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Administrative Committee
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Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
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June 30, 1999

To: Sessions and Friends of the PCA

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133:1).

The General Assembly concludes each year with the commissioners singing together Psalm 133. The PCA General Assembly met June 15-18 in Louisville, KY, ending a day early. RE Tom Leopard, of Briarwood Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, AL, was elected moderator. One thousand, two hundred, eighteen commissioners registered; 854 Teaching Elders and 364 Ruling Elders, representing 643 churches. The Assembly received progress reports from all General Assembly Ministries (committees, agencies, and educational institutions). Among the actions taken by the Assembly were the following.

PCA Growth

The Stated Clerk reported that, as of the end of 1998, the PCA had 1,404 churches (including 220 mission churches), a net gain of forty-eight churches and 289,906 members (including ministers and covenant children), a net gain of 6,525 members. Reported contributions received by churches totaled \$404,360,040.00, an increase of \$35,000,000.00 Churches' support of General Assembly Ministries totaled \$21,784,177.00, an increase of \$561,357. About 38% of churches submitted no annual report and some churches submitted membership data but no financial data. Therefore, the statistics are incomplete.

Financial Goals

The Assembly approved budgets totaling \$60,109,414.00 for General Assembly Ministries (see attached Partnership Shares). Budgets are not-to-exceed spending authorizations. Under the PCA's polity, each General Assembly Ministry is responsible to communicate its opportunities and responsibilities to the churches with a view toward the churches voluntarily supporting the respective General Assembly Ministries. There are no assessments or equalization of funds.

Creation Study Committee

The CSC reported that they are studying four major views on Genesis chapters one and two with reference to the views' fidelity to the Scriptures and consistence with the *Westminster Standards*, namely ; 1) Calendar-Day Interpretation, 2) Day-Age Interpretation, 3) Framework Interpretation, and 4) Analogous-Days Interpretation. The committee presented a statement to the assembly (see attachment) and received permission to continue its work and report to the 2000 General Assembly in Tampa. A resolution was also adopted (see attachment). The Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the Scriptures, divine creation of the universe and Adam and Eve as progenitors of the human race, and denied macro evolution. The committee's work will be funded by designated contributions channeled through the Administrative Committee.

True to the Scriptures, to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission

Women in Combat Study Committee

The Committee presented a report that concluded that women should not be subject to the draft nor be put into combat situations. The Assembly received the report as advice to the churches and approved the moderator's adding three additional members to the committee to perfect the report for presentation to the Assembly next year. The committee's work will be funded by designated contributions channeled through the Administrative Committee.

New MNA Coordinator Elected

Dr. James C. Bland, HI was elected as MNA Coordinator, replacing Dr. Cortez Cooper, who retired in March. MNA is holding an Evangelism Convocation October 19-21, 1999 at the Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL. Featured speakers will include Doctors Bryan Chapell, Ligon Duncan, D. James Kennedy, Timothy Keller, and Paul D. Kooistra. Details are available from the MNA office.

Sanctity of Life

The Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the sanctity of human life (see attached statement) and directed the Stated Clerk and to set a date for prayer to be held in churches. January 23, 2000 will be a Day Of Prayer for Life.

Book of Church Order, SJC Manual & Rules of Assembly Operations Revisions

The Assembly gave final approval to four *BCO* revisions. One proposed revision was deferred until next year until a final tally of votes is received from Presbyteries. Five proposed *BCO* revisions were initially approved to be sent down to Presbyteries for their action. The Assembly approved some changes to the *RAO* and *SJC Manual*. Recently approved revisions to the *Book of Church Order, Rules of Assembly Operation, and Standing Judicial Commission Manual* will be printed in the upcoming edition of the *BCO*.

Warning Regarding Homosexual Agenda

The Assembly approved an overture to "encourage churches to study the Scriptures, to pray for God's mercy and truth to triumph in the lives of people involved in or affected by homosexuality, to speak and act pastorally on behalf of our children, and to direct further questions and concerns within our churches to those within our denominational circles especially able to assist them, such as Harvest USA." The Assembly reaffirmed previous actions that homosexual activity is sin, churches should seek to evangelize persons engaged in homosexual behavior, and that persons engaged in homosexual behavior are not eligible for PCA ordination.

Capital Building Fund Committee Dismissed

The Assembly dismissed with thanks and commendation the Capital Building Fund Committee after their accomplishing the goal of paying off the PCA Office Building Mortgage in 1998.

Your servant in Christ

[signed]

L. Roy Taylor

Stated Clerk, PCA