AL.
- 01/26/16 Panel filed its Proposed Decision with the SJC.

### II. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Did the Session Judicial Commission initially err in reaching its June 28, 2015 pre-trial judgment that Mr. Thompson was guilty of contumacy for alleged disregard of two citations or alleged refusal to cooperate with lawful proceedings?

Thereafter, did the Presbytery err on August 11, 2015 in denying a Complaint (*BCO* 43-3) against the Session's actions regarding the Judgment of Guilt and Censure of excommunication on June 28, 2015, July 2, 2015, and July 16, 2015?

### III. JUDGMENT

Yes. The Session's judicial commission procedurally erred, and subsequently the Session and the Presbytery erred in not sustaining the Complaint.

Therefore, the SJC annuls the judgment of guilt for contumacy under *BCO* 32-6 and thus the censure of excommunication. This Judgment also annuls the Session actions on July 2 and July 16, and the Presbytery action on August 11.

This places the matter back to where it was on June 26, 2015 when the Session's judicial commission invited the accused to a meeting to discuss the wording of a proposed confession ("full statement of the facts") with

the view of trying to handle the matter as a *BCO* 38-1 case without process. In other words, he is restored to the status of being a member of Granada PCA under indictment with judicial process pending.

#### IV. REASONING

The SJC is not expressing any opinion on whether the Complainant could have been convicted at a trial for contumacy. We are simply saying that his behavior was not the immediately censurable kind envisioned in *BCO* 32-6.b. For him to be censured for the subjective kind of contumacy, it would need to be proven at trial or confessed.

First, A *BCO* 30 censure cannot be imposed unless guilt is proven by:

1. a mutually-acceptable *BCO* 38-1 confession (case without process);
2. pleading guilty to charges in an indictment;
3. guilt proven at trial;
4. the demonstration of immediately censurable contumacy by willfully ignoring two citations to appear, or refusing to plead, at an arraignment;
5. or, the demonstration of immediately censurable contumacy by refusing to cooperate with lawful proceedings. (*BCO* 32-6)

The Record does not demonstrate 1, 2, 3, or 4 occurred. There was no mutually agreeable 38-1 confession, or a plea of guilty as charged, or a trial. And an accused person is not constitutionally required to appear at a hearing to discuss a proposed *BCO* 38-1 statement of facts. Declining to appear at a 38-1 meeting is not the same as ignoring a citation to appear or plead at the arraignment (*BCO* 32-6). Regardless, the Record indicates the Complainant appeared at the second meeting on June 26 and only left after he was told he was not to speak.

So that brings us to item 5: guilt of the sin of “refusing to cooperate with lawful proceedings.” (See the last Whereas clause in the Commission’s Judgment on June 28, 2015.) While that phrase might appear to be subjective, its location in *BCO* 32-6 and the fact that it is immediately censurable points to it being objective instead. In other words, it’s the kind of refusal to cooperate that renders process impossible – like ignoring two citations for an arraignment or refusing to plead.

While the Record demonstrates the accused was challenging to deal with, the behavior in the Record does not demonstrate the type of “refusing to cooperate with lawful proceedings” that would be *immediately* censurable as *BCO 32-6.b* contumacy. The Collins English Dictionary, for example, defines contumacy in two ways:

- 1) obstinate and wilful rebelliousness or resistance to authority; insubordination; disobedience;
- 2) the wilful refusal of a person to appear before a court or to comply with a court order.<sup>12</sup>

That two-part definition is instructive here because it describes both subjective and objective behavior. The second definition describes the type of objective contumacy envisioned in *BCO 32-6.b*. The first definition describes the type of subjective contumacy of which the Presbytery apparently believed the Record *also* demonstrated the Complainant was guilty. This was clear from the Presbytery Respondent’s answers to questions at the Hearing before the SJC Panel. But the first kind of contumacy is the subjective kind that must be proven at trial, with witnesses and evidence.

Again, the SJC is not expressing any opinion on whether the Complainant could have been convicted at a trial for contumacy. We are simply saying it was not the immediately censurable kind envisioned in *BCO 32-6.b*. For him to be censured for the subjective kind of contumacy, it would need to be proven at trial or confessed.

Second, for a matter to be a *BCO 38-1* case without process, the accused and the court must mutually approve a written statement (confession). Both must agree it is a full statement of the facts. If agreement cannot be reached, there cannot be a *BCO 38-1* case without process. In this case, on June 26, 2015, the two-page statement proposed by the judicial commission was quite different than the 23-page statement proposed by the accused. So, absent an agreement, they should have proceeded to the trial scheduled for a week later.

Further, the SJC interprets the January 23 Indictment as charging Mr. Thompson with persisting in sending unsolicited emails about church business in excessive numbers to church members after being admonished to cease. The admonitions given to Mr. Thompson as

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<sup>12</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> ed., HarperCollins, Glasgow, 2014. <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/contumacy>

represented in the Indictment could be interpreted as instructing Mr. Thompson not to send any emails regarding church business, not even one composed with temperate language, and with accurate, non-confidential content, and sent to willing recipients with a reasonable frequency. A ban of that scope would be beyond the powers of a Session because that prohibition would have no basis in the general moral regulations of Scripture. The Record does not demonstrate that the Session intended an absolute ban of emails regardless of content. For this reason, the SJC does not judge the Indictment to be unconstitutional.

It should be noted that the Complainant raised the issue of the Session's June 29 trespass warning ("TW") in his Preliminary Brief. However, since the Complainant did not include the TW as a specification of error in his original Complaint as enumerated under "The Wrongful Acts and Delinquencies of Granada," he cannot raise it now with the appellate court in Complaint 2015-11.

After Thompson's oral argument, and because his reference to the TW was so pronounced in his Brief, a Panel member asked him to cite a page number in ROC 86-99 where he complained about the Session's TW (i.e., in his original, 14-page Complaint filed with the Session on July 6). He was unable to provide any citation. He said it might be in the sections of that document that the Panel redacted on October 12 (for intemperance). However, nowhere in the 19 lines of text redacted from two pages in his July 16 Complaint does he complain about the TW, nor does the word "trespass" even appear in those redacted lines. While the TW was one of the documents in the nine pages of attachments to his Session Complaint, that's different than being part of the Complaint. So, the TW is not a matter before the SJC in Case 2015-11. Finally, some procedural omissions of the Presbytery warrant critique, and some actions of the Complainant warrant rebuke.

The Presbytery failed to comply with many important stipulations of *BCO* 43 regarding how an appellate court reviews a Complaint. The Complainant was apparently not able to "present his complaint" (*BCO* 43-5) or "appear before the higher court" (*BCO* 43-7 & 8). There was no "hearing" where he could "present argument" including "the right of opening and closing the argument" (*BCO* 43-9). At the Hearing, the Respondent's answers to questions from the Panel confirmed these omissions. Ordinarily an appellate court should give parties the opportunity to file briefs (*BCO* 43-8). And while the *BCO* does not



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explicitly require Presbytery to give the Complainant the opportunity to comment on the Record filed by the Session, it would be prudent to do so. Had Presbytery done these things, this Case might have been resolved much earlier.<sup>13</sup>

The SJC is compelled to note for the record that the Complainant has egregiously violated the rules of decorum in these proceedings (RONR (11th ed.), p. 392-93). This conclusion is sustained in the consideration of the following particulars:

1. The Panel was required to redact (remove) material from 20 pages of his writings in the original Record due to his intemperate language and non-germane accusations. For example, the Panel was required to redact intemperate or accusatory text from 7 of the 23 pages in his proposed *BCO* 38-1 Confession, which was as much an accusatory document as it was a confession.
2. He filed dilatory motions, such as a request for the entire Panel to be disqualified (which the SJC Chairman rejected, without objection from any Commissioner).
3. He inundated the Panel, the SJC Chairman, and the PCA Stated Clerk with emails outside the customary allowances in the SJC Manual (approximately 1,000 to the Stated Clerk alone). This was so abused the Panel had to warn the Complainant that unless such emailing ceased, the Panel might reduce the number of pages he could file in his Preliminary Brief. The Panel Chairman received over 180 emails from Mr. Thompson related to this Case. Further, these emails were frequently intemperate in tone, contained allegations not germane to the case, or were threatening as to consequences of adverse rulings.
4. In addition to the original 222-page Record, Mr. Thompson requested the addition of over 500 pages of documents and material,

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<sup>13</sup> At the Hearing, Presbytery's Respondent indicated a Brief was not invited since Presbytery had already received dozens of communications from the Complainant, many of which Presbytery's Minister and Church Relations Committee regarded as circularizing the court. In addition, the Presbytery meeting was held at Granada Church, which had given the Complainant a no trespass warning. But the appellate court should have found a way to give the Complainant a hearing. A Presbytery judicial commission could have held a hearing at a different location.

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which the Panel was required to review. (He also requested his 250-page autobiography be added to the Record, but he never supplied it.) Then, just three days before the hearing to establish the final Record, he reduced this request to 70 pages. In other words, he wasted much of the Panel's time.

5. In emails and other documents in this Case, he demanded information about the PCA's insurance policy, requested non-existent PCA documents that he insisted existed, and notified the PCA he had written to the IRS with a complaint against Granada and the Presbytery.
6. On January 11, just nine days prior to the Hearing, he emailed 49 Presbytery Clerks (which included a Panel member) and accused a non-involved PCA church of something non-germane to his case and attributed to an SJC officer a position that officer does not hold. He also wrote to the Clerks:

I am hereby asking you to send me other examples of which you are aware in which folks in our denomination have used "church discipline" to treat the freedom we have in Christ to disagree about nonessentials as "sin," in violation of *BCO* 29-1. . . . Such hijacking by some within our denomination of legitimate church discipline for illegitimate ends needs to stop, and I ask for your help in stopping it. Send me your horror stories.

7. On January 15, five days before the Hearing, he sent a nine-page document to the PCA Stated Clerk titled "Offer of Global Settlement." He copied several people and asked the PCA Stated Clerk to forward it to the Panel chairman (and others). At best, this was another unauthorized attempt to add material over the 10-page limit for a Preliminary Brief. But the excerpts below, from the unauthorized document, seem to indicate it was even more than that.

In providing this formal offer to the PCA GA Stated Clerk, Roy Taylor, Thompson asks that it be provided by him to the Panel Chair and to the SJC Chair and to the PCA Administrative Committee, as well as to the PCA's corporate Board of Directors, so that everyone who ought to be in the loop, who in fact is in the loop by virtue of the pendency of this Case and the real risks it raises. . . .

To the extent that any PCA court rubberstamps or ignores or enables or fails to order the revocation of this illegal trespass warning that court draws itself, by negligence at the very least, into civil and other attempts to remedy this hateful wrong.

Should civil litigation be necessary to vacate it, how are this denomination and this Presbytery and this particular church going to convince a judge and a jury. . . .

Thompson cannot compel anyone of you on the other side of this mess to mediate or to even consider this offer. You can be as lemmings and go off the cliff. But resolution is possible through the appreciated efforts of those who might take seriously the notion of peace in this church in this place at this time. If none of you wishes to resolve this, then fine, it will be on you all. I have done all I can do. You cannot say you were not warned and given a life line: “Après moi le déluge.”<sup>14</sup> "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.

8. After receiving the Panel’s Decision, he filed 23 post-hearing documents and motions, totaling almost 100 pages, none of which are allowed under the OMSJC. (Parties are limited to a 5-page post-hearing Supplemental Brief.)

In conclusion, because this SJC Decision has “reset” the clock to June 26, 2015, the Indictment is still pending. However, as any other person under indictment, the Complainant has the right to request the Session to transfer his membership to another church. The Session may grant such a request and dismiss him to membership in another church (*BCO* 12-1 and 12-5.a). Or, per the principles of *BCO* 38-3.a, it may decline such a request and “may retain his name on the roll and conduct the case.”

The Panel’s proposed decision was initially drafted by RE Donahoe, and after amendments, was adopted unanimously by the Panel of RE Bise, TE Gunn, and RE Donahoe. Panel alternates were TE Evans and RE Wilson, and they viewed the Hearing via videoconference. The SJC approved the Decision, as further amended on the following roll call vote:

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<sup>14</sup> [French, meaning, “After me, the deluge.”]

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Barker, <i>Concur</i>	Duncan, <i>Concur</i>	Meyerhoff, <i>Concur</i>
Bise, <i>Concur</i>	Evans, <i>Concur</i>	Neikirk, <i>Concur</i>
Burnett, <i>Absent</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>	Nusbaum, <i>Concur</i>
Cannata, <i>Absent, Recused</i>	Greco, <i>Concur</i>	Pickering, <i>Concur</i>
Carrell, <i>Concur</i>	Gunn, <i>Concur</i>	Fowler, <i>Concur</i>
Chapell, <i>Concur</i>	Jones, <i>Concur</i>	Terrell, <i>Concur</i>
Coffin, <i>Concur</i>	Kooistra, <i>Concur</i>	White, <i>Concur</i>
Donahoe, <i>Concur</i>	McGowan, <i>Concur</i>	Wilson, <i>Concur</i>

**CASE 2015-12**

**TE TOLIVAR WILLS  
VS.  
METRO ATLANTA PRESBYTERY**

**DECISION ON COMPLAINT  
MARCH 3, 2016**

**I. SUMMARY OF THE FACTS**

- 06/29/15 Metro Atlanta Presbytery (MAP) meets at a called meeting and decides to dissolve Grace North Atlanta (GNA) as an affiliate of MAP and the Presbyterian Church in America.
- 07/16/15 RE Randy Weekly, RE Steve Flesher, and TE Tolivar Wills file a complaint against the action taken by MAP on 6/29/15 to dissolve GNA.
- 09/15/15 MAP declares the complaint filed by RE Weekly, RE Flesher, and TE Wills on 7/16/15 to be administratively out of order.
- 09/18/15 TE Tolivar Wills files a complaint with the Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) of the PCA against the action taken by MAP on 9/15/15. The complaint is “against the decision of Metropolitan Atlanta Presbytery (MAP) taken at its Stated Meeting on September 15, 2015 in declaring administratively out of order the Complaint filed on July 16, 2015, to wit: That the Complaint is Administratively Out of Order because it lacked a signature.”

## II. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Is Complaint 2015-12 properly before the SJC?

## III. JUDGMENT

No. The Complaint is Administratively Out of Order.

## IV. REASONING AND OPINION

Complaint 2015-12 is against the action taken by MAP on 9/15/15.

*BCO* 43-2 states that “A complaint shall first be made to the court whose act or decision is alleged to be in error.”

MAP has not had the opportunity to respond to the Complaint regarding their action on 9/15/15, to wit: declaring the July 16, 2015 Complaint to be Administratively Out of Order.

If the Complainant desires to pursue this Complaint, he must file this Complaint with MAP within 30 days from notification of this Decision. (*OMSJC* 9.2(c))

This Opinion was drafted by RE Nusbaum and edited and adopted by the Panel, and amended and approved by the SJC on the following roll call vote:

Barker, *Concur*

Bise, *Concur*

Burnett, *Absent*

Cannata, *Absent*

Carrell, *Concur*

Chapell, *Concur*

Coffin, *Concur*

Donahoe, *Dissent*

Duncan, *Dissent*

Evans, *Dissent*

Fowler, *Concur*

Greco, *Concur*

Gunn, *Concur*

Jones, *Concur*

Kooistra, *Concur*

McGowan, *Concur*

Meyerhoff, *Concur*

Neikirk, *Concur*

Nusbaum, *Concur*

Pickering, *Concur*

Fowler, *Concur*

Terrell, *Concur*

White, *Recused*

Wilson, *Concur*

#### IV. PROPOSED MANUAL CHANGES

The SJC submits to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly the following proposed amendments (underscoring for additions; ~~striketrough~~ for deletions) to the *Operating Manual of the Standing Judicial Commission (OMSJC)* for adoption.

A. That the *OMSJC*, Chapter 10, Judicial Panels, sub-section 10.9., be amended by striking the current language:

10.9 ~~DURING THE HEARING:~~

- a. ~~The arguments of the parties shall be heard in the following order:  
(1) the Appellant makes the opening arguments;  
(2) the Appellee then replies  
(3) The Appellant makes the closing argument.~~
- b. ~~After the hearing shall have been opened and the initial requirements of BCO 42-8 met, but before any arguments of the parties have been presented, the members of the Panel or Commission shall have the opportunity to question the parties on any matter before the court.~~
- c. ~~A party shall have a maximum of 30 minutes to argue his case before the Panel or Commission (and in the case of the Appellant, this 30 minutes is inclusive of both his opening and closing arguments.)~~
- d. ~~At any time during which a party is presenting an argument to a Panel or the Commission, a member of the Panel or Commission may ask questions of that party; the time taken for such questions shall not form a part of the argument time of the party questioned.~~

And putting in its place the following:

10.9 ORAL ARGUMENT. A Judicial Panel shall hear oral argument as follows: in an Appeal in accordance with OMSJC 13.3; in a Complaint in accordance with OMSJC 14.3; and in a Report Arising Out of General Review and Control in accordance with OMSJC 15.4.

**Rationale:**

The section as it stands is (inadvertently?) worded exclusively for an Appeal, and, in light of 13.3 and 14.3, is redundant.

- B. That *OMSJC*, Chapter 7, The Record of the Case, sub-section 7.2.b., be amended by striking “32-18 and” so that the sub-section reads:
- b. The Record of the Case in a Complaint shall be prepared in accordance with *BCO 32-18* and 43-6 which shall include: . . .

**Rationale:**

The citation struck, pertaining as it does to a trial, is not relevant to a Complaint.

- C. That *OMSJC* sub-section 7.4.d. be amended by adding the underlined text as below:
- d. If the other party does not accede to the objection, the Judicial Panel, or the Commission if the case is to be heard by the Commission, shall hold a hearing by electronic conference with respect to the objection.
- (1) In preparation for the hearing the Chairman shall:
- (a) Set a date and time for the hearing, making every reasonable effort to obtain such date and time as may be agreeable to the parties.
- (b) Notify the parties of such date and time for the hearing by electronic means not less than 14 days prior to the date of hearing, obtaining a receipt of acknowledgement from each party. Such 14 day period may be shortened if the parties agree in writing.
- (c) Notify the parties of their right to submit briefs according to the standard set forth in *OMSJC* 8.4.a. of not more than 5 pages in length.
- (2) The hearing shall proceed as follows:
- (a) After the hearing has been opened, but before any arguments are presented, the members of the Panel or Commission shall have the opportunity to question the parties with respect to the matter at hand. The same shall be true after the conclusion of the time for argument.
- (b) A party shall have a maximum of 20 minutes to address the question, the time divided between

opening arguments by the parties in turn, and rebuttal arguments by the parties in turn.

(c) At any time during which a party is presenting an argument, a member of the Panel or Commission may ask questions of that party; the time taken for such questions shall not form a part of the time of the party questioned.

(3) After oral argument the parties shall be dismissed and the Panel or Commission shall make a decision as to whether in fairness and justice the Record of the Case should be corrected.

**Rationale:**

*OMSJC* gives direction to hold a hearing, but no direction as to how the hearing is to proceed. The amendment remedies the deficiency, as far as reasonable mirroring the other hearing procedures of *OMSJC*.

D. That *OMSJC*, section 7.4. be amended by adding a new sub-section b, with the following sub-sections re-lettered:

7.4.

b. The hearing body may delete any portions of the Record as submitted that violate justice or due process, a provision of the *BCO* or Roberts Rules of Order, or that are extraneous to the matter before the Commission. The hearing body may also require the addition of material to the Record that is relevant to the Case. Deletions and additions shall always be recorded in the minutes of the hearing body, with the approved rationale for the change. Any deletions or additions shall be reported to the parties, and may be addressed in argument from the parties in any hearing requested by a party on the ROC (*OMSJC* 7.4(c)).

**Rationale:**

With respect to a new 7.b., such discretion ought to belong to the hearing body, but there should also be a record of its actions to make accountability possible.

E. That in regard to Overture 2, the SJC recommends *OMSJC*, section 18.12. be amended as follows:

Note: there is no proposed change to 18.12.a. It is shown only for context.]



## 18.12. Concurring and Dissenting Opinions

- a. The right of a Commission member to file a Concurring or Dissenting Opinion (see 17.8.k) is an essential element of the work of the Commission, in that it preserves the unity of the Commission by allowing a member in the minority to submit to the Commission's judgment, while declaring, and thus clearing, his conscience in a particular decision. An Objection (*BCO* 45-1, 4) is only permissible in the case of an otherwise qualified member of the Commission (cf. *OMSJC* 2.2-.3) who could not vote due to being a member of the presbytery or a member of a congregation in the bounds of the presbytery from which the case arose (cf. *BCO* 39-2).
- b. That right notwithstanding, in order to preserve the primacy of, the authority of, and respect for Commission decisions, any Concurring or Dissenting opinion, which does not qualify as a minority decision under the terms of *BCO* 15-5, shall ~~be reviewed to ensure that it meets~~ meet the following standards:
  - (1) Concurring or Dissenting opinions shall set forth concisely, as the case may be, the alternate grounds upon which the Commission's decision ought to have been rendered; or, the alleged error of the Commission's decision, a statement of the decision that should have been rendered, and the grounds sustaining.
  - (2) Ordinarily Concurring or Dissenting opinions should set forth positions or employ arguments that were offered in the course of the Commission's proceedings on a case.
  - (3) Concurring or Dissenting opinions shall be couched in temperate language conducive to maintaining respect for the Commission, vigorous expression of disagreement with the decision notwithstanding.

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- (4) Concurring or Dissenting opinions shall conform to the specifications for a preliminary brief (*OMSJC* 8.4.a-b.).
- c. At the request of four SJC members within 14 days after the date the text of the Concurring or Dissenting Opinion is sent by the Secretary to the members of the SJC, the ~~The~~ Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Commission, upon at least fourteen (14) days' notice, by telephone or video conference to consider ~~the adoption of either (1) a motion to adopt an Answer to any Concurring or Dissenting Opinion or (2) a motion to strike the Opinion for failing to meet the standards in 18.12.b.~~ Upon the adoption of an Answer to a Concurring or Dissenting Opinion by the Commission, no further Concurring or Dissenting Opinion shall be permitted; neither shall any amendment to the Concurring or Dissenting Opinion in question be permitted. A Concurring or Dissenting Opinion may be withdrawn.

**V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Standing Judicial Commission elected for 2015-2016 are as follows:

Chairman:	TE Fred Greco
Vice Chairman:	RE John White
Secretary:	RE Jack Wilson
Assistant Secretary:	RE Steve Meyerhoff

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ TE Fred Greco, Chairman

/s/ RE Samuel J. Duncan, Secretary

## Attachment 1

### South Florida Presbytery Responses to Exceptions

#### General Assembly Year: 2009

**Exception:** Minutes of executive session not included (*RAO* 16-3.e.6)

Meeting Dates: January 20, 2009, and April 21, 2009

**Response:** On April 21, 2009, the Executive Session dealt with a TE who was divested from the office of minister with censure of indefinite suspension already imposed. The Executive Session Minutes were recorded but not sent with the April 21 Minutes. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include these Minutes in the future. [Executive Session Minutes were submitted with this response.]

For January 20, 2009, the Minutes reflect but do not include the record of the Executive Session. We regret this omission and promise to be more careful in the future.

The Minutes for the Executive Session of January 20, 2009, were nowhere to be found, after a diligent, thorough, and exhausting search.

**Exception** (repeated): Minutes of executive session not included (*RAO* 16-3.e.6)

Meeting Dates: January 20, 2009 and April 21, 2009

**Response:** This response is the same as the response above. This Exception was from both the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2012 and the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2013

**Exception:** Complaint not recorded in the minutes (*BCO* 13-11)

Meeting Dates: October 20, 2009

**Response:** It was recorded that there was a Commission created to hand a complaint against one of the churches in our Presbytery, but the complaint itself was not included. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include these facts in the future.

**Exception** (repeated): Complaint not recorded in the minutes (*BCO* 13-11)

Meeting Dates: October 20, 2009

**Response:** This response is the same as the response above. This Exception was from both the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2012 and the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2013.

## General Assembly Year: 2011

**Exception:** No record of stated differences (*BCO* 21-4 and *RAO* 16-3.e.5)  
Meeting Dates: January 18, 2011

**Response:** The stated difference of the candidate was included at the bottom of the “Theological Views” and was submitted with them. We do admit our failure to include that the difference was judged as being “merely semantic” and will correct that in the future by including the judgments of the Stated Differences.

**Exception:** All specific requirements for ordination exam not recorded (*BCO* 21-4 and *RAO* 16-3.e.5)

Meeting Dates: January 18, 2011

**Response:** We acknowledge our error in not reporting all the requirements for the ordination exam. According to the Stated Clerk, “all the items were included and he passed every one of them and the report was passed as a whole”. We will be careful to include all requirements for ordination exams in the future Presbytery Minutes.

**Exception:** No recorded review of session records. (*BCO* 13-9.b)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** The Presbytery has been negligent in fulfilling this task. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include it in the future.

**Exception:** No annual report from commission that was established on November 8, 2011 (*BCO* 13 – 9.b)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** The report from the committee was not included. We admit and regret this error. We will obtain this report to add to the Presbytery Minutes. In the future, we will be diligent to include these reports in the Presbytery Minutes.

**Exception:** No record of endorsement of candidate by his session or a record of having been a church member for 6 months under care of the session for candidate (*BCO* 18-2)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** The candidates each were endorsed by his session and were members for 6 months. These facts were not reported in the Minutes. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include these facts in the future.

**Exception** (repeated): No record of endorsement of candidate by his session or a record of having been a church member for 6 months under care of the session for candidate (*BCO* 18-2)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** This response is the same as the response above. This Exception was from both the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2012 and the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2013

**Exception:** Minutes report several charges were laid against a TE. Rather than proceeding with judicial process, the moderator appointed a commission as to avoid scandal and hearsay before all the facts are presented, citing *BCO* 34-2 (*BCO* 31-2 and *BCO* 32-2 and 3)

Meeting Dates: November 8, 2011

**Response:** The TE was accused of mismanagement of funds regarding the sale of some land and some loans that were taken out. All the paperwork turned out to be in order because he did it with the approval of the Session. A Commission dealt with this situation and reported to the Presbytery. The Commission Report was not included in the Minutes. We admit our error and regret the error. We promise to do better in the future. After a diligent search, the Commission Report was not found. This Response relies on the information provided via e-mail from the Chair of the MCRC Committee:

yes now I remember, there was a man who accused him of mismanagement of funds. He had made decisions about the sale of land and loans taken out but - all the paperwork was in order (meaning that he did it with session approval) and did not do it alone. This was dealt with by a commission that was set up for another issue and I asked that commission to do both cases.

It was dealt with on a commission and reported I remember - I do not have the written info - but I know we denied the charges.

**Exception** (repeated): Minutes report several charges were laid against a TE. Rather than proceeding with judicial process, the moderator appointed a commission as to avoid scandal and hearsay before all the facts are presented, citing *BCO* 34-2 (*BCO* 31-2 and *BCO* 32-2 and 3)

Meeting Dates: November 8, 2011

**Response:** This response is the same as the previous response. This Exception was listed from both the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2012 and the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2013

## General Assembly Year: 2012

**Exception:** No record of review of Sessional records of church sessions (*BCO* 13-9.b)

Meeting Dates: February 7, May 8, August 14, November 13

**Response:** The Presbytery has been negligent in fulfilling this task. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include it in the future.

**Exception:** Ordination of TE: terms of call not included (*BCO* 20-1 and 13-11)

Meeting Dates: February 7 and August 14, 2012

**Response:** The Minutes state: “Credentials Committee Report – (see information attached):” but the report, which has the necessary documents, is not included. We will include the report in the Minutes. We regret this error and promise to be careful to include all reports in the future.

**Exception:** All specific requirements of ordination exam not included (*BCO* 21-4 and *RAO* 16-3.e.5)

Meeting Dates: May 8 and August 14, 2012

**Response:** The May 8 Minutes do not include the requirements of the Ordination exam at all and the August 14 Minutes have an incomplete list of requirements for the Ordination Exam. Both Ordination Exams were indeed complete with all parts taken, passed, and approved but not properly recorded in the Minutes. We regret these errors and will be careful to include the complete list of all specific requirements of the Ordination Exams in the future.

**Exception:** Stated Differences with our Standards not recorded in the proper manner (*BCO* 21-4 and *RAO* 16-3.e.5)

Meeting Dates: August 14, 2012

**Response:** The differences were not included from the Report from the Credentials Committee, but it was declared that “M/S/P His adherence to Confessional standards with a declared and allowable Continental view of the Sabbath”. The judgment of the difference should be recorded as “more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine”. We regret this error and promise to be careful to record the differences with the Standards in the proper manner in the future.

**Exception:** In complete record of TE transferring into Presbytery

Meeting Dates: November 13, 2012

**Response:** The Minutes state that “Leo Riley was recognized as a TE serving at Coral Ridge PCA” but the record of transfer is not included. We regret this error, will include the record of transfer, and promise to be diligent to include these records in the future.

**Exception:** Assignment of temporary session without recording justification or church invitation (*BCO* 5-3 and 15-1)

Meeting Dates: November 13, 2012

**Response:** The temporary session is “approved” both by the church and the Presbytery and “assigned”, but not justification or invitation is included in the Minutes. We regret this error and promise to be careful to include the justification or the church invitation in the future.

**Exception:** No record in the minutes of any stated meetings of an annual report from TEs working out of bounds (*BCO* 08-7)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** We have been in error by omitting these annual reports for the past years. We regret this error and promise to be more careful in the future to include these annual reports for the TEs working out of bounds.

### General Assembly Year: 2013

**Exception:** “Insufficient record of those at the meeting, namely, the ruling elders and their respective churches should also be included, and the names of visitors may be included.” (*BCO* 13-1, *BCO* 13-4, *BCO* 13-11, and *RAO* 16-3.c.6)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** We acknowledge our error regarding the incompleteness of the Attendance Rosters for the Presbytery Meeting in 2013. We placed in the Minutes the rosters that include the Ruling Elders with their respective churches along with the Visitors. We regret this omission and promise to do better in the future.

**Exception:** No record of licensure exam (*BCO* 19-2)

Meeting Dates: February 12, 2013

**Response:** The Licensure Exam for Henry Rojas was indeed carried out and approved. We regret our error in the omission of the record of this exam. We placed an addendum for this exam in the February Minutes. The Presbytery promises to be more careful to include the exams in the future.

**Exception:** No record of congregational meeting to approve dissolution of pastoral relationship (*BCO* 23-1)

Meeting Dates: February 12, 2013

**Response:** We agree with the Assembly that the record of the congregational meeting was not included in the Minutes. The TE was an Assistant Pastor. We have obtained the record of the Called Meeting of the Session and included it in the February Minutes. We promise to be careful about including such records in the future.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Exception:** No record of licensure questions being propounded (*BCO 19-3*)  
Meeting Dates: February 12, 2013, May 14, 2013, and November 12, 2013

**Response:** After each Licensure Exam for these candidates, the Questions for Licensure were indeed proposed and answered in the affirmative by all the candidates. We regret our error in not recording these questions and responses. We promise to be more careful in the future to include all questions and responses.

**Exception:** All specific requirements for licensure exam not recorded (*BCO 19-2*)

Meeting Dates: November 12, 2013

**Response:** We regret our error regarding the incompleteness of the Licensure Exams for the two Candidates. We have since placed an Appendix in the November Minutes which includes all the parts of the Exams. We promise to be more diligent in the future to include all the parts.

**Exception:** All specific parts of Ordination Exam not included (*BCO 21-4*)

Meeting Dates: November 12, 2013

**Response:** We regret our error in the omission of all the parts of the Ordination Exam for the Candidate. We placed all the parts which were administered and approved by the Presbytery in an Appendix to the Minutes of November 12, 2013. We promise to do better in the future with including all the parts of the Ordination Exams.

#### **General Assembly Year: 2014**

**Exception:** No record of review of records of church Sessions (*BCO 13-9.b*)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** The Presbytery has been negligent in fulfilling this task. We regret this omission and promise to be careful to include it in the future.

**Exception:** TE roll incomplete; unsure if Sessions represented; licentiates, RE's, and churches not specified (*RAO 16-4.c.1*)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** The Attendance roll included only included the TE's. We regret the error of leaving out the RE's, licentiates, and churches, and promise to do better in the future to include those parts of the Attendance.

**Exception:** No commission reports/minutes (*BCO 15-1*)

Meeting Dates: General

**Response:** Response: There were five ordination and installation commissions, one judicial commission, one commission for the transfer of a TE into the Presbytery, and one commission for a provisional session. None



of the commission reports were included in the Minutes. We included an addendum to the Minutes of the proper months with some of these reports of the commissions. Our Presbytery has not been diligent in requiring the commissions to submit reports. We regret this omission and this error and promise to be careful to include all reports for all commissions in the future.

**Exception:** Ministerial obligation not shown to be signed (*BCO 13-7*)

Meeting Dates: February 11, 2014

**Response:** The candidates all were approved for all parts of their exams and did sign the ministerial obligation (Ex Amino book), but we did not record that those signatures were done. We regret this error and promise to do better in the future to record the signatures of the ministerial obligations.

**Exception:** No record of requiring statement of differences with our standards (*BCO 21 – 4*)

Meeting Dates: February 11, 2014 and August 12, 2014

**Response:** It is recorded in the Minutes that the differences were approved, as “more than semantic but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine”, for each candidate, but we did not include the Differences in the Candidates’ own words for the candidate in the February meeting. The candidate from the August meeting did include his differences which are listed at the end of his Views and may have been overlooked. We regret the omission for the first candidate and the confusion for the second. We promise to do better in the future by including each candidate’s difference in his own words.

**Exception:** No record of all specific requirements of ordination (*BCO 21 – 4*)

Meeting Dates: February 11, 2014, May 13, 2014, August 12, 2014

**Response:** There were three candidates in February, one candidate in May, and one candidate in August. Each of these candidates took, passed, and was approved for all requirements of ordination. We did not include all requirements in our Minutes and regret our omission. We promise to be more careful in the future.

**Exception:** No record of ordination exam (*BCO 21 – 4*)

Meeting Dates: May 13, 2014

**Response:** The TE involved transferred into the Presbytery in the previous year (2013). All requirements of his transfer were not recorded in the Minutes although each requirement was propounded and approved by the Presbytery. We regret this error and promise to do better in the future to include all requirements for a TE to transfer into the Presbytery.

## APPENDIX U

### RESOLUTION OF THANKS

WITH JOY, THANKSGIVING AND GREAT EXPECTATION, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America has chosen to convene for the fourth time in the state of her birth, Sweet Home Alabama.

At that first General Assembly at Birmingham, on December 4, 1973, commissioners numbered 338, representing a denomination of sixteen presbyteries, 196 teaching elders, 260 churches and a membership of 41,232. This Assembly has received the report that our Presbyteries now number 84, with 4,630 teaching elders, 1,534 churches and a membership of 370,332. This is the LORD'S DOING AND IT IS MARVELLOUS IN OUR EYES (Psalm 188:23).

THE EARLIEST FOUNDATIONS of Presbyterianism in Alabama occurred in the northeast quadrant within the outreach orbit of the ministry to First Americans at the historic Brainerd Mission on Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga. The earliest surviving congregations are Lowndesboro (1816), Greenville (1820), Old Scotland/Monroeville (1823), Pea River, Clio (1823) and First Montgomery (1824), all now part of the PCA. An early pastor of the Montgomery church was Aaron Jerome, uncle of Sir Winston Churchill.

Well-known Alabama Presbyterians include: ex-slave and self-funded missionary to Africans Maria Fearing of Sumter County; "Brother Bryan of Birmingham"; Pioneer frontier evangelist Isaac Hadden; missionaries to the Congo TE Samuel N. Lapsley and African American William H. Shepherd, MD, and wife (he was knighted by King Leopold III of Belgium for defense of African natives being exploited by European rubber companies); Helen Keller; Daniel Baker, the "Apostle to Texas," sent by Tuskalooza\* Presbytery; US Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall; and Dr. Condoleezza Rice. Yellowhammer Presbyterians all! \*\*

Bold footprints remain of the ministries of the late Robert Strong, a prime leader of Reformed conservatives in the old PCUS, and of Pastor Frank Barker, thankfully still active amongst us, founder and long-time pastor of Briarwood Church, Birmingham, and a founder of Birmingham Theological Seminary and Campus Outreach.

## APPENDIX U

We are thankful for the ordinary means of grace and the able preaching & exhorting received during the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly by retiring Moderator Jim Wert, Tim Keller, and Thurman Williams. We have been uplifted in song by the musicians of Gulf Coast Presbytery, the Bay County Chorale and the wonderful Getty Family. We commend George Robertson for his wise, congenial, and efficient leadership as Moderator of this Assembly.

Host Committee Chairman Mack Griffith and his team have so ably served this Assembly. We thank as well Dr. Taylor and the Staff of the Stated Clerk's Office who have attended to every detail with careful duty.

Mr. Moderator with the sweet summer winds of Mobile Bay we move this motion be adopted with thanksgiving and acclamation.

TE Henry Lewis Smith (Chairman) Presbytery of Southeast Alabama  
RE Melton L. Duncan (Secretary) Presbytery of Calvary

\*Variant Spelling

\*\* **Moderators with ties by birth or ministry to the State of Alabama**

RE W. Jack Williamson  
TE Erskine L. Jackson  
RE William F. Joseph Jr  
TE Paul G. Settle  
TE James M. Baird Jr.  
TE Frank M. Barker Jr.  
TE Cortez Cooper Jr.  
TE Charles A. McGowan  
RE Thomas F. Leopard  
RE Stephen M. Fox  
TE Harry L. Reeder III  
TE George W. Robertson

## APPENDIX V

### OVERTURES TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(Note: The following are the original texts of the overtures as submitted by presbyteries to the PCA Office of the Stated Clerk. For any changes to these overtures by the Committees of Commissioners and/or the Assembly, see the respective Committee of Commissioners Reports.)

**OVERTURE 1** from Heartland Presbytery (to OC)  
"Steps Toward Racial Reconciliation"

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a statement on racial reconciliation that confessed its covenantal, generational, and heinous sins connected with unbiblical forms of servitude<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a paper titled "The Gospel and Race" that was produced under the oversight of our Mission to North America committee<sup>2</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the 144<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, adopted a statement on "Racial Questions"<sup>3</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the facts of history, especially during the period of the 1950s through the 1970s, confirm generational sins among some of our courts, churches, officers, and members, such as: 1) lack of concern regarding societal and ecclesiastical racial injustice and 2) opposition to the visible unity of all believers in Christ<sup>4</sup>; and

**Whereas**, in seeking to confess and repent of our own sins, we acknowledge that the iniquity of our fathers may continue in the midst of some of our churches, and as they do, they negatively affect our denomination as a whole (Lev. 26:40-45, Ezra 9:6-16, Neh. 9:1-38, Dan. 9:1-27); and

**Whereas**, the PCA has been hindered in its goal to be obedient to the Great Commission because our Presbyteries and individual congregations have not sufficiently addressed these sins that continue to affect our churches and witness today; and

**Whereas**, we wholly lean on the grace of God for forgiveness, reconciliation, and repentance (Eph. 2:1-16, 2 Ti. 2:24-26, 2 Cor. 5:18-21);

<sup>1</sup> M30GA, pp. 261-270, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/race.html](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/race.html)

<sup>2</sup> M32GA, pp. 124-25; 427-57, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> *Minutes of the 144<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the RPCES*, pp. 51-54.  
[www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/385.html](http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/385.html)

<sup>4</sup> Sean Michael Lucas, *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Phillipsburg: P&R, forthcoming November 2015).

**Therefore be it resolved**, that, before our Lord, the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America exhorts all its members, especially its officers, to examine themselves in the light of Scripture to determine if there be any unconfessed and unrepentant sins of partiality, favoritism, or prejudice among them (Gn. 1:26-27, Eph. 2:14-22, Jas. 2:1-4), specifically:

1. Barring people from participating in and/or failing to encourage them to attend upon the worship of God and membership in Christ's Church based upon their ethnicity;
2. Tolerating in our Presbyteries and local churches members of groups organized for the segregation, exclusion, and/or harm of people based on their ethnicity;
3. Speaking and/or preaching in favor of prejudice and segregation that leads to the disunity of God's people;
4. Actively working to oppose the betterment of those of a different ethnicity than ourselves;
5. Looking down upon people based upon their ethnicity;
6. Actively, passively and/or inadvertently being unloving and inconsiderate of all people in all our thoughts, words, and actions;
7. Harboring sinful anger, bitterness, and a vengeful spirit towards people based upon their ethnicity or past sins; and

**Be it further resolved**, that if any such sins be discovered, either past or present, that these sins be admitted, confessed, forgiveness sought before God and from those brothers and sisters so sinned against, as far as possible, and repentance, reconciliation, and reformation be manifested according to God's Word (Mt. 3:8, *WCF* 15); and

**Be it further resolved**, that all members of the PCA are encouraged to call all people without distinction to faith in the Gospel and repentance, and to invite them into our local churches because our God Himself shows no partiality (Acts 10:34, Rom. 2:11); and

**Be it further resolved**, that all congregations of the PCA work together to strengthen the unity of our denomination, as a part of the one Church, the singular bride of Christ, founded not on culture, ethnicity, or class, but one in Christ, fulfilling the mission and work of all He commanded us (Mt. 28:18-20, Gal. 3:28, Eph. 4:1-16); and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Stated Clerk disseminate this resolution to all Presbyteries and Sessions in the PCA for the reconciliation and health of Christ's Church; and

**Be it further resolved**, that Presbyteries and Sessions be greatly encouraged to examine their own history on these issues and to spread this resolution to all its members for the purpose that all would examine their hearts with more specificity and appropriate Biblical action be taken where applicable.

*Adopted by Heartland Presbytery at its stated meeting, August 8, 2015*

*Attested by TE Tim Rackley, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 2 (Revised)** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to SJC)

“Amend *Operating Manual of the Standing Judicial Commission (OMSJC)* 18.12.b and 18.12.c to Allow Concurring and Dissenting Opinions To Be Distributed Concurrently with an SJC Decision”

**Whereas**, after the SJC adopts a judicial Decision, it is promptly sent to the parties, and is public; and

**Whereas**, unfortunately, because of *OMSJC* 18.12, the Decision is usually published *without* attaching Concurring or Dissenting Opinions (unlike other appellate courts); and

**Whereas**, per 18.12, before these Opinions can be published, the SJC must have a called meeting where they are “reviewed,” and because an SJC called meeting requires 30 days’ notice, this usually results in an automatic delay, which is unhelpful and unnecessary;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that Pacific Northwest Presbytery overture the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to amend the *Operating Manual of the Standing Judicial Commission (OMSJC)* as follows:

[Proposed deletions are shown below by ~~strike through~~, and additions are underlined.

Note: there is no proposed change to 18.12.a. It is shown only for context.]

**18.12. Concurring and Dissenting Opinions**

- a. The right of a Commission member to file a Concurring or Dissenting Opinion (see 17.8.k) is an essential element of the work of the Commission, in that it preserves the unity of the Commission by allowing a member in the minority to submit to the Commission’s judgment, while declaring, and thus clearing, his conscience in a particular decision. An Objection (*BCO* 45-1, 4) is only permissible in the case of an otherwise qualified member of the Commission (cf. *OMSJC* 2.2-.3) who could not vote due to being a member of the presbytery or a member of a congregation in the bounds of the presbytery from which the case arose (cf. *BCO* 39-2).
- b. That right notwithstanding, in order to preserve the primacy of, the authority of, and respect for Commission decisions, any Concurring or Dissenting opinion, which does not qualify as a minority decision under the terms of

*BCO* 15-5, shall ~~be reviewed to ensure that it meets~~ meet the following standards:

- (1) Concurring or Dissenting opinions shall set forth concisely, as the case may be, the alternate grounds upon which the Commission's decision ought to have been rendered; or, the alleged error of the Commission's decision, a statement of the decision that should have been rendered, and the grounds sustaining.
  - (2) Ordinarily Concurring or Dissenting opinions should set forth positions or employ arguments that were offered in the course of the Commission's proceedings on a case.
  - (3) Concurring or Dissenting opinions shall be couched in temperate language conducive to maintaining respect for the Commission, vigorous expression of disagreement with the decision notwithstanding.
  - (4) Concurring or Dissenting opinions shall conform to the specifications for a preliminary brief (*OMSJC* 8.4.a-b).
- c. At the request of four SJC members within 14 days after the date the text of the Concurring or Dissenting Opinion is sent by the Secretary to the members of the SJC, the ~~The~~ Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Commission, with at least 14 days notice, by telephone or video conference to consider ~~the adoption of either~~ either (1) a motion to adopt an Answer to any Concurring or Dissenting Opinion or (2) a motion to strike the Opinion for failing to meet the standards in 18.12.b. Upon the adoption of an Answer to a Concurring or Dissenting Opinion by the Commission, no further Concurring or Dissenting Opinion shall be permitted; neither shall any amendment to the Concurring or Dissenting Opinion in question be permitted. A Concurring or Dissenting Opinion may be withdrawn.

### **Rationale**

1. This change will lessen the time between when the parties and the public see the SJC's Decision and when they see any Concurring or Dissenting Opinions. And, like with most appellate court decisions, the *BCO* implies

these should be published simultaneously, or at least nearly so.

*BCO 15-5.b.* In each case the SJC shall issue a summary of the facts, a statement of the issues, its judgment and its reasoning, *together with* any concurring or dissenting opinions, all of which shall be entered on the minutes of the GA and shall be reported by the Stated Clerk to the next GA. The judgment shall be effective from the time of its announcement to the parties. (Emphasis added.)

2. It is unwise to delay every Concurring or Dissenting Opinion on the rare chance that one might not meet the four standards in the Manual. The PCA can, and should, trust its judges to meet the four standards described in 18.12.b. And the burden for initiating review should be on those judges who think their fellow judge has written an Opinion that doesn't comply.
3. Temperate language - There are four sections earlier in the SJC Manual stipulating such an Opinion will be published, "if it is couched in temperate language" (*OMSJC 12-10, 13-7, 14-7, 17-8.k.*) But the "if" should not necessarily be understood as requiring the opinion be *delayed* for review. This is the same phrase used in *BCO 45-5* (below) for dissents filed against GA actions. But the GA does not docket a separate "review" for such filings. It would presumably take a motion from the floor of GA to strike any alleged intemperate dissent.

45-5. If a dissent, protest, or objection be couched in temperate language, and be respectful to the court, it shall be recorded; and the court may, if deemed necessary, put an answer to the dissent, protest, or objection on the records along with it. Here the matter shall end, unless the parties obtain permission to withdraw their dissent, protest, or objection absolutely, or for the sake of amendment.

And the same should apply to Concurring and Dissenting Opinions from SJC judges. Such opinions should be appended to an SJC Decision when that Decision is published.

The current mandatory delay for review of temperate language is trying to solve a problem that really doesn't exist. If a judge uses intemperate language, his fellow judges can (informally at first) encourage him to amend his Opinion. If necessary, they can request a called meeting and propose the Opinion be stricken for intemperate language. SJC Manual 2.1 already stipulates: "A member shall, at all times, keep in mind his high calling as an officer of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and shall



in all endeavors conduct himself in accordance with that calling.” It seems obvious that would include the temperance of the language he uses in any opinion.

4. An alternative would be to delay all SJC Decisions until (1) Concurring and Dissenting Opinions have been filed and (2) they’ve been reviewed and approved for release at a called SJC meeting. But that doesn’t seem like a better fix since it would delay the release of the main Decision.

Summary - This change would delete the requirement for Concurring and Dissenting Opinions to be delayed for review by the Standing Judicial Commission prior to being sent to the parties. With the proposed change, the SJC still has the opportunity, if necessary, to subsequently adopt an answer to any Concurring or Dissenting Opinion, or strike any that contain intemperate language or fail to meet the standards of OMSJC 18.

*Original approved by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, September 25, 2015.*

*Revision approved by a Commission authorized by PNW Presbytery on March 10, 2016.*

*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, Stated Clerk*

**OVERTURE 3** from Chesapeake Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 15-3 to Allow Judicial Commission Minority Reports”

**Whereas** Overture 1 to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, presented similar changes to *BCO* 15-3, but was answered in the negative; and

**Whereas** in its grounds to answering Overture 1, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly advised that the proposed changes to *BCO* 15-3 should be rewritten; and

**Whereas** Overture 1 to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly contained potential conflicts to the PCA Constitution in that the proposed new alternative of allowing a Presbytery’s Judicial Commission’s judgment to be the final ruling of the Presbytery provided neither a clear defined window for timing in filing a complaint nor provisions on who would be eligible to file a complaint against such ruling; and

**Whereas** currently, *BCO* 15-3 provides for a Judicial Commission’s judgment to be approved or disapproved by the Presbytery without debate or for the Presbytery to refer, (a debatable motion), any strictly constitutional issue(s) to a study committee; and

**Whereas** the current provisions of *BCO* 15-3 do not allow for any minority report if the judgment of a Judicial Commission was a split decision; and

**Whereas** providing for a minority report with a Judicial Commission report to the Presbytery would allow debate by the minority and majority before the Presbytery to provide commissioners more information in order to cast a more informed and wiser vote; and

**Whereas** a Presbytery's being given the opportunity to hear minority reports in Judicial Commission decisions could help lessen the caseload of the Standing Judicial Commission; and

**Whereas** hearing a minority report of a Judicial Commission erected by a Presbytery would be consistent with the current provisions of *BCO* 15-5.c regarding minority reports of the Standing Judicial Commission decisions; and

**Whereas** inserting minority report provisions directly within *BCO* 15-3 where the Presbytery acts on the Judicial Commission's judgment regardless of the existence of a minority report or not provides a cure for the potential constitutional conflicts that arose with respect to Overture 1 to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, whereby having the Presbytery act on a Judicial Commission's judgment which may or may not include a minority report provides for the normal time window for filing complaints and also establishes who would be able to file a complaint since the actual approval or disapproval of the Judicial Commission's decision would still remain within the bounds of a Presbytery meeting;

**Therefore be it resolved**, the Chesapeake Presbytery hereby overtures the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to amend *BCO* 15-3 regarding Judicial Commission minority reports as follows:

Proposed additions are underlined. There are no deletions in this proposed amendment.

15-3. Judicial Commissions of Presbytery

- a. Presbytery as a whole may try a judicial case within its jurisdiction (including the right to refer any strictly constitutional issue to a study committee with options listed below), or it may of its own motion commit any judicial case to a commission. Such a commission shall be appointed by the Presbytery from its members other than members of the Session of the church from which the case comes up. The commission shall try the case in the manner presented by the Rules of Discipline and shall submit to the Presbytery a full statement of the case and the judgment rendered. The Presbytery without question, discussion, debate, or amendment shall approve or

disapprove of the judgment, or may refer, (a debatable motion), any strictly constitutional issue(s) to a study committee. Members of the Judicial Commission may file concurring or dissenting opinions, or a minority report as set forth in (b) below. In case of referral, the Presbytery shall either dismiss some or all of the specific charges raised in the case or decide the case only after the report of the study committee has been heard and discussed. If Presbytery approves, the judgment of the commission shall be final and shall be entered on the minutes of Presbytery as the action. If Presbytery disapproves, it shall hear the case as a whole, or appoint a new commission to hear the case again.

b. Minority Reports

- (1) If, within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of adjournment of a Judicial Commission meeting at which a final decision was rendered in a case, at least one-third (1/3) of the voting members of the Judicial Commission file written notice of their intention to file a minority decision with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, and within ten (10) days from the adjournment do file such a minority decision, such minority decision shall be considered a minority report and shall be referred, with the report of the Judicial Commission, to the Presbytery. In each instance “file” shall be understood as procedures acceptable within the Presbytery for communicating official judicial documents to the Stated Clerk.
- (2) No such reports from the Judicial Commission shall be considered by the Presbytery unless both the report of the Judicial Commission and the minority report have been delivered to the clerk of Session of each church within the Presbytery within the timelines established by the Presbytery.
- (3) The Presbytery shall act upon such reports from the Judicial Commission, in each case without

question, discussion, debate, or amendment, as follows:

- (a) The Judicial Commission shall have 15 minutes to present its decision to the Presbytery.
- (b) The minority shall have 20 minutes to present its decision to the Presbytery.
- (c) The Judicial Commission shall have 5 minutes to reply to the minority report.
- (d) The decision of the minority shall be proposed and the Presbytery shall, without question, discussion, debate, or amendment approve or disapprove of the minority report.
- (e) If the Presbytery disapproves the minority report, the Presbytery shall take up the decision of the Judicial Commission and without question, discussion, debate, or amendment, approve or disapprove of the decision of the Judicial Commission.

*Adopted by Chesapeake Presbytery at its stated meeting, September 8, 2015  
Attested by /s/ RE Timothy M. Persons, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 4** from Missouri Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and

churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

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- Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommit itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and
- Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Missouri Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 20, 2015*

*Attested by /s/ TE David R. Stain, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 5** from Pittsburgh Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 15-5.a and *RAO* 17-1, Paragraph 4, to Allow the General Assembly to Give Directions to the SJC in Judicial Decisions and Reasoning and Opinions”

**Whereas** the General Assembly (GA) of the PCA exercises its authority in discipline cases through its Standing Judicial Commission (SJC), which was created 1) to avoid tangling the full GA in lengthy, complicated procedures of evidence, and 2) to go to great lengths to keep evidence which ought to remain confidential from inadvertently becoming public due to the generally open nature of GA meetings; and

**Whereas**, although this authority has been granted to the SJC, the spirit of *The Book of Church Order (BCO)* and *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)* of the PCA is that the decisions of the Standing Judicial Commission are subject to the final approval of GA as a whole; as shown in the following:

*BCO* 15-5.a: “. . . The General Assembly may direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry a case if upon the review of its minutes exceptions are taken with respect to that case.”

*BCO* 15-5.c (4): “. . . If the General Assembly finally

disapproves of both proposed decisions, it must set the case for hearing before the General Assembly or a special commission appointed by it, . . .”

**RAO 17-1, para. 4:** “. . . If [*Rules of Assembly Operations*] exceptions are taken with respect to a case, the Assembly may find this a ground to direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry the case.”

these being examples of oversight of SJC by the GA which are part of the general system of checks and balances in the government of the PCA; and

**Whereas**, at present, there are two ways for GA to be called upon to debate and consider a ruling of SJC, namely:

- 1) If there is a minority report from the SJC itself (this possibility is dealt with clearly in *BCO* 15-5.c), or
- 2) If the Constitutional Business Committee (CCB) reports an exception in the minutes of the SJC; and

**Whereas**, on this second route, there is a conundrum in our present rules, namely:

- 1) *RAO* 17-1 says that exceptions to minutes of SJC shall be handled as defined in *RAO* 14-11.d (2), which says that exceptions include “actions which in substance appear not to conform to the Standards of the Presbyterian Church in America, or to be out of accord with the deliverances of the General Assembly, should be reported under this category,”
- 2) However, *RAO* 17-1 states that the CCB is not to consider the “judicial cases, decisions, or reports” discussed in the SJC minutes, and *RAO* 17-1 explicitly mentions only “conformity to the *Operating Manual for Standing Judicial Commission (OMSJ)* and *RAO* 17,” which has been interpreted (e.g., at the 2013 GA) to mean that the CCB therefore can only bring to GA exceptions that deal with procedural matters relating to the *OMSJC* and *RAO*, not issues of constitutionality in the minutes of the cases themselves; thus, to take an extreme example, if the SJC were to write in its minutes, “the evidence clearly shows that this man denies the Trinity, but we judge this not to be a problem because the Trinity is not an essential doctrine,” the CCB would have no way to call this into question, and the full GA would have no mechanism to raise this as an issue, according to our present rules, if there is no minority report from the SJC on that matter; and

**Whereas**, we can distinguish between two types of objections to actions of SJC, namely:

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- 1) An objection to the reading of the evidence of a case, which CCB and full GA are poorly equipped to deal with, since they will not have heard the full evidence, much of which may be confidential; or
- 2) An objection does not deal with the evidence, but with the interpretation of the Constitution of the PCA, on which the CCB and full GA may have valuable input—members of the CCB are expected to be competent to judge not only matters of *BCO* and *RAO* rules violations, but the full Constitution of the PCA which includes the Standards, and many members of the full GA are quite astute on theological matters; and

**Whereas**, in general, on theological matters of great importance, it seems incongruous to leave the decision entirely in the hands of the 24 men of SJC without a possibility of open discussion by the full GA; and

**Whereas**, in 2014 several presbyteries sent overtures to GA to address this issue, with the aim of exercising greater oversight over the decisions of SJC, but these overtures were deemed to be flawed, in part because these overtures did not distinguish between two types of objections discussed above, that is, evidentiary matters and theological/constitutional matters; and

**Whereas** it is unlikely to be the will of GA to take up evidentiary matters, but revised language could allow the CCB and GA to take up purely theological and constitutional matters;

**Therefore be it resolved:**

To amend *BCO* 15-5.a. by adding the following sentence (underlined):

- a. In the cases committed to it, the Standing Judicial Commission shall have the judicial powers and be governed by the judicial procedures of the General Assembly. The decision of the Standing Judicial Commission shall be the final decision of the General Assembly except as set forth below, to which there may be no complaint or appeal. Members of the Standing Judicial Commission may file concurring or dissenting opinions, or a minority report as set forth in (c) below. The General Assembly may direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry a case if upon the review of its minutes exceptions are taken with respect to that case. The General Assembly may give direction to the Standing Judicial Commission on Constitutional matters.”

And to amend *RAO* 17-1, paragraph 4, by deleting parts shown in ~~strike through~~ and adding underlined wording:

The minutes, ~~but not the judicial cases, decisions, or reports,~~ of the Standing Judicial Commission shall be reviewed annually by the Committee on Constitutional



Business. The minutes shall be examined for conformity to the *Operating Manual for Standing Judicial Commission* and *RAO 17*, and for conformity of the reasoning in cases and decisions to the Constitution of the PCA, violations of which shall be reported as “exceptions” as defined in *RAO 14-11.d.(2)*. With respect to this examination, the Committee on Constitutional Business shall report directly to the General Assembly. If any exceptions are taken with respect to a case, the Assembly may find this a ground to direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry the case. The General Assembly shall not take up evidentiary matters of cases, but may give direction to the Standing Judicial Commission on Constitutional matters.

So that the amended passages shall then read:

*BCO 15-5.a.*

- a. In the cases committed to it, the Standing Judicial Commission shall have the judicial powers and be governed by the judicial procedures of the General Assembly. The decision of the Standing Judicial Commission shall be the final decision of the General Assembly except as set forth below, to which there may be no complaint or appeal. Members of the Standing Judicial Commission may file concurring or dissenting opinions, or a minority report as set forth in (c) below. The General Assembly may direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry a case if upon the review of its minutes exceptions are taken with respect to that case. The General Assembly may give direction to the Standing Judicial Commission on Constitutional matters.

*RAO 17-1*, paragraph 4:

The minutes of the Standing Judicial Commission shall be reviewed annually by the Committee on Constitutional Business. The minutes shall be examined for conformity to the *Operating Manual for Standing Judicial Commission* and *RAO 17*, and for conformity of the reasoning in cases and decisions to the Constitution of the PCA, violations of which shall be reported as “exceptions” as defined in *RAO 14-11.d (2)*. With respect to this examination, the

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Committee on Constitutional Business shall report directly to the General Assembly. If any exceptions are taken with respect to a case, the Assembly may find this a ground to direct the Standing Judicial Commission to retry the case. The General Assembly shall not take up evidentiary matters of cases, but may give direction to the Standing Judicial Commission on Constitutional matters.

*Adopted by Pittsburgh Presbytery at its stated meeting, July 25, 2015*

*Attested by /s/ TE LeRoy S. Capper, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 6** from Chesapeake Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church;” and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins”

connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Chesapeake Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 10, 2015  
Attested by /s/ RE Timothy M. Persons, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 7** from Grace Presbytery (to OC)  
“Petition Government Leaders to Insure Religious Liberty in  
Light of SCOTUS Ruling on Same-sex Marriage”

**Whereas**, the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 23 “Of the Civil Magistrate,” Paragraph 3 reads:

Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven; or, in the least, interfere in matters of faith. Yet, as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that all ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger. And, as Jesus Christ hath appointed a regular government and discipline in his church, no law of any commonwealth should interfere with, let, or hinder, the due exercise thereof, among the voluntary members of *any* denomination of Christians, according to their own profession and belief. It is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the person and good name of all their people, in such an effectual manner as that no person be suffered, either upon pretense of religion or of infidelity, to offer any indignity, violence, abuse, or injury to any other person whatsoever: and to take order, that all religious and ecclesiastical assemblies be held without molestation or disturbance.

**And whereas,** the *Westminster Confession of Faith* Chapter 24 “Of Marriage and Divorce,” paragraph 1 reads:

Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.

**And whereas,** in the same chapter, paragraph 3 and 4 read:

It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry who are able with judgment to give their consent. Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. And therefore such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels, papists, or other idolaters: neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies.

Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden by the Word. Nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.

**And whereas,** the *Westminster Confession of Faith* Chapter 31 “Of Synods and Councils” paragraph 4 reads in part:

Synods and councils are to handle, or conclude nothing, but that which is ecclesiastical: and are not to intermeddle with civil affairs which concern the commonwealth, unless by way of humble petition in cases extraordinary . . .

**And whereas,** Ruling and Teaching Elders have all taken the same vow which reads:

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *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 (Session) the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow? *Book of Church*

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*Order*, chapter 21:5 (Teaching Elders) and chapter 24:6 (Ruling Elders),

**And whereas**, the June 26, 2015 decision by the Supreme Court of the United States legalizing same sex marriages violates the beliefs and practices of the Elders of the Presbyterian Church in America when it comes to officiating weddings and/or permitting weddings to be held at the local churches,

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Presbytery of Grace “humbly petition”** the Governor of the State of Mississippi, the Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and the President of the State Senate as illustrated in the attached letter requesting their help in crafting legislation so that the religious freedoms of clergy, rabbis, priests, etc., as defined either by the State of Mississippi Tax Code and/or as defined by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States,

may be preserved in officiating weddings in the State of Mississippi in accordance with their beliefs and practices whether codified for a particular congregation, synagogue, etc., or for an association/ denomination of their respective charges;

**and further be it resolved**, that the Presbytery of Grace approve the overture to be sent to the Covenant Presbytery, Mississippi Valley Presbytery and the General Assembly with the hope that other Presbyteries will petition state governments and with the hope that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America will petition the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the United State Senate in a similar fashion.

### **Sample Letter**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The Presbytery of Grace, part of the Presbyterian Church in America, met in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on January 12, 2016, and instructed me to send you as Governor, Attorney General, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and President of the State Senate the following humble petition.

## APPENDIX V

The June 26, 2015 Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriages across the United States potentially places our ministers (known as Teaching Elders) and lay officers (known as Ruling Elders) of our congregations in jeopardy.

Our Teaching and Ruling Elders have taken a vow which states “Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time” (*Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chap. 24, Para. 1).

The Presbytery of Grace is concerned that by officiating and/or permitting weddings to be held within our churches by the “authority vested in the minister by the State of Mississippi” and signing government issued wedding licenses Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and congregations could open themselves to litigation should a same-sex couple be denied the use of the facilities and/or the minister refuse to officiate a same-sex marriage.

We humbly ask that both the Executive branch and Legislative branch of the State government enact legislation so that the religious freedoms of clergy, rabbis, priests, etc., as defined either by the State of Mississippi Tax Code and/or as defined by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States,

may be preserved in officiating weddings in the State of Mississippi in accordance with their beliefs and practices whether codified for a particular congregation, synagogue, etc., or for an association/ denomination of their respective charges.

We humbly petition both the Executive branch and Legislative branch of State government to insure our protection under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .” by enacting legislation which will both authorize clergy to officiate weddings in accordance with their religious beliefs and protect clergy and religious institutions should they refuse to officiate at or allow weddings to be held in their facilities which would violate their religious convictions.

A copy of the Overture as adopted by Grace Presbytery is attached for your benefit.

*Adopted by Grace Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 12, 2016*  
*Attested by TE Steven B. Shuman, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 8** from Eastern Carolina Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editor’s Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a Personal Resolution on “Civil Rights Remembrance” and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and



**Whereas**, our denomination's unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Eastern Carolina Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 17, 2015*

*Attested by /s/ RE Daniel J. Prins, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 9** from Tennessee Valley Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel’s sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 9, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Doyle Allen, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 10** from Metropolitan New York Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery”

**Whereas**, Missouri Presbytery has sent an overture to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly calling on the General Assembly to speak on the issue of racism and racial reconciliation (Overture 4: “Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”); and

**Whereas**, The Metropolitan New York Presbytery believes that racism and the commitment to racial and ethnic diversity are issues to which the General Assembly should speak; and

**Whereas**, The Metropolitan New York Presbytery endorses the substance of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on racism and the commitment to racial and ethnic diversity;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Metropolitan New York Presbytery urges the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to answer in the affirmative Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on racism and the commitment to racial and ethnic diversity.

*Adopted by the Metropolitan New York Presbytery at its stated meeting,  
January 12, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Jeffrey Choi, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 11** from Calvary Presbytery (to OC)  
“Call for Repentance and Reconciliation”

**Whereas**, we, as Christians, believe that all men and women are created in the “image of God” and are thereby individually of infinite worth and value and entitled to the utmost respect . . .

Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” . . . So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

**Whereas**, we, as Christians, take the Biblical position stated by the Apostle Paul as recorded by the Apostle Luke that all men are of “one blood,” and are descended from common parents, Adam and Eve . . .

And He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth. (Acts 17:26)

**Whereas**, we, as Christians, know that in our Lord Jesus Christ all walls of separation, ceremonial and otherwise, are discarded, and we are all through His death adopted, reconciled, and united as brothers and sisters in one perfect body as one new man in Him . . .

He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both in God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2:14-16)

**Therefore be it resolved that in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:**

We reject “race-based” slavery as wicked, immoral, prideful, and arrogant;

We reject legalized and institutionalized “racial” segregation as being wicked, immoral, prideful, arrogant, and against the clear teaching and spirit of the New Testament;

We call on all people everywhere, and in particular all churches and members of the PCA who had or have anything to do with the promotion and continuance of racial segregation, to repent of their sin;

We call on all people everywhere, and in particular all churches and members of the PCA that were or are apathetic or indifferent to racial injustice, to repent of their sin;

We call on all people everywhere, and in particular all churches and members of the PCA, to seek reconciliation with our brothers and sisters of all ethnic groups for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel.

*Adopted by Calvary Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 23, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Charles E. Champion, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 12** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination's unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 29, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 13** from the Providence Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,  
Providence Presbytery Version”

[Editor’s Note: This overture is very similar to Overture 4 but differs on page 2, lines 1-4 and lines 21-24.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of



our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination's unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that sins of racial superiority, racial indifference, racial stereotypes, racial biases and racial injustice to other ethnic groups are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding different cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racial superiority, indifference, stereotypes, biases, injustice and failure to love brothers and sisters from different cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Providence Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 10, 2015  
Attested by /s/ TE Gary Nantt, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 14** from Providence Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 35-1 to Require Accused Officers to Testify”

**Be it resolved**, that Providence Presbytery overtures the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to amend *BCO* 35-1 as follows:

**Strike all of *BCO* 35-1**

~~35-1. All persons of proper age and intelligence are competent witnesses, except such as do not believe in the existence of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments. The accused party may be allowed, but shall not be compelled to testify; but the accuser shall be required to testify, on the demand of the accused. Either party has the right to challenge a witness whom he believes to be incompetent, and the court shall examine and decide upon his competency. It belongs to the court to judge the degree of credibility to be attached to all evidence.~~

**And replace with:**

35.1. All persons of proper age and intelligence are competent witnesses, except such as do not believe in the existence of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments;

- a. In general, the accused party may be allowed, but shall not be compelled, to testify. However, because of the relationship of mutual accountability between church officers and the church created in the voluntary affirmation of ordination vows, church officers under accusation with regard to doctrinal views shall be required to testify before the court of original jurisdiction. Such officers may remain present during the testimony of all other witnesses (*BCO* 35-4).
- b. The accuser shall be required to testify, on the demand of the accused.
- c. Either party has the right to challenge a witness whom he believes to be incompetent, and the court shall examine and decide upon his competency.
- d. It belongs to the court to judge the degree of credibility to be attached to all evidence.

**Grounds:**

Requiring officers to testify in cases involving doctrinal issues is consistent with our constitution;

## APPENDIX V

Church officers are required to explain and defend their doctrine when seeking admission to serve under the jurisdiction of another court (e.g. *BCO* 13-6);

Church officers are required by their ordination vows to come forward and make known any way in which their views might have become out of accord with any of the fundamentals of our system of doctrine (e.g. *BCO* 21-5.2.);

Church officers are in the nature of the case continually obliged to voluntarily have their doctrine subject to legitimate scrutiny (1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Tim. 5:22; Acts 20:28-30);

A rule relieving all accused persons from an obligation to testify, as does the current *BCO* 35-1, undermines the responsibilities of our courts of original jurisdiction and our officers (cf. *BCO* 31-2);

Requiring church officers to testify in cases concerning their doctrine is consistent with the Scripture and the Westminster Standards:

(1) 2 Cor. 1:17-18; Prov. 15:23, 25:11, 28:13; Gen 4:9; Job 31:22-27; Ps. 15:1-2, 32:3; Dt 19:15-19;

(2) WLC #144, describing the duties required in the ninth commandment:

The duties required in the ninth commandment are . . . appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; . . .

(3) WLC #145

The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, as well as our own, especially in public judicature; . . . forgery, concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or a complaint to others; . . .

(4) WCF XXX and XXXI

The limitation of this overture to matters of doctrine limits the concern that the requirement to testify would cause any direct civil or criminal jeopardy to the officer.

*Adopted by Providence Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 10, 2015*  
*Attested by /s/ TE Gary Nantt, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 15** from Covenant Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,  
Covenant Presbytery Version”

[Editor’s Note: This overture is almost identical to Overture 4, but differs in the deletion of the word “founding” on page 2, line 22. See note from presbytery stated clerk, page 2.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel’s sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Covenant Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 2, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Robert O. Browning, stated clerk*

NOTE – This overture mirrors the overture of Missouri and Chesapeake, et al, with one change in the fourth whereas statement. The word “founding” was deleted in hopes of not indicting a small group of men commonly identified as “our founders” without specific charges being sustained.

**OVERTURE 16** from Blue Ridge Presbytery (to OC)  
“Repentance, Racial Reconciliation, and Reformation”

**Whereas**, in 2004, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a paper titled “The Gospel and Race” that was produced under the oversight of our Mission to North America committee<sup>5</sup>; and

**Whereas**, in 1966, the 144<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod adopted a statement on “Racial Questions”<sup>6</sup>; and

**Whereas**, in 1969, Presbyterian Churchmen United stated in their *Declaration of Commitment*, “That Christian faith must bear fruit . . . of love, concern and neighborliness toward all races of men without partiality and without prejudice, especially to the poor, the oppressed, and the disadvantaged;” and

**Whereas**, the facts of history, especially during the period of the 1950s through the 1970s, confirm generational sins among some of our courts, churches, officers, and members, such as: 1) a complicit silence regarding societal and ecclesiastical racial injustice; and 2) in some cases, an active opposition to social and ecclesiastical attempts to ameliorate this injustice<sup>7</sup>; and

**Whereas**, many Presbyterians of this period were more influenced by the culture of the day than by sound Biblical exegesis on the issue of race and integration (cf. Romans 12:1-2; II Timothy 3:16; James 1:27b; 4:4; *WCF* 1.6, 10); and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church, . . .”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of her predecessor organizations, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends; and

**Whereas**, in seeking to confess and repent of our own sins, we acknowledge that the personal and institutional legacies of our fathers’ racial iniquity continues at places in our Church and thus negatively affects our denomination (Leviticus 26:40-45, Ezra 9:6-16, Nehemiah 9:1-38, Daniel 9:1-27); and

<sup>5</sup> M32GA, pp. 124-25; 427-57, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> *Minutes of the 144<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the RPCEs*, pp. 51- 54.

[www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/385.html](http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/385.html)

<sup>7</sup> Sean Michael Lucas, *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2015)

**Whereas**, Matthew 18:15-18 instructs us to address individuals directly with their known sins when feasible; yet public sins ought be rebuked publicly, and it is thus still appropriate and necessary for the PCA to consider its covenantal and generational relationship to these past sins (Galatians 2:11-21); and

**Whereas**, the PCA, as represented by its churches, courts, and agencies, has been hindered in its goal to be obedient to the Great Commission because we have neglected to fully address these sins that continue to affect our churches and witness today; and

**Whereas**, we wholly lean on the grace of God for repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation for every kind of sin; while finding great hope and joy in the Gospel (Romans 5:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21); and

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and repudiate our church's covenantal and generational involvement in a system of racial injustice which was based upon the subjugation of black Americans during the Civil Rights period (*WCF* 15.1,6); and

**Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly laments that it took us decades to address this issue, repents of our sins of commission and omission, and asks our brothers and sisters for forgiveness (Matthew 5:22-26); and

**Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly does recognize, lament, and repudiate our failure to often preach and embody the full truth of the Scripture, which teaches that all races alike are created in the full image of God, and alike fallen into sin; and that Christ calls His elect from every nation, tribe, people and tongue into One Body, having torn down the dividing wall between peoples; so that, now, all members of God's church, are to seek to embody this reality in our lives now as a sign of God's reconciling love through Christ Jesus (Genesis 1:27-28; Ephesians 2:11-22; Revelation 7:9); and

**Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly thus recommit ourselves to the sound exegesis of Scripture in matters of race and integration, that all necessary repentance may be based on God's Word alone (II Timothy 3:16; *WCF* 1. 6,10; 16.1)<sup>8</sup>; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly exhorts all its members, especially its officers, to examine themselves in the light of Scripture to determine if there be any unconfessed and unrepentant sins of partiality, favoritism, or prejudice among them (Genesis 1:26-27, Ephesians 2:14-22, James 2:1-4), specifically:

1) Making distinctions on who can or cannot be members of a local

<sup>8</sup> *M32GA*, pp. 124-25; 427-57, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf), pp. 4-8

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church, attend its worship, or participate in its sacraments based upon a person's ethnicity (Acts 15:11; 1 Corinthians 11:17-18);

- 2) Failing to discipline officers and members of our Presbyteries and local churches when they show partiality based on race (James 2:1; Galatians 1:11-14; Hebrews 3:12-14);
- 3) Speaking and/or preaching in favor of prejudice and segregation that leads to the disunity of God's people;
- 4) Harboring sinful anger, bitterness, and a vengeful spirit towards people based upon their ethnicity or sins of racial prejudice; and

**Be it further resolved**, that if any such sins be discovered, either past or present, that these sins be admitted, confessed, forgiveness sought before God and from those brothers and sisters so sinned against, as far as possible; and repentance, reconciliation, and reformation be manifested according to God's Word (Matthew 3:8, *WCF* 15); and

**Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the Sessions, Presbyteries and Agencies of the Presbyterian Church in America to include questions about how the Gospel addresses issues of race and integration in the examination of all candidates for office and licensure (Acts 6:1-7; Ephesians 2:11-22; I Timothy 3:1-13; *WLC* 113; 135-136; 144-145; *BCO* 19, 21, 24); and

**Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly reminds the Sessions and Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America that sins of racism are properly subject to church discipline according to the wisdom and procedures laid out in our Rules of Discipline (Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 16:17; Galatians 6:1-2; Titus 3:10-11; *WCF* 20.3; 30.4; *BCO* 27-46); and

**Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly exhorts every member of the PCA to remember that God Himself shows no partiality, so that we are to call all people without distinction to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ; and to invite them into our local churches as full citizens of Christ's kingdom (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11); and

**Be it further resolved**, that all congregations of the PCA are encouraged to work to strengthen the unity of the evangelical Church across racial and denominational lines, striving to be one in Christ, thus fulfilling together the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:1-16); and

**Be it further resolved** that as part of bearing the fruit of repentance, all congregations, Presbyteries, and Agencies of the PCA are encouraged to pursue the practical steps of reconciliation found in the 2004 "The Gospel and Race" paper<sup>9</sup>, as well as those suggested by other wise leaders in our denomination<sup>10</sup>, such as but not limited to:

<sup>9</sup> *M32GA*, pp. 124-25; 427-57, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf), p. 17

<sup>10</sup> <http://randysrag.blogspot.com/2015/07/open-letter-to-presbyteries.html>



APPENDIX V

- 1) Teaching cross-cultural skills to our leaders and members;
- 2) Seeking to learn from, work with, and worship with evangelical minority congregations in our communities;
- 3) Proactively planting churches in areas with significant minority populations;
- 4) Ministering with and to Historically Black Colleges and Universities;
- 5) Proactively recruiting multi-racial involvement in our Boards, Agencies, faculties and staffs; and
- 6) Proactively discipling qualified minority candidates for all church offices, including providing needed financial support for qualified Teaching Elder candidates; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Stated Clerk disseminate this resolution to all Presbyteries and Sessions in the PCA for the health of Christ's Church, with the understanding that this resolution is not the end of the matter, but one step upon the long road of reconciliation; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that Presbyteries and Sessions be greatly encouraged to examine their own history on these issues and to spread this resolution to all its members for the purpose that all would examine their hearts with more specificity, and appropriate Biblical action be taken where applicable; all to the glory of God, love of neighbor and the furtherance of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Adopted by Blue Ridge Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 6, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE David Gilleran, stated clerk*

**Presbytery Explanatory Note, Overture 16:** While appreciating the overtures already sent up on Racial Reconciliation, Blue Ridge Presbytery has built upon these overtures by adding a great deal more specificity throughout while being careful to stay within the confines of *WCF* 31.4 and the *BCO* preliminary principles regarding church power; all in keeping with the spirit of the grounds offered by the 43rd General Assembly in its decision to defer the matter to this year's Assembly.

**OVERTURE 17** from Metro Atlanta Presbytery (to OC)  
"In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery"

**Whereas** Metro Atlanta Presbytery is in agreement with and commends Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery,

**Therefore, we resolve** that the 44th General Assembly receive and act upon Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.

*Adopted by Metro Atlanta Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 6, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Randy Schlichting, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 18** from Heritage Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confessing Covenantal and Generational Sins during the Civil Rights Period”

[See Presbytery Clerk’s Note, page 3]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights<sup>11</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

<sup>11</sup> Sean Lucas, *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2015

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years; and

**Whereas**, as the *Westminster Larger Catechism’s* exposition on the Ten Commandments makes plain, God’s word and the Reformed tradition have much to say with regard to current cultural concerns. The *WLC* makes plain that God declares that we have a duty:

- “to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any . . .” (*WLC* 135);
- to “. . . endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own” (*WLC* 141);
- to preserve and promote the “truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own; appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; a charitable esteem of our neighbors . . .” (*WLC* 144); and,
- to teach that “. . .concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others. . .” (*WLC* 145) are sins in violation of the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment.

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- Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and
- Be it further resolved**, that we reject any teaching that God's providential allotment to any race, class or group of people (Acts 17:26-27) be taken as grounds to relieve our duty to love all people as our neighbors created in the image of God and deserving of equal treatment under the civil law and equal reception and participation in the Church of Jesus Christ. Such teaching is unbiblical and outside the bounds of orthodoxy for the Presbyterian Church in America; and,
- Be it further resolved**, that we reject any teaching that any race of people continues to bear the curse of Cain, and that such a view falls outside the boundaries of orthodoxy in the Presbyterian Church in America; and,
- Be it further resolved**, that we affirm that the church's power is spiritual and declarative, and therefore we exhort Teaching Elders in the Presbyterian Church in America to declare the whole counsel of God in matters pertaining to race, lest our people be left with the impression that the Scriptures and our Reformed tradition are silent on these matters; and,
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly exhorts the majority culture of our congregations to recognize their moral obligation to seek the welfare, comfort, and inclusion of those among them from minority races. Such welfare, comfort, and inclusion should not be assumed passively but rather sought actively to dialogue, mutual understanding, growth in the gospel together, and sharing of the gifts and graces common to the communion of the saints; and,
- Be it further resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Heritage Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 30, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE J. Robert Almond, stated clerk*

[Presbytery Clerk’s Note: While appreciative of the efforts of other presbyteries in overtures already submitted to this General Assembly, Heritage Presbytery drew on the Missouri Presbytery/Chesapeake Presbytery Overture work, inserting an additional Whereas (noting the *WLC* has much to say in regard to our current cultural concerns) [see page 2, lines 15-34] and inserting four additional resolutions, two in which the General Assembly speaks specifically to certain teachings on race as being outside the bounds of denominational orthodoxy (page 3, lines 9-17) and two exhorting pastors and congregations to seek to understand and declare the whole counsel of God in regard to cultural diversity, and promote a spirit of inclusion ( page 3, lines 19-28).]

**OVERTURE 19** from Chicago Metro Presbytery (to OC)  
 “Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Chicago Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 20, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Kyle Edwards, stated clerk.*

**OVERTURE 20** from Southwest Florida Presbytery (to MTW)  
“Erect Provisional Presbytery in Nicaragua”

**Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America has no official presence in Nicaragua; and

**Whereas** there is currently no National Presbyterian Church in Nicaragua; and

**Whereas** TE Lyle Caswell is a member of Southwest Florida Presbytery; and

**Whereas** members of the fledgling Presbyterian Church of Nicaragua (PCN) are requesting oversight and fellowship of this denomination; and

**Whereas** there is an official MTW Nicaraguan Partnership formulated by Christ Community Presbyterian Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Redeemer Winter Haven, and individual members of Southwest Florida Presbytery have had a long-standing relationship with Nicaragua; and

**Whereas** the Nicaraguan Partnership is desirous to see the establishment of a National Presbyterian Church in Nicaragua; and

**Whereas** the Nicaraguan Partnership is desirous of the planting of many new churches; and

**Whereas** the Nicaraguan Partnership has been active in church planting, as well as, developing and training men for potential Teaching Elders for three active church plants; and

**Whereas** it is the desire of Southwest Florida Presbytery MNA committee to assist in the church planting effort by establishing a functioning Presbytery in Nicaragua;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly, according to *BCO* 15-06, commit to a commission the task of forming a provisional Presbytery

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in Nicaragua with the goal of establishing an indigenous Presbyterian and Reformed Church. Said commission shall have authority to act as the Presbytery in all matters pertaining to the establishment and ordering of a national Church and shall report annually to the General Assembly. The commission shall be dissolved when there are at least three national Teaching Elders and three organized churches under its care, and these shall then constitute a separate national Church; and

**Further, be it resolved** to support said commission, that the General Assembly appoint the following men to be members of the commission by merit of their long-standing relationship with the work in Nicaragua and/or their fluency in the Spanish language; TE Lyle Caswell, TE Andrew Lamb, TE Dax Gibson, TE Stan McMahan, TE Jonathan Winfree, RE Jamie Brown, RE Dwight Smith, and RE David Smith.

*Adopted by Southwest Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 13, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Freddy Fritz, stated clerk*

### **Rationale for a Provisional Presbytery for Presbyterian Mission Work in Nicaragua:**

The Nicaraguan Partnership has been avidly involved with the country of Nicaragua for over 7 years. Our hope from the beginning was to see many Reformed churches planted throughout the country. Our vision would be to see 5 churches planted in the five largest cities throughout Nicaragua. With that said, we have been networking throughout the country to find national men that might be interested in helping us toward this goal. Over the years we have come to find a few men that are willing to be trained and sent out to plant said churches. Therefore, we need a mechanism to formally train and ordain these men. The Provisional Presbytery would give us the mechanism and authority necessary to move forward in training and examining of these men, and Lord willing many more. There is not only provision made in the *BCO* for kind of work, but also precedent in neighboring countries. We have been working in conjunction with MTW in other countries to gain helpful insight as to the way ahead. We are excited to see what the Lord will do over many years in Nicaragua.



**OVERTURE 21** from Southwest Florida Presbytery (to OC)  
“Memorial for Ruling Elder W. Diehl Evans”

**Whereas**, on July 22, 2015 after he had “served the purpose of God in his own generation,” our Creator and Author of the destiny of all men, in His infinite wisdom, has seen fit to call from our midst Ruling Elder W. Diehl Evans into His glorious presence; and

**Whereas**, Diehl served our congregation faithfully from its earliest years of formation as Ruling Elder, then Ruling Elder Emeritus as a faithful leader and example of Jesus Christ, building the strong foundation built upon the Triune God and the Holy Scriptures for the generations to follow; and

**Whereas**, Diehl loved the Reformed Faith and the Gospel, he founded Evangelism Explosion in our congregation, and continued as a bold witness for Christ; and

**Whereas**, he served our country in the United States Navy, and our community as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon, a long career at GTE, and owner, along with his wife Margaret Ann, of Angel Estate Sales and Appraisal Services; now

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that Southwest Florida Presbytery does note the death of our brother in the Lord with a deep sense of loss and sorrow by acknowledging that a “prince in Israel” has fallen; yet because of the Gospel a “prince in Israel” has been promoted, we offer the prayer of thanksgiving for the life of Ruling Elder, W. Diehl Evans as he lived among us and served the Lord so faithfully. Southwest Florida Presbytery rejoices in the full and certain assurance that our brother is in the presence of God to worship Him throughout eternity. To God be the glory, honor and power, both now and forevermore, Amen; and

**Further Be It Resolved**, that this Resolution be approved as a Memorial by Southwest Florida Presbytery and that Southwest Florida Presbytery likewise forward this memorial to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to be spread upon its minutes; and

**Further Be It Resolved**, that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Southwest Florida Presbytery and that a copy be furnished to his wife, Margret Ann, as an expression of the Presbytery’s deep appreciation for the life, testimony, and ministry by Ruling Elder W. Diehl Evans to the Kingdom of God.

*Adopted by Southwest Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 13, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Freddy Fritz, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 22** from Southwest Florida Presbytery (to OC)  
“Memorial for Ruling Elder Henry Richard “Rip” Darden”

**Whereas**, on February 2, 2016 after he had “served the purpose of God in his own generation,” our Creator and Author of the destiny of all men, in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to call from our midst Ruling Elder Henry Richard “Rip” Darden, Jr., into His glorious presence; and

**Whereas**, Rip and Betty Darden joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1976 after moving to Brandon, FL; he served our congregation faithfully as Ruling Elder, then Ruling Elder Emeritus, Financial Chairman, Sunday School teacher, Band of Brothers Bible Study participant, and founder and coach of the church softball team; and

**Whereas**, he served actively and faithfully in Southwest Florida Presbytery from its formation, and before that in Central Florida Presbytery, as a member of the Mission to North America Committee, and later as the treasurer for the Presbytery; and

**Whereas**, he served the PCA General Assembly on the PCA Investors Fund; and

**Whereas**, during his service in the United States Air Force for over 27 years, he flew 7600 hours and 296 combat missions over North Vietnam and received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Medal; now

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that Southwest Florida Presbytery does note the death of our brother in the Lord, with a deep sense of loss and sorrow by acknowledging that a “prince in Israel” has fallen; yet because of the Gospel a “prince in Israel” has been promoted, we offer the prayer of thanksgiving for the life of Ruling Elder, Henry Richard “Rip” Darden, Jr., as he lived among us and served the Lord so faithfully. Southwest Florida Presbytery rejoices in the full and certain assurance that our brother is in the presence of God to worship Him throughout eternity. To God be the glory, honor and power, both now and forevermore, Amen; and

**Further Be It Resolved**, that this Resolution be approved as a Memorial by Southwest Florida Presbytery and that Southwest Florida Presbytery likewise forward this memorial to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to be spread upon its minutes; and

**Further Be It Resolved**, that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Southwest Florida Presbytery and that a copy be furnished to his wife, Betty, as an expression of the Presbytery’s deep appreciation for the life, testimony, and ministry by Ruling Elder Henry Richard “Rip” Darden, Jr., to the Kingdom of God.

*Adopted by Southwest Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 13, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Freddy Fritz, stated clerk\*

**OVERTURE 23** from Nashville Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and  
Ethnic Diversity, Nashville Presbytery Version”

[Editor’s Note: This overture is almost identical to Overture 4, but differs in the substitution of the words “in the wake of” for the word “during” in the first “Be it resolved” paragraph.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30 General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32 General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding

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leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination's unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches in the wake of the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Nashville Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 9, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Matthew T. Bradley, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 24** from Ohio Presbytery (to MNA)  
“Form Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery”

**Whereas**, a Presbytery’s geographic boundaries must be conducive to efficient oversight, cooperation, and connection between particular congregations in the Presbytery; and

**Whereas**, fostering connectionalism and cooperation among churches, Teaching Elders, and Ruling Elders beyond the local congregation is a hallmark of historic Presbyterianism; and

**Whereas**, a Presbytery that has greater concentration within a specific geographic region may and should lead to a greater emphasis on church planting, campus ministry, mercy ministry within that region; and

**Whereas**, a Presbytery encompassing a smaller geographic region requires less time invested in travel, leading to more effective and efficient meetings; and

**Whereas**, shorter distances should lead to greater participation in Presbytery by Ruling Elders, thus allowing Ruling Elders to better fulfill their established calling to “govern the church well”; and

**Whereas**, the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, include “regional cohesiveness,” “member churches hav[ing] a potential for shared ministries,” and “member churches hav[ing] a common commitment to the region;” and

**Whereas**, the current boundaries of Ohio Presbytery contain metropolitan regions (Cleveland/ Akron/Canton, whose 2014 Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) population was 2.06M, and Columbus, whose 2014 MSA population was 2M, on opposite ends of the Presbytery, along with other significant population centers located to the north in the current Presbytery (including Toledo (MSA population 607K in 2014), and whose regional influence demands concentrated mission focus; and

**Whereas**, The Ohio Presbytery has the potential to divide into two Presbyteries that would meet the Guidelines of having “a total communicant membership of at least 1000” (#3) and “at least 3 churches each having a membership of at least 125 communicant members (#6);

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that The Ohio Presbytery overture the 44th General Assembly to divide The Ohio Presbytery into the Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery, to include all mission works and churches of the greater Columbus Metro region located in the counties of Franklin, Madison, Union, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, and Pickaway; and the continuing Ohio Presbytery which contains all mission works and churches in the counties remaining within her bounds after such division. And that the effective date of this division be August 1, 2016.

*Adopted by Ohio Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 2, 2016*  
*Attested by: /s/ RE Peter T. Miller, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 25** from Rocky Mountain Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 15-1; 15-2; Add new 15-4 and Renumber Subsequent Paragraphs”

**Whereas**, a commission differs from an ordinary committee;

**Whereas** a commission can be an efficient way to conduct matters on behalf of a larger body;

**Whereas** Sessions may also benefit from the use of Commissions to conduct matters on behalf of the Session;

**Whereas** there is no provision in the *Book of Church Order* for commissions appointed by a Session,

**Therefore be it resolved**, that *The Book of Church Order* be amended by amending *BCO* 15-1 and 15-2, adding a new *BCO* 15-4, and renumbering *BCO* 15-4 to 15-6 accordingly.

Proposed additions are underlined. Paragraphs 15-4 through 15-6 would be renumbered to 15-5 to 15-7. [Note: there is no change to 15-3.]

**15-1.** A commission differs from an ordinary committee in that while a committee is appointed to examine, consider and report, a commission is authorized to deliberate upon and conclude the business referred to it, except in the case of judicial commissions of a Presbytery appointed under *BCO* 15-3 or of judicial commissions of a Session appointed under *BCO* 15-4. A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to the court appointing it. Upon such submission this record shall be entered on the minutes of the court appointing, except in the case of a presbytery commission serving as a session or a judicial commission as set forth in *BCO* 15-3. When a commission is appointed to serve as an interim Session, its actions are the actions of a Session, not a Presbytery. Every commission of a Presbytery or Session must submit complete minutes and a report of its activities at least once annually to the court which commission edit.

**15-2.** Among the matters that may be properly executed by commissions are the taking of the testimony in judicial cases, the ordination of ministers, the installation of ministers, the visitation of portions of the church affected with disorder, and the organization of new churches.

Every commission appointed by Presbytery shall consist of at least two teaching elders and two ruling elders, and the quorum shall be one more than half its membership unless otherwise determined by the Presbytery. However, should a Presbytery clothe a commission with judicial powers and authority to conduct judicial process, or with power to ordain or install a teaching elder of the Gospel, the quorum of such commission shall not be less than two teaching elders and two ruling elders. Every commission appointed by a Session shall consist of at least three elders, and the quorum shall be at least two unless otherwise determined by the Session. If a Session should clothe a commission with judicial powers and authority to conduct judicial process, the quorum of such a commission shall not be less than one teaching elder and two ruling elders. The quorum for a commission appointed as an interim session need not conform to the requirements of a judicial commission, but only to those of a session (BCO12-1). When the ordination of a minister is committed to a commission, the Presbytery itself shall conduct the previous examination.

**15-3.** Presbytery as a whole may try a judicial case within its jurisdiction (including the right to refer any strictly constitutional issue to a study committee with options listed below), or it may of its own motion commit any judicial case to a commission. Such a commission shall be appointed by the Presbytery from its members other than members of the Session of the church from which the case comes up. The commission shall try the case in the manner presented by the Rules of Discipline and shall submit to the Presbytery a full statement of the case and the judgment rendered. The Presbytery without debate shall approve or disapprove of the judgment, or may refer, (a debatable motion), any strictly constitutional issue(s) to a study committee. In case of referral, the Presbytery shall either dismiss some or all of the specific charges raised in the case or decide the case only after the report of the study committee has been heard and discussed. If Presbytery approves, the

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judgment of the commission shall be final and shall be entered on the minutes of Presbytery as the action. If Presbytery disapproves, it shall hear the case as a whole, or appoint a new commission to hear the case again.

### **New 15-4 to read as:**

**15-4.** A Session as a whole may try a judicial case within its jurisdiction (including the right to refer any strictly constitutional issue to a study committee with options listed below), or it may of its own motion commit any judicial case to a commission. Such a commission shall be appointed by the Session from its members. Should prudential reasons at any time make it advisable for a minister other than the pastor to serve on the judicial commission, the Session may appoint a teaching elder of the same presbytery to serve on the commission. The commission shall try the case in the manner presented by the Rules of Discipline and shall submit to the Session a full statement of the case and the judgment rendered. The Session without debate shall approve or disapprove of the judgment, or may refer, (a debatable motion), any strictly constitutional issue(s) to a study committee. In case of referral, the Session shall either dismiss some or all of the specific charges raised in the case or decide the case only after the report of the study committee has been heard and discussed. If the Session approves, the judgment of the commission shall be final and shall be entered on the minutes of the Session as the action. If the Session disapproves, it shall hear the case as a whole, or appoint a new commission to hear the case again.

Renumber 15-4 to 15-5, 15-5 to 15-6, and 15-6 to 15-7

*Approved by Rocky Mountain Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 28, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Kevin Allen, stated clerk*



**OVERTURE 26** from Rocky Mountain Presbytery  
“Memorial for TE Bill Leonard”

(to OC)

**Whereas**, William B. Leonard Jr. passed into glory on September 21, 2015, at the age of 98, we remember and are grateful to God for his long and faithful service in our midst. He served as a chaplain, church planter, pastor, Christian educator, chaplain endorser, gracious mentor, and Bible teacher to men in his nursing home well into his nineties. Bill had a remarkable ministry from the time of his graduation from Faith Theological Seminary during World War II to the moment of his graduation into the courts of heaven. This ministry and leadership among us is well known and honored by many throughout our denomination. And,

**Whereas**, Chaplain Bill Leonard and his able helpmate, Helen, left active duty with the Marines in 1953 after the Korean War, and came to Colorado Springs to plant a church with a group of 16 others. This church became Grace Presbyterian, an 800-member congregation. This plant began what is now the 1600-member Village Seven PCA, a flagship church of Rocky Mountain Presbytery. Bill and Helen also founded Evangelical Christian Academy and an international Summer Vacation Bible School Program called Reachout Adventures, run today by their daughter Anna. And,

**Whereas**, the fathers and brethren of the Rocky Mountain Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America remember with gratefulness his faithful life and work among us for 62 years; we have been truly blessed, encouraged, and challenged to faithfulness by this man of God. Bill was preeminently a churchman who humbly served and loved His Lord and those whom the Lord called to Himself. "Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.'"

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that we the 44th General Assembly remember with thanksgiving the excellent ministry of Bill Leonard within our denomination and its forbears for so many, many years, and thank our great God and the Lord Jesus Christ for his faithful witness unto death.

*Approved by Rocky Mountain Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 28, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ TE Kevin Allen, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 27** from Rocky Mountain Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

- Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and
- Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and
- Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years; and
- Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and
- Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel’s sake within their own local communities.

*Approved by Rocky Mountain Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 28, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Kevin Allen, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 28** from North Texas Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas** the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas** in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas** a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas** the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas** the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas** the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

- Whereas** our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and
- Whereas** the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and
- Whereas** God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;
- Be it therefore resolved** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and
- Be it further resolved** that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and
- Be it further resolved** that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and
- Be it finally resolved** that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel’s sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by North Texas Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 05, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE David M. Frierson Sr., stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 29** from Pittsburgh Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic  
Diversity, Pittsburgh Presbytery Version”

[Editor’s Note: This overture is very similar to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery, but differs in three places. See Presbytery’s note below.]]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly instructs the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to examine their own past and present actions and words, to confess any of their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel’s sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Pittsburgh Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 30, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE LeRoy S. Capper, stated clerk*

**Note from Pittsburgh Presbytery:** This overture is very similar to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery, with the following differences:

1. The first “Be it further resolved” paragraph has been deleted.
2. In the “Be it finally resolved” paragraph, the General Assembly “instructs” rather than “urges.”
3. In the “Be it finally resolved” paragraph, the italicized language below has been added: “. . . Gospel and Race, *to examine their own past and present actions and words*, to confess *any* of their own particular sins and failures . . .”

All else remains the same.

**OVERTURE 30** from Suncoast Florida Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery”

**Whereas** Missouri Presbytery has sent Overture 4 to the 44th General Assembly calling on the General Assembly to speak to the issue of our commitment to racial and ethnic diversity; and

**Whereas** Suncoast Florida Presbytery believes that confession of sin and racial and ethnic diversity is an issue to which the General Assembly should speak; and

**Whereas** Suncoast Florida Presbytery endorses the substance of the overture from Missouri Presbytery on the confession of sin and commitment to racial and ethnic diversity;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that Suncoast Florida Presbytery urges the 44th General Assembly to answer in the affirmative Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on “Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity.”

*Adopted by Suncoast Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 9, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ TE Jonathan M. Loerop, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 31** from Southern New England Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against



racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal

and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Southern New England Presbytery at its stated meeting,  
January 16, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Ron Heald, stated clerk.*

**OVERTURE 32** from James River Presbytery (to OC)  
“A Day of Prayer and Fasting”

**Whereas** Jesus' statement “when you fast” (cf. Matt. 6:16) indicates that fasting is normal and acceptable in the Christian life; and

**Whereas** the Scriptures give examples of fasting for times of: sorrow and deep grief (2 Sam 12:16, Ps.35:13); overwhelming danger (2 Chr 20:3, Est 4:16); the humbling of the people of God and to seek His favor (Ezr 8:21); repentance (Dan 10:2; 1 Kin 21:27, Ezr 10:6); and for the blessing of ministry (Acts 14:23); and

**Whereas** the original *Directory for Publick Worship* (1645) helpfully describes occasions for calling a public fast: “. . . when some great and notable judgments are either inflicted upon a people, or apparently imminent, or by some extraordinary provocations notoriously deserved; as also when some special blessing is to be sought and obtained, publick solemn fasting (which is to continue the whole day) is a duty that God expecteth from that nation or people.”

**Therefore be it resolved**, before the Lord, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America calls for a day of prayer and fasting by member churches during the period of October 26, 2016, to November 6, 2016.

*Adopted by James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 9, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Jeremy Pryor, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 33** from New York State Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery”

**Whereas**, Missouri Presbytery has sent an overture to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly calling on the General Assembly to speak to the issues of repentance for and complicity with acts of racism and commitment to racial reconciliation in our churches and communities (Overture 4: “Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”); and

**Whereas**, The New York State Presbytery believes that repentance for racism and commitment to racial reconciliation is an issue to which the General Assembly should speak; and

**Whereas**, The New York State Presbytery endorses the substance of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on racism and racial reconciliation;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that The New York State Presbytery urges the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to answer in the affirmative Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on racism and reconciliation.

*Adopted by the New York State Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 16, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE James Stewart, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 34** from Westminster Presbytery (to OC)  
“Call for Repentance and Reconciliation”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 11 from Calvary Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, we, as Christians, believe that all men and women are created in the “image of God” and are thereby individually of infinite worth and value and entitled to the utmost respect . . .

Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” . . . So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

**Whereas**, we, as Christians, take the Biblical position stated by the Apostle Paul as recorded by the Apostle Luke that all men are of “one blood,” and are descended from common parents, Adam and Eve . . .

And He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth. (Acts 17:26)

**Whereas**, we, as Christians, know that in our Lord Jesus Christ all walls of separation, ceremonial and otherwise, are discarded, and we are all through His death adopted, reconciled, and united as brothers and sisters in one perfect body as one new man in Him . . .

He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both in God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2:14-16)

**Therefore be it resolved that in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:**

We reject “race-based” slavery as wicked, immoral, prideful, and arrogant;  
We reject legalized and institutionalized “racial” segregation as being wicked, immoral, prideful, arrogant, and against the clear teaching and spirit of the New Testament;

We call on all people everywhere, and in particular all churches and members of the PCA who had or have anything to do with the promotion and continuance of racial segregation, to repent of their sin;

We call on all people everywhere, and in particular all churches and members of the PCA that were or are apathetic or indifferent to racial injustice, to repent of their sin;

We call on all people everywhere, and in particular all churches and members of the PCA, to seek reconciliation with our brothers and sisters of all ethnic groups for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel.

*Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 12, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ Mark J. Blalack, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 35** from New Jersey Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery”

**Whereas**, Missouri Presbytery has sent Overture 4 to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly calling on the General Assembly to “recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period;” and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Presbytery believes that Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery is a matter which the General Assembly must address; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Presbytery endorses the substance of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery as being a timely, careful, measured, and biblical response to the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA Overtures Committee;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the New Jersey Presbytery urges the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to answer in the affirmative Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery in the matter of racial reconciliation.

*Adopted by the New Jersey Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016  
Attested by /s/ RE Richard Springer, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 36** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend RAO 13-2 on the Procedure for Considering New Business at GA”

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend RAO 13-2 as follows (additional wording underlined):

13-2. New business must be presented to the General Assembly before the recess of the afternoon session on the second day of business, and if it was not first presented as an overture to a Presbytery, the proposal must include an explanation for why it was not. If received by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the commissioners present and voting, it shall be referred by the Stated Clerk to the appropriate committee of commissioners. No proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be received as new business. Memorials for deceased ministers and ruling elders shall be sent to the Overtures Committee without reading their entirety on the floor.

11-9. [No change is proposed to RAO 11-9. Included here only for reference.]

No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than one

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month prior to the opening of the meeting of the General Assembly shall be referred to or considered by the General Assembly convening in that year. An overture proposed by a commissioner to the General Assembly during its proceedings shall be treated as new business (cf. 13-1, 13-2).

### Rationale

1. Every commissioner to the GA, presumably, already has access to the GA and can use the overture process for proposing the business because *RAO 11-10* allows an individual to file an overture with the GA, as long as it was first presented to the Presbytery.

*RAO 11-10.* No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by *an individual communicant* [emphasis added], a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the fact that it was rejected by the presbytery is clearly stated with the overture.

2. It is neither prudent nor necessary to routinely allow men to propose, as new business at GA, a matter they could have filed with their Presbytery as an overture.
3. *RAO 11-9* prohibits a Presbytery from filing an overture less than a month prior to the GA. So it seems inconsistent to allow a single commissioner to essentially propose an overture on the floor.

*RAO 11-9.* No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than one month prior to the opening of the meeting of the General Assembly shall be referred to or considered by the General Assembly convening in that year. An overture proposed by a commissioner to the General Assembly during its proceedings shall be treated as new business (cf. 13-1, 13-2).

4. This revision more closely reflects the limiting provision in *RAO 11-2*.

*RAO 11-2.* Communications from individuals shall not be received by the GA unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the Assembly. . . .

A man who is a commissioner to GA certainly has access to the Assembly via the overtures process. And the deadline for overtures not involving the *RAO* or *BCO* is 31 days prior to the Assembly. So a man who will be a commissioner has ample time to propose his overture to his Presbytery.

5. New business is often proposed on Tuesday night after the opening worship service, after the election of the Moderator, and after many of

the commissioners have traveled all day. That is not the most prudent time to be having a debate on whether to receive “new business” – especially when the commissioners have not read about the matter in the GA Commissioner Handbook or Supplement.

*Approved by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 29, 2016*  
*Final approval by the PNW Overtures Commission on March 18, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 37** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 13-2 to Add Requirement for Annual Reports  
from Ministers Without Call”

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 13-2 by the addition of a final sentence as follows (addition underlined):

*BCO* 13-2. A minister shall be required to hold his membership in the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he resides, unless there are reasons which are satisfactory to his Presbytery why he should not do so. When a minister labors outside the geographical bounds of, or in a work not under the jurisdiction of his Presbytery, at home or abroad, it shall be only with the full concurrence of and under circumstances agreeable to his Presbytery, and to the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he labors, if one exists. When a minister shall continue on the rolls of his Presbytery without a call to a particular work for a prolonged period, not exceeding three years, the procedure as set forth in *BCO* 34-10 shall be followed. A minister without call shall submit at least one report to his Presbytery each calendar year and it shall be recorded in the minutes.

### **Rationale**

1. Losing track of ministers who are without call is a problem in many presbyteries. It is likely many of our 82 Presbyteries have at least one minister without call living out of bounds with whom they’ve lost adequate contact.
2. This would also help inform with any future application of *BCO* 34-10. 34-10. Whenever a minister of the Gospel shall habitually fail to be engaged in the regular discharge of his official functions, it shall be the duty of the Presbytery, at a stated meeting, to

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inquire into the cause of such dereliction and, if necessary, to institute judicial proceedings against him for breach of his covenant engagement. If it shall appear that his neglect proceeds only from his lack of acceptance to the Church, Presbytery may, upon the same principle upon which it withdraws license from a licentiate for lack of evidence of the divine call, divest him of his office without censure, even against his will, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) being necessary for this purpose.

3. Ministers with calls who labor out of bounds are required to make an annual report to Presbytery (*BCO* 8-4). Interns are required to report at every meeting. (*BCO* 19-12) But the *BCO*, unexplainably, has no such reporting requirement for ministers without call – not even annually.
4. Each Presbytery can determine how these reports should be made, and in what detail.

*Approved by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 29, 2016*  
*Final approval by the PNW Overtures Commission on March 18, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 38** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 5-3 to Add an Explicit Requirement for Reporting and Reviewing Minutes of a Mission Church Temporary System of Government”

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 5-3 by the addition of a final sentence as follows (added sentence underlined):

- 5-3. The mission church, because of its transitional condition, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances and at its own discretion, Presbytery may provide for such government in one of several ways:
  - a. Appoint an evangelist as prescribed in with *BCO* 8-6.
  - b. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.
  - c. Appoint a *BCO* 15-1 commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church. When a minister of the Presbytery has been approved to serve as pastor of the mission church, he shall be included as a member of the commission and serve as its moderator.



The temporary system of government shall record and submit its minutes to Presbytery for annual review in the same manner as Sessions of particular churches.

### **Rationale**

1. *BCO* 12-7 stipulates: “Every Session shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, which record shall be submitted at least once in every year to the inspection of the Presbytery.” The temporary system of government is essentially the interim Session of a mission church.
2. This would standardize the practice in the PCA. This is done in some Presbyteries, but not in others. (*BCO* 12-6, 12-7, 12-8 and 13-9.b) Apparently, some mission church sessions operate for years without ever submitting minutes to their Presbytery.
3. This would apply regardless of whether the temporary government (interim Session) is a local church Session, a commission appointed by Presbytery to act as an interim Session, or a solo Evangelist.

*Approved by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 29, 2016*  
*Final approval by the PNW Overtures Commission on March 18, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk, 704-907-7479*

**OVERTURE 39** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 38-1 and 42-2 to Allow an Appeal Instead of a Complaint in a Case Without Process”

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 38-1 and 42-2 as follows (~~strike through~~ for deletion, underlining for additions):

38-1. When any person shall come forward and make his offense known to the court, a full statement of the facts shall be recorded and judgment rendered without process. In handling a confession of guilt, it is essential that the person intends to confess and permit the court to render judgment without process. Statements made by him in the presence of the court must not be taken as a basis of a judgment without process except by his consent. In the event a confession is intended, a full statement of the facts should be approved by the accused, and by the court, before the court proceeds to a judgment. The accused has the right of ~~complaint~~ appeal against the judgment.

42-2. Only those who have submitted to a regular trial, or a case without process (*BCO* 38-1), are entitled to an appeal.

## Rationale

A *BCO* 42 appeal, rather than a *BCO* 43 complaint, is the more appropriate avenue for higher court review of the censure imposed in a case without process.

- a. It is important to allow an appeal since it suspends the censure until the higher court has reviewed and ruled - like any other judicial censure. And higher court review could take several months. But if only a complaint is allowed to the censured person, the censure is not suspended during the reviews by the original and higher courts (unless 1/3 of the original court votes to do so per *BCO* 43-4).
- b. A complaint must be considered first by the original court before going to the higher court. But there is no reason why, in a confession/case without process, a censuring court should reconsider its ruling via complaint any more than a censuring court should have to do so after a trial. Why mandate a complaint after a confession but an appeal after a trial?
- c. The remedies available to the higher court are different in an appeal vs. a complaint.

Appeal 42-9. The decision of the higher court may be to affirm in whole or in part; to reverse in whole or in part; to render the decision that should have been rendered; or to remand the case to the lower court for a new trial.

Complaint 43-10. The higher court has power, in its discretion, to annul the whole or any part of the action of a lower court against which complaint has been made, or to send the matter back to the lower court with instructions for a new hearing.

It is likely there could be instances where the higher court should have the *BCO* 42-9 authority to “render the decision that should have been rendered” regarding the appropriate censure in a case without process, rather than just the *BCO* 43-10 authority it has in a complaint. Thus, we should change the word “complaint” to “appeal” in *BCO* 38-1 and, for clarity, also revise *BCO* 42-2 to match.

*Approved by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 29, 2016*  
*Final approval by the PNW Overtures Commission on March 18, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 40** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
“Amend *BCO* 43-1 to Clarify the Timing of Higher Court  
Review of Complaints in Judicial Cases”

**Be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amend *BCO* 43-1 as follows  
(~~strike through~~ for deletions; underlining for additions):

43-1. A complaint is a written representation made against some act or decision of a court of the Church. It is the right of any communing member of the Church in good standing to make complaint against any action of a court to whose jurisdiction he is subject, ~~except that no complaint is allowable in a judicial case in which an appeal is pending.~~

During the process of a judicial case, a higher court shall not consider a timely-filed complaint against an action or ruling of the lower court until a judgment has been rendered, and:

- there is an acquittal or a dismissal of all charges,
- the deadline for filing an appeal has expired,
- the accused has abandoned his appeal, or
- an appeal has been adjudicated.

However, by a 2/3 vote the higher court may consider a pre-judgment complaint, and it shall record a reason why the circumstances warrant doing so.

**Rationale**

1. The current phrase, “appeal is pending,” has caused confusion. The interpretation of 43-1 was an issue in three recent SJC judicial cases, as well as some in the past (below). Clarification is needed.
  - 2015-04: *Thompson v. South Florida* (reported this year)
  - 2015-03: *Flesher and Weekly v. Metro Atlanta* (reported this year)
  - 2013-03: *Rick Marshall v. Pacific (M43GA)*, p. 548, with Concurring & Dissenting Opinions)
  - 2001-33: *W. Marshall v. Eastern Carolina (M31GA)*, p. 109)
  - 2000-02: *Adams v. Northeast (M29GA)*, p. 122)
3. In a judicial case, a timely-filed complaint (from anyone) would be held in abeyance until an appeal could no longer be filed, that is,
  - there is an acquittal or a dismissal of all charges,
  - the deadline for filing an appeal has expired,
  - the accused has abandoned his appeal, or
  - an appeal has been adjudicated.

4. The revision would still allow a complaint to be filed in a judicial case where the accused was acquitted.
5. And in a case where an appeal was filed and adjudicated, it seems reasonably obvious a complaint would not be allowed to raise the same issue(s) already adjudicated in the appeal. (See SJC Decision in Case 2015-03 reported this year.)

*Approved by Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 29, 2016*

*Final approval by the PNW Overtures Commission on March 18, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Howard Donahoe, stated clerk, 704-907-7479*

**OVERTURE 41** from Korean Southwest Orange County Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic  
Diversity, Korean Southwest Orange County Presbytery Version”

[Editorial Note: This overture is almost identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery, except for the addition of one “Whereas” statement.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins”

connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, ethnic Korean and Korean American Teaching and Ruling Elders recognize our own complicity and role in perpetuating oppression, and confess our indifference and inaction toward the plight of our Black brethren; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of

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action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Korean Southwest Orange County Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 15, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Samuel Park, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 42** from Philadelphia Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist

organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and
- Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommitts itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and
- Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Philadelphia Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 16, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ TE Gregory Hobaugh, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 43** from Potomac Presbytery (to OC)  
"Pursuing Racial Reconciliation and the Advance of the Gospel"

- Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on racial reconciliation and referred the matter to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, so that lower courts could perfect and propose a resolution encouraging "heartfelt repentance"; and
- Whereas**, in the 1973 "Message to All the Churches," the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the "continuing church" of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, "We have called ourselves 'Continuing' Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church"; and
- Whereas**, the formation and identity of the PCA was shaped through the honorable and courageous commitment of our founding denominational leaders and churches to be faithful to the Scriptures in doctrine and in practice, and these convictions remain with us to this day; and
- Whereas**, during the Civil Rights period, there were founding denominational leaders and churches who not only failed to pursue racial reconciliation but also actively worked against it in both church and society through sinful practices, such as the segregation of worshipers by race; the exclusion of persons from Church membership on the basis of race; the exclusion of churches, or elders, from membership in Presbyteries, on the



basis of race; the teaching that the Bible sanctions racial segregation and discourages inter-racial marriage; the participation in and defense of white supremacist organizations; and the failure to live out the gospel imperative that “love does no wrong to a neighbor” (Romans 13:10); and

**Whereas**, the vestiges of these sins continue to affect our denomination to this day and significantly hinder efforts for reconciliation with our African-American and other minority brothers and sisters by: often refusing to lay down our cultural preferences so that these brothers and sisters might feel more welcome in our churches; not sufficiently encouraging minority culture brothers into leadership within our General Assembly Committees and Agencies, presbyteries, and churches, as evidenced by our history; failing to lovingly confront our brothers and sisters concerning racial sins and personal bigotry; and failing to “learn to do good, seek justice and correct oppression” (Isaiah 1:17); and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the racial sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, formative and corrective discipline for racial sins; in understanding and appreciation of minority cultures; intentionally establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in obedience to the Great Commission; and

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize, confess, and condemn these past and continuing racial sins and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly praises and recommits itself to the gospel task of racial reconciliation, diligently seeking effective courses of action to further that goal, with humility, sincerity and zeal, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to make this resolution known to their members in order that they may prayerfully confess their own racial sins as led by the Spirit and strive towards racial reconciliation for the advancement of the gospel, the love of Christ, and the glory of God.

*Adopted unanimously by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 44** from Potomac Presbytery (to MNA)  
"Creation of PCA Unity Fund"

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on racial reconciliation and referred the matter to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, so that lower courts could perfect and propose a resolution encouraging heartfelt repentance; and

**Whereas**, presbyteries have responded to this appeal "to prayerfully consider any and all sins of racial prejudice" by submitting overtures on racial reconciliation that call us to individual and corporate repentance; and

**Whereas**, repentance is an essential first step of racial reconciliation, but not the only one; and

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly also encouraged sessions and presbyteries to "pursue a proper course of action humbly, sincerely and expeditiously"; and

**Whereas**, a proper course of action would include actively welcoming minority brothers called to pastoral ministry and encouraging their representation as Ruling and Teaching Elders in the PCA;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as "The PCA Unity Fund" to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives:

- a) Provide tuition to approved Reformed seminaries for minority PCA seminarians;
- b) Pay expenses for minority Ruling and Teaching Elders to attend General Assembly;
- c) Support the compensation expenses of minorities serving as an Assistant Pastor in a PCA church, for the first two years of their ministry in churches that pledge to provide full support by the third year;

- d) Provide means for historians to explore the role that Reformed minority pastors and theologians have played in our country's history.

**Be it further resolved**, that this Unity Fund would be managed by Mission to North America, which would be responsible for:

- a) Establishing a board that reports to MNA and is comprised of African American and other minority teaching and ruling elders of the PCA;
- b) Receiving, receipting and disbursing monies;
- c) Approving the seminaries to which support can be directed;
- d) Encouraging individuals, churches and presbyteries to donate to the fund.

*Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 45** from Potomac Presbytery (to OC, AC)  
"Form Racial Reconciliation Study Committee"

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a statement on racial reconciliation that confessed its "heinous sins" connected with unbiblical forms of servitude and the after-effects thereof; and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a paper titled "The Gospel and Race" that was produced under the oversight of our Mission to North America committee; and

**Whereas**, the 144<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, adopted a statement on "Racial Questions"; and

**Whereas**, there is a growing consensus of officers that the General Assembly actions to date, while helpful, have not sufficiently resulted in the increased ethnic diversity and participation at all levels of our denomination that these actions called for; and

**Whereas**, repentance and reconciliation require a thorough understanding of the specific issues and steps to restore unity; and

**Whereas**, racial and ethnic reconciliation is a serious issue worthy of a careful and deliberative approach, and therefore deserves the extra time and effort to address the issue on a comprehensive level, taking into account historical developments, qualitative, and quantitative research;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

1. Authorize the Moderator to appoint a Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation study committee, comprised of multiple ethnicities and a ruling elder majority with research and analytical skills that would:
  - a. Assess the current situation in the PCA concerning racial and ethnic reconciliation;

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- b. Identify specific problems the PCA needs to address to promote racial reconciliation and ethnic diversity;
  - c. Recommend concrete steps for Sessions and Presbyteries to make progress in the work of reconciliation and diversity;
  - d. Establish reliable criteria for discerning successful progress in reconciliation;
  - e. Report to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and each successive Assembly through the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, with updates regarding our progress in meeting these criteria.
2. Set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived from gifts to the Administrative Committee designated for that purpose.

*Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*  
*Attested by/s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 46** from Northern California Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist

organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

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**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Northern California Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 5, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Sam Wheatley, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 47** from Savannah River Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery”

**Whereas**, Missouri Presbytery has sent an overture to the 44th General Assembly calling the General Assembly to speak on the issue of racism and racial reconciliation (Overture 4: “Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”); and

**Whereas**, the Savannah River Presbytery believes that racism and the commitment to racial and ethnic diversity are issues to which the General Assembly should speak; and

**Whereas**, the Savannah River Presbytery endorses the substance of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on racism and the commitment to racial and ethnic diversity;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Savannah River Presbytery urges the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to answer in the affirmative and support Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery on racism and the commitment to racial and ethnic diversity.

*Adopted by the Savannah River Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 19, 2016  
Attested by /s/ RE Kevin Nichols, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 48** from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession and Commitment to Action”

[Editorial note: This overture uses language similar to that of Overture 4 and Overture 1, with certain changes and additions, especially in the Resolutions section.]

**Whereas**, the 43rd General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44th General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our new denomination to be the “Continuing Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many Presbyterian churches and institutions not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30th General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32nd General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many Presbyterian churches and institutions displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God in his mercy has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to confess her sins and show the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess Presbyterian involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued involvement in the cultural biases and prejudices which have led us to give preference to the dominant culture and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it further resolved that**, in keeping with the commitment to bear fruit, all congregations of the PCA are encouraged

1. To examine themselves in light of Scripture to see if there be any sins of partiality, favoritism, or prejudice among them, specifically:
  - a. Barring people from participating in and/or failing to encourage them to attend the worship of God and membership in Christ's Church based on their ethnicity;
  - b. Tolerating in our Presbyteries and local churches members of groups organized for the segregation, exclusion, and/or harm of people based on their ethnicity;
  - c. Speaking and/or preaching in favor of prejudice and segregation;
  - d. Actively working to oppose the betterment of those of a different ethnicity than ourselves;
  - e. Looking down upon people based upon their ethnicity;



- f. Harboring sinful anger, bitterness, and a vengeful spirit towards people based upon their ethnicity.
2. To set aside a day for prayer, fasting, self-examination, confession, and repentance.
  - a. May every member note stereotypes and prejudices which prevent them from seeing each individual as an image bearer of our God and wholeheartedly repudiate these sins.
  - b. May each member note words they use that demean people in a group different than one's own and wholeheartedly repudiate these sins.
  - c. May each member become aware of the prejudices that are held within our culture that demean individuals based on their ethnicity and wholeheartedly oppose them by our words and actions.
3. Along with the Presbyteries to set aside time to discuss and act upon ways to address issues of racial reconciliation in their community.
  - a. This may include seminars and panel discussions.
4. Along with the Presbyteries to seek relationships with minorities in their community.

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Approved by Susquehanna Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 18, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ TE Tucker York, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 49** from James River Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic  
Diversity, James River Presbytery Version”

[Editorial Note: This Overture is based on but modifies Overture 4, and uses certain language in Overture 16 but also in a modified form.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on a Civil Rights remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly

declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights Period of the 1950s and 1960s many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against, racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring black people from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; failing to speak out against state-supported segregation; and failing to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a statement on racial reconciliation that confessed covenantal, generational, heinous sins connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights Period, thereby betraying the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “The Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against blacks and other minorities that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights Period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights Period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our minority brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice – not only toward black Americans, but also toward other racial minorities – are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing

into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse denomination in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights Period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation, humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA pastoral letter on The Gospel and Race; to examine themselves in the light of Scripture to determine if there be any unconfessed and unrepentant sins of partiality, favoritism, or prejudice among them; to confess such sins if any be discovered, past or present, and to seek forgiveness before God and from those brothers and sisters sinned against; to manifest repentance, reconciliation, and reformation according to God's word; and proactively to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities through actions such as:

- (1) Teaching cross-cultural skills to our leaders and members of all cultures;
- (2) Seeking to learn from work with, and worship with all evangelical cultural congregations in our communities;
- (3) Planting churches in areas with significant minority populations;
- (4) Ministering with and to colleges and universities serving predominantly minority students;
- (5) Seeking to recruit qualified multi-racial involvement in our Agencies, Committees, Boards, faculties, and staffs; and
- (6) Discipling qualified minority candidates for all church offices, including providing financial support for qualified Teaching Elder candidates when needed.

*Adopted by James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 9, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Jeremy Pryor, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 50** from North Florida Presbytery (to OC)  
“Steps Toward Racial Reconciliation, North Florida Presbytery Version”

[Editorial Note: This overture mirrors Overture 1 from Heartland Presbytery, with the following exceptions: addition of the first “Whereas” paragraph; addition of No. 7 in resolution section; substitution of the word “race” for the word “ethnicity”; and addition of the word “sinful” in Nos. 2 and 3 in the resolutions section.]

**Whereas**, Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (Jn. 18:36), so “the power of the church is exclusively spiritual”<sup>12</sup> and she may not, therefore, “intermeddle with civil affairs,”<sup>13</sup> nevertheless, some of our churches have abused the spirituality of the church by failing to promote, and in some cases actively opposing:

- that all men have equal dignity regardless of race or color because they are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-31),
- that all men are one by virtue of our common descent from Adam (Genesis 1:26-31; Acts 17:26),
- that all men must be given fair and equal treatment under the law, both ecclesiastical (James 2:1-13) and civil (Deuteronomy 1:16; Proverbs 16:10-12),
- that the church must embrace all believers, regardless of their race, because of our mutual union with Christ (Galatians 3:25-29), and
- that it is the duty of every believer to use their various positions in life to promote the wellbeing of their neighbor (Luke 10:25-27; Exodus 20:12); and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a statement on racial reconciliation that confessed its covenantal, generational, and heinous sins connected with unbiblical forms of servitude<sup>14</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a paper titled “The Gospel and Race” that was produced under the oversight of our Mission to North America committee<sup>15</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the 144<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod adopted a statement on “Racial Questions”<sup>16</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the facts of history, especially during the period of the 1950s through the 1970s, confirm generational sins among some of our courts,

<sup>12</sup> Thornwell, *The Collected Writings*, vols. IV, 449.

<sup>13</sup> *Westminster Confession of Faith* XXXI.V.

<sup>14</sup> *M30GA*, pp. 261-270, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/race.html](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/race.html)

<sup>15</sup> *M32GA*, pp. 124-25; 427-57, [www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf](http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/racism.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Minutes of the 144th General Synod of the RPCES, pp. 51-54. [www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/385.html](http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/385.html)

churches, officers, and members, such as: 1) lack of concern regarding societal and ecclesiastical racial injustice and 2) opposition to the visible unity of all believers in Christ<sup>17</sup>; and

**Whereas**, in seeking to confess and repent of our own sins, we acknowledge that the iniquity of our fathers created patterns of injustice that may continue in the midst of some of our churches and, as they do, they negatively affect our denomination as a whole (Lev. 26:40-45, Ezra 9:6-16, Neh. 9:1-38, Dan. 9:1-27); and

**Whereas**, the PCA has been hindered in its goal to be obedient to the Great Commission because our Presbyteries and individual congregations have not sufficiently addressed these sins that continue to affect our churches and witness today; and

**Whereas**, we wholly lean on the grace of God for forgiveness, reconciliation, and repentance (Eph. 2:1-16, 2 Tim. 2:24-26, 2 Cor. 5:18-21);

**Therefore be it resolved**, that, before our Lord, the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America exhorts all its members, especially its officers, to examine themselves in the light of Scripture to determine if there be any unconfessed and unrepentant sins of partiality, favoritism, or prejudice among them (Gen. 1:26-27, Eph. 2:14-22, Jas. 2:1-4), specifically:

1. Barring people from participating in and/or failing to encourage them to attend upon the worship of God and membership in Christ's Church based upon their race;
2. Tolerating in our Presbyteries and local churches members of groups organized for the sinful segregation, exclusion, and/or harm of people based on their race;
3. Speaking and/or preaching in favor of prejudice and sinful segregation that leads to the disunity of God's people;
4. Actively working to oppose the betterment of those of a different race than ourselves;
5. Looking down upon people based upon their race;
6. Actively, passively, and/or inadvertently being unloving and inconsiderate of all people in all our thoughts, words, and actions;
7. Abusing the doctrine of the spirituality of the church in order to avoiding speaking to injustice and sinful prejudice in the church;
8. Harboring sinful anger, bitterness, and a vengeful spirit towards people based upon their race or past sins; and

**Be it further resolved**, that if any such sins be discovered, either past or present, that these sins be admitted, confessed, forgiveness sought before

17 Sean Michael Lucas, *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2015).

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God and from those brothers and sisters so sinned against, as far as possible, and repentance, reconciliation, and reformation be manifested according to God's Word (Mt. 3:8, *WCF* 15); and

**Be it further resolved**, that all members of the PCA are encouraged to call all people without distinction to faith in the Gospel and repentance, and to invite them into our local churches because our God Himself shows no partiality (Acts 10:34, Rom. 2:11); and

**Be it further resolved**, that all congregations of the PCA work together to strengthen the unity of our denomination, as a part of the one Church, the singular bride of Christ, founded not on culture, race, or class, but one in Christ, fulfilling the mission and work of all He commanded us (Mt. 28:18-20, Gal. 3:28, Eph. 4:1-16); and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Stated Clerk disseminate this resolution to all Presbyteries and Sessions in the PCA for the reconciliation and health of Christ's Church; and

**Be it further resolved**, that Presbyteries and Sessions be greatly encouraged to examine their own history on these issues and to spread this resolution to all its members for the purpose that all would examine their hearts with more specificity and appropriate Biblical action be taken where applicable.

*Adopted by North Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 23, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Ernest Jennings, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 51** from Platte Valley Presbytery (to OC)  
"Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity"

[Editor's Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a Personal Resolution on "Civil Rights Remembrance" and deferred action on it until the General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 "Message to All the Churches," the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the "continuing church" of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, "We have called ourselves 'Continuing' Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,"; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our

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denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Platte Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 16, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE S. Todd Bowen, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 52** from Lowcountry Presbytery (to OC)  
"Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity,  
Lowcountry Presbytery Version"

[Editorial Note: This overture is very similar to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery, but follows the wording of the Providence Presbytery version on page 2, lines 4-6 and lines 24-26.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 "Message to All the Churches," the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the "continuing church" of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, "We have



called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that sins of racial superiority, racial indifference, racial stereotypes, racial biases, and racial injustice to other ethnic groups are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding different cultures; establishing

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interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racial superiority, indifference, stereotypes, biases, injustice, and failure to love brothers and sisters from different cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Lowcountry Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 26, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Chris Bennett, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 53** from Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to OC)  
"Leading by Example in Repentance First"

**Whereas**, previous General Assemblies have attempted to provide sweeping, well-meaning, and general statements of repentance for the odious sin of racism; and

**Whereas**, the 2015 General Assembly requested that courts and presbyters study the issue and make suitable steps toward meaningful repentance; and

**Whereas**, a helpful article "Confessing Sin One Church Officer at a Time," published in *Old Life* (March 17, 2016; see Attachment) advocated a courageous and authentic manner of leading by example first (John 15:20; Phil. 2:3-4) and avoiding a focus on the sins of others (Mt. 7:3); and

**Whereas**, all the church should be aware of this sincere, gospel-centered practical alternative below, especially since it may not have been widely publicized; and

**Whereas**, our existing constitution affords prompt, sincere, and responsible action in this area, which needs no additional implementing mechanism other than sincere repentance; and

**Whereas**, *BCO* 38-1 (below), which provides for true and meaningful repentance as a “case without process,” might well be put to good and proper use, and widely so, in this time;

*BCO* 38-1. When any person shall come forward and make his offense known to the court, a full statement of the facts shall be recorded and judgment rendered without process. In handling a confession of guilt, it is essential that the person intends to confess and permit the court to render judgment without process. Statements made by him in the presence of the court must not be taken as a basis of a judgment without process except by his consent. In the event a confession is intended, a full statement of the facts should be approved by the accused, and by the court, before the court proceeds to a judgment. The accused has the right of complaint against the judgment.

And,

**Whereas**, particular repentance and particular courts and relevant contrition can have more moral and relational impact than other proposed measures;

*BCO* 31-2. It is the duty of all church Sessions and Presbyteries to exercise care over those subject to their authority. They shall with due diligence and great discretion demand from such persons satisfactory explanations concerning reports affecting their Christian character. This duty is more imperative when those who deem themselves aggrieved by injurious reports shall ask an investigation.

If such investigation, however originating, should result in raising a strong presumption of the guilt of the party involved, the court shall institute process, and shall appoint a prosecutor to prepare the indictment and to conduct the case. This prosecutor shall be a member of the court, except that in a case before the Session, he may be any communing member of the same congregation with the accused.

And,

**Whereas**, no godly assembly wishes to discourage leading by example first; and

**Whereas**, repentance and confession are personal acts of the individual sinner; and pastors and elders should be the first and chief repenters; and

**Whereas**, availing the procedures in *BCO* 31-2 and 38-1 do not exclude additional, future measures if necessary—it primarily establishes a purposeful priority, which should be exercised first, and we call on future measures to report on how these two *BCO* provisions were implemented, first; and

**Whereas**, acting in accord with these provisions could be generous, authentic, powerful, public, extensive, renewing, evangelistic, and bring sincere repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that all overtures presented to the Forty-Fourth General Assembly calling for confession and repentance be returned to their courts of original jurisdiction to be handled according to the potent and readily available provisions of *BCO* 31-2 and 38-1.

*Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 3, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Gregory A. King, stated clerk*

### **Attachment**

#### **Confessing Sin One Church Officer at a Time**

Published in *Old Life*, March 17, 2016

The following from Pastor Jonathan Inman (PCA) is a call for his communion to confess its sin of racism by the book — that is, by the *Book of Church Order*. (Pastor Inman originally submitted this to *by Faith* magazine but the editors decided against its publication.)

#### **GA Commissioners: Please Lead by Example**

To my Fellow Commissioners to the 44th General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in America,

Brothers,

Among the various items of business we have before us this summer, several presbyteries have requested the General Assembly confess and repent of sins past and present. Further, we are being asked to encourage our member congregations and presbyteries to do the same in their local communities. I am writing to urge all who support these overtures, and especially those presbyters who plan to be in Mobile in June, to lead others by example in

confessing and repenting of your sin as individuals before your courts of original jurisdiction in keeping with the provisions of *BCO* 38-1.

I agreed with last year's momentous decision to refer the matter to this year's Assembly. A year later, it's not as though the issues giving rise to this initiative have gone away or abated, and the opportunity for folks to think through the issues and consider how best to address them is welcome. But now it is time to act.

By "act" I don't mean wordsmithing by committee, perfecting language few will read and fewer still will take as pious advice. Nor do I mean huffing and puffing at microphone 6, bemoaning our own or others' failings, or castigating – if only by implication – those who disagree with us. Nor do I mean we should do much more than we did last year – that is, refer the matter – except in a different direction, with more determined purpose, and with a more realistic expectation of effectual results.

I would like for this year's Assembly to answer all the related overtures by sending them back to the courts from which they originated to be dealt with according to our rules of discipline. Fully a third of our *BCO* is devoted to how our courts should deal with our members' sin, and one section in particular, *BCO* 38-1, spells out how our courts should receive confessions of sin. I do not begrudge anyone's earnest attempts to deal honestly and graciously with the sins of God's people. I am calling upon the officers of the PCA to do so in a fashion to which we've all agreed.

If you think you have sinned, and not just a little, or in some ordinary fashion, but in an especially heinous sort of way, then 38-1 is totally the way to go. Serious sins, public sins, sins perpetrated by officers of the church – if ever there were occasion for serious, public and official confession and judgment, wouldn't this be it? And all without the rigmarole of process!

Leaders in the church who believe they have so sinned – whether covenantally or generationally, jointly or severally – should lead by example by formally confessing their sins before their sessions and presbyteries, and asking for judgment to be rendered. Failure to do so suggests a lack of seriousness, either in their estimate of their sin, or their commitment to their ordination engagements.

No need to wait for the Assembly to give you permission; you've already agreed to this when you were ordained. There's plenty of time between now and GA to get the ball rolling. And if you come to Mobile prepared, having discharged your conscience in conformity to the provisions of our constitution, it is reasonable for you to expect that others who share your concerns will have done the same.

Would you like the entire denomination to deal seriously with the substance of the issues presented in these overtures? Then have our elders, teaching and ruling, humble themselves to confess and seek discipline for their acknowledged sin before their brethren to whom they have promised submission. Have their sessions and presbyteries determine what is a full statement of the facts, render judgment, and mete out any censures. Far from superfluous procedures, these basic responsibilities executed by the courts would provide the blueprint for precisely the sort of appropriate responses on the part of the presbyteries and congregations called for by the overtures.

Whether you are for or against this or that sentiment in this or that version of these overtures, the best way forward would be for living men to lead the way, exemplifying how very concerned we are for Christ's honor and our neighbors' well-being.

And yet, if you personally vote to support some version of these overtures at this year's assembly in Mobile, and if I see you next summer in Greensboro and you somehow haven't yet invoked 38-1 for yourself, I might be willing to meet you at a lunch counter downtown and let you try to explain why you didn't.

**OVERTURE 54** from Calvary Presbytery (to CC)  
"Commend Covenant College for Forfeiting Championship  
Tennis Match Scheduled on a Lord's Day"

**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 2:1-3; 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, be it resolved** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly express its appreciation to Covenant College for electing to forfeit with the Women's Tennis USA South Conference championship match, scheduled for April 17, 2016, because it was scheduled on the Lord's Day.

**And moreover,** we remind our congregations of the resolution adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1976:

**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 great conformity with the Church's Standards. (*M4GA* [1976], p. 65)

*Adopted by Calvary Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 28, 2016*  
*Attested by /s/ TE Charles E. Champion, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 55** from Mississippi Valley Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of the Sin of Racism, and Commitment to Christian Unity”

**Whereas**, the 43rd General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44th General Assembly in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, as a “continuing church,” we rightly own the good Gospel legacy of the movement of Bible-believing, Reformed Christians who brought us into being, and recognize our indebtedness to them, while we also acknowledge the sins and failures of our movement and denomination, including in those areas that have ongoing and significant negative ramifications for the unity, ministry and witness of the church today; and

**Whereas**, as Calvinists who wholeheartedly believe in the Bible’s teaching on sin and grace, we are unsurprised by serious sin in even our greatest human heroes (“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us,” 1 John 1:8), we are also unafraid of confessing it (because of God’s great mercy to us, in Christ, Ephesians 2:4-5), and thus we own and acknowledge both the good and the bad in the Bible-believing movement that brought us into being, and in our own denomination’s history, and with both gratitude and sorrow remember different parts of that history and legacy; and

**Whereas**, we rejoice and give thanks that our founding fathers officially, explicitly, and tangibly rejected racism and segregation as motives for or aims of the formation of the PCA, further, we recognize that our founding fathers did not intend the PCA to be racist or to tolerate racism

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as they understood it, and indeed many of them during the Civil Rights era increasingly longed for, prayed for, wrote for, preached for, and worked for a Gospel solution to unbiblical segregation and discrimination in church and society; and

**Whereas**, we grieve and lament that we have become increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights era, many of those who became our founding denominational leaders, churches, and members failed to live up to their and our own Confession's Biblical doctrine of man, that all mankind is created by God "after His own image" (Genesis 1:27, Acts 17:24-28, *WCF* 4.2) by not only refusing to support, but also, both congregationally and individually, actively working against racial equality (the unqualified acknowledgment in belief and practice that African Americans are fully human and made in the image of God, that no ethnicity is inherently superior to another, and that the Bible provides no grounds for the enforced segregation of ethnicities) in both church and society, through sins of omission and commission including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; failing to speak out against state-supported segregation, not supporting efforts to secure African Americans access to basic human and civil rights, and neglecting to show solidarity with and support for African American brothers and sisters in Christ, as they endured various kinds of discrimination and duress in the Civil Rights era; and

**Whereas**, the 30th General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed "covenantal, generational, heinous sins" connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights era, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32nd General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on "the Gospel and Race," but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders, churches, and members displayed during the Civil Rights era; and

**Whereas**, an unwillingness to acknowledge, confess and repudiate these sins, and to speak openly and contritely of them, significantly hinders our present-day witness and unity, our efforts for solidarity and reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their



participation in the PCA; as well as our Gospel outreach to men and women of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation; and

**Whereas**, The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, scripture enjoins the necessity of unity in the body of Christ such that when a brother is thought to have something against another brother, reconciliation between them supersedes even worship (Matthew 5:23,24); and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority ethnicities; establishing interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church’s commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church; and

**Whereas**, we greatly rejoice that, in spite of ourselves, the Lord has graciously blessed the PCA with an increasing racial and ethnic diversity, including a larger proportion of minorities (among them Asians, Latinos and African Americans), than many traditionally majority white North American denominations (and more than we might have expected, given our history), the Lord has granted the PCA an increasing number of African American teaching and ruling elders, the Lord has raised up Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) campus ministries at historic Black colleges and universities (HBC/Us) and many multi-ethnic church plants in the PCA (including our own Jackson State University RUF and Redeemer Church, Jackson), the Lord has this year brought in the largest number and percentage of African American students in the incoming class in the history of Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, the Lord is bringing about a resurgence of the doctrines of grace in parts of the African American church, and there are more presbytery overtures calling for repentance for racism and racial reconciliation submitted to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly than for any other issue in the history of the PCA (thus showing an overwhelming, denomination-wide concern and resolve to speak faithfully to this issue) – all of this is the Lord’s doing, not ours, but it is marvelous in our eyes!

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- Be it therefore resolved,** in the light of the continuing nature of the Presbyterian Church in America, that The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley recognizes and confesses, and joins with many sister presbyteries in asking the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to recognize and confess, our denomination's history of involvement and complicity in racial injustice, congregationally and/or individually, inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights era; and
- Be it further resolved,** that The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley also confesses, and asks the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in American to confess, our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from ethnic minorities in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and
- Be it further resolved,** that The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel, and asks the 44<sup>th</sup> GA of the PCA to do the same; and
- Be it further resolved,** that the attached "Pastoral Letter" from The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley to its constituent churches be offered as an example of how a presbytery might provide shepherding leadership for its churches toward racial reconciliation; and
- Be it further resolved,** that the attached "Bibliography and Resources" concerning race and unity be offered to our presbyteries and churches for their use in studying, evaluating and implementing their own efforts toward the goal of reconciliation with all racial minorities; and
- Be it finally resolved,** that The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley humbly asks the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to urge all the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Mississippi Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 3, 2016  
Attested by /s/ TE Roger G. Collins, stated clerk*

## **Attachment 1**

### **A Pastoral Letter on Racism and the Gospel To the churches of the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley (PCA)**

Dear Friends,

Last year, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) considered a personal resolution dealing with the sin of racism as it pertains to our church, both in history and in the present. Though action was deferred on it until the 44th General Assembly (which will be held in Mobile, Alabama in June), our presbytery felt it wise to give careful consideration to this matter ourselves. So a committee was appointed to report to our presbytery on the issue.

Your presbytery, having received that committee's report and recommendations, and having thoroughly discussed this issue in three different presbytery meetings, adopted an Overture to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PCA on "Confession of the Sin of Racism, and Commitment to Christian Unity" and now writes to you this pastoral letter.

As a presbytery, we not only want to address the past, we especially want to speak to the present and give biblical counsel and encouragement to our people and churches so that we may "all attain to the unity of the faith" (Ephesians 4:13). During our long discussions, there were moving testimonies of hearts changed, confessions of and repentances for racist language, attitudes and actions, expressions of brotherly forgiveness, and admissions by some that they are reticent to even talk about the issue of racism in the church for fear of the controversy that might ensue. In short, it became ever more clear to us that racism remains a current and ongoing pastoral issue, and that truly pursuing biblical racial reconciliation is not merely a matter of acknowledging the wrongs of the past but of endeavoring to "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly" with our God (Micah 6:8) in the here and now.

Your presbytery addresses the issue of racism in the same spirit as the PCA Pastoral Letter on the Gospel and Race (2004):

. . . we do so not because it is politically correct, or out of any pressure from outward society, but simply because it is our desire that the convicting and restoring power of God's grace in the Gospel be applied to the manifestations of racial sin of which we ourselves are guilty, and that those who experience the negative effects of these sins might know the healing

power of God's grace – that we who have been reconciled to God through Christ might become together a holy temple in the Lord, reconciled to one another by His Spirit (Ephesians 2:20-22).

Because racism is a loaded term, and some suspect an unbiblical agenda when it is invoked, we want to say precisely what we mean by racism. Racism is the denial of the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27) and its implications to someone of another ethnicity. Racism in the church is a contradiction of the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22, Revelation 5:9; 7:9). Racism inside and outside the church is a contradiction of Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31; Luke 10:25-37, esp. 29, 37), and of God's creation of all people in his image (Genesis 1:27; Acts 17:26). So theologically, racism entails a denial of the biblical doctrines of creation, man, the communion of saints and is disobedience to the moral law. We will not mince words. Racism is not only sin, serious sin, it is heresy.

Our final rule of faith and practice, the Holy, Inspired, Inerrant Word of God, The Bible and our subordinate doctrinal standard, *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, ground our treatment of all people with dignity, justice, and kindness in **the doctrine of our creation in the image of God**. God created our first parents in his own image (Genesis 1:26, 27, *WCF* 4.2), and therefore all human beings are of the same race. Scripture says: "The God who made the world and everything in it, . . . gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth" (Act 17:24-26). Because of this, Christians are to treat every human being with equal dignity as made in the image of God. So both the biblical doctrine of creation and the biblical doctrine of man inform the Christian's treatment of everyone, including people of other and minority ethnicities.

The Bible and our *Westminster Confession of Faith* also ground our treatment of all people with dignity, justice, impartiality, and kindness in **the moral law and Jesus' command to love our neighbors**. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament explicitly command love for our neighbor. Moses is very specific about what love of neighbor entails: "You shall not oppress your neighbor . . . . You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. . . . You shall not hate your brother in your heart, . . . lest you incur sin because of him. . . . but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD" (Lev 19:13-18). Neighbor love, then, according to God's moral law, exemplified in the fifth through tenth commandments, calls

for impartial kindness and justice to be shown to all, an equal concern for the well-being of others. Moses grounds this behavior in God's character (Leviticus 19:3, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18) and our responsibility as believers to imitate him "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). And this neighbor love was not reserved for Israelites only. Moses explicitly extends it to foreigners: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God" (Leviticus 19:33-34).

Jesus reiterates this command in the New Testament (e.g., Mark 12:31, Luke 10:25-37). After summarizing the ethical requirements of the moral law of God for the believer's life by saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), Jesus is met with the self-justifying question: "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). In other words, the lawyer who queried Jesus was seeking a delimitation of the demands of neighbor love. Jesus answers with the story of the Good Samaritan, and makes it clear that the better question is "Am I a good neighbor?" Jesus' application of the story shows that those who obey God's command to love neighbor don't attempt to delimit the obligation of neighbor love, but rather show mercy indiscriminately and even at significant personal cost (Luke 10:36-37). On this basis, Christians are enjoined by the moral law and by Jesus' direct exhortation to show love, care, concern for the well-being of, justice, mercy, and kindness to all people, with impartiality.

The Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) exposition of the moral law, from Question 91 to 152, has much to teach us about this current discussion, and especially Questions 122-152. We daresay that if the commands and prohibitions of this section of the Westminster Larger Catechism had been but applied to our relationships with other and minority ethnicities, it would have meant a death knell for racism among us. WLC 131 tells us of our duty "to regard the dignity and worth of each other." WLC 130 warns against an "inordinate seeking of" ourselves and our "own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure." WLC 132 condemns as sin "the undervaluing of the worth, . . . and usurping pre-eminence one over another." Racism is rooted precisely in the failure to obey in these areas. WLC 135 and 136 especially speak to our treatment of one another.

- Q. 135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?
- A. The duties required in the sixth commandment are all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves

and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defence thereof against violence, . . . by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild and courteous speeches and behaviour; forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succouring the distressed and protecting and defending the innocent.

If Bible-believing Presbyterians had carefully studied and lawfully endeavored “to preserve the life of ourselves and others,” including mistreated ethnic minorities, “by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any” and defending others against unjust violence as WLC 135 enjoins, the history of Presbyterianism in U.S. culture from Reconstruction, through Jim Crow and the Civil Rights era would read differently. If we today will relate to other and minority ethnicities with “charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild, and courteous speeches and behaviour; forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil, comforting and succouring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent,” our testimony will adorn God’s sanctifying work in us and display true love of neighbor. And WLC 136 furthermore forbids the “hatred,” “oppression” and “whatsoever else tends to the destruction of the life of any.”

The Bible and our Westminster Confession of Faith ground our treatment of fellow Christians as brothers and sisters, joint heirs, as blood-bought family in **the doctrine of the communion of the saints**. Jesus commissioned his church to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). The language of “all nations” (πάντα τὰ ἔθνη [panta ta ethnē]) highlights the connection of Jesus’ great commission to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4) and the Gentile mission of the church. The command to make disciples from “all nations” indicates that Jesus intended us to go to all the peoples of earth with the Gospel, and that he intended his church to include disciples from all peoples. “Don’t just go to the Jewish people, but to all the Gentile peoples,” Jesus is saying. He reiterates this in Acts 1:8 when he tells his disciples that they will be his witnesses “to the end of the earth.”

The New Testament repeatedly celebrates the fact that Jesus' redemptive work has brought believing Jews and Gentiles, once separated by the ceremonial law, into one body, the church. No passage states this more clearly than Ephesians 2:11-22:

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands -- remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Paul indicates here that Christians of all ethnicities have been made heirs of the covenant promises, have been brought into one body with all other believers, are members of the family of God and part of the one holy temple that the Lord is building. All of this is the result of the work of Christ. To deny the multi-ethnicity of the church is to deny an accomplishment of the atoning work of Jesus Christ. It is a contradiction of what the Gospel does in reconciling all believers "to God in one body through the cross" (Ephesians 2:16). A policy of segregation in the church, or indifference to it, is thus inimical to the Gospel and to the purposes of the saving work of Christ, since all who are united to Christ are united to all who are united to Christ, no matter their ethnicity. The work of Christ creates the communion of the saints, and the church visible is to bear witness to the reality of that communion.

*WCF* 26.1-2 speaks directly to this:

I. All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by His Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His grace, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

II. Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offers opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

Racism in the church denies the reality of this communion of the saints, disrupts the unity of Christ's body, resists one of the purposes of his redemptive work, tarnishes the witness of the church, harms members of the body for whom we are called on in *WCF* 26.1 to perform "such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man," and refuses to extend communion "unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus." Can you imagine the members of the Assembly of Divines hearing that people who had subscribed these words (from *WCF* 26.1-2) as a statement of their faith and theological commitments had argued for segregating the church on the basis of race, had refused Christians from different ethnic minorities admission to worship services, and were indifferent to the well-being (in church and society) of fellow Christians who are ethnic minorities? They would have been horrified.

In sum, Racism fails to affirm, explicitly or implicitly, in belief and/or practice (1) that all people, of every ethnicity, are fully human and made in the image of God, (2) that no ethnicity is inherently superior to another, and (3) that the Bible provides no grounds for the forced or institutional segregation of ethnicities. Racism is, of course, the sin of persons, but it can become endemic to cultures and societies. When it becomes so, very often those who are dominant in those cultures and societies are blind to its presence, pervasiveness, and consequences.

Racism may manifest itself in belief, prejudice, and practice. Racist belief asserts the superiority of one ethnicity over another or others, and hence



attempts to segregate the “superior” from the “inferior” ethnicity/ies. Racist prejudice makes sweeping negative assessments of ethnicities from the standpoint of condescension and based on stereotypical, preconceived and uncharitable opinion. Racist practice treats people inequitably and unjustly because of ethnicity. Racism is condemned by our sole final authority in faith and practice, the Holy Scriptures, and by our subordinate standards, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms.

So, if racism is sin, serious sin, heresy, and not merely an issue of the past but a matter that needs our current and ongoing attention, what should we do? What practical steps can we take? An issue this controversial, a problem this big, can seem daunting and can leave us feeling like there is nothing we can do. But there are important, simple things that any and every believer can do to begin engaging this significant challenge.

As believers, we can learn, pray, acknowledge, relate, and commit. Here is what we mean by those five things.

Most of us in the PCA churches of the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley are white, though we live in a state with a population that is 37% black (and the Jackson metropolitan area is about 50% black). Denominationally, less than 2% of PCA pastors are black. We don’t have statistics on the ethnicity of our church membership in PMV, but ethnic minorities are probably in the low single digits percentage-wise. One of the things that this means is that we will have to make a deliberate effort to gain another perspective on this issue outside of our own “bubble.” Relatively few of us have close friends of other ethnicities, especially in the context of our local churches. That means that understanding the perspective of fellow Bible-believing Presbyterians, who are of a different ethnicity, and with whom we have an actual relationship, on the issue of racial reconciliation, is a challenge.

This means that the very first thing we have to do is want to learn. We don’t know what we need to know about this issue.

## **1. Learn**

Read the PMV overture on “Confession of the Sin of Racism, and Commitment to Christian Unity.” Keep up with the other overtures on this issue coming to the PCA General Assembly. Especially take the time to read the PCA General Assembly’s “The Gospel and Race: A Pastoral Letter” (2004).

Read the material mentioned in the PMV “Suggested Resources on Race and our History for the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley.” This will take a while. There is a lot to chew on.

Seek to learn from Reformed, African American perspectives on these issues. Talk to black PCA ministers, elders, and members. Tell them you want to learn from them. Listen. Go online and listen to their sermons. Read Reformed, black writers on the internet. Here are four places you can go online to do this.

Ellis Perspectives <http://www.ellisperspectives.com/> Dr. Carl and Karen Ellis. Dr. Ellis is a black PCA minister, teaches for RTS, and his wife Karen is an expert in the persecuted church.

The Front Porch <http://thefrontporch.org/> Where black Reformed ministers talk about the Bible, the Black Church, Culture/Ethnicity, Family, God, the Gospel, Leadership, Missions, Preaching, Salvation, Shepherding, Theology, Women and Worship.

The Reformed African American Network <https://www.raanetwork.org/> Here you will encounter the voices of many younger, black, Reformed people (and others committed to a multi-ethnic church) talking about the Bible, church, race, culture and current events.

Pure Church <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/thabitianyabwile/> This is the blog of Thabiti Anyabwile, a black pastor of Anacostia River Church in southeast Washington, DC.

For pastors, elders, and church members wanting to dig deep into a biblical understanding of race and to get perspective on how racialized our society has been and is, three books would provide a huge help.

J. Daniel Hays, *From Every People and Nation: A Biblical Theology of Race* in *New Studies in Biblical Theology*, edited by D.A. Carson (IVP Academic, 2003).

This is a book written by a conservative, Bible-believing scholar and edited by a renowned evangelical theologian. It is a study of the Bible's teaching on ethnicity in the sweep of redemptive history (from Genesis to Revelation) and it convincingly shows that God's grand saving plan finds its culmination in the one people of God, at the consummation of history, depicted as a multi-ethnic congregation, gathered together in the worship of the one, triune God, around his throne. When you realize that this is where the history of the people of God is going, it changes your understanding of the here and now.

Jarvis J. Williams, *One New Man: The Cross and Racial Reconciliation in Pauline Theology* (B&H Academic, 2010).

Dr. Williams is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and teaches for Reformed Theological Seminary as well. In

this book Dr. Williams, who is African American, argues that Christ's death for our sin is God's only solution to racial hostility and the only provision for racial reconciliation. This is precisely what most of the founding fathers of the PCA thought and taught. This book will help you understand what the gospel says about race and race relations, which is hugely important since we often allow cultural prejudices to shape our understanding of race instead of scripture.

Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America* (Oxford University Press, 2001)

Dr. Mike Campbell, former Senior Pastor of Redeemer Church (PCA), Jackson, MS, recommended this book to the faculty of RTS to read a few years ago. The RTS Jackson faculty read and discussed it, with much profit. It attempts to explain why white evangelicals in general don't view racism and racial reconciliation the way black Christians do. It is very illuminating on that front. Emerson and Smith are respected sociologists and are fair-minded in the way they present their case. You don't have to agree with everything in the book to benefit greatly from its perspective. For instance, if you don't understand the difference between "racist" and "racialized" you are probably blind to important presuppositions you are bringing to this discussion.

In all of this, we should aim to better understand our presuppositions, our history and our context. If we are unaware of our presuppositions, lack knowledge of the history of racism in the churches, and have failed to scrutinize how our context may have unwittingly influenced our attention to and understanding of how the Bible speaks to this issue, we will be hampered in our consideration and discussion.

## **2. Pray**

There is nothing more important we can do than to pray. Racial reconciliation is impossible in our own strength. Only God and the Gospel can avail. And that means we need to pray. In prayer we acknowledge our own powerlessness, but at the same time acknowledge God's power to act, save and change.

The following prayer suggestions assume our social and geographical location, in Mississippi and Louisiana, in the Southeastern United States in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with all the history of racial conflict that entails. Hence, these suggestions will focus more on black-white relations in our churches, than on other ethnicities (though much will be transferable to prayer in other situations and for other peoples). These prayers also take into

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consideration that most of us in PCA churches in Mississippi and Louisiana are white, and they ask us to bear in mind fellow believers who are not.

Praise God as the one true God, creator of all humanity, maker of every person of every tribe, tongue, people and nation, in His own image.

Praise God for his saving plan to make out of all peoples and nations, one people, a people for himself.

Praise God that at the consummation of human history, men and women and boys and girls, from all the world in every corner, from every tribe, tongue, people and nation, who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, who have believed the Gospel and trusted Christ, who have been saved by sovereign grace, adopted into God's household, made members of Christ's body, will worship God and the Lamb, forever,

Praise God that in some measure the church visible now bears witness to that future reality.

Thank God for your African American brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every ethnicity that is part of the church visible. "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight."

Thank God that there is a reawakening of Reformed Theology in the African American community.

Thank God that he is raising up outstanding African American Reformed preachers in our generation.

Thank God for the increasing ethnic diversity in the PCA that has grown up because of the power of the Gospel, the work of the Spirit and our union with Christ.

God that our denomination's founding fathers wanted a church for all peoples and that as the PCA approaches fifty years old we are closer to that aspiration than we were in 1973.

Confess whatever your own personal and congregational sins and failures may be, whether by omission or commission, pertaining to loving our African American brothers and sisters in Christ.

Grieve and lament that the evangelical branch of the Presbyterian tradition from which we come fell so short of the Bible and Reformed Theology in our treatment of people of different ethnicities, especially African Americans,

## APPENDIX V

even in the church: barring them from worship attendance and church membership, misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; failing to show solidarity with and support for African American brothers and sisters in Christ as they endured various kinds of discrimination and duress in the Civil Rights era.

Grieve the consequences of this for our own day and ask the Lord to open your eyes to blindspots and behavior that continue to cause us to fall short of our biblical duties towards fellow believers of different ethnicities, especially African Americans.

Ask that God, by grace, would grant an extraordinary work of racial healing and reconciliation among believers, and that our past failures would not hinder present ministry.

Ask God that by the Holy Spirit he would break down barriers that separate us from one another and create the unity that ought to be exhibited within the body of Christ.

Ask God that the real, biblical, Gospel, Holy Spirit-wrought, racial reconciliation in our church might be a powerful witness to the culture around us that would cause even unbelievers to say: “surely God is among them.”

Ask God to bless the ministries of faithful, Bible-believing African American pastors, especially PCA pastors, as well as those of other ethnic minorities.

Ask God that your words, actions, and attitudes would be encouraging to your African American brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as to other ethnic minorities.

Ask God to grant his heart and help to the PCA and other solid biblical churches so that we would do a better job of reaching out to African Americans, and other ethnic minorities, with the Gospel.

Ask God to so work in us congregationally by his sanctifying Holy Spirit that ethnic minority attenders and members of our churches will feel welcome, loved, at home and part of the family.

Ask for God to raise up more African American (and other ethnic minority) pastors, missionaries, church planters, seminary and college professors, campus ministers, elders, deacons, women in the church leaders, and ministerial candidates in the PCA. Pray for minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels.

Our Father,

You are the one, true God who made the world and everything in it,  
Acts 17:24-26

You are the Lord of heaven and earth,  
You give to all mankind life and breath and everything.  
And you made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the  
face of the earth

You made us to seek you and worship you, Acts 17:27; John 4:23

But we sought ourselves instead and worshipped the creature rather than the  
Creator,

And so we were estranged from You, Romans 1:25; Genesis 11:8-9  
And estranged from one another, like the people of the plain of Shinar.

Yet in your grace, you not only created, called and saved your people Israel,  
but also promised that your covenant with Abraham would mean  
blessings for all the families of the earth. Genesis 12:3

Through Jesus Christ you brought the blessings of Abraham to the Gentiles,  
Gal. 3:13-14

And you made Jew and Gentile into one new man, your people, your  
church. Ephesians 2:11-22, 3:6

And at the end of time, a multitude none can number,  
from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation  
will all be your people Revelation 7:9-12  
in one body worshipping the one true God,  
through one savior, Jesus Christ,  
by the power of one Holy Spirit.

Grant that we would long for that, and look like that more. Now.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### **3. Acknowledge**

If we do not acknowledge that racism is a problem and we do not aspire to racial reconciliation and Gospel unity, it won't happen. We can learn all we want, but if we don't see our sin and need in this area, if we don't buy in to its importance, if we aren't ready to make changes, it won't matter much whatever else we do.

Acknowledgement not only means owning up to our part of the problem, and that a problem exists, and that it is important, but also recognizing how big the challenge is. Racial reconciliation has not been, is not, and will not be an easy thing. Only the Gospel is big enough to address it.

And acknowledgement doesn't come easy for many evangelical Christians, for a variety of reasons. As we have already noted, many evangelical Christians view today's discussions of racism as just another example of political correctness being foisted on the church. Sociologists Emerson and Smith noted in their book *Divided by Faith* that most evangelicals think of racism as a thing of the past. Hence, when the subject is introduced some respond by saying "It's time to move on."

But we also need to realize and acknowledge how hard this discussion is for our African American brothers and sisters in the church. They too, are often "tired" of this conversation, but not for the same reason many white evangelical Christians are. Black Christians are "tired" of having to justify the validity and relevance of the conversation in the first place, and are often deeply discouraged by how little their white brothers and sisters seem to have thought or cared about it, or to have realized the dramatic effect racism has had upon their lives.

Let's be honest and admit how big a challenge all this is. All you have to do to show how difficult the discussion is is to bring a group of black and white Bible-believing Reformed Christians into a room and say the words: social justice, systemic racism, white privilege, mass incarceration, police brutality, racial profiling, gentrification, spirituality of the church, – and prepare for the whirlwind! The point is not that there is one right view of these things (one quickly learns that there is not one "black view" of these things, even among PCA African Americans). The point is this: even among people with shared Reformed theology, our social and cultural experiences are so different, and our perspectives so varied, that constructive conversation is very difficult on many subjects, especially at first, and requires a long season of trust-building and personal relationship (which leads to our next point).

The problem is real. The solution is not easy. Only God and the Gospel can prevail.

#### **4. Relate**

Make friends. Do not underestimate the power of friendship. This whole discussion will remain abstract until you meet and befriend a person whom you come to care about, who is different from you, and who can give you a

perspective on this issue different from your own. For white PCA Christians, that is going to mean establishing interracial friendships.

Start with deliberately seeking to cultivate friendships with Reformed and PCA African American Christians. Then reach out to other Bible-believing black Christians. Then seek to be a better friend to African Americans in your neighborhood, work, and community.

Maybe there's someone in your church who is of a different race. You know each other, but you've never spent significant time together or had a serious conversation. Why not invite that person out to coffee, or to breakfast or lunch, or have their family over for dinner? This is a natural, organic way to deepen a relationship you already have.

Be intentional. We don't naturally gravitate toward those who are different from us. We naturally gather in similar groups. We have to do something unnatural, or rather, supernatural to break the cycles of social sameness that hinder racial reconciliation. Think like a missionary or a church planter or a campus minister. All these folks are deliberately on the look out to try to make friendships and connect with people for the sake of the Gospel and ministry. Apply that attitude and approach to interracial friendships.

Pastors, consider entering into a friendship with a pastor of a different ethnicity. Get together for coffee and meals, and discuss substantial issues. Pray for one another. Get to know each other's families. Swap pulpits, where appropriate and possible.

## **5. Commit**

Commit to this issue as a part of your personal and congregational sanctification. Determine to grow in your cultural intelligence regarding ethnic minorities. Learn from godly Christians who are already engaged in racial reconciliation and demonstrating Christian unity.

Pastors and elders may want to consider asking people from ethnic minorities in your community their impression of the reputation of your church regarding racism, neighbor love and impartiality.

Pastors and elders may want to examine patterns, language, and culture within our churches that erect barriers to other races.

With pastoral prudence and sensitivity, pastors and elders may want to consider preaching and teaching in our churches concerning racism, highlighting the biblical doctrines that inform the Christian view, but clearly anchoring the study in Scripture.



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Establish a minority scholarship for those preparing for the Gospel ministry in the PCA, for both college and seminary education (since both are required for PCA ordination and since many ethnic minorities lack the resources for them).

Consider and cultivate interns from ethnic minorities to be disciplined for ministry, as you would any other ministerial candidate or person with potential for service in the church.

Be intentional with discipling minority members for church leadership.

Endeavor to prepare African American (and other ethnic minority) pastors, missionaries, church planters, seminary and college professors, campus ministers, elders, deacons, women in the church leaders, and ministerial candidates in the PCA.

Think carefully about the hiring practices of your church. For instance, is one type of employee typically from an ethnic minority? What message do you intend to send: to the employee, to the members, to visitors, to the watching world?

Deliberately reach out to and evangelize people of other and minority ethnicities within our communities, near our churches, and within the areas covered by our regional church, the presbytery.

Show church members what personal loving interracial friendship and hospitality look like by hosting members, attenders, and friends of all ethnicities in your home.

Read publications by authors of other ethnicities, especially Bible-believing and Reformed authors from other and minority ethnicities.

Don't exclude or discourage, on the basis of ethnicity, any person from membership, privilege, or responsibility, including leadership, in any church or in the presbytery.

Don't discriminate, on the basis of race, against a Christian participant in worship services, or other services or functions of the church (including weddings).

Don't tolerate racist attitudes, language, and practices among the membership of the church.

Don't expect that we will agree about everything (like church music!), with fellow Christians from ethnic minorities, even within the PCA.

So, learn, pray, acknowledge, relate, and commit. These pastoral suggestions are offered in the spirit of “stirring one another up to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24). Your presbytery writes as fellow elders, brothers, and members of the congregations of PMV. May the Lord himself grant us Gospel unity, racial reconciliation, and enable us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Matthew 3:8).

The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley  
May 3, 2016  
French Camp, Mississippi

## Attachment 2

### Suggested Resources on Race and our History for the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley

#### **Important Online Resources:** **Race and Church**

Thabiti Anyabwile, “Jonathan Edwards, Slavery, and the Theology of African Americans,”

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/files/2012/02/Thabiti-Jonathan-Edwards-slavery-and-theological-appropriation.pdf>

Thabiti Anyabwile, “Bondage or Freedom? Questions in Early American Theology,” The John L. Girardeau Lectures, First Presbyterian Church (ARP), Columbia, SC <http://www.firstprescolumbia.org/om-girardeau>  
Lecture 1 Audio - “Reformed Theology and the Status Quo”  
Lecture 2 Audio – “Reformed Theology and Social Change”

Otis Westbrook Pickett, *Race and the American Church*, Reformation21

Part 1 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/race-and-the-american-church-1.php>

Part 2 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/race-and-the-american-church-part-ii.php>

Part 3 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/race-and-the-american-church-part-iii-1.php>

Part 4 <http://www.reformation21.org/featured/race-and-the-american-church-part-iv.php>

Part 5 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/race-and-the-american-church-part-v.php>

Part 6a <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/race-and-the-american-church-part-vi.php>

Part 6b <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/americans-also-supported-a-physical.php>

Dr Pickett's Lament for Charleston

<http://www.reformation21.org/articles/for-such-a-time-as-this.php>

Dr. Pickett is native of Charleston, SC, from a long line of low-country South Carolinians. He is a PCA member (at Redeemer Church in Jackson) and Assistant Professor of History and Political Science at Mississippi College, Clinton, MS. He is a graduate of Clemson University, Covenant Theological Seminary and the University of Mississippi. He loves the South, Southern History and Southern Presbyterianism. These articles offer a sympathetic, but honest assessment of the history of race and the American Church.

Jemar Tisby, "The Image of God in the African American Experience"  
<https://jemartisby.com/2015/01/07/the-image-of-god-in-the-african-american-experience/>

Jemar Tisby, Trillia Newbell, and Thabiti Anyabwile, "Doing Racial Harmony," TGC National Conference <https://www.raanetwork.org/tgc-2015-doing-racial-harmony/>

Matthew Tuininga, *Presbyterians and the Political Theology of Race*, Reformation21

Part 1 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/presbyterians-and-the-political-theology-of-race-part-1-cultural-captivity.php>

Part 2 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/presbyterians-and-the-political-theology-of-race-part-2-old-testament-politics.php>

Part 3 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/presbyterians-and-the-political-theology-of-race-part-3-gospel-politics.php>

Review of Carolyn Renée Dupont, *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*

<http://www.reformation21.org/articles/mississippi-praying.php>

Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga is Assistant Professor of Moral Theology at Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI.

## **The Spirituality of the Church**

Adam S. Borneman, *Presbyterians, Civil Rights, and the Spirituality of the Church: A Brief Historical Survey* in *Political Theology Today: A forum for interdisciplinary and interreligious dialogue*, October 9, 2013

<http://www.politicaltheology.com/blog/presbyterians-civil-rights-and-the-spirituality-of-the-church-a-brief-historical-survey/>

Borneman is pastor of Second PC(USA) in Birmingham, AL, and a graduate of Samford University and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

David Coffin, Annotated Bibliography on the Spirituality of the Church

<http://www.newhopefairfax.org/files/spiritualityofchurchreadings.pdf>

Audio Lectures on the Spirituality of the Church

Lecture 1 <http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=102411131389>

Lecture 2 <http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=1024111321204>

Dr. David Coffin's annotated bibliography and audio lectures feature an approach to the spirituality of the church, from a perspective sympathetic to 19<sup>th</sup> Old School American Presbyterian divines.

Kenneth Taylor, *The Spirituality of the Church: Segregation, The Presbyterian Journal, and the Origins of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1942-1973*, Reformed Perspectives Magazine, Volume 9, Number 34, August 19 to August 25, 2007 (Third Millennium Ministries)

[http://thirdmill.org/newfiles/ken\\_taylor/ken\\_taylor.church.spirituality.html](http://thirdmill.org/newfiles/ken_taylor/ken_taylor.church.spirituality.html)

This article was published in Richard Pratt's online magazine. Mr. Taylor, the author, taught history at Piedmont College, specializing in the intersection of race, religion, and southern history. He is a communicant at St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, Athens, Georgia.

Matthew Tuininga, *Rightly Defining the Spirituality of the Church*,

Reformation21 <http://www.reformation21.org/articles/the-kingdom-and-its-righteousness-rightly-defining-the-spirituality-of-the-church.php>

## **PCA History and Race**

Sean Michael Lucas, *Race and the Roots of the PCA*, Reformation21

Part 1 <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2015/02/race-and-the-roots-of-the-pres.php>

Part 2 <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2015/02/race-and-the-roots-of-the-pres-1.php>

Part 3 <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2015/02/race-and-the-roots-of-the-pres-2.php>

Part 4 <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2015/02/race-and-the-roots-of-the-pres-3.php>

Part 5 <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2015/02/race-and-the-roots-of-the-pres-4.php>

Dr. Lucas is senior minister of the historic First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, MS, and Professor of Church History, Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University and Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (Historical and Theological Studies: American Reformed Tradition). He also served as Chief Academic Officer and associate professor of church history at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

David Peterson, *Southern Presbyterian Conservatives and Ecclesiastical Division: The Formation of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1926-1973*, Master's Thesis, University of Kentucky, 2009

[http://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1078&context=gradschool\\_theses](http://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1078&context=gradschool_theses)

This thesis argues that “Disgruntled by a liberal-moderate coalition that held power [in the PCUS], many conservatives withdrew and created the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) in 1973, the first major division of a Southern denomination. The PCA was not solely founded because of racial disagreements or any single cultural debate; rather decades’ long theological disagreements regarding the church’s role in society fueled separation along with several sharp social controversies.”

R. Milton Winter, *Division & Reunion in the Presbyterian Church US: A Mississippi Retrospective*, *Journal of Presbyterian History* 78:1 (Spring 2000)

<http://history.pcusa.org/sites/default/files/08Winter.pdf>

This journal article argues that “Mississippi mirrored the tensions within Southern Presbyterianism during an era of civil rights agitation, theological reassessment, and a conservative secession to form a separate Presbyterian Church in America.” Dr. Winter (who did his PhD in history at Union Seminary in Richmond, VA), is a PC(USA) pastor in Holly Springs, cousin of Mississippi Governor William Winter (himself an elder at Fondren PC(USA) in Jackson), and attended First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS for a season in the early 1970s.

### **Reformed, African American Perspectives on Theology, Culture, Church and Society**

Ellis Perspectives <http://www.ellispectives.com/>

The website of Dr. Carl and the soon-to-be Dr. Karen Ellis. Carl is currently the Associate Pastor for Cultural Apologetics at New City Fellowship, and teaches at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas and Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. Dr. Ellis was Dean of Intercultural Studies at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA and studied under

Francis Schaeffer at L'Abri in Switzerland. Karen Angela Ellis, is pursuing her PhD and works alongside her husband, exploring the zones where identity, human rights and theology intersect. She has performed, spoken and lectured in Eastern Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, Indonesia and in South America. In her twenty year career, she has been seen in classrooms, conferences, on radio, television, film and onstage. Karen holds a Master of Arts in Religion from Westminster Theological Seminary, and a Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama.

The Front Porch <http://thefrontporch.org/>

“Conversations about biblical faithfulness in African-American churches and beyond.” Topics covered include: The Arts, The Bible, The Black Church, Culture/Ethnicity, Family, God, The Gospel, Leadership, Missions, Preaching, Salvation, Shepherding, Theology, Women and Worship.

The Reformed African American Network <https://www.raanetwork.org/>

“The mission of the Reformed African American Network is to fuel modern reformation in the African American community and with a multi-ethnic mindset by providing biblically-faithful resources, by connecting Christians who adhere to Reformed doctrines—especially African Americans, and by building theology in community from a Reformed and African American perspective as well as with others from diverse ethnic backgrounds.”

Pure Church <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/thabitianyabwile/>

This is the blog of Thabiti Anyabwile, pastor of Anacostia River Church in southeast Washington, DC, council member of The Gospel Coalition, plenary speaker for Together for the Gospel.

### **Books and essays:**

Thabiti Anyabwile, *The Decline of African American Theology: From Biblical Faith to Cultural Captivity* (IVP, 2007)

Thabiti Anyabwile, *The Faithful Preacher: Recapturing the Vision of Three Pioneering African-American Pastors* (Crossway, 2007)

Thabiti Anyabwile, *Reviving the Black Church: New Life for a Sacred Institution* (B&H, 2015)

James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ* (Banner of Truth, reprint, 1868), Vol. 1, pp. 94-275.

Anthony Carter, ed., et al, *Glory Road: The Journeys of 10 African-Americans into Reformed Christianity* (Crossway, 2009)

Anthony Carter, *On Being Black and Reformed: A New Perspective on the African-American Christian Experience* (P&R, 2003)

Anthony J. Carter (M.A.B.S., Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando) is cofounder of the Black Alliance for Reformed Theology, its director of ministry, and editor of its online journal, *Vinedresser*. He is assistant pastor for preaching and teaching at Southwest Christian Fellowship, Atlanta.

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert, *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission* (Crossway, 2011)

Carl Ellis, *Free at Last! The Gospel in the African-American Experience* (IVP, 1996)

Carolyn Renee Dupont, *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975* (New York University Press, 2013), 181-198.

Michael Emerson and Christian Smith, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America* (Oxford University Press, 2001).

J. Daniel Hays, *From Every People and Nation a Biblical Theology of Race* (IVP Academic, 2003)

Stephen R. Haynes, *The Last Segregated Hour: The Memphis Kneel-Ins and the Campaign for Southern Church Desegregation* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

Stephen Haynes is Professor of Religious Studies, Rhodes College, and the author of many books, including *Noah's Curse: The Biblical Justification of American Slavery*.

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* in *Annotations on a Letter that Changed the World from a Birmingham Jail* by Peter Lillback (Providence Forum Press, 2013)

Bryan Lorritts, *Letters to a Birmingham Jail: A Response to the Words and Dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Moody, 2014)

Sean Michael Lucas, *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (P&R, 2015).

Sean Michael Lucas, "Owning the Past: The Spirituality of the Church in History, Failure, and Hope," *Reformed Theological Seminary Journal*, 1.1 (2016) forthcoming.

Charles Marsh, *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights* (Princeton University Press, 2008).

John Piper, *Bloodlines: Race, Cross and the Christian* (Crossway, 2011)  
“Sharing from his own experiences growing up in the segregated South, pastor John Piper thoughtfully exposes the unremitting problem of racism. Instead of turning finally to organizations, education, famous personalities, or government programs to address racial strife, Piper reveals the definitive source of hope—teaching how the good news about Jesus Christ actively undermines the sins that feed racial strife, and leads to a many-colored and many-cultured kingdom of God.”

Peter Slade, *Open Friendship in a Closed Society: Racial Reconciliation in Mississippi after the Civil Rights Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

Guy Waters, *How Jesus Runs the Church* (P&R, ), especially pages 66-70.

Jarvis Williams, *One New Man: The Cross and Racial Reconciliation in Pauline Theology* (B&H Academic, 2010)

**PCA Documents** (available at <http://www.pcahistory.org>):

2002 Declaration on Racial Reconciliation

2004 Pastoral Letter on the Gospel and Race 2015 Duncan/Lucas Personal Resolution

2016 Overtures: <http://www.pcaac.org/general-assembly/overtures/>.

### **Articles on PCA Personal Resolution**

Sean Michael Lucas in *ByFaith Magazine*:

<http://byfaithonline.com/grace-race-and-the-pca/>

PCA's action in *Christianity Today*:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2015/september/presbyterian-church-america-pca-race-apology.html>

### **Videos**

Ligon Duncan, Sean Michael Lucas, and Jemar Tisby, RAAN video explanation of Personal Resolution, June 2015:

<https://www.raanetwork.org/the-reasons-behind-the-resolution-on-civil-rights-remembrance/>

Trip Lee, Alex Medina, and Jemar Tisby, “How Did You Become Reformed? Trip Lee, Alex Medina, and Jemar Tisby on the Journey to Calvinism as Minorities,” The Gospel Coalition, April 5, 2016:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-did-you-become-reformed>

Trip Lee, Alex Medina, and Jemar Tisby, “What About the Minority



Experience in America Do Whites Often Miss? Trip Lee, Alex Medina, and Jemar Tisby on Loving Our Whole Christian Family,” The Gospel Coalition, October 6, 2015: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-about-minority-experience-america-do-whites-often-miss>

Sean Michael Lucas, lecture on "Divided by Faith," given at RTS, August 2015: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-pKFDDeK1uA>

Sean Michael Lucas, “Confessing Generational Sins” and “The Spirituality of the Church,” Reconciliation and Justice Conference, January 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FPCHattiesburg>.

Sean Michael Lucas, in “Division and Reunion: A Reflection on American Presbyterianism,” PC(USA) General Assembly, June 2014: <http://www.upsem.edu/dr>

Sean Michael Lucas, “Telling the Truth: How the Gospel Shapes Corporate Confession and Repentance,” Race and the Church Conference, January 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvVWL2YTdeQ>.

Peter Slade, “Open Friendship in a Closed Society: Racial Reconciliation in Mississippi after the Civil Rights Movement,” The Project on Lived Theology, Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, November 2014: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ2LA9Qss1M>

**OVERTURE 56** from Evangel Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 55 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery”

**Whereas**, the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley has sent an overture to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly recognizing and confessing “our denomination’s history of involvement and complicity in racial injustice, congregationally and/or individually, inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights era”; and

**Whereas**, Evangel Presbytery is in agreement with the substance of this overture and believes that this is a matter that the General Assembly must address; and

**Whereas**, the pastoral letter attached to the Mississippi Valley overture provides heartfelt pastoral counsel on how a presbytery might provide shepherding leadership for its churches toward racial reconciliation; and

**Whereas**, we believe that more subtle forms of racism still exist in our denomination, among which is an attitude of cultural superiority in the

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majority culture, an attitude that forces minority cultures to choose between accommodation and resistance to this majority culture;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that Evangel Presbytery urges the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to answer in the affirmative the overture from Mississippi Valley Presbytery; and

**Be it further resolved**, that Evangel Presbytery calls upon our denomination to confess and repent of the sin of maintaining an attitude of cultural superiority in the majority culture of our denomination, an attitude that is in conflict with the heart of the gospel which locates our worth in the forgiveness and righteousness freely given to us through Christ (Westminster Larger Catechism #123-26, 131-32); and

**Be it further resolved**, that Evangel Presbytery calls upon our denomination to bear fruit in keeping with this repentance, among which is the recognition of cultural expressions outside of the majority culture. Believing that among the freedoms given in the gospel is the freedom of cultural expression, and believing that both majority and minority cultures will be enriched through the mutual love stemming from this gospel freedom, we pledge ourselves to honor one another through these different cultural expressions; and

**Be it further resolved**, that Evangel Presbytery recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel, and asks the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PCA to do the same.

*Adopted by Evangel Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 10, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Martin Wagner, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 57** from Central Indiana Presbytery (to OC)  
“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”

[Editor’s Note: This Overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have

called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church,”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and our partnership in the gospel through the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing

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interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Central Indiana Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 12, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Kristofer D. Holroyd, stated clerk.*

**OVERTURE 58** from Piedmont Triad Presbytery (to OC)  
"Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity"

[Editor's Note: This overture is identical to Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery.]

**Whereas**, the 43rd General Assembly considered a personal resolution Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44th General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

**Whereas**, in the 1973 "Message to All the Churches," the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the "continuing church" of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, "We have

called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and

**Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which its descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, the 30th General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas**, the 32nd General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, our denomination’s unwillingness to speak truthfully about our failure to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that the sins of racism and racial injustice—not only toward African Americans, but also toward other racial minorities—are not simply past sins, but continue to be sins with which our churches and congregants wrestle; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance: such as, clarity that racism is a sin requiring formative and corrective discipline; growing into cultural intelligence regarding minority cultures; establishing

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interracial friendships and partnerships inside and outside our denomination; renewing our church's commitment to develop minority leadership at the congregational, presbytery, and denominational levels; and encouraging a denomination-wide vision for and commitment to a more racially and ethnically diverse church in the next twenty years;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church's covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly also confesses our continued sins of racism and failure to love brothers and sisters from minority cultures in accordance with what the Gospel requires; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

*Adopted by Piedmont Triad Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 23, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Tripp Sanders, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 59** from Gulf Coast Presbytery (to OC)

“Acknowledgment of Sin and Recommitment to Model our Unity in Christ”

**Whereas**, the sin of partiality is grievous in the sight of God (James 2) and the Lord has called us to love our neighbor as ourselves;

**Whereas**, the General Assembly recognizes that racism is a subset of the larger sin of showing partiality (James 2), and that showing partiality for any race or ethnicity over another has not simply been a past sin but exists alongside other forms of partiality forbidden by Scripture with which our churches and congregants continue to wrestle; and

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance and deferred action on it until the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Mobile, Alabama; and

- Whereas**, in the 1973 “Message to All the Churches,” the founding generation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) expressly declared our denomination to be the “continuing church” of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), saying, “We have called ourselves ‘Continuing’ Presbyterians because we seek to continue the faith of the founding fathers of that Church”; and
- Whereas**, a “continuing church” inherits not only the faith of the predecessor organization, but also the larger history of the Church from which it descends, whether that history is honorable or dishonorable; and
- Whereas**, though our founding denominational leaders were used mightily for the glory of Christ and the spread of the gospel, and some labored for a gospel solution to segregation, however, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation and to support efforts to secure access to basic human and civil rights; and
- Whereas**, the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period, which betrayed the visible unity of all believers in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), the command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the image of God in all people (Genesis 1:27); and
- Whereas**, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted a pastoral letter on “the Gospel and Race,” but in doing so, adopted a statement that did not directly acknowledge our sins against African Americans that many of our founding leaders and churches displayed during the Civil Rights period; and
- Whereas**, the failure of many of the PCA’s founding fathers to seek justice and to love mercy during the Civil Rights period significantly hinders present-day efforts for reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and their participation in the PCA; and
- Whereas**, God has once more given the PCA a gracious opportunity to show the beauty, grace and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through confession and through the fruits of repentance, doing those things which

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are necessary to obtain a clear conscience by promoting the grace of God for the salvation and spiritual health of all of our brothers and sisters as divine image bearers;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does acknowledge many of our denomination's forefathers' covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice inside and outside of our churches during the Civil Rights period; and

**Be it further resolved,** that this 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly urges the members, congregations and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America to study this action as well as the PCA position paper on the Gospel and Race, to confess their own particular sins and failures regarding racial injustice as may be appropriate, and to seek to bring forth fruits of repentance for the Gospel's sake within their own local communities.

**Be it finally resolved,** that this 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly recommits itself to bear fruit in keeping with our repentance, not holding the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality (James 2:1ff; Acts 10:34f in context), but pursuing a church that models being one body, one new redeemed humanity in Christ (Eph. 2:11-21 and 4:1-16) in the midst of a fractured and fallen humanity, a church which seeks to be salt and light to our present culture, seeking appropriate courses of action and reconciliation humbly, sincerely, and expeditiously, for the glory of God and the furtherance of Gospel.

*Adopted by Gulf Coast Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 10, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Robert S. Hornick, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 60** from the Session of Auburn Road Presbyterian Church, Venice, Florida (to OC)  
"Resolution of Gospel Supremacy and the Work of the Church"

**Whereas,** all authority in Heaven and on Earth belongs to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (cf. Matthew 28:18) reigning over all affairs of men; and

**Whereas,** professing Christians throughout the ages have continued to contend with sin of all color and stripe; and

**Whereas,** the 30th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America adopted a resolution on "racial reconciliation" that confessed its covenantal, generational, heinous sins connected with unbiblical forms of servitude and has received by promise the forgiveness of sins (cf. 1John 1:9); and



**Whereas**, God created man in His own image (cf. Genesis 1:27) and *He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth (Acts 17:26a)*, the concept of different “races” is not biblical; and *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17a)*, so that there remain no divisions among those who have put on Christ; all are offspring of Abraham (cf. Galatians 3:27-29); and

**Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America has temporarily ignored the exhortation of the Proverbist to hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter (cf. Proverbs 24:11), by carelessly adopting the philosophies of men (cf. Colossians 2:8) in the form of secular political movements which corrupt and prevent such work; and

**Whereas**, God has once more given our denomination a gracious providential opportunity to show the beauty, grace and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ through Christ-like love and compassion toward all who still draw breath;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America does recognize and confess our church’s recent involvement in and complicity with placing current political winds (cf. Ephesians 4:14) above the work of the Gospel; and

**Be it further resolved**, that this General Assembly recommit to the task of glorifying the Triune God of Scripture and the furtherance of the gospel of peace; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the General Assembly urges the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America to confess their own particular sins and failures as may be appropriate, and to seek to further truth and reconciliation for the gospel’s sake within their own local communities.

*This Overture was presented to and rejected by Suncoast Florida Presbytery at its February 2016 stated meeting (RAO 11-10).*

*Attested by /s/ TE Jonathan Loerop, stated clerk.*

**OVERTURE 61** from Illiana Presbytery (to MNA)  
“Restructure Boundary of Illiana Presbytery”

**Whereas**, Illiana Presbytery is committed to planting new churches; and

**Whereas**, Illiana Presbytery is committed to cooperating with other presbyteries for the Gospel’s sake; and

**Whereas**, the neighboring Presbytery of Northern Illinois has approached Illiana Presbytery with the desire to plant a new church in Springfield, Illinois; and

**Whereas**, Springfield is located with Sangamon County, which is located within the boundary of Illiana Presbytery; and

**Whereas**, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois is agreeable with a boundary restructuring to bring Sangamon County into the Presbytery of Northern Illinois;

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that Illiana Presbytery, at its 2016 Spring Stated Meeting, determined to overture the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to restructure the boundaries of the Presbyteries of Northern Illinois and Illiana so that Sangamon County joins the Presbytery of Northern Illinois.

*Adopted by Illiana Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 9, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE J. Dawson Miller, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 62** from Northern Illinois Presbytery (to MNA)  
“Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Northern Illinois”

**Whereas**, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois is committed to planting new churches; and

**Whereas**, the seat of government of the state of Illinois is located in Springfield, Illinois; and

**Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America lacks a church in the Springfield area; and

**Whereas**, five churches within the Presbytery of Northern Illinois are located within 85 miles of Springfield and, Lord willing, able to provide support for a church plant; and

**Whereas**, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois has studied various areas within northern Illinois and has landed on Springfield as being the most suitable location for a new work; and

**Whereas**, Springfield is located within Sangamon County, which is located in the boundary of Illiana Presbytery; and

**Whereas**, Illiana Presbytery is agreeable with a boundary restructuring to bring Sangamon County into the Presbytery of Northern Illinois;

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Presbytery of Northern Illinois overture the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to restructure the boundaries of the Presbyteries of Northern Illinois and Illiana so that Sangamon County joins the Presbytery of Northern Illinois.

*Adopted by Presbytery of Northern Illinois at its stated meeting, May 10, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ TE Daren S. Dietmeier, stated clerk*

**OVERTURE 63** from Ohio Valley Presbytery (to OC)  
“In Support of Overture 4 from Missouri Presbytery”

**Whereas**, the members of the PCA are increasingly aware that during the Civil Rights period, many Presbyterians and some of our founding denominational leaders and churches not only failed to support, but also actively worked against racial reconciliation in both church and society through sins of commission and omission, including: barring African Americans from worship services; misusing and twisting the Bible to support racial segregation; participating in and defending white supremacist organizations; and failing to speak out against state-supported segregation; and

**Whereas**, the 30th General Assembly adopted a resolution on racial reconciliation that confessed “covenantal, generational, heinous sins” connected with unbiblical forms of servitude, but did not deal specifically with the covenantal, generational, heinous sins committed during the much more recent Civil Rights period; and

**Whereas**, Overture 4 to the 44th General Assembly from Missouri Presbytery (“Confession of Sin and Commitment to Racial and Ethnic Diversity”) proposes appropriate actions the Assembly and our presbyteries and churches can take to address our complicity in these evils;

**Therefore**, Ohio Valley Presbytery urges the 44th General Assembly to answer Overture 4 in the affirmative.

*Adopted by Ohio Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 17, 2015*

*Attested by /s/ TE Larry C. Hoop, stated clerk*

**APPENDIX W**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**TO THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**COMMUNICATION 1** from the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)  
“Greetings from the NAE”

National Association of Evangelicals  
P.O. Box 23269  
Washington, D.C.20026

The Reverend Doctor L. Roy Taylor  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in America  
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 105  
Lawrenceville, Ga 30043

Dear Dr. Taylor,

Thanks you for your gracious invitation to represent the National Association of Evangelicals at the 2016 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America. While it is not possible for me to attend, I am honored to be invited and pray God’s blessing on the Assembly.

Leaders of the Presbyterian-Reformed movement have been involved with the NAE from our founding, nearly 75 years ago, and we greatly value that long-term friendship. We are composed of evangelicals of many types, bound together by loyalty to Jesus Christ, the Word of God and the Church. The PCA is an important part of that diverse NAE family.

At your meetings I understand you will consider the critical issue of racial reconciliation. The NAE has spent considerable time on this topic as well, hosting a conversation with our leaders last fall and devoting the spring edition of Evangelicals magazine to explore the issue. Our new evangelical research definition was developed to help researchers clarify that evangelicals should be defined by belief, not race or politics. Many of us have struggled to address racial issues well, but I am seeing reasons for hope all around our country. I expect that your conversations will open new doors of blessing and opportunity as well.

Roy, your faithful leadership in the PCA and the larger evangelical world is an encouragement to me and a blessing to many. I have prayed for you,

know many of your leaders, and share your excitement over what God is doing through your multiple ministries. May God bless and encourage all who gather in Mobile with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

With blessing,

/s/ Leith Anderson  
President

**COMMUNICATION 2** from the Presbyterian Church in Australia  
“Greetings from the Presbyterian Church of Australia”

From: John Wilson <[wilsonjp51@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonjp51@gmail.com)>  
Date: May 24, 2016 at 12:17:55 AM EDT  
To: Roy Taylor <[rtaylor@pcanet.org](mailto:rtaylor@pcanet.org)>

Dr L. Roy Taylor  
Stated Clerk  
General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in America

Dear Roy,

Assuming, then, that you will forward our invitation to the incoming Moderator, I'd be grateful if you would also submit our greeting to your General Assembly when it meets in Mobile, June 20-23, 2016.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, when it last met in 2013, warmly received as its Assembly expositor: Rev. Dr. Ligon Duncan. We greatly benefited from his presence and ministry, as we have in past years with MTW church planters.

Like your church, the Presbyterian Church of Australia is a Bible-believing church which upholds the inerrancy, authority, truth, relevance and sufficiency of Holy Scripture. Like you, we defend and proclaim the glorious message of the Gospel – that the gift of God is eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus alone, and that that gift is bestowed on all who repent and believe in Christ's atoning work at Calvary and his empty tomb.

Please accept this expression of fellowship in Christ and partnership in the Gospel from all “down under” within the slightly older PCA.

Rev. Dr. John P Wilson  
(Clerk of Assembly, Presbyterian Church of Victoria)  
(Moderator-General elect, Presbyterian Church of Australia)

**COMMUNICATION 3** from Église réformée de Québec  
“Fraternal Greetings”

Église réformée de Québec  
Interchurch Committee

June 6, 2016

Fraternal Greetings to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
of the Presbyterian Church in America

Dear fathers and brothers in Christ,

With thanksgiving to our heavenly Father, we address you as your sister Church serving the French-speaking people of God in the province of Quebec.

As you may or may not be aware, the *Église réformée du Québec* (ERQ) is small Reformed-Presbyterian denomination of five congregations serving the French-speaking people of God in the province of Quebec, Canada. We report a total membership of 364 communicate and non-communicant members. While on the one hand, we are a small body of believers, we also note with thanksgiving to our Lord that we have experienced steady growth during the past four years of nearly 2.5% each year. On the North American Church scene, 2.5 % annual growth is very significant.

More important than numbers, we praise our Lord for having raised up the ERQ as a vibrant Reformed witness in the province of Quebec. Our existence, our perseverance in the faith, our faithful Christ-centered preaching, our reception of new converts, and our growth in spiritual maturity, as well as our growing influence upon the protestant-evangelical witness in Quebec, all testify to our vibrant faith.

Since our last fraternal address in 2105, there have been a number of developments in the ERQ of which we would like to inform you and ask for your prayers:

- i. For several years the ERQ synod has been wrestling with questions related to the doctrine of creation. At our most recent synod meeting in February 2016, three motions were adopted. We adopted an affirmation summarizing the biblical and confessional teaching on creation. (The text was adapted from the affirmation adopted by the URCNA synod in 2001.) We adopted a recommended series of questions for the examination of pastoral candidates and pastors transferring into the ERQ. (This examination procedure was taken over directly from the recommendation adopted by the 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the OPC.) Finally, the ERQ synod also adopted the motion reminding the consistories to follow the church order with respect to the discipline of office bearers in case of heretical teachings.

- ii. We rejoice that the Head of the Church continues to raise up men of God to serve his people in Quebec. In January 2015, David Castonguay was ordained to the ministry of the Word and sacraments in order to serve the St-Jean congregation in Montreal, with a view to eventually becoming an army chaplain. Brother Castonguay is the first pastor of Quebec origin to be ordained in the ERQ in more than twenty-five years. Pastor Jean Zoellner accepted a call to serve as dean of Farel, Reformed Theological Seminary. Pastor Karis Mpindi, born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and raised in the United States, was received to serve the St-Jean congregation in Montreal. Three elders were ordained. One congregation of the ERQ remains vacant. Recently, on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>, eight office bearers and sixteen un-ordained men spent the day learning about the call to serve the Church as pastors or elders. We pray that several of these men will eventually be called to serve the Churches in Quebec.
- iii. The ERQ continues to develop fraternal relations beyond Quebec. We maintain ecclesiastical fellowship not only with the PCA, but also with the Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), and the United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA). In November 2105, the ERQ hosted the delegates of the thirteen member churches of NAPARC. We thank our Lord for the growing mutual awareness of our collective Reformed witness throughout North America.

As we conclude this fraternal address, we would like to express our appreciation for the work of your interchurch relations committee, and for the brotherly exchanges during our annual face-to-face meetings at NAPARC. We continue to thank our Lord for MTW and MNA missionaries who partner with us in Quebec and in the French-speaking world. We also note with thanksgiving the occasional visitors received from your church members, as well as some brothers and sisters participating in Short Term Missions in Quebec.

As you conclude the work of the General Assembly, and as you return to shepherding your local congregations, please be assured that we do pray for you and your faithful witness. May our gracious Lord fill us with joy as we preach the Gospel of truth and life.

With brotherly affection,

Ben Westerveld, Pastor

For the Interchurch Committee of the ERQ

Contact information: Rev. Ben Westerveld, President, Interchurch Committee of the ERQ, 844, rue de Contrecoeur, Québec (Québec) CANADA G1X 2X8  
[www.erq.qc.ca](http://www.erq.qc.ca) [Pasteur-Bernard@erq.qc.ca](mailto:Pasteur-Bernard@erq.qc.ca)

**COMMUNICATION 4** from Free Church of Scotland  
“Appreciation and Prayer”

**From:** Sharon Fraser [mailto:sharon@freechurch.org]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 11:06 AM

**To:** PCA Administrative Committee

**Subject:** Extract from the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland

Dear Sirs,

I have been asked to forward the attached extract from our General Assembly for your information.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Fraser  
PA to the Chief Executive Officer  
Free Church of Scotland  
15 North Bank Street  
The Mound  
Edinburgh EH1 2LS

**Attachment:**

**EXTRACT MINUTE**  
of the Proceedings of the General Assembly  
of the Free Church of Scotland

At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church there on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016, The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland met and was constituted.

*Inter alia:*

**Missions Board** The General Assembly called for the Report of the Missions Board (A)–(F)

**Finding**                      **Wherefore:**

**(E) ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

10. The General Assembly express their appreciation for the testimony of the Presbyterian Church in America. They assure the PCA of their prayerful interest in their Church and nation during this election year.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly by:*  
/s/ James Mavier, Principal Clerk of Assembly



**COMMUNICATION 5** from Presbyterian Church in Japan

Greetings

Kiyoshi Endo, Convener of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in Japan  
June 20, 2016

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America  
Dr. Roy Taylor, the Stated Clerk of PCA

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ from the Presbyterian Church in Japan!

It is my great pleasure and honor for me to be invited to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Since we are not able to send our delegates to your GA this year, I'd like to send greetings from the Presbyterian Church in Japan (PCJ) in writing.

I am very grateful that so many churches and people at PCA are praying for PCJ asking the Lord's blessings upon us. I'd especially like to express our gratitude to you all because of the long history of your prayerful generous supports as well as dedicated missionaries both long-term and short-term sent through the Mission to the World. With their indispensable help PCJ is able to continue our ministries of building-up churches and furthering the Kingdom of our Lord. Under the leadership of Rev. Dan Iverson, there are, in the Japan Presbyterian Mission, six teams with more than fifty missionaries are working together with Japanese workers in church-planting, spiritual renewal of churches, translating and publishing Christian literature, and theological education.

The Presbyterian Church in Japan was established in 1993 as a result of the unification of the Presbyterian Church of Christ in Japan and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Japan. We started with 3 presbyteries and 42 local churches, but now we have 6 presbyteries and 64 churches. Our guiding principles are the highest regard of the Scripture as the infallible Word of God, the Westminster Standards, and the Presbyterian Polity. While strongly upholding these unchanging principles, PCJ is committing herself for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God in the varying tides of the contemporary world.

Looking back, the history of PCJ cannot be written without the cooperation with PCA, particularly in the fields of church-planting and theological education. Our history of cooperation goes back to the coming of Rev. Phillip Foxwell and Rev. John M. L. Young to Yokkaichi in central Japan in 1948 and their move to Tokyo to help start Japan Christian Theological Seminary

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as well the Presbyterian Church of Christ in Japan soon afterwards. Our cooperation thus spans more than 70 years and has been a result of the commitment and dedication of both PCA and PCJ to the same Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Based on this history of cooperation, I, as convener of the General Assembly of PCJ and representing the Inter-Church Relations Committee, am wishing wholeheartedly that PCA and PCJ forge a fraternal relationship officially for the sake of the Lord. May I ask also that PCA would consider this in favorable terms.

I pray that the Lord bless the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America and grant grace and peace to all the saints of all her member churches.

Kiyoshi Endo, Convener of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in Japan

### **COMMUNICATION 6** from the Reformed Church in the Netherlands

Greetings to the PCA Assembly in Mobile, Alabama, June 20-24, 2016

Rev. Peter Bakker  
Committee for Relations with Churches Abroad  
Reformed Churches in the Netherlands

Dear brothers in Christ,

Heartfelt greetings from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, de Gereformeerde kerken vrijgemaakt in Nederland.

Thank you very much for the invitation you extended to us to be present at this synod meeting. It is heart warming to meet you again after our latest visit in 2015.

My name is Peter Bakker, and I am here as a member of the Committee for Relations with Churches Abroad (BBK). I appreciate to participate in conversations with your Interchurch Relation Committee (IRC). Again, thanks for inviting our churches to be present at this Assembly.

I am a retired professor of Aerospace Engineering at the Delft University of Technology. I have been active in our churches, such as being an elder, a delegate to the last General Synod, and a member of the Board of Trustees of our theological university in Kampen. Now I am in the BBK Committee in two capacities: as chairman and responsible for maintaining contacts with churches in North America. So that is why I am here.

I am sure many of you could be well informed about our country and our churches. However, for those less familiar just a few statistics.

The Netherlands, a country of some 17 million citizens, is increasingly hostile to orthodox Christian faith. Opposition to gay marriage is seen as unacceptable. Our 100 reformed elementary schools and in particular four reformed High Schools are under pressure to promote gay marriage.

Regarding our church we sometimes do use an addition: the Reformed Church Liberated, because 72 years ago our churches were liberated from greater Reformed Church in the Netherlands. The subjects of the discussions in that day were covenant, baptism, God's grace, and our responsibility.

Today we have about 270 local churches, 280 ministers, and a total membership of about 120,000 members. We, being a church in the Kuyperian tradition, are the largest orthodox reformed church body in Europe. So by God's grace, we were endowed with several opportunities to develop many Christian organizations in politics, science, and education.

And we have the freedom and willingness among our members to study the Bible, to encourage one another, and to give our children a proper Christian education.

There are two other Dutch church federations which we have growing contact with: the Christian Reformed Churches, with about 70,000 members, and the Netherlands Reformed Churches, with about 33,000 members (not to be confused with the quite different Puritan Netherlands Reformed Churches in the U.S.!).

For example the Theological Universities of the Reformed Churches, the Christian Reformed Churches, and the Netherlands Reformed Churches are in discussion to amalgamate into a bigger Theological University with each their own identity.

It is fair to say, that sometimes, however, the isolation of reformed people was greater than we wished. Very often, we were seen as a closed church. But in the last decade, many things have changed in our churches; they became far more open.

As many other churches we are thinking about the commandment that the Lord gave us, to reach the world with the Gospel. This is the better part of a Church that wants to be more open, but on the other side we are facing great challenges in our country.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The media, including the social media on the internet, is having a big impact on our people.

We think there is always a close connection between those two things: when the church will be more open to the world, it will also be easier affected by the world.

So it is a struggle for us, to keep committed to the Bible in life in dogmatics. In the Netherlands there is an increasing hostility to Christian faith. We also have to be sharp on points as hermeneutics, the authority of the Bible, and also on our relations with you and many other churches.

In the midst of the turmoil and challenges of the world around us, our churches desire to be true in the Lordship of Christ, the authority of Scripture, and the Reformed confessions. At the same time, we realize that being Reformed does not mean merely repeating slogans of the past, but involves creative and Spirit-led renewal of our minds and hearts, seeking new ways to be missionary to be engaged with our culture.

It is good to experience as delegates how Christ operates and takes care of his church all over the world. All together we may work for the building of God's kingdom, in the firm belief that the lord will always take care of those who want to serve Him faithfully. Christ is the King of His church, and will preserve her until the day He returns.

Therefore, we wish you the blessing of our Almighty God and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in all considerations and decisions that you have to make in the IRC.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

We pray that our visit may also contribute to the intensifying of the contacts between our two churches, which is very valuable to us.

Thank you very much.

## APPENDIX X

### ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD 44<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY June 21, 2016 7:30 pm

#### Prelude

#### Gathering Song – *And Can It Be*

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me who caused His pain, for me who Him to death pursued.  
Amazing love: how can it be that Thou my God shouldst die for me?

Refrain:

Amazing love: how can it be that Thou my God shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free so infinite His grace;  
Humbled Himself, so great His love, and bled for all His chosen race.  
'Tis mercy all immense and free for O my God it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose went forth and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine.  
Alive in Him my living Head and clothed in righteousness divine  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne and claim the crown through Christ my own.

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#### The Welcome

Michael Brock  
Sr. Pastor, Eastern Shore PCA  
Fairhope, AL

#### \*Call to Worship – Isaiah 30:15,

Minister: For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:

**People: “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness  
and in trust shall be your strength.”**

Minister: Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore  
he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

**People: For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who  
wait for him.**

**\*Hymn of Adoration – A Mighty Fortress**

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate;  
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He.  
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same;  
And He must win the battle.

Refrain:

A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God!  
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God!

And tho' this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear for God hath willed His truth to triumph thru us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure!  
One little word shall fell him.

That word, above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours thru Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.  
His kingdom is forever.

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**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*The Confession of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and  
Earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was  
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended  
into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended  
into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father

Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Call to Confession of Sin– Acts 3.19-20**

Pat Davey  
Assistant Pastor, Eastern Shore PCA  
Fairhope, AL

**Responsive Prayer of Confession of Sin**

Minister: Father, we acknowledge and confess that, though we are saints – forgiven, justified, accepted, and redeemed – we often don't live in light of that truth. We have just now confessed, silently, individual sins. And we also confess that there are certain entanglements to which we all succumb. We admit that we continue to move through life deluded: thinking we have power, ability, and sufficiency.

**People: Forgive us, merciful Father.**

Minister: We chase after prizes that the world says will bring us peace, when in reality all it brings us is enslavement and pressure and anxiety.

**People: Forgive us, Lord Jesus.**

Minister: We come to a General Assembly like this and compare ourselves with others...and get either puffed up and self-righteous or dejected and discouraged.

**People: Gracious Spirit, enable us to find our identity in the righteousness of Christ.**

Minister: We have preached and believed a false gospel of self-improvement. We have failed to rest in the work of redemption, but rather have continued striving and manipulating and scheming. We have grieved your heart, O God, by failing to believe that you love us.

**People: Forgive us of all our sins, we pray through Jesus. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon – I John 1.8-9**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *ESV*

**Hymn of Assurance** – *How Deep the Father’s Love*

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts no pow’r no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

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**Pastoral Prayer (with the Lord’s Prayer)**

Gary Cox  
Pastor, Grace PCA  
Madison, FL

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom  
come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the  
Kingdom, and the power, and glory, forever. Amen.

**Offering**

*(Offerings are used to help defray the costs of the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)*

**Offertory:** Wendell Kimbrough

**\*Hymn of Preparation** – *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise!  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love!



## APPENDIX X

Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come,  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger wand'ring from the fold of God.  
He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

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### **The Exhortation**

Ruling Elder Jim Wert  
Moderator, 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly  
Intown Community Church  
Atlanta, Georgia

### **\*Hymn – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verses 1-2)***

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God.  
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to His blood.

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### **Communion (*Communion elements are gluten free*)** Rev. Bob Hornick Stated Clerk, Gulf Coast Presbytery

### **Hymn – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verses 3-4)***

See from His head His hands His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did ever such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing so divine demands my soul my life my all!

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### **Benediction**

*\*Indicates the congregation standing, as able*

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## PART IV

### CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Correction to *Minutes of the Forty-third General Assembly*, Appendix G,  
Attachment 1, "Church Planters Placed on the Field," pp. 252-3:

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Iowa	Sisco	Abel	Council Bluffs, IA

Should read –

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Platte Valley	Sisco	Abel	Council Bluffs, IA

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## PART V

### REFERENCES AND INDEX

#### FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRE-ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE AND DRAFT DOCKET

Presbyterian Church in America  
Mobile Convention Center  
Mobile, Alabama • June 20-24, 2016  
(Third Draft)

##### PRE-ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

###### Monday, June 20, 2016

- 8:00 a.m.** Commissioner Registration Open  
**10:00 a.m.** Briefing for Overtures Committee  
**11:00 a.m.** Meeting of Overtures Committee begins  
Briefing for all other Monday Committees of Commissioners  
**12 noon** Lunch (on your own)  
**1:00 p.m.** Meetings of the Committees of Commissioners:  
Administrative Committee  
PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.  
**5:00 p.m.** Commissioner Registration Closed

###### Tuesday, June 21, 2016

- 7:30 a.m.** Commissioner Registration Open  
**8:00 a.m.** Committees of Commissioners begun Monday continue as needed  
Briefing of Committees of Commissioners  
**9:00 a.m.** Meetings of the Committees of Commissioners:  
Committee on Discipleship Ministries  
Covenant College  
Covenant Theological Seminary  
Interchurch Relations  
Mission to North America  
Mission to the World  
PCA Foundation  
Ridge Haven  
Reformed University Ministries

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Tuesday (continued)

- 10:30 a.m.** Meeting of the AC/Board of Directors  
**12 noon – 1:00 p.m.** Briefing of Floor Clerks  
**12:45 p.m.** Pre-Assembly Prayer Meeting  
**2:00 p.m.** Theological Examining Committee (if necessary)  
Meeting of the Committee on Constitutional Business (if necessary)  
**2:00 – 4:30 p.m.** Seminars  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. First Session  
3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Second Session  
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Third Session  
**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.** Choir Rehearsal and Training for Communion Elders and Ushers  
**7:45 p.m.** Commissioner Registration Closed (may open briefly after the worship service)

### PROPOSED DOCKET

Only the orders of the day and special orders are fixed times in the docket. Other items may be taken up earlier or later in the docket, depending upon the rate at which actions on reports are completed. *Therefore, those who present reports should be prepared to report earlier or later than the docketed times.*

### Tuesday Evening, June 21, 2016

- 7:00 p.m.** Musical Prelude  
**7:30 p.m.** Opening Session of the General Assembly  
Call to Order by the Moderator:  
Presiding James W. Wert, Jr. (RAO 1-1)  
Worship Service and Observance of the Lord's Supper  
**9:00 p.m.** Assembly Reconvenes  
Report on enrollment and determining of quorum (RAO 1-2)  
Election of Moderator (RAO 1-3, 1-4, 1-5)  
Presentation to Retiring Moderator  
Presentation of Docket (RAO 3-2, m)  
Election of Recording and Assistant Clerks  
Appointment of Assistant Parliamentarians (RAO 3-2, i)  
**9:45 p.m.** Recess  
**9:45 – 11:00 p.m.** Fellowship Time in the Exhibit Hall

DOCKET

**Wednesday, June 22, 2016**

- 7:30 a.m.** Commissioner Registration Open  
**8:00 a.m.** Seminars  
**9:15 a.m.** Assembly-wide Seminar  
**10:45 a.m.** Assembly Reconvenes  
Report of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, including:  
    New Churches Added, Statistics, Overtures (*RAO* 11-4 to 11-11)  
    Communications (*RAO* 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-11)  
    Report on Presbytery Votes on Proposed Amendments to *BCO*  
    Vote on *BCO* Proposed Amendments approved by Presbyteries  
    Partial Report of AC – proposed revision to *RAO* 13-2
- 11:00 a.m.** Appointment by Moderator of a Committee of Thanks  
Minutes of Tuesday Session  
Local Greetings

**Note on Presentation of New Business:**

All personal resolutions are new business (*RAO* 13-1, 13-2, 11-9) and are to be presented no later than the recess of the afternoon session. A two-thirds majority vote is required. If the Assembly receives the resolution, it will be referred by the Stated Clerk to the proper committee of commissioners.

- 11:05 a.m.** Report of the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations and Fraternal Greetings – No Minority Reports permitted. Substitute recommendation by majority of CoC allowed, *RAO* 14-6 h. Vote up, down or recommit w/o instructions  
**12 noon** Lunch Recess  
**1:30 p.m.** Assembly Reconvenes  
Review of Presbytery Records Committee Report – Subject to floor amendments. Minority Reports permitted. *RAO* 16.  
**2:15 p.m.** Cooperative Ministries Committee Report (*RAO* 7-6) – No Action Items.  
**2:30 p.m.** Theological Examining Committee Report

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Wednesday, June 22, 2016 (continued)**

- 2:45 p.m.** Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports – No Minority Reports permitted. Substitute recommendation by majority of CoC allowed, RAO 14-6.h. Vote up, down, or recommit without instructions.  
PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.  
Ridge Haven Conference Center  
PCA Foundation  
Partial Report of AC re: PCA Logo
- 5:00 p.m.** Commissioner Registration Closed  
Recess for Dinner  
Deadline for Nominations from the floor to the Nominating Committee (*RAO 8-4.i*)  
Meeting of the Nominating Committee
- 6:30 p.m.** Concert by Keith and Kristyn Getty
- 7:30 p.m.** Assembly Reconvenes for Worship Service
- 9:00 p.m.** Fellowship Time and Dessert Social in the Exhibit Hall

**Thursday, June 23, 2016**

- 7:30 a.m.** Commissioner Registration Open
- 8:00 a.m.** Seminars
- 9:30 a.m.** Assembly Reconvenes  
Minutes of Wednesday Sessions
- 9:45 a.m.** Committee on Constitutional Business Report
- 10:00 a.m.** Standing Judicial Commission Report – No debate or action on SJC decisions. Assembly votes on SJC Manual changes, (*RAO 17-5*)
- 10:15 a.m.** **Special Order:** Nominating Committee Report – No nominating speeches.  
Administration of vows to SJC members (*RAO 17-1*)  
Declaration of SJC as Assembly’s Commission (*BCO 15-4*)
- 10:45 a.m.** Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports  
Committee on Discipleship Ministries  
Reformed University Ministries  
Mission to the World
- 12 noon** Recess for Lunch



DOCKET

**Thursday, June 23, 2016 (continued)**

- 1:30 p.m.** Assembly Reconvenes  
Informational and Committee of Commissioners Reports  
Mission to North America  
Covenant Theological Seminary  
Administrative Committee  
Covenant College
- 3:30 p.m.** Overtures Committee Report – See *RAO* 15-8. Vote up, down, or recommit without instructions. If motion to answer in affirmative fails, overture is considered answered in negative. If motion to answer in negative fails, overture is recommitted to OC. Minority reports permitted. Members of OC may not debate unless majority of Assembly votes to allow.
- 5:00 p.m.** Commissioner Registration Closed
- 5:30 p.m.** Recess for Dinner
- 7:00 p.m.** Musical Prelude
- 7:30 p.m.** Assembly Reconvenes for Worship Service
- 9:00 p.m.** Reconvene for business (if necessary) Overtures Committee

**Friday, June 24, 2016**

- 8:00 a.m.** Assembly Reconvenes  
Minutes of Thursday Session
- 8:10 a.m.** Overtures Committee Report
- 11:35 a.m.** Committee on Thanks Report
- 11:45 a.m.** Appointment of Commission to review and approve final version of minutes  
Adjournment (*BCO* 14-8)  
Sing Psalm 133
- 12 noon** Apostolic Benediction (II Corinthians 13:14)

**Only commissioners with badges will be admitted  
to the floor of the Assembly.**

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**QUICK REFERENCE:  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS AND ITEM NUMBERS  
IN DAILY JOURNAL  
FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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