

MINUTES

of the

TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

of the

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Part I
DIRECTORY
Of General Assembly
Committees and Agencies

Part II
JOURNAL

Part III
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**June 10-13, 1997
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

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**TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

Tuesday, June 30, 1998 through Friday, July 3, 1998
St. Louis, Missouri

FUTURE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES:

June 15-18, 1999	-- Louisville, Kentucky
June 20-23, 2000	-- Tampa, Florida
June 2001	-- Dallas, Texas
June 2002	-- Birmingham, Alabama (tentative)

**25th GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS SENT TO PRESBYTERIES
AND SESSIONS:**

Proposed Amendments to *BCO*:

<i>BCO</i> 13-6	See 25-45, III, 1, p. 178
<i>BCO</i> 38-3	See 25-22, First Supplement, II, pp. 132 ff.

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1997

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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SUCCESSION OF MODERATORS

ASSEMBLY	YEAR	NAME	PLACE OF ASSEMBLY
1st	1973	Hon. W. Jack Williamson	Birmingham, AL
2nd	1974	Rev. Erskine L. Jackson	Macon, GA
3rd	1975	Judge Leon F. Hendrick	Jackson, MS
4th	1976	Rev. William A. McIlwaine	Greenville, SC
5th	1977	Hon. John T. Clark	Smyrna, GA
6th	1978	Rev. G. Aiken Taylor	Grand Rapids, MI
7th	1979	Hon. William F. Joseph, Jr.	Charlotte, NC
8th	1980	Rev. Paul G. Settle	Savannah, GA
9th	1981	Hon. Kenneth L. Ryskamp	Fort Lauderdale, FL
10th	1982	Rev. R. Laird Harris	Grand Rapids, MI
11th	1983	Hon. L. B. Austin III	Norfolk, VA
12th	1984	Rev. James M. Baird, Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA
13th	1985	Hon. Richard C. Chewning	St. Louis, MO
14th	1986	Rev. Frank M. Barker, Jr.	Philadelphia, PA
15th	1987	Hon. Gerald Sovereign	Grand Rapids, MI
16th	1988	Rev. D. James Kennedy	Knoxville, TN
17th	1989	Hon. John B. White, Jr.	La Mirada, CA
18th	1990	Rev. Cortez A. Cooper, Jr.	Atlanta, GA
19th	1991	Hon. Mark Belz	Birmingham, AL
20th	1992	Rev. W. Wilson Benton, Jr.	Roanoke, VA
21st	1993	Hon. G. Richard Hostetter	Columbia, SC
22nd	1994	Rev. William S. Barker, II	Atlanta, GA
23rd	1995	Hon. Frank A. Brock	Dallas, TX
24th	1996	Rev. Charles A. McGowan	Fort Lauderdale, FL
25th	1997	Hon. Samuel J. Duncan	Colorado Springs, CO

SUCCESSION OF STATED CLERKS

YEARS	NAME
1973 - 1988	Rev. Morton H. Smith
1988 -	Rev. Paul R. Gilchrist

DIRECTORY

PART I

**DIRECTORY OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES**

I. OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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DIRECTORY

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Teaching Elders:

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Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-2513

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Elizabethton, TN 37643

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Frank Brock, President of Covenant College
Bryan Chapell, President of Covenant Theological Seminary

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DIRECTORY

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Class of 2001

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Class of 2001

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DIRECTORY

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
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Ruling Elder

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Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk

* Deacon

DIRECTORY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

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Ruling Elders

Class of 2001

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Birmingham, AL 35243

Class of 2000

Class of 1999

Willis Frazer, Covenant
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Class of 1998

Robert (Neal) Ham, C. Georgia
4690 Oxford Circle
Macon, GA 31210

Appointed Members:

RE Philip (Tom) Clark -- CE&P
RE Donald Ritter -- CC
RE John N. Albritton -- CTS
RE Gerald Sovereign -- MTW
RE John R. (Jack) Laws -- MNA

Advisory Member

Paul R. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk
RE Edward S. Harris
TE Thomas G. Kay, Jr.

**** NOTE:** By prior action of the General Assembly (M24GA, 24-15, recommendation 4), the structure of the PCA Foundation was changed to have 5 members elected at large and 5 appointed members, one from each committee or agency supporting the Foundation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF RIDGE HAVEN

Teaching Elders:

John Furman, New River
2977 Golf Colony Drive
Salem, VA 24153

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2002

Kim Conner, Calvary
111 Covenant Drive
Easley, SC 29640

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ridge Haven Conference Center - continued

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	Class of 2000
Thomas Cook, W. Carolina Route 2, Box 486 Brevard, NC 28712	Harry Kaplan, W. Carolina Route 2, Box 516 Brevard, NC 28712
	Class of 1999
Richard J. Lindsay, Calvary 306 Bonum Road Lake Wylie, SC 29710	Kirby Reichmann, Gulf Coast 503 N. Range Street Madison, FL 32340
	Class of 1998
H. R. (Pat) Patteson, Palmetto 4507 Oakwood Drive Columbia, SC 29206	Lindsey Tippins, N. Georgia 139 Midway Road Marietta, GA 30064-1553

Advisory Member

Charles H. Dunahoo, Coordinator of CE/P
Paul Kooistra, Coordinator of MTW
Cortez Cooper, Coordinator of MNA
Paul R. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk

IV. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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Class of 1999

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Class of 1998

William Cranford, Fellowship
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Rock Hill, SC 29732-7704

DIRECTORY

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Ruling Elders:

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Class of 2000

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Class of 1999

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Ex-Officio

Paul R. Gilchrist, TN Valley, Stated Clerk
Donald H. Gahagen, Jr., Southern Florida, MTW

V. STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

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Ruling Elder

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DIRECTORY

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Case 95-11

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PART TWO
JOURNAL

MINUTES, TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
First Session - Tuesday Evening
June 10, 1997

25-1 Assembly Called to Order and Opening Worship

The Twenty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America gathered for the opening worship service at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, June 10, 1997 at the Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

PRELUDE	“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” <i>Festival Orchestra</i>	<i>arr. Ed Dickinson</i>
CALL TO ORDER AND WORDS OF WELCOME		Rev. Charles McGowan Moderator
CHORAL INTROIT	“A Scarlet Robe” <i>Festival Choir</i>	Lloyd Larson
CALL TO WORSHIP	Psalm 148:104, 13, 14	Rev. Rick Fite
INVOCATION		
HYMN OF PRAISE #349		“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
SCRIPTURE READING	Psalm 51	Rev. Mark Slepicka
HYMN OF ASSURANCE #268		“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”
PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING		Dr. Robert Stuart
ANTHEM	“Near the Cross” <i>Festival Choir and Orchestra</i>	<i>arr. Lloyd Larson</i>
SCRIPTURE READING	Joshua 23:1-16	
THE SERMON	“AS WE APPROACH 25”	Rev. Charles McGowan Moderator of the 24th General Assembly
HYMN OF RESPONSE #105		“Grace Greater than Our Sin” (Stanzas 1 and 4)
OUR CONFESSION FAITH #137		“The Apostles’ Creed”
COMING TO GOD’S THRONE OF GRACE #418	Silent Prayer Prayer of Confession (in unison)	
OUR EXPRESSION OF THANKSGIVING	There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son; Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.	“There is a Redeemer”

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.
Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

(by Melody Green/arr. Doug Holck; © 1982 Birdwing Music/Cherry Lane Publ. Co. Inc; CCLI #88492)

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Words of Institution Rev. Rick Fite and Rev. Jim Singleton
Distribution of the Elements (*please hold until all are served*)
 "Lord Jesus, thank You for bearing my sins in Your body."
 "Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood
 which cleanses me from my sins."

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #244 "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners"
BENEDICTION Dr. Paul Fowler
POSTLUDE "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *arr. Fasig/Innes*
 Lori Gasper, Organist/Linka Skaret, Pianist

Following worship, the Assembly recessed for 10 minutes at 9:25 PM.

25-2 Reconvening for Business

Moderator TE Charles E. McGowan reconvened the Assembly for business at 9:35 PM with prayer by TE's William Fox, Manuel Salabarría, Ian Sears, and Thomas Vanden Heuvel.

25-3 Declaration of Quorum and Enrollment

The Moderator declared a quorum present with 736 Teaching Elders, 336 Ruling Elders, and 6 Ruling Elder alternates enrolled as of Tuesday evening.

ASCENSION PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Pennsylvania, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Akron, OH	Faith	Carl Bogue	George Caler
Akron, OH	Faith		Robert Oldaker
Aurora, OH	Covenant Reformed	Scott Wright	

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Ascension Presbytery - continued

Beaver Falls	Christ	Larry Elenbaum	Herbert Nida
Butler	Westminster	James Smith	William Mitchell
Butler	Westminster		Towner Scheffler
Ellwood City	Berean	Bruce Gardner	
Erie	Faith Reformed		Kenneth Peterson
Harrisville	Rocky Springs	Earl Fair	
Volant	Hillcrest	R. Irfon Hughes	Steven Morley
Volant	Hillcrest		Frederick "Jay" Neikirk
Wellsville, NY	PC of Wellsville	Kenneth Thompson	
		Jerry Mead	
		Robert Peterson	

CALVARY PRESBYTERY (All towns are in South Carolina)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Abbeville	New Hope	George Busch	John Latham
Anderson	New Covenant	David Rountree	David Wilcox
Clemson	Clemson	Tim Lane	Dave Woodard
Clemson	Clemson	Dave Conley	Ernie Baxa
Clinton	Westminster	David Bryan	Charles Miller
Conestee	Reedy River	Kenneth Gentry	
Easley	Covenant	Craig Swartz	
Greenville	Calvary	Decherd Stevens	
Greenville	Mitchell Road	Peter Spink	
Greenville	Second	William Rod Clay	Albert Anderson
Greenville	Second	Robert Spears	John VanVoorhis
Greenville	Second		Bill Wheeler
Greenville	Shannon Forest	W. Lee Mashburn	
Greenville	Shannon Forest	John L. Rose	
Greenwood	Greenwood	W. Curt Rabe	Anthony Culbertson
Newberry	Smyrna	Bryan Wright	
Roebuck	Mt. Calvary	Robert Baxter	Frank Griffith
Simpsonville	Woodruff Road	Rod Mays	
Simpsonville	Woodruff Road	Richard Thomas	
Spartanburg	Powell	William Thrailkill	
Woodruff	Antioch	Charles Champion	
		E. Crowell Cooley	
		W. Duncan Rankin	
		Benjamin Shaw	
		Allan Story	

CENTRAL CAROLINA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in North Carolina)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Albemarle	Second Street	David Alexander	Jerry Hager
Belmont	East Belmont	Karl Koehler	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Central Carolina Presbytery - continued

Burlington	Northside	Daniel Bartel	
Charlotte	Prosperity		Earl Jordan
Charlotte	University City	Wayne Zaepfel	
Charlotte	Uptown Christ Covenant	Tom Hawkes	Bob Dyar
Concord	Bible	S. Scott Willett	Paul English
Concord	Westminster Reformed	Richard Trott	
Denver	Lakeshore	William Joel McCall	
Ellerbe	First	James Watson	Bill Black
Elon College	Grace Covenant	John Browne	
Lexington	Meadowview	Gary Cox	Kenneth Owen
Lexington	Meadowview	Ron Coleman	Dick Wright
Locust	Carolina	Patrick Womack	Wilson Barbee
Matthews	Christ Covenant	Harry Reeder	Rob Veerman
Matthews	Christ Covenant	Thomas Henry	James Mezzanotte
Matthews	Moag Young	Dong Min Shin	
Mooresville	Shearer	Lonnie Barnes	
Mt. Ulla	Back Creek	J. Alex Coblentz	
Norman	Norman	David Frierson	Jr. Ward
Stanley	First	R. Daniel King	James Mitchell
		Charles Reese	
		J. Andrew White	

CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Florida)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Clermont	New Life	Donald Mountan	
Dunnellon	Springs	Keeth Staton	
Eustis	New Hope	Dan Kerley	William Christopher
Jacksonville	Christ	John Hutchinson	Henry Bradford
Jacksonville	Ortega	David Burke	
Jacksonville	Redeemer	Charles Frost	
Jacksonville	Westminster	Anthony Dallison	Richard Johns
Lecanto	Seven Rivers	Ron Brown	Ted Santana
Maitland	Orangewood	Carl Smith	Steve Briggs
Maitland	Orangewood	Vaughan Stanley	
Middleburg	Pinewood	Rodney Whited	John Tolson
Middleburg	Pinewood		Lamar Johnson
Middleburg	Pinewood		Nicholas Borko
New Port Richey	River Ridge	G. William Davis III	
Ocala	Grace	Michael Gordon	Richard Clotfelter
Orlando	River of Life	Charles Holliday III	
Orlando	University	Marvin Bates	
Orlando	University	Scott Puckett	
Palm Bay	Covenant	Dan Hendley	
Palm Bay	Covenant	Maurice Sikes	

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Central Florida Presbytery - continued

Palm Coast	Grace	David Boxerman	
Ponte Vedra Beach	Ponte Vedra	Alan Scott	
Ponte Vedra Beach	Ponte Vedra	Robert Warren	
Spring Hill	DaySpring		Ray Heddleson
Winter Park	St. Pauls	Michael Malone	William Leonard III
		Thomas Eddy	
		David M. Gordon	
		Stephen Johnson	
		Allen Mawhinney	

CENTRAL GEORGIA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Georgia)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Albany	Northgate	David King	
Augusta	First	Charles Smith	Benjamin Robeson
Augusta	First	David Harding	Alton Lovingood
Augusta	First		Bruce Kitchen
Augusta	Lakemont	John Jagoditsch	William Hatcher
Columbus	St. Andrews	William Douglas	
Forsyth	Dayspring	Leslie Prouty	
Garden City	Chapel/Gardens	Daniel Clay	
Lake Oconee	Lake Oconee	John Kinser	
Macon	First	Larry Gamble	Charles Duggan
Macon	First		John Clark
Macon	Vineville	John Nordan	Jack North
Macon	Vineville	Alexander Ream	R. Neal Ham
Martinez	Westminster	Richard Edwards	Julian Davis
Martinez	Westminster		Gary Mullen
Milledgeville	Covenant		David Toller
Perry	Perry	James Shipley	John Blythe
Savannah	Providence	Scott Reiber	
Statesboro	Trinity	Roland Barnes	John Marshall
St. Simons Island	Golden Isles	Lee Lovett	
Sylvania	Liberty	Tommie Knowles	
Thomson	Thomson		Tommy Samuels
Thomson	Thomson		Jim McFadyen
Tifton	New Life	Ronald Clegg	
Waynesboro	First	James Knight	
		Paul Bankson	
		Michael Bolus	
		Arthur C. Broadwick	
		Karl Dortzbach	
		Terry Johnson	
		Ronald Parrish	
		David Wilson	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COVENANT PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Mississippi, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Carrollton	Carrollton	Grover Gunn	
Clarendon, AR	First	Greg Hoffman	
Clarksdale	First	Claude McRoberts	Joe Gibbs
Clarksdale	First	Todd Teller	
Cleveland	Covenant	Tim Starnes	
Columbus	Main Street	Sam Riddell	Jim Alinder
Dyersburg, TN	First	Fredric Mau	
Germantown, TN	Riveroaks Reformed	William Spink	Kenneth Avis
Greenwood	Westminster	Randy Thompson	
Indianola	First		Howard O. Davis
Jackson, TN	Grace	Christopher O'Brien	
Little Rock, AR	Covenant	Tim Reed	Bud Hewitt
Olive Branch	Christ	Richard Rieves	
Sardis	Sardis	David Smith	
Starkville	Grace	Brad Stewart	
Starkville	Grace	Charles Godwin	
Water Valley	First	John Ford	Barron Caulfield, Jr.
		Richard Cannon	
		McKay Caston	
		William Rose	
		James Young	

EASTERN CANADA PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Bedford, NS	Bedford	Donald Codling	
Toronto, ON	Grace	Stephen Beck	
Toronto, ON	Grace	Stephen Christian	
Toronto, ON	Grace	Alan Mills	

EASTERN CAROLINA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in North Carolina)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Cary	Peace	Stephen Bostrom	
Fremont	White Oak		Robert Brown
Fuquay-Varina	Grace	Theodore Trefsgar	
Henderson	West Hills	Douglas Addington	
Oriental	Pamlico		Truett Bennett
Raleigh	Redeemer	Terry Traylor	Gary Slavens
Wilmington	Trinity Reformed	Norman Evans	Ron Gilbert
		J. Allen Herrington	

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EVANGEL PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Alabama)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Albertville	Grace Fellowship	James Danner	
Anniston	Faith	Craig Childs	
Birmingham	Altadena Valley		Philip Anderson
Birmingham	Altadena Valley		Charles Gibson
Birmingham	Briarwood	Frank Barker	DeVan Ard
Birmingham	Briarwood	Billy Barnes	Tom Harris
Birmingham	Briarwood	Tom Cheely	Doug Haskew
Birmingham	Briarwood	Don Furuto	Tom Leopard
Birmingham	Briarwood	Ted Shelton	George Moss
Birmingham	Briarwood	Ken Wilson	Tommy Saunders
Birmingham	Briarwood		John Spencer
Birmingham	Briarwood		Bob Sproul
Birmingham	Briarwood		Bill Stegall
Birmingham	Briarwood		Houston Welch
Birmingham	Covenant	William Hay	Manuel Zuniga
Birmingham	Covenant	John Thompson	
Birmingham	Household of Faith	Larry Cockrell	
Birmingham	Faith	James Alan Carter	
Birmingham	Oak Mountain	Robert Flayhart	Roger Means
Birmingham	Oak Mountain	Greg Poole	
Birmingham	Reformed Heritage	C. Nick Willborn	
Birmingham	Reformed Heritage	Carl Russell	
Cullman	Christ Covenant	Andrew Siegenthaler	Terry Bagley
Decatur	Decatur	Charles Garland	
Decatur	Decatur	Rob Bailey	
Ft. Payne	Grace	Gordon Lewis	
Gadsden	First		William Whorton
Gadsden	First		Albert Nippert
Helena	Evangel	Jeffrey Lowman	
Helena	Evangel	Grady Simpson	
Huntsville	Southwood	Barney Heyward	
Huntsville	Southwood	Andrew Southwell	
Moody	Community	Burt Boykin	Milton Seabolt
Moody	Community		Scott Clayton
Pell City	First	Michael Russell	
Pleasant Grove	Presbyterian Reformed	Steven Hamilton	
Rainbow City	Rainbow	William Whitwer	
Sylacauga	Knollwood	Howard Eyrich	
Trussville	Deerfoot	William Rutledge	
Tuscumbia	First	Jerry Robbins	Charlie Yates
		Calvin Frett	
		James Lyons	
		Morse Up De Graff	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERY (All towns are in South Carolina)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Chester	Trinity	Samuel Hoyt	Leonard Gwin
Clover	Bethel	John Gess	Don Johnson
Clover	Bethel	Richard Schwartz	
Gaffney	Salem	Scott Hill	
Lake Wylie	Scherer Memorial	Richard Lindsay	Hugh Love
McConnells	Olivet	John "Chip" McArthur	
Rock Hill	Hopewell	Daren Russell	
Rock Hill	Westminster	William Fox	Frank Limerick
Rock Hill	Westminster	John Fastenau	
York	Filbert	Wallace Tinsley	Dan Hall
York	Filbert		Martin Houston
York	Temple		Philip Tom Clark

Richard Belcher

GRACE PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Mississippi, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Biloxi	First	James Richter	Douglas Leavengood
Brookhaven	Faith	Robert Oates	Robert Massengill
Centreville	Thomson Mem	Steve Hill	
Collins	McDonald	George Felton	
Crystal Springs	First	Wilson Smith	James Hudson
Gulfport	First	M.D. Connor	George Everett
Gulfport	First		W.D. Woleben
Hattiesburg	Bay Street	Paul Honomichl	G.O. Runnels
Hattiesburg	First	Andrew Silman	Samuel Duncan
Hattiesburg	First	Scott Rich	William Stanway
Hattiesburg	Woodland	Steve Burton	
Laurel	Covenant	Steven Shuman	
Leakesville	Leakesville	Montgomery Kirk	
Leakesville	Leakesville		
Mize	Calvary	Martin Payne	
Mt. Olive	Mt. Olive	Randy Kimbrough	
Picayune	First		Richard Ulerich
Prentiss	Prentiss	French W. Tripp	
Woodville	First	Eugene Case	

Michael Craig
L. Roy Taylor

GREAT LAKES PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Bloomington, IN	Grace Covenant	John Peoples	David Canfield
Carmel, IN	Christ Community	Scott Dean	
Cincinnati, OH	Church of the Covenant	James Creech	Alan Stoll

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Great Lakes Presbytery - continued

Cincinnati, OH	Faith	Daniel Perrin	
Columbus, OH	Walnut Creek	Steve Resch	
Danville, KY	Grace	Peter Bartuska	
Dayton, OH	South Dayton		William Billings
Dublin, OH	Northwest	Larry Allen	
Holland, MI	Covenant	Thomas VandenHeuvel	
Indianapolis, IN	Grace	David McKay	
Indianapolis, IN	River Oaks	William Radford	
Louisville, KY	Community	David Dively	
Medina, OH	Harvest	Mike Van Arsdale	William Frey
Muncie, IN	New Life	Tim Stigers	
Muncie, IN	Westminster	Petros Roukas	Steve Bedi
Muncie, IN	Westminster	Brian Kinney	
Winoona Lake, IN	Good Shepherd	Timothy Elliott	
		Timothy Bayly	
		Chris Harper	

GULF COAST PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Florida, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Cantonment	Pinewoods	Danny Shuffield	
Fairhope, AL	Eastern Shore	Mack Griffith	Don Barnes
Ft. Walton Beach	Westminster	Bill Tyson	Steve Chambers
Gulf Breeze	Concord	J. Archie Moore	Gerry Sovereign
Gulf Shores, AL	Grace Fellowship	Richard Fennig	Tom Stanton
Madison	Grace		J.D. Scruggs
Mobile, AL	Christ	Stephen Wallace	Dick Buchanan
Niceville	First	Dennis Shackelford	Vince Kane
Panama City	Covenant	Robert Hayes	Richard Post
Pensacola	McIlwain Memorial	Charles DeBardeleben	George Fell
Pensacola	McIlwain Memorial		William Harris
Pensacola	Warrington	Robert Hornick	
Quincy	New Philadelphia	Randy Wilding	
Tallahassee	Wildwood	Darwin Box	
		Arnie Maves	

HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Ackley, IA	Faith	Timothy Diehl	Donald Boldt
Ackley, IA	West Friesland	Randy Crane	
Holland, IA	Colfax Center	Larry Hoop	
Kearney, NE	Trinity	Michael Lano	
Ledyard, IA	Bethany Evangelical	Larry Doughan	Gordon Wirtjes
Lincoln, NE	Covenant	Stuart Kerns	
Lincoln, NE	Covenant	Stephen Todd Bowen	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Heartland Presbytery - continued

Olathe, KS	Olathe	David Van Meerbeke	Charles Meador
Omaha, NE	Harvest Community	Glenn Durham	
Omaha, NE	Trinity	Phillip Kayser	
Overland Park, KS	Redeemer	Mark Merritt	
Shawnee, KS	West Hills Community	James Dodd	John Pink
Shawnee, KS	West Hills Community	Scott Sauls	
Walker, IA	Bible		Donald Donaldson
Wichita, KS	Evangel	Donald Rackley	Jerry Keen
Wichita, KS	Evangel		Walter Ramsour
Wichita, KS	Heartland Community	Thomas Penning	
		Patrick Cook	
		Lawrence Lunceford	
		Michael Milton	

HERITAGE PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Bear, DE	Glasgow Reformed	Douglas Perkins	
Boothwyn, PA	Reformed	Dwight Dunn	
Downington, PA	Immanuel	Wayne Brauning	
Glen Mills, PA	Covenant	Daniel Kiehl	
Hockessin, DE	Berea	Robert Klein	Gene Wentling
Hockessin, DE	Berea		Harold Whitlock
Kemblesville, PA	Cornerstone	Mark Van Gilst	
Media, PA	Calvary Reformed	C. Greg Jackson	Charles Barlow
Newark, DE	Evangelical	Guy Richardson	Philip Hufnell
Newark, DE	Evangelical	James Phillis	James Thomas
Salisbury, MD	Christ's Community		Jay Gotwalt
Wilmington, DE	Faith	Jim Brown	John Haldeman
Wilmington, DE	Faith		Wes Rowles
		Robert Auffarth	
		R. Laird Harris	

ILLIANA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Illinois, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Carbondale	Evangelical	Burke Shade	
Edwardsville	Center Grove	Anthony Casoria	
Godfrey	Westminster	David Baer	
Marissa	Marissa	Michael Singenstreu	
Owensboro, KY	Christ	John Birkett	
Springfield	Springfield	Robert Marsh	
		Bryan Chapell	

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JAMES RIVER PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Virginia)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Charlottesville	Trinity	John Hall	C. Edward Rose
Charlottesville	Trinity	Tony Giles	
Charlottesville	Trinity	Mark Kuiper	
Chester	Centralia		Eugene Friedline
Chester	Centralia		Charles Woods*
Hampton	Calvary Reformed	L. Byron Snapp	
Harrisonburg	Covenant	Joseph Slater	Gary Shickel
Mechanicsville	Knox Reformed	Clyde Bowie	
Midlothian	Sycamore	Harry Long	
Norfolk	Immanuel	William Harrell	James Barr
Richmond	All Saints	Howard Griffith	Doug Westcott
Richmond	Stony Point Reformed	Frank Crane	Bruce Honts
Richmond	Stony Point Reformed		Dan Carrell
Richmond	Sycamore		Walter Lastovica
Suffolk	Westminster Reformed	Ruffin Alphin	
VA Beach	New Covenant	Joseph Mullen	
VA Beach	New Life	Wallace Sherbon	
		Robert Fiol	
		Ronald Gray	

KOREAN CAPITAL PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Burke, VA	Korean/Washington	Taek Yong Kim	
Columbia, MD	Korean Jerusalem	Thorn Wee Myung	
Rockville, MD	Bethesda Korean	Andy Lee	
Vienna, VA	Korean Central	Won Sang Lee	

KOREAN EASTERN PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Flushing, NY	Korean Canaan	Joshua Ahn	
Philadelphia, PA	Emmanuel	Henry Koh	
Woodside, NY	Korean	Samuel Park	
		Paul Kim	
		Jason Kim	
		Eliot Lee	

KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Atlanta, GA	Flock	Young Pal Cho	
Atlanta, GA	Onnuree	Myong Sick Chung	
Atlanta, GA	Onnuree	James Sang-Mok Park	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Korean Southeastern Presbytery - continued

Fayetteville, NC	Korean Bethel	Joon Won Kang
Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Internat'l Community	Joshua Jea
Norcross, GA	Gwinnett Korean	Dan Dongkyo Lee

KOREAN SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
		Chang-Ho Lim	

KOREAN SOUTHWEST PRESBYTERY

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Cerritos, CA	Sa-rang	Jung-Hyun Oh	
La Mirada, CA	La Mirada	Bong Kyu Chong	
Sierra Vista, AZ	United Korean	Dong Sik Chon	

LOUISIANA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Louisiana)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Delhi	Delhi	J. Paul Lipe	Jimmy Sehon
Lafayette	Acadiana	Marcus Rench	
Monroe	Auburn Avenue	J. Steven Wilkins	Dale Peacock
Oakdale	First	William Manning	
Opelousas	Westminster	T. Mark Duncan	George Thompson
Ruston	John Knox		Volney Pierce
Shreveport	Grace	Dana Casey	Mark Jonker
Shreveport	Grace	Robert Dillard	

James Meek

MID-AMERICA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Oklahoma, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Fayetteville, AR	Covenant	Paul Sagan	
Lawton	Beal Heights	John Butler	
Norman	Grace	Geoffrey Andress	
Oklahoma City	Heritage	Chuck Garriott	Fred Muse
Oklahoma City	Heritage	Jeff Birch	Charlie Dolezal
Tulsa	Christ	Craig Weaver	Ron Dunton
Tulsa	Christ		Lyle Fogle

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Mississippi)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Bailey	Bailey	Robert Thacker	
Belzoni	First	Richard Wiman	
Brandon	Brandon	Jason Shelton	
Brandon	Lakeland	Steve Jussely	
Carthage	Carthage	Daniel Gilchrist	
Clinton	Providence	John Reeves	
Edwards	Edwards	Jim Blaha	

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Mississippi Valley Presbytery - continued

Jackson	Alta Woods	Merle Messer	
Jackson	First	Ligon Duncan III	Edmund Johnston
Jackson	First	William Hughes	Lee Owen
Jackson	First	James Stewart	Robert Mims
Jackson	First	Timothy Horn	Eugene McRoberts, Jr.
Jackson	First		Joel Varner
Jackson	First		Thomas Bowen, Jr.
Jackson	North Park		Harold McDiarmid
Jackson	Trinity	Philip Strong	
Kosciusko	First		Greg LeVert
Lexington	First	Dale VanNess	
Louisville	First	Robert Schwanebeck	
Madison	First	Barry Darnell	
Pearl	Pearl		George Powe
Philadelphia	First	James Shull	
Pickens	Pickens	Michael Ganucheau	
Ridgeland	Pear Orchard	Carl Kalberkamp	
Ridgeland	Pear Orchard	Curt Presley	Les Triplett
Terry	Wynndale	Edward Johnson	William Weathersby
Union	First	Michael Ahlberg	
Vicksburg	Westminster	John Allen	Warren Bennett
Yazoo City	First	Robert Wojohn	William Carroll
Yazoo City	Second	Iain Wright	Robert Cato
		B.I. Anderson	
		James Baird	
		Steven Froehlich	
		Mark Lowrey	
		Frederick Marsh	
		Donald Patterson	

MISSOURI PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Missouri)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Ballwin	Twin Oaks	Rodney Stortz	
Ballwin	Twin Oaks	Albert Moginot	
Chesterfield	Chesterfield	Hugh Barlett	Ben Homan
Chesterfield	Chesterfield		Carl Gillam
St. Louis	Covenant	George Robertson	Gary Campbell
St. Louis	Covenant	Bryant McGee	
St. Louis	Good Shepherd	Douglas Madi	
St. Louis	Grace & Peace	Kurt Lutjens	
St. Louis	Kirk/Hills	Wilson Benton, Jr.	William Wilson
St. Louis	Kirk/Hills	Michael Preg	
St. Louis	Providence Reformed	Jeffrey Meyers	E. Kent Hanson
Washington	New Port		Oscar Koirtzohann

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Missouri Presbytery - continued

Webster Groves Old Orchard Ronald Lutjens

William Dempsey
Philip Douglass
Daniel Doriani
James Hatch
Stephen Leonard
Donald MacNair
Leon Pannkuk
Paul Woodard
Daniel Zink

NASHVILLE PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Tennessee)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Columbia	Zion	J. Arch Warren	George Heard
Columbia	Zion		Charles Bell
Cookeville	Grace	Joseph Stewart	Darryl Richards
Franklin	Christ Community	Carter Crenshaw	Jack Watkins
Franklin	Christ Community	Clyde Godwin	Don Dobbins
Franklin	Christ Community	Scott Roley	
Goodlettsville	Faith	Richard Jennings	Jim Wolfe
Goodlettsville	Faith		Mark Inman
Murfreesboro	Trinity	Bruce O'Neil	
Nashville	Christ	Charles McGowan	Woody Camp
Nashville	Christ	Roy Carter	
Nashville	Christ	Joe Chilberg	
Nashville	Covenant	James Bachmann	
Nashville	Covenant	Ian Sears	Michael Tant
Tullahoma	Covenant	Leonard Hendrix	Sam Rieben

Stuart Latimer
Curtis McDaniel
E. Marvin Padgett
Kevin Teasley

NEW JERSEY PRESBYTERY (All towns are in New Jersey)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Brick	Calvary		Richard Springer
Bridgewater	Grace Community	Daniel Worth Carson	
Fairton	Fairfield	Michael Schuelke	
Mt. Laurel	Evangelical	Gary Englestad	
Princeton	Princeton	Ken Smith	
Short Hills	Covenant	David Miner	
Somerset	Mt. Carmel	Robert Cameron	

James Smith

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NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY (All towns are in West Virginia, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Barboursville	Providence Reformed	Jerry Maguire	Virgil Roberts
Charleston	Riverview	David Currence	
Cloverdale, VA	Valley Reformed	Brian Webster	
Floyd, VA	Harvestwood	Robert Miller	
Malden	Kanawha Salines	Steven Leonard	Wesley Bitzer
Malden	Kanawha Salines		Louie Hutchinson
Narrows, VA	Valley	Don Clements	
Princeton	Friendship	Craig Bailey	
Roanoke, VA	Westminster	John Furman	James Harrell
Roanoke, VA	Westminster		Erskine Harton

Wiliam Traub

NORTH GEORGIA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Georgia)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Atlanta	Christ Church	Al LaCour	Doug Russ
Atlanta	Intown Comm	Robert Cargo	Bruce Terrell
Atlanta	Westminster	Oliver Claassen	James Hughes
Atlanta	Westminster		John White
Chestnut Mtn	Chestnut Mountain	John Batusic	Mike Childress
Chestnut Mtn	Chestnut Mountain	Kennedy Smartt	
Douglasville	Harvester	Tom Irby	Dwight Allen
Duluth	Old Peachtree	Alan Johnson	Bob Blaylock
Duluth	Old Peachtree		Lee Benner*
Duluth	Perimeter	Randall Pope	Harvey Anderson
Duluth	Perimeter	Michael Glass	Gordon Moore
Duluth	Perimeter		Bruce Owens
Fayetteville	Covenant	Dale Welden	Ross Cook
Fayetteville	Covenant		Tim McKibben
Fayetteville	Redemption Fellowship	Louis Wilson	
Gainesville	Westminster	W. Jackson Beall	
Jonesboro	Emmanuel	Clifford Brewton	
Marietta	East Cobb	Stephen Jackson	
Marietta	Hope	John Ragland	Brian White
Marietta	Town Hills	Wesley Horne	
Peachtree City	Carriage Lane	Doug Griffith	
Powder Springs	Midway	George Mitchell	Don Barnett
Powder Springs	Midway	Gene Hunt	Loran Wills
Smyrna	Smyrna	Grady Love	Donald Faust
Smyrna	Smyrna	James Baxter	Timothy Verner
Snellville	Our Saviors	Bruce McRae	Marc Kyle
Stockbridge	The Rock	Mark Rowden	
Stone Mountain	Grace	Robert Jackson	Allan McLean

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

North Georgia Presbytery - continued

Watkinsville	Faith	Robert McAndrew	William Booth
Watkinsville	Faith	Kevin Burrell	
		Richard Aeschliman	
		Charles Dunahoo	
		J. Allen Thompson	
		Carl Wilson	

NORTH TEXAS PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Texas)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Carrollton	Metrocrest	Ronald Dunton	
Colleyville	Colleyville	Dale Smith	
Dallas	New Covenant		W.C. "Duke" Cornell
Dallas	New Covenant		Jean Duller*
Dallas	Park Cities	Joseph Ryan	Frank Seay
Dallas	Park Cities	Paul Settle	C.B. Sutherland
Dallas	Park Cities	Pete Deison	
Dallas	Park Cities	Darwin Jordan	
Flower Mound	Christ	David Sherwood	
Ft. Worth	Ft. Worth	Michael Sharrett	
Gordonville	Sherwood Shores	David Farbishel	
Greenville	Westminster	Thomas Barnes	
Richardson	Town North	David Clelland	Don Cole
Tyler	Fifth Street	Ronald Brady	
		Robert Palmer	

NORTHEAST PRESBYTERY (All towns are in New York, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Binghamton	New Hope	James White	
Cambridge, MA	Christ the King	Terry Gyger	
Cold Spring Harbor	N Shore Community	Allan Barth	
Concord, MA	Redeemer	Richard Lints	Michael Lawrence
Concord, NH	First	Doug Domin	
Coventry, CT	Pres Church/Coventry	Brad Evans	
Duanesburg	Reformed	C. Christian Baker	William Ruther
Exeter, NH	Exeter	Stephen Magee	
Laconia, NH	Grace	Rodney Collins	
Nashua, NH	Christ	T. David Gordon	
New Haven, CT	Christ	Preston Graham, Jr.	
New York	Redeemer	Jeffrey White	
New York	Village	Scot Sherman	
Queensbury	Redeemer Reformed		Jack Merry
Rye	Trinity	Craig Higgins	
Schenectady	First	Wesley O'Neill	
Somers	Affirmation	Frank Smith	

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (All towns are in California, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Concord	Oak Hills		Tom Eldredge
Kapolei, HI	Second City Fellowship	John Kinyon	
Park City, UT	Park City	Phil Stogner	
Paso Robles	Covenant Community	Marcus Serven	Earl Ross
Pleasanton	Grace	Steven Todd Orren	
Salt Lake City, UT	New Song	Wade Smith	
Santa Rosa	Redeemer	Michael Hayes	
Union City	Campbell	Don Treick	Lorin Dueck
		Beverly Barnett	
		David Brown	
		Michael Howard	
		Lewis Ruff	

NORTHERN ILLINOIS PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Illinois, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Aledo	Trinity	John Herberich	
Brookfield, WI	Cornerstone	Christopher Vogel	
Downers Grove	Christ	Edward Powers	
Hammond	Covenant	Alan Lutz	Al Neve
Hammond, IN	Pine Street	Robert Herrmann	
LaCrosse, WI	Covenant	Jeffrey Buikema	
Macomb	Covenant	Andrew Adams	Dan Colvin
Macomb	Covenant		Don Norton
Normal	Willowbeech	Robert Smart	
Pardeeville, WI	Grace	Nathan Kline	
Schaumburg	Spring Valley	Paul Winters	
		Evan Hock	

PACIFIC PRESBYTERY (All towns are in California, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Glendale	Calvary	James Garretson	
Las Vegas, NV	Spring Meadows	Carl Robbins	Joe Lanni
Manhattan Beach	New Life	Jerrard Heard	
North Hills	Valley	Ronald Svendsen	Robert Taylor
North Hills	Valley	Rondell Shaw	
		J. Philip Clark	
		Paul McKaughan	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Washington, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Beaverton, OR	Evergreen	Nathan Lewis	James Hill
Bellevue	Bellewood	Craig Branson	Ed Miller
Calgary, Alb	Covenant Evangelical	James Richwine	Richard Mercer
Eugene, OR	Cascade	Jack Davidson	
Issaquah	Covenant	Eric Irwin	
Lake Stevens	Chapel Hill	A. Dean Perry	
Olympia	South Sound	Robert Cassis	
Seattle	Green Lake	Michael Kelly	Terry Van Wechel
Seattle	Hillcrest	Bob Bruhn	
Tacoma	Faith	Robert Rayburn	John Pribyl
Tacoma	Faith	Richard DeMass	Robert Rogland*
Vancouver	Westminster	James Bordwine	
		G. Thompson Allen	
		John Smed	

PALMETTO PRESBYTERY (All towns are in South Carolina)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Aiken	New Covenant	Jim Simoneau	Gary Senn
Charleston	Church Creek Reformed		Dean Ezell
Charleston	Church Creek Reformed		Rob Moller
Charleston	Vine Life	Roy Pope	
Columbia	Cornerstone	Eric Perrin	
Columbia	Cornerstone	David Mulholland	
Columbia	Covenant	LeRoy Ferguson	
Columbia	Eau Claire	Alan Mallory	
Columbia	Northeast	George Crow	Wilson Lear
Columbia	Northeast	Harold Patteson	John Goodman
Columbia	Northeast		John Simmons
Columbia	Rose Hill	Gary Bainton	Gene Klugh
Conway	Grace	John Randy Riddle	
Goose Creek	Metro North	Thomas Wood	
Hilton Head Is.	Hilton Head	Clenton Ilderton	
Irmo	St. Andrews	Bill Barton	Lloyd Higbe
Irmo	St. Andrews	Eddie Spencer	Homer Sargent
Irmo	St. Andrews		Jim Anderson
Lexington	Lexington		David Kinney
Myrtle Beach	Faith	Arthur Scott	
Summerville	Oakbrook Community	Cameron Kirker	Larry Litke
White Rock	Faith	William Powis	
Winnsboro	Lebanon	James Riley	William Reid
		Joseph Gatis	
		E. Albert McCallister	

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Central Carolina Presbytery - continued

Robert Slimp
Craig Wilkes
Charles Wilson

PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Pennsylvania)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Allentown	Lehigh Valley	Donald Stone	John Harley
Ft. Washington	New Life	D. Clair Davis	
Ft. Washington	New Life	Glenn McDowell	
Harleysville	Covenant	Stephen Ford	
Hatboro	Covenant	Erwin Morrison	
Lansdale	Lansdale	John P. Clark, Sr.	Kenneth Rush
Levittown	Evangelical	Stephen Parker	
Newtown Square	Berith	James Flom	
Philadelphia	Tenth	Philip Ryken	Eugene Betts
Philadelphia	Tenth	Carroll Wynne	
Philadelphia	Third Reformed	Frank Moser	Samuel Grillo
Quakertown	Quakertown	Melvin Farrar	Ralph Ruth
Scranton	Hope	Glen Riexinger	
Wayne	Proclamation	Peter Lillback	J. Grant McCabe
Willow Grove	Calvary	Richard Tyson	Robert H. Miller

William Barker
Jonathan Inman
Thomas Patete

PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Pennsylvania, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Cumberland, MD	Faith	LeRoy Capper	
Johnstown	Trinity	David Karlberg	
Leechburg	Kiski Valley	Norman Reed	
Ligonier	Pioneer	David Kenyon	
McKees Rocks	Providence	John Koelling	J. Howie Donahoe
McKees Rocks	Providence	F. Todd Williams	
Monroeville	New Hope	Scott Parsons	
Pittsburgh	First Reformed	William Smith	Stanley Jenkins
Pittsburgh	First Reformed	William Massey	Gary Master
Pittsburgh	Grace Reformed	Donald Freeman	
Pittsburgh	Redeemer	Chris Robins	
Pittsburgh	South Hills Reformed	Arnold Frank	
Steubenville, OH	Covenant	Lawrence Roff	
Washington	Washington	Robert Boidock	
Wexford	Covenant	Dean Ulrich	Jean-Pierre Pressau

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pittsburgh Presbytery -- continued

Christopher Bennett
David Sarafolean
Charles Winkler

POTOMAC PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Maryland, except as indicated.)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Abingdon	New Covenant	Larry Wanaselja	Dennis Baxter
Alexandria, VA	Alexandria	Tom Holliday	
Annapolis	Evangelical	James Ferguson	
Arlington, VA	Christ	James Hutchens	
Baltimore	Aisquith	Robert Bell	Howard Flynn
Baltimore	Aisquith		Kenneth Wilson
Baltimore	Evangelical	Phillip Hardin	
Baltimore	Faith Christ Fellowship	Craig Garriott	
Baltimore	Forest Park Reformed	Stanley Long	
Baltimore	Loch Raven		Charles Masters
Baltimore	New Song Community	Stephen Smallman	
Bowie	Reformed	Michael Coleman	Tim Jones
Burtonsville	Good Hope Reformed	Jack Waller	
California	Cornerstone	Terry Baxley	Frank Rusticus
Chantilly, VA	Chantilly	Alan Dayhoff	Calvin Clark
Fairfax, VA	New Hope	David Coffin	Thomas Beveridge
Fairfax, VA	New Hope		Robert Hawkes
Frederick	Faith Reformed	George Miller	
Gainesville, VA	Gainesville	Jack Lash	W. Larry Poe
Gainesville, VA	Gainesville		Stephen Davis
Gambrills	Severn Run Evangelical	J. Arch VanDevender	
Germantown	Shady Grove	Gary Yagel	Ira Ward
Germantown	Shady Grove		Alfred Brobson
Glen Burnie	Glen Burnie	Arthur Ames	
Hyattsville	Wallace Memorial	Stephen Clark	Richard Larson
Hyattsville	Wallace Memorial	William Sutherland	
Laurel	Christ Reformed	Julian Dusenbury	
Lusby	Harvest Fellowship	Brian Sleeth	
Lutherville	Valley	Tom Osterhaus	William Moore IV
Lutherville	Valley	Drew Derreth	Oog Kang
Marriottsville	Chapelgate	Ronald Steel	Ken Dallwig
Marriottsville	Chapelgate	William Dever	Christopher Paulis
Martinsburg, WV	Pilgrim	Robert Thompson	
McLean, VA	McLean	Edward Satterfield	Dave Lambert
McLean, VA	McLean	Marlin Hardman	
McLean, VA	McLean	Charles Powell	
Mt. Airy	Mt. Airy	David Durant	
Owings Mills	Liberty Reformed	Larry Yeager	

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Potomac Presbytery -- continued

Pasadena	Severna Park		Chip Wilford
Reston, VA	Reston	Richard Crotteau	
Springfield, VA	Harvester	Ronald Bossom	Bruce Stanly
Springfield, VA	Harvester		Lightsey Wallace
Timonium	Timonium	T.M. Moore	Eric Huber
Timonium	Timonium	Robert Eickelberg	
Warrenton, VA	Heritage	Steve Hohenberger	
Westminster	Westminster Reformed	Thomas Shields	
		Harry Grimes	
		Manuel Padilla-Morales	
		Stephen Smallman	

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Colorado, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Boulder	Tree of Life	Richard Bledsoe	
Bozeman, MT	Gallatin Valley	Ron Ellis	
Castle Rock	Canyon Pines	Stephen Baldwin	
Cheyenne, WY	Northwoods	Michael Wolter	
CO Springs	Christ Covenant	Robert Stuart	Lanning Anderson
CO Springs	Forestgate	H. Randall Davis	Walt Meyers
CO Springs	Forestgate		Mark Hartwig
CO Springs	Grace	Richard Fite	Lyle Lagasse
CO Springs	Grace	John Harbison	Darrell MacKay
CO Springs	Grace		John Moe*
CO Springs	Village Seven	Bernhard Kuiper	Jerry Hardcastle
CO Springs	Village Seven	Jim Singleton	Charles Pettijohn
CO Springs	Village Seven		Ed Kuiper
Ft. Collins	Cornerstone	Gregory Thurston	
Lander, WY	Covenant	Jim Urish	
Montrose	Trinity Reformed	Frank VanLandingham	
Parker	Redeemer	Steven Reese	
Wheat Ridge	Covenant	James Talarico	Ed Seiler
Wheat Ridge	Covenant		William Nardin
		Mark Cary	
		Andrew Creswell	
		Paul Fowler	
		Scott Huber	
		William Leonard	
		Randy Sawyer	
		Andrew Zeller	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIOUXLANDS PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Minnesota, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Brooklyn Center	Good Shepherd	Ian Hewitson	
Farmington	Parkwood Reformed	Thomas Stein, Jr.	
Hinckley	First	Kevin Carr	Wayne Golly
Rapid City, SD	Black Hills Community	E. Nick Muller	
Rochester	Trinity		Karl Pasch
Underwood, ND	Alexander	James Wood	
		David Peterson	

SOUTH COAST PRESBYTERY (All towns are in California)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Escondido	New Life	Dennis Johnson	
Escondido	New Life	Daniel Deaton	
Escondido	Trinity	Joseph Pipa	Dan Fincham
San Diego	North City	David Eby	
Yorba Linda	Grace		John Giles
Yorba Linda	Grace		Tom Curtis
		Peter Jones	

SOUTH TEXAS PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Texas)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Austin	Redeemer	J. Paul Hahn	
Beaumont	First Reformed	Ronald Rowe	
Bryan	Westminster	Legree Finch	
Harlingen	Covenant	Jon Green	
Houston	Christ the King	Leo Schuster	
Houston	Korean	Edward S. Kim	
Houston	Oaklawn	David Moran	
Houston	Southwest	David Wakeland	David Miller
McAllen	Grace	Thomas McKeon	
New Braunfels	Christ	Richard Jones	Fred Willard
Pearland	Faith Community	Bailey Cadman	Edward Colunga
San Antonio	Faith	Timothy Hoke	
San Antonio	Oakwood Community	D. Rod Entrekin	
Spring	Spring Cypress	Robert Ferguson	Richard Thomas
Spring	Spring Cypress	Michael McCrocklin	
Sugar Land	Providence	Alan McCall	
The Woodlands	Grace	David Wilcher	
Webster	Bay Area	James Bland	Michael Wilson
Webster	Bay Area	Steven Cairns	
Webster	Bay Area	Christopher Mucci	
		Chris Yates	

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SOUTHEAST ALABAMA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Alabama)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Clanton	Clanton	Lamar Davis	
Clio	Pea River	Joseph Greer	
Dothan	First	William Thompson	
Dothan	First	C. Knox Baird	
Dothan	First	Parker Agnew	
Greenville	First		Jack Williamson
Lowndesboro	Lowndesboro	William Mason	
Millbrook	Millbrook	Steven Muzio	
Monroeville	Monroeville	Lawrence Gilpin	Armistead Harper
Montgomery	Covenant	Henry Bishop	Chandler Gardner
Montgomery	Covenant		Robert Shaw
Montgomery	Eastwood	Aaron Fleming	
Montgomery	Eastwood	Bart Lester	
Montgomery	First		R. Meade Guy
Montgomery	Trinity	Paul Poynor	William Joseph
Montgomery	Trinity		Frank Young
Montgomery	Trinity		John Albritton
Montgomery	Young Meadows	George Coxhead	
Ozark	Ozark	Randall Yelverton	
Prattville	First		Irving Wicker
Troy	First	Milton Cutchen	
		Cortez Cooper	
		Joe Harrell	
		James Stark	

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA (All towns are in Louisiana)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Mandeville	Three Rivers	Tim Posey	
Zachary	Plains	R.W. Markert	Edwin Hackenberg
Zachary	Plains		Mark Thompson

SOUTHERN FLORIDA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Florida)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Boca Raton	Spanish River	David Nicholas	
Boca Raton	Spanish River	Gary Treichler	
Boca Raton	West Boca	Jan Sattem	
Boynton Beach	Boynton Beach Comm	Dudley Hodges	
Coral Gables	Granada		Robert Bell
Coral Gables	Granada		Carlos Ruiz
Coral Springs	First	G. Michael Potts	
Coral Springs	First	Michael Rybka	
Coral Springs	First	Addison Soltau	
Coral Springs	First	Dale Goodman	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Southern Florida Presbytery -- continued

Delray Beach	Seacrest Boulevard	Ronald Siegenthaler	Richard Stackhouse
Delray Beach	Seacrest Boulevard		Charles Hoekstra
Delray Beach	Seacrest Boulevard		Conrad McEwen
Ft. Lauderdale	Coral Ridge	Michael Raia	Bill Coleman
Ft. Lauderdale	Coral Ridge		Paul Mattox
Ft. Lauderdale	Coral Ridge		Ralph Mittendorff
Ft. Lauderdale	Coral Ridge		Rick Penney
Ft. Lauderdale	Coral Ridge		Jerry Stapella
Ft. Lauderdale	Coral Ridge		Al Bunker
Ft. Lauderdale	PC at Weston	Brian Kelso	
Hollywood	St. Andrews	TJ Campo	
Lake Worth	Lake Osborne	Lynn Downing	Bill Koerner
Miami	El Redentor	Manuel Salabarria	
Miami	Kendall	Dominic Aquila	
Miami	Kendall	David Poole	
Miami	Korean Ban Suk	Kil Dong Choi	
Miami	Old Cutler	Michael Khandjian	
Miami	Old Cutler	George Garrison	
Miami	Old Cutler	Danny Levi	
Okeechobee	Faith	Richard Gillen	
Palm Beach Gardens	Cornerstone	William Thompson	
Palm City	Treasure Coast	Chris Hodge	
Plantation	First Church West	Norman Wise	
Port St. Lucie	St. Lucie	Douglas Culver	
Royal Palm Bch	Providence	Charles Baldini	
Stuart	Grace	James Bowen	
Wellington	Wellington	Timothy Christenson	
Wilton Manors	Covenant		Ronald Benoit
		Donald Graham	
		Archie Parrish	
		Kenneth Thompson	
		Michael Woodham	

SOUTHWEST PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Arizona, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Alamogordo, NM	Westminster	Rick Steele	Jack Quigley
Albuquerque, NM	Providence	Randy Steele	
Chandler	Desert Palms	David Bennett	
Los Alamos, NM	Bryce Avenue	Henry Fernandez	David Forsland
Mesa	Immanuel	Vincent Wood	
Sun City West	Covenant	Gerald Partain	

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Southwest Presbytery - continued

Tucson	Catalina Foothills	Mark Roesler	Paavo Ensio
Tucson	Catalina Foothills	Philip Kruis	Lewis Sorensen
Tucson	Catalina Foothills		Winston Maddox*
Tucson	Desert Springs		Robert Palmquist

Robert Scott
Peter Vaughn

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Florida)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Bradenton	Hope	Randall Greenwald	
Brandon	Westminster	John L. Graham	Larry Gillespie
Brandon	Westminster		David Crabtree
Clearwater	Christ Community	Jim Mitchell	Ken Beers
Clearwater	Christ Community	Darrell McIntyre	
Cape Coral	Evangelical	Eric Mullinax	
Ft. Myers	Westminster	Jeffrey Sample	
Lakeland	Covenant		Gary Kimball
Lakeland	Trinity	Timothy Rice	
Marco Island	Marco	Bruce Fiol	
Naples	Covenant	Eric Hausler	
North Port	First	George Crocker	
Sarasota	Covenant Life	Larry Edison	
Sebring	Covenant	Alfred Bennett	
Tampa	Seminole	Tom Sandhoff	William Earnest
Tampa	Tampa Bay	James Saxon	
Venice	Auburn Road	Dwight Dolby	Hank Whitmore
Wauchula	Faith	Brook Larrison	Charles Burrus
Winter Haven	Covenant	Ed Ouimette	Lewis Jones
Winter Haven	Covenant	Jason Strong	

Robert Byrne
Rodney Culbertson

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Pennsylvania)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Carlisle	Carlisle Reformed		Peter Davis
Cochranville	Faggs Manor		Robert Evans
Cochranville	Faggs Manor	Joel Fiscus	Robert Newlin
Dillsburg	First Korean	Paul Hyunkook Kim	
Ephrata	Reformed	Thomas Nicholas	
Harrisburg	Trinity	Thomas Myers	
Kirkwood	Kirkwood	Ken Hash	
Lancaster	Westminster	John Light	Lee Troup
Lancaster	Westminster		Peter Alecxih

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Susquehanna Valley Presbytery -- continued

Mechanicsburg	New Covenant	Bruce Mawhinney	
Palmyra	Church/Servant	John Gallagher	
Quarryville	Faith Reformed	John MacRae	
Quarryville	Faith Reformed		John Nelson
Quarryville	Faith Reformed		Willard Lutz
Shippensburg	Hope Reformed	David Fidati	
State College	Oakwood	Freddy Fritz	
		Carl Derk	

TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Tennessee, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Chattanooga	Brainerd Hills	Gary Roop	
Chattanooga	Covenant	Render Caines	Mark Wilson
Chattanooga	East Ridge	William Slawter	
Chattanooga	First		Roger Ingvalson
Chattanooga	First		T. Hooke McCallie
Chattanooga	First		Fred Seepe
Chattanooga	First		Robert Venable
Chattanooga	Mountain View	King Counts	
Chattanooga	New City	James Pickett	Scott Collier
Chattanooga	New City		Mark Mollenkof
Chattanooga	St. Elmo	Cal Boroughs	Bob Harbert
Dalton, GA	Grace	Mark Cushman	Mike Peoples
Flintstone, GA	Chattanooga Valley	Dennis Griffith	
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	First	Robert Borger	
Hixson	Hixson	J. Arthur Wood	
Knoxville	Cedar Springs	Brad Getz	Andy Holt
Knoxville	Cedar Springs	Roy Zinn	Raymond Elder
Knoxville	Cedar Springs		Tim Goddard
Knoxville	Christ Covenant	James Barnes	
Knoxville	Christ Covenant	Bryan Keith	
Knoxville	West Hills	Scott Horne	
LaFayette, GA	Highlands	Bob Haymes	
Lookout Mt	Lookout Mountain	Joseph Novenson	Frank Brock
Lookout Mt	Lookout Mountain	Frank Hitchings	Robert Ashlock
Lookout Mt	Lookout Mountain		T. Cartter Frierson
Lookout Mt, GA	Reformed	Kevin Skogen	
Maryville	Maryville Evangelical	Russell Sukhia	Glenn Prager
Oak Ridge	Covenant	David Hall	Mark Buckner
Signal Mt	Wayside	Marshall St. John	
Sweetwater	Christ	Robert Clarke	Carl Thompson

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Tennessee Valley Presbytery -- continued

Charles Anderson
Frederick Fowler
George Long
Gerald Morgan
Paul R. Gilchrist

WARRIOR PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Alabama.)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Aliceville	First	Thomas Kay, Jr.	Horace Hammett
Camden	First	Robert Brunson	
Demopolis	First	Tommy Carr	
Eutaw	First	Bruce Garris	
Greensboro	Greensboro	Dean Rydbeck	
Marion	Marion		Sam Colburn
Tuscaloosa	Riverwood	John Robertson	John Graham
Tuscaloosa	Trinity	Joseph Wheat	

William Joseph III
Paul Kooistra

WESTERN CAROLINA PRESBYTERY (All towns are in North Carolina, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Arden	Arden	Ed Graham	Jim McAnulty
Arden	Arden	Tom Anderson	Steve Doty
Arden	Arden		Sam Fleming
Asheville	Covenant Reformed	Robert Drake	Terril Elniff
Asheville	Trinity	William Laxton	Michael Everhart
Barnardsville	Dillingham	John Jerguson	
Brevard	Cornerstone	Thomas Cook	Edward Robeson
Brevard	Grace Covenant	Rhett Sanders	
Franklin	Emmanuel	Thomas Schmitt	
Hendersonville	Covenant		William Horner
Hendersonville	Covenant		Richard Leinecker
Hendersonville	Covenant		John Sullivan
Marion	Landis	Ted Mahaffey	
Murphy	Providence	Michael DeLozier	Simon Richter
Newland	Fellowship	J. Scott Fuller	Joseph Mitchell
Weaverville	First	Bruce Lax	

Morton Smith

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERY (All towns are in Tennessee, except as indicated)

City	Church	Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder
Birchleaf, VA	Sandlick	Patrick Parham	
Bristol	Eastern Heights	Rick Light	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Westminster Presbytery -- continued

Bristol	Edgemont	Larry Stallard	Phil Price
Bristol, VA	King Memorial	Daniel Foreman	
Cedar Bluff, VA	Covenant	Carl Howell	
Coeburn, VA	Coeburn	James Reedy	
Elizabethton	Memorial	Steven Meyerhoff	David Parlier
Glade Spring, VA	Seven Springs	Thomas Sullivan, Jr.	
Greeneville	Grace Reformed	Carel Van der Merwe	
Greeneville	Meadow Creek	Jim Thornton	Ivan Ward
Johnson City	Westminster	Rick Franks	
Kingsport	Bridwell Heights	Larry Ball	Mark Hecht
Kingsport	Harmony	Jack Bowling	
Kingsport	Westminster	G. Brent Bradley	Roger Schultz
Kingsport	Westminster		Daniel Witcher
Tazewell, VA	Trinity	Henry Johnson	

* Ruling Elder Alternates

Teaching Elders	820
Ruling Elders	365
[Ruling Elder Alternates 6]	
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	1191
 Churches Represented	 630

25-4 Adoption of the Docket

The fifth draft of the docket was declared adopted.

25-5 Election of Moderator

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for Moderator of the 25th General Assembly. RE Samuel J. Duncan of First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in Grace Presbytery was nominated and elected by acclamation. TE McGowan offered prayer for the new Moderator. Moderator Duncan thanked Dr. McGowan for his service during the previous year and assumed the chair.

The Chairman of the Administrative Committee, RE William Joseph, presented to the retiring Moderator a plaque in token of the Assembly's appreciation for his service as Moderator.

25-6 Election of Recording and Assistant Clerks

On nomination by the Stated Clerk, TEs David R. Dively, J. Robert Fiol, and D. Steven Meyerhoff were elected recording clerks; TE Robert M. Ferguson and RE John B. White, Jr. were appointed assistant parliamentarians; RE Walter Lastovica was appointed timekeeper; RE Ed Nalley sound manager; and TE James A. Smith Chairman of the floor clerks.

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25-7 Recess

The Assembly recessed at 10:10 PM with prayer by TE Andrew Silman.

Second Session - Wednesday Morning June 11, 1997

25-8 Assembly Reconvenes

The Assembly reconvened at 8:00 AM on June 11, 1997 with prayer by TE Kennedy Smartt. The Assembly sang "The Church's One Foundation," and the Moderator delivered an exhortation from Romans 14:1-10.

The Committee of Commissioners on Christian Education and Publications was excused at 8:30 AM and Committee of Commissioners on Bills and Overtures was excused at 9:00 AM to continue their business.

25-9 Partial Report of the Stated Clerk

TE Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk, led the Assembly in prayer and presented his report (Appendix A, pp. 227). The Stated Clerk reviewed the statistical portions of his reports (Tables 1-5). He read the list of churches who were added to the denomination since the last Assembly. The commissioners from these new churches were warmly welcomed by the Assembly.

CHURCHES ADDED TO THE DENOMINATION SINCE THE 24TH GA AND THROUGH MAY, 1997 (Not Previously Reported to General Assembly)

Presbytery	Church	Address	Date Rec.	Source
Ascension	Covenant Ref	Aurora, OH	03/31/96	Organized
Central Carolina	Grace	Kernersville, NC	08/04/96	Organized
	Norman	Norman, NC	08/11/96	Organized
	Sandhills	Southern Pines	03/97	Organized
	Uptown Christ Cov	Charlotte, NC	10/13/96	Organized
Central Florida	Redeemer	Jacksonville, FL	03/17/96	Organized
Eastern Canada	Grace	Toronto, ON	03/02/97	Organized
Eastern Carolina	Grace	Fuquay-Varina, NC	11/23/96	Organized
	Redeemer	Raleigh, NC	10/12/96	Organized
	West Hills	Henderson, NC	04/20/96	Independent
Evangel	Deerfoot	Trussville, AL	05/26/96	Organized
Gulf Coast	First	Atmore, AL	10/12/96	EPC

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Heartland	Bethany Evan & Ref	Ledyard, IA	06/25/96	UCC
Heritage	Cornerstone	Kemblesville, PA	07/21/96	Organized
James River	Covenant Christian New City Fell	Midlothian, VA Fredericksburg, VA	10/12/96 11/10/96	Independent Organized
Korean Eastern	New Sprout	Bayside, NY	04/09/96	Korean Christian Pure
Mid-America	Christ	Broken Arrow, OK		Organized
New Jersey	Redentor	South River, NJ	02/19/97	Organized
North Georgia	Town Hills Comm	Marietta, GA	11/17/96	Organized
North Texas	Fort Worth	Fort Worth, TX	06/02/96	Organized
Northeast	Christ the King The Village Church	Brookline, MA New York, NY	08/25/96 11/17/96	Organized Organized
Pacific Northwest	Valley West	Boise, ID	09/14/96	Organized
Philadelphia	Hope New Life Northeast	Moosic, PA Philadelphia, PA	04/28/96 04/20/97	Organized Organized
Potomac	Eagle Heights	Winchester, VA	01/97	Organized
Rocky Mountain	Christ Covenant New Life Korean	CO Springs, CO Aurora, CO	10/13/96 09/26/96	Organized Organized
Siouxlands	Faith	Warren, MN	11/01/96	Organized
South Texas	Oakwood Comm Redeemer	San Antonio, TX Austin, TX	01/02/97 10/20/96	Organized Organized
Southern Florida	St. Lucie	St. Lucie, FL	04/26/96	Organized
Southwest	Catalina Foothills	Tucson, AZ	03/03/96	Organized
Susquehanna Valley	Wheatland	Lancaster, PA	05/29/96	Organized
Tennessee Valley	Christ	Sweetwater, TN	02/18/96	Merger of Alta Vista & Sweetwater
Western Carolina	Cornerstone	Brevard, NC	12/15/96	Organized
Westminster	Bartlick Chapel	Haysi, VA	03/10/96	Organized

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By common consent, voting on *BCO* amendments was docketed immediately following the Report of the Standing Judicial Commission.

25-10 Appointment of Committee on Thanks

The Moderator appointed the following men to serve as the Committee on Thanks: TEs George Mitchell (Convenor), Don Clements, and Steve Shuman; and REs Rick Thomas, Howard Q. Davis and William Moore.

25-11 Overtures and Communications Received and Referred

The Clerk reported that Overtures and Communications were referred to the appropriate committees. The Assembly ratified these referrals.

- OVERTURE 1** From Southwest Florida (to B&O & CCB)
"Amend *BCO* 13-6 To Require Transfers from Other Denominations to be Fully Examined." 25-45, III, 1, p. 178
- OVERTURE 2** From Northeast Presbytery (to IRC)
"Investigate Alleged Delinquency of IRC" 25-15, III, 4, p. 57
- OVERTURE 3** From Northeast Presbytery (to MNA)
"Erect a New York City Metro Presbytery" 25-34, III, 8, p. 151
- OVERTURE 4** From Covenant Presbytery (to IRC)
"Investigate Alleged Delinquencies of IRC" 25-15, III, 4, p. 57
- OVERTURE 5** From Covenant Presbytery (to MNA)
"Redraw Boundaries of Covenant And Louisiana Presbyteries" 25-34, III, 10, p. 161
- OVERTURE 6** From the Presbytery of New Jersey (to MNA)
"Concern About Women Leaders in MNA Seminars" 25-34, III, 12, p. 162
- OVERTURE 7** From the Presbytery of New Jersey (to MNA)
"Erect a NY City Metro Presbytery" 25-34, III, 2, p. 161
- OVERTURE 8** From Potomac Presbytery (to B&O & CCB)
"Amend *BCO* 20-2 To Clarify Role of Pulpit Committee" 25-45, III, 2, p. 179
- OVERTURE 9** From Evangel Presbytery (to B&O & CCB)
"Amend New RAO 15-1 To Reflect Scriptures As the Ultimate Authority in Discipline" 25-45, III, 5, p. 180

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- OVERTURE 10** From Northern California Presbytery (to B&O)
“That Rationale for *BCO* Amendments Be Included When Sent Down to
Presbyteries For Advice and Consent” 25-45, III, 3, p. 179
- OVERTURE 11** From Covenant Presbytery (to MNA)
“Discharge MNA’s Responsibility for RUM and Establish RUM as a Separate
Committee of GA” 25-45, III, 14, p. 163
- OVERTURE 12** From Western Carolina Presbytery (to IRC)
“Investigate Alleged Delinquencies of IRC” 24-15, III, 4, p. 57
- OVERTURE 13** From Philadelphia Presbytery (to B&O)
“Opposition to Women in Combat” 25-45, III, 6, p. 184
- OVERTURE 14** From the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA
“Amend *BCO* 21-4, a,1 and *BCO* 24-1,a to Prohibit Ordination to Men with
Unbiblical Divorce or Remarriage” (to B&O & CCB)
25-45, III, 7, p. 192
- OVERTURE 15** From the South Coast Presbytery (to CE&P)
“Appoint a Study Committee On the Role of Women in the Church”
25-41, III, 15, p. 173
- OVERTURE 16** From the Presbytery of Ascension (to IRC)
“Investigate Alleged Delinquency of IRC” 25-15, III, 4, p. 57
- OVERTURE 17** From Grace Presbytery (to MNA)
“Establish RUM as A Permanent Committee of General Assembly”
25-34, III, 11, p. 166

COMMUNICATIONS

- COMMUNICATION 1** From the Christian Reformed Church in North America
(to IRC)

June 28, 1996

Dr. Paul R. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk
Presbyterian Church in America
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Dear Dr. Gilchrist:

We greet you in the name of the risen and ascended Lord.

Your letter of September 15, 1996, addressed to the Christian Reformed Church in North America, officially conveying the communication adopted by the 23rd General Assembly, meeting in Dallas, Texas, on June 19-23, 1995, was received by the office of the general secretary. Following review and recommendation by the Interchurch Relations Committee, Synod 1996 of the Christian Reformed Church in North America provides you with the following reply.

We appreciate the expressed desire of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to continue in full fellowship with the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). We are grateful that you value the relationship we have through the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC).

The CRCNA does not take lightly its relationship with churches in ecclesiastical fellowship. Our denominations have enjoyed this ecclesial relationship since 1975. In that light we consider seriously your grief and distress over the action of Synod 1995 of the CRCNA to permit women to hold the offices of minister and elder. We also take note of your statements that "the action of the Christian Reformed Church is in contradiction to the clear teaching of Scripture and the historic Presbyterian and Reformed confessions of faith."

As you know, for many years the CRCNA has prayerfully and carefully debated the issue of admitting women to ecclesiastical office. Although synodical decisions in recent years have not always followed a consistent pattern, it must be maintained that in every substantive decision made, the CRCNA put forth a sincere effort to be obedient to the infallible Word of God and to the church's confessional standards. Synod 1995 did not declare that one approach to the matter was right and the other wrong. With respect to the issue of whether women are to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, it allowed that careful Reformed scholarship and obedient discipleship could bring individuals, local churches, and classes to differing perspectives and convictions, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God. Therefore, in the interest of both fidelity to the Scriptures and the unity of the body of Christ, Synod 1995 decided that its classes, responding to local needs and circumstances, may authorize the churches under their jurisdiction to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist (cf. *Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 733).

The CRCNA respectfully disagrees with the PCA call for us to "repent and rescind." We acknowledge that our denomination has struggled as it has tried to discern the faithful contemporary application of Word and confession in the employment of women's gifts in the body of Christ. Has this process reached a sinful conclusion? We think not. If some of our classes conclude that it is appropriate to ordain women to the specified offices, a practice followed in various ways by other denominations, the CRCNA questions the consistency of

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your calling our denomination to repentance while you tolerate such diversity in other denominations with which you have ecumenical relationships.

Furthermore, we believe that a church in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRCNA should not instruct its Interchurch Relations Committee to “use all due process afforded them in NAPARC to remove the CRCNA from membership in NAPARC.” The implications of such an act would likely lead to the termination of our formal ecclesiastical fellowship.

The CRCNA would humbly submit that there are not only a “sizable number in [our] midst who are working hard to see the CRC remain faithful to Scripture on this issue” but that this description characterizes the whole CRCNA.

Rather than straining or breaking relationships, let us strive together to understand one another, noting our differences, and let us “exercise . . . mutual concern and admonition with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity” (Provisions of Ecclesiastical Fellowship, *Acts of Synod 1974*, p. 57).

For the Christian Reformed Church in North America

/s/ David H. Engelhard, General Secretary

CHURCH ORDER SUPPLEMENTS

A listing of synodical regulations, specifically designated by synod for inclusion, pertaining to the implementation of Church Order Articles.

SUPPLEMENT, ARTICLE 3-a

- A. A classis may, in response to local needs and circumstances, declare that the word *male* in Article 3-a of the Church Order is inoperative, and authorize the churches under its jurisdiction to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.

- B. Synod 1995 adopted the following regulations associated with the above declaration:
 1. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Article 3-a is inoperative for its constituent churches shall not have the right to delegate women officebearers to synod.
 2. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Article 3-a is inoperative for its constituent churches shall not have the right to appoint a woman minister to serve as synodical deputy.
 3. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Article 3-a will remain operative for its constituent churches shall nevertheless acknowledge a church's right, in response to local needs and circumstances, to take exception to the decision of classis as it applies to the office of elder. In such a case, the classis shall not exercise its disciplinary authority to enforce compliance, provided that the role of women elders is restricted to the local church in which they hold office.

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4. In the consideration of applications for candidacy for the office of minister of the Word submitted by qualified women, both the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary and synod shall ensure that trustees and delegates will not be forced to participate against the dictates of their consciences. In the declaration of candidacy, delegates will exercise their right to abstain from voting without pressure or reprisal.
5. The general secretary shall maintain a list of classes which have decided that the word *male* in Article 3-a of the Church Order is inoperative for their constituent churches, and publish that list annually along with the presentation of candidates for the ministry in *The Banner*.
6. Synodical agencies shall not appoint women as ministers of the Word to any field of labor within their jurisdiction, nor seek to have them installed by a local church.
7. Synodical deputies shall not be asked to participate against the dictates of their consciences in any matter relating to ministers of the Word as provided in Articles 6-18 and 82-84 of the Church Order.

(Acts of Synod 1995, pp. 733-35)

SUPPLEMENT, ARTICLE 4-a

Modification for Churches of Classis Red Mesa

In calling to an office, the council shall present to the congregation a nomination of one or more persons for each position to be filled.

(Acts of Synod 1983, p. 660)

SUPPLEMENT, ARTICLE 5

Form of Subscription

We, the undersigned, servants of the divine Word in the _____ Christian Reformed Church in Classis _____, by means of our signatures declare truthfully and in good conscience before the Lord that we sincerely believe that all the articles and points of doctrine set forth in the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort fully agree with the Word of God.

We promise therefore to teach these doctrines diligently, to defend them faithfully, and not to contradict them, publicly or privately, directly or indirectly, in our preaching, teaching or writing.

We pledge moreover not only to reject all errors that conflict with these doctrines, but also to refute them, and to do everything we can to keep the church free from them.

We promise further that if in the future we come to have any difficulty with these doctrines or reach views differing from them, we will not propose, defend, preach, or teach such views, either publicly or privately, until we have first disclosed them to the council, classis or synod for examination.

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COMMUNICATION 2 From the President of National Association of Evangelicals
(to IRC)

**Report from the President
National Association of Evangelicals
to the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
May 1997**

Greetings to all in attendance at the annual meeting of the Presbyterian Church in America.

We now have statistical evidence of spiritual renewal in the Nation. The percentage of people reporting a born-again experience is up five percent over the previous five years. This is a statistically significant number. Also, this is the first upturn in five years. These statistics were gathered the first three months of this year, so they are current. Be encouraged!

Alistair McGrath, in his book, *Evangelicalism and the Future of Christianity*, concludes that "the Christian vision of the future now seems increasingly to belong to evangelicalism, which is coming more and more to constitute the mainstream of American Protestant Christianity.

"Evangelicalism is a high-octane faith that seems set to continue its upswing into the next millennium. In a 1990 survey of the 500 fastest-growing Protestant congregations in the United States, 89 percent were found to be evangelicals.

"Evangelicalism is one of the powerhouses of the modern Christian church in the Western world. . . .Evangelicalism, once regarded as marginal, has now become mainline, and it can no longer be dismissed as an insignificant sideshow, sectarian tendency or irrelevant."

At a critical time in our nation's history, God brought NAE into existence. For over 55 years, people of Bible-based faith have discovered *cooperation without compromise*. Evangelicals *standing* for biblical truth, *speaking* with a representative voice and *serving* the evangelical church have had a greater impact working together than they would have accomplished/realized individually. Today, NAE includes 49 member denominations, 43,000 churches from 70 denominations, 255 parachurch ministries and educational institutions. We are told that with our affiliates, NAE speaks for approximately 27 million people.

The Presbyterian Church in America has been a vital part of the National Association of Evangelicals.

NAE has been involved in vital areas since you last met. The following are just a few examples:

- Fasting and prayer
- Evangelism
- Racial reconciliation

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- Rebuilding of burned Black churches, in partnership with the National Black Evangelical Association and World Relief Corporation
- Leadership on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world

When the Presbyterian Church in America joins with 48 other denominations and thousands of churches through NAE, your impact is multiplied many times.

NAE is a *forum* for evangelical leaders, a *voice* to the church and secular world, and a *resource* for programs that network evangelicals.

COMMUNICATION 3 From Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mr. Laurel, NJ
(to MNA) 25-34, III, 8, p. 155

COMMUNICATION 4 From Northeast Presbytery (to MNA)
25-34, III, 9, p. 160

COMMUNICATION 5 From the Presbytery of New Jersey (to MNA)
25-34, III, 8, p. 153

COMMUNICATION 6 From The Evangelical Covenant Church (to IRC)

June 6, 1997

Dr. Paul R. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk
Presbyterian Church in America
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Dr. Gilchrist:

The Evangelical Covenant Church is grateful for the strong partnership we share in Christ's work with you and the members of the Presbyterian Church in America. We thank God for your faithful evangelical witness and commitment to fulfill Christ's mission.

Therefore: The Evangelical Covenant Church, sends its fraternal greetings to the Presbyterian Church in America, with a prayer that God will continue to bless you with fruitful and effective ministries as we work together to build our Lord's Kingdom at home and abroad.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Paul E. Larsen, President

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25-12 Greetings from Fraternal Delegates

TE William H. Smith, Committee of Commissioner Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and yielded to RE Robert Ashlock, Chairman of the Interchurch Relations Committee, who introduced the following fraternal delegates:

TE David Engelhard	Christian Reformed Church
TE Ross Graham	Orthodox Presbyterian Church
TE Robert Hemphill	Reformed Presbyterian Church, North America

Each one brought greetings from their respective denominations.

RE Ashlock introduced the following fraternal correspondent, who addressed the Assembly:

TE Carroll W. Powell	Reformed Church in United States
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Greetings were also brought by Joong Ook Park, Moderator of the Korean Presbyterian Church in Korea (Hap Dong), TE Dan Kim translating. He was accompanied by former Moderators Eun Sun Suh and Kyu Sup Kim.

NOTE: The GA also received greetings from Dr. Don Argue, President of NAE, on Wednesday afternoon (see **Communication 2**, p. 54 and 25-20, p. 127.)

25-13 Procedural Motion on Remarks by CRC Delegate

The Assembly **adopted** a procedural motion that the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations be instructed to prepare a brief response to the brotherly allegations (Matthew 18:15-17) brought to this Assembly by the fraternal delegate from the CRC, Dr. David Engelhard, particularly concerning “scandalous,” “sinful and disgraceful,” and apparent “works of the flesh” reflected on page 382 of Appendix H, section I, expressing our gratitude to the brother for his willingness to come and show us our sin, but vindicating the cause and character of this Assembly, and that the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations report the same to this Assembly for its adoption, and communication to the brother in question, and through him, to the CRC. [See response below, 25-15, III, 13, p. 61.]

25-14 Procedural Ruling on Committee of Commissioners Reports

The Assembly **adopted** a procedural motion that throughout the Assembly Committee of Commissioners recommendations which have the unanimous approval of the Committee of Commissioners be automatically approved unless there is an objection to particular recommendations.

25-15 Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations

TE William H. Smith, Committee of Commissioners Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report.

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I. **Business Referred to the Committee**

1. Permanent Committee Report [see Appendix H, p. 370]
2. Overtures 2, 4, 12, 16

II. **Statement Of Major Issues Discussed**

1. Categories/designations of Ecclesiastical Relationships
2. Relation of PCA to Christian Reformed Church
3. November 1996 Meeting of NAPARC
4. Three Forms of Unity
5. Overtures 2, 4, 12, 16
6. Rotation of Fraternal Delegates speaking at Assemblies

III. **Recommendations**

1. That Fraternal Delegates and other distinguished guests be welcomed and invited to address the Assembly. *Adopted*

NOTE: This was reported above at 25-12, p. 56.

2. That the General Assembly terminate our recognition of the Christian Reformed Church as a church in ecclesiastical fellowship with the PCA effective immediately and the IRC be instructed to initiate conversations with the CRC with a view toward making a recommendation to the 26th General Assembly concerning the future relationship between the two denominations but that presbyteries and sessions be encouraged to develop fellowship with the classes and congregations of the CRC which do not ordain women to ruling office. *Adopted as amended*
3. That the Assembly pause to pray for the Christian Reformed Church. *Adopted*

Dr. K. Eric Perrin was called on to pray for the CRC.

4. That **Overtures 2, 4, 12, 16** be answered as follows:
 - 1) That the General Assembly affirms its confidence that the IRC acted in good faith with regard to the directive to seek to remove the CRC by "all due process afforded to them."
 - 2) That the General Assembly accepts the rationale for the decision of the IRC to proceed with suspension of the CRC from NAPARC as a step toward expulsion and directs the IRC that, if the CRC does not reverse the action of Synod 95 regarding women in office within a year of being suspended by NAPARC, at the next meeting of NAPARC the IRC shall introduce a motion that the CRC be expelled from NAPARC.
 - 3) That the General Assembly accepts the apology of the IRC for the failure to get the motion concerning the CRC before NAPARC in a timely and effective manner.

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- 4) That the General Assembly instruct the IRC not to propose or vote for admission of the EPC to NAPARC unless and until the EPC changes its official position on women in office.

Adopted

OVERTURE 2 From Northeast Presbytery

“Investigate Alleged Delinquency of IRC”

Be it Resolved, that the Northeast Presbytery hereby overtures the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, through its Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations:

1. to investigate fully the actions of the permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations (IRC) regarding (a) the removal of the Christian Reformed Church from membership in NAPARC, per the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly, and (b) vote of the PCA delegation to the 1996 NAPARC meeting in favor of the admittance of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) into NAPARC;
2. to evaluate these actions for conformity to the directives of the General Assembly and the constitutional authority of the IRC; and
3. to recommend to the 25th General Assembly any appropriate action should a serious lack of conformity to General Assembly directives and/or the IRC’s constitutional authority be found.

Adopted at the Winter Stated Meeting of Northeast Presbytery on January 17-18, 1997.

Attested by: /s/ Norman A. Therrien, Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 4 From Covenant Presbytery

“Investigate Alleged Delinquencies of IRC”

Whereas, the 23rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America did instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to "use all due process afforded to them to remove the CRC from membership in NAPARC, if the CRC does not repent of and rescind the action of the 1995 Synod (to open all church offices to women) at its 1996 Synod" (*M23GA*, p. 167); and

Whereas, the IRC reported to the 24th General Assembly that it was aware of the mandate which the 23rd General Assembly had placed upon the committee (*M24GA*, pp. 464f); and

Whereas, at the 1996 meeting of NAPARC, the PCA delegation did not make a motion to remove the CRC from NAPARC; and

Whereas, the PCA delegation did not properly process the question of CRC membership in NAPARC, so that the whole matter almost did not make it onto the agenda, and

- Whereas**, the motion which the PCA did make, to suspend the membership of the CRC from NAPARC, was illegal, in that that action was not initiated by a major assembly of NAPARC, and
- Whereas**, although the NAPARC Constitution was amended so that a church could be suspended rather than be terminated from NAPARC, there is no necessity that the step of suspension be first taken; and
- Whereas**, the PCA delegation voted in favor of admittance of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) to NAPARC, despite the clear indication on several occasions by the General Assembly that the PCA does not want close fraternal relations with the EPC (*M22GA*, p. 199; *M23GA*, p. 167); and
- Whereas**, the IRC has, in the past, ignored the directive of the General Assembly (*M21GA*, pp.68, 392); and
- Whereas**, in 1994 several presbytery overtures called for an investigation of the conduct of the IRC (*M23GA*, pp. 484f);
- Therefore Be it resolved**, by Covenant Presbytery, that we overture the 25th General Assembly to have the IRC Committee of Commissioners to investigate these matters fully and to recommend any appropriate action.

Adopted at the Winter Stated Meeting of Covenant Presbytery on February 4, 1997.

Attested by: /s/ Grover E. Gunn III, Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 12 From Western Carolina Presbytery

“Investigate Alleged Delinquencies of IRC”

- Whereas**, the 23rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America did instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to “use all due process afforded them to remove the CRC from membership in NAPARC, if the CRC does not repent of and rescind the action of the 1995 Synod [to open all church offices to women] at its 1996 Synod” (*M23GA*, p. 167); and
- Whereas**, the IRC reported to the 24th General Assembly that it was aware of the mandate which the 23rd General Assembly had placed upon the Committee (*M24GA*, p. 464f); but had not taken action to remove the CRC from NAPARC since the issue of women officers was still before the CRC Synod; and
- Whereas**, the 1996 meeting of NAPARC, the PCA delegation did not make a motion to remove the CRC from NAPARC, but only moved to suspend the CRC from NAPARC for which there was no PCA directive; and
- Whereas**, although the NAPARC Constitution was amended so that a church could be suspended rather than terminated from NAPARC, there is no necessity that the steps of suspension be first taken.
- Now **therefore be it resolved**, that Western Carolina Presbytery hereby overtures the 25th General Assembly to have the IRC Committee of Commissioners to investigate this matter fully and to make appropriate

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recommendation to the 25th Assembly, based upon their investigation, and the mandate of the 23rd General Assembly.

Approved by the Western Carolina Presbytery.

Attested by: /s/ W. Donald Munson, Jr., Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 16 From the Presbytery of Ascension

“Investigate Alleged Delinquency of IRC”

Whereas, the 23rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America did instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to “use all due process afforded to them to remove the CRC from membership in NAPARC, if the CRC does not repent of and rescind the action of the 1995 Synod (to open all church offices to women) at its 1996 Synod” (*M23GA*, p. 167); and

Whereas, the IRC reported to the 24th General Assembly that it was aware of the mandate which the 23rd General Assembly had placed upon the Committee (*M24GA*, pp. 464,f); and

Whereas, at the 1996 meeting of NAPARC, the PCA delegation did not make a motion to remove the CRC from NAPARC; and

Whereas, the PCA delegation did not properly process the question of CRC membership in NAPARC, so that the whole matter almost did not make it onto the agenda; and

Whereas, the motion which the PCA did make, to suspend the membership of the CRC from NAPARC, was illegal, in that that action was not initiated by a major assembly of NAPARC; and

Whereas, although the NAPARC Constitution was amended so that a church could be suspended rather than be terminated from NAPARC, there is no necessity that the step of suspension be first taken; and

Whereas, the PCA delegation voted in favor of admittance of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) to NAPARC, despite the clear indication on several occasions by the General Assembly that the PCA does not want close fraternal relations with the EPC (*M22GA*, p. 199; *M23GA*, p. 167); and

Whereas, the IRC has, in the past, ignored the directive of the General Assembly (*M21GA*, p. 68, 392); and

Whereas, in 1994 several presbytery overtures called for an investigation of the conduct of the IRC (*M23GA*, pp. 484-5);

Therefore Be it Resolved, by the Presbytery of the Ascension, that we overture the 25th General Assembly to have the IRC Committee of Commissioners to investigate these matters fully and to recommend any appropriate action.

Adopted at the April Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Ascension on April 26, 1997.

Attested by: /s/ Frederick R. Neikirk, Stated Clerk

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5. That the General Assembly approve the rotation of Fraternal Delegates speaking at the General Assembly so that we may send and receive fraternal greetings every other year but that we allow denominations who wish to do so send delegates every year. *Adopted as amended*
6. That the General Assembly refer recommendation #6 of the Permanent Committee back to the IRC to bring to the 26th General Assembly, if the IRC sees sufficient warrant, a fully developed proposal to be sent to the Presbyteries. That brother elders and congregations from Reformed denominations which use the "Three Forms of Unity" as a doctrinal standard considering union with the PCA be encouraged to study the doctrinal standards of the PCA in order to discover the wonderful unity that already exists between our two traditions, with the hope that they will find our doctrinal standards an adequate confession of their faith and sufficient ground for ecclesiastical union. *Adopted as amended*
7. That the Assembly pause to pray for God's continued blessings on the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches. *Adopted*
8. That the PCA encourage its congregations to eagerly participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church planned by the World Evangelical Fellowship and to be coordinated by MTW on September 28 or some other appropriate day before November 16, 1997. *Adopted*
9. That the Assembly pause to pray for persecuted believers throughout the world. *Adopted*

Dr. K. Eric Perrin led in prayer for WFRC and for persecuted believers throughout the world in accordance with items 8 and 9.

10. That the IRC be instructed to bring a report and recommendations to the 26th General Assembly clarifying and updating the categories of ecclesiastical relations with other churches, particularly for the purpose of refining or revising criteria by which the General Assembly will recognize churches in Fraternal Correspondence, with the understanding that present categorization of churches as being in Fraternal Correspondence carries no official status until such report be received and acted upon. *Adopted*
11. That the General Assembly instruct the IRC to report to the 26th General Assembly the benefits for the PCA to continue its membership in NAPARC and recommend any action it believes the General Assembly should take, if any. *Ruled out of order (considered new business)*
12. That the IRC minutes of September 21, 1996, and April 3, 1997, be approved with notations and exceptions of form. *Adopted*
13. That the Assembly respond to the Procedural Motion re. CRC delegate's remarks (see 25-13, p. 56) as follows:
The General Assembly respects the freedom that Dr. David Engelhard chose to use in presenting the greetings of the CRC and the candor with which

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

he expressed his perception that the PCA has sinned in statements contained in the IRC report:

“The CRC is moving away from the authority and inerrancy of Scriptures and its commitments to the doctrinal standards of the church.” [Appendix H, p. 382]

“While superficially orthodox, Report 44 contains the flaws which have opened the way for the CRC to abandon its historic position on Women in office and leaves it vulnerable to departure from Biblical truth in other areas.” [Appendix H, p. 385]

Regarding page 382: This statement says nothing more than what the PCA believes to be true in light of Scripture and has communicated to the CRC in several forms since the decision of Synod 95 regarding women in office. (23rd GA action reported in Stated Clerk Gilchrist’s letter of 9/15/97; motion of PCA delegation to NAPARC 1996; Letter of Ashlock, IRC Chairman, of 4/7/97; and 5/28/97 meeting of the two IRC delegations).

Regarding page 385: In reaching its evaluation of CRC Report 44, the IRC considered the 1983 report of NAPARC Study Committee on Hermeneutics.

Therefore the GA does not find the content or wording of these statements to be “scandalous,” “sinful and disgraceful,” or a “work of the flesh.”

Adopted

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Calvary
Evangel
Great Lakes
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Heritage
Illiana
James River
Louisiana
Mid-America
Mississippi Valley
Missouri
North Georgia
Northeast
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Pittsburgh
Potomac
South Coast
Southwest Florida
Susquehanna Valley
Tennessee Valley

Commissioner

RE Kenneth Peterson
TE Curt Rabe
TE C. Nixon Willborn
TE David McKay
TE M. Steve Wallace
RE Don Boldt
TE Bob Klein
TE Robert C. Marsh
RE Doug Westcott
TE Steve Wilkins
TE John O. Butler
TE John K. Reeves
TE Donald J. MacNair
RE Timothy Verner
RE Michael Lawrence
RE John Pribyl
TE Rick Perrin
TE William H. Smith
TE John A. VanDevender
TE Dennis Johnson
RE Lewis Jones
RE John Nelson
TE Roy Zinn

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Western Carolina
Westminster

RE Richard Leinecker
RE Daniel A. Witcher

25-16 Report of the Standing Judicial Commission

TE Robert M. Ferguson, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. He reminded the Assembly of the procedures laid out in *BCO 15* and the *SJC Manual*, as well as the import of judicial decisions as explained in *BCO 14-7*.

REPORT OF THE STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

I. INTRODUCTION

The stated meetings of your full Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) were held on October 17-19, 1996, March 7-8, 1997 and a special meeting of the SJC was held on November 22-23, 1997.

II. JUDICIAL CASES

The following is a list of all Judicial Cases before the Commission between last General Assembly and this General Assembly:

- | | | | |
|-----|------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Case 95-5 | Jupiter Session vs. Southern Florida Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 2. | Case 95-7 | Edgemont Session vs. Westminster Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 3. | Case 95-8 | Young Nak Session vs. Korean S. Presbytery | (Withdrawn) |
| 4. | Case 95-9 | David Stockment vs. Southern Florida Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 5. | Case 95-10 | Stuart Merriam vs. Tennessee Valley Presbytery | (Appeal) |
| 6. | Case 95-11 | James Landrum et al., vs. Mississippi Valley Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 7. | Case 96-1 | Hugo Andrino vs. Southern Florida Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 8. | Case 96-2 | Benjamin Robeson, et al. vs. Central Georgia Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 9. | Case 96-3 | John T. DeBardeleben Memorial | (Reference from 24th GA) |
| 10. | Case 96-4 | Raymond Larsen vs. Pacific Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 11. | Case 96-5 | Paul Jones vs. Central Florida Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 12. | Case 96-6 | Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Williams vs. South Texas Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 13. | Case 96-7 | Reference from Tennessee Valley Presbytery | (Reference) |
| 14. | Case 97-1 | George Felton vs. Grace Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 15. | Case 97-2 | Bruce Nickoley vs. Rocky Mountain Presbytery | (Appeal) |
| 16. | Case 97-3 | Bruce Nickoley vs. Rocky Mountain Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 17. | Case 97-4 | William Conrad et al. vs. Central Carolina Presbytery | (Appeal) |
| 18. | Case 97-5 | Mount Carmel Session vs. New Jersey Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 19. | Case 97-6 | E. L. Fitzsimmons vs. Evangel Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 20. | Case 97-7 | Steve R. Farris vs. Central Florida Presbytery | (Complaint) |
| 21. | Case 97-8 | Theresa Bridie vs. Central Florida Presbytery | (Complaint) |

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Consideration of ten (10) judicial cases (Cases 95-5, 7, 9, 10 and 11, Case 96-1, 2, 4, 5, and 7) has been completed and recommendations for final disposition are included in this report. The 24th GA referred one matter for consideration by the SJC, namely the John T. DeBardeleben III Memorial. This Memorial was given the case number of Case 96-3. The SJC has completed consideration of this Memorial and a formal recommendation is included in this Report. One case was withdrawn by the parties (Case 95-8). There are nine (9) cases pending before the SJC (Case 96-6, Cases 97-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). Panels have been assigned in two of these cases and the remaining five cases are in the process of have the Record of the Case assembled.

III. MANUAL REVISIONS

The SJC has prepared amendments to the SJC Manual to facilitate implementing the amendments to the *BCO* and *RAO* proposed by the Ad Interim Committee on Judicial Process and adopted by the 24th General Assembly. The amendments to the Manual will not take effect until and unless the amendments to the *BCO* are approved by the 25th General Assembly. In addition to those amendments the SJC further amended the Manual to clarify procedures and time requirements, and to rearrange the contents of the Manual into a more consistent format. [NOTE: Section 16 has been vacated, and hence, not a part of the SJC Manual.]

IV. OFFICERS OF THE SJC FOR NEXT YEAR

Chairman	–	Mr. John B. White, Jr.
Vice-Chairman	–	Dr. W. Jack Williamson
Secretary	–	Dr. Michael D. Bolus
Assistant Secretary	–	Dr. L. Roy Taylor

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

We therefore make the following recommendations:

1. **That the Judgment of the SJC in the Case 95-5 Jupiter Session vs. Southern Florida Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.** *Adopted*

**JUPITER SESSION
VS.
SOUTHERN FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

CASE 95-5

I. Summary of the facts

1. On July 19, 1994, TE Dennis Slack was examined by Presbytery for transfer from Great Lakes Presbytery. His examination was sustained in all areas except theology. At question was TE Slack's views of Old Testament judicial law in relation to *Westminster Confession of Faith* 19-4. Presbytery postponed

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approval of TE Slack's examination on his views on Theology until the October 18, 1994 meeting, while giving permission to labor as Pulpit Supply for the Jupiter Church.

2. On October 18, 1994, TE Slack again came before Presbytery and a motion to approve the examination of his views on Theology was defeated by a vote of 30 against, 21 for, and 1 abstention. In particular, TE Slack was read *WCF* 19-4 and asked to cite an example of Old Testament judicial law that had expired. He stated he was unable to do so (RoC page 25). In denying transfer, Presbytery did grant approval, however, for him to continue as Stated Supply at the Jupiter Church for a period of six months.
3. On November 6, 1994, the Session of Jupiter Church complained against the action of Presbytery in denying transfer of TE Slack.
4. On January 17, 1995, Presbytery appointed a Judicial Commission to investigate the matter and report back at its next [April 18, 1995] meeting.
5. The Commission met on April 18, 1995 and interviewed TE Slack and others, but did not hear complainants. TE Slack was asked if he was in agreement with *WCF* 19-4. He answered in the affirmative. He also was asked if he could cite examples of Old Testament judicial law which had expired to confirm his belief that people no longer were obligated to keep them except for general equity as set forth in *WCF* 19-4. He responded that he could think of no specifics and that general equity basically encompassed the judicial law (RoC pages 25 & 26).
6. On April 18, 1995, after hearing an oral report from the Commission, Presbytery approved TE Slack to continue as Stated Supply at the Jupiter Church until its next meeting in July.
7. On May 11, 1995, some members of the Commission met to review the final written report. A quorum was not present at the meeting.
8. The complete report of the Judicial Commission was mailed to presbyters on May 25, 1995 and at its meeting on July 18, 1995, Presbyter approved the judgment of the Commission. A subsequent motion to re-examine TE Slack on the floor of Presbytery was defeated. Approval however, was given to TE Slack to continue as Pulpit Supply until the next meeting of Presbytery.
9. On August 14, the Jupiter Session filed a complaint against Presbytery's action with the General Assembly. The Standing Judicial Commission Panel heard the case on November 27, 1995.

II. Statement of the Issues

Did Presbytery of Southern Florida err in its procedural handling of the Jupiter Session's complaint?

III. Judgment of the Case

Yes, and the case is returned to the Presbytery of Southern Florida with instructions for a new hearing assuring the complainants the opportunity of presenting their case before Presbytery or its Commission.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

The central issues in this case relate to actions by Presbytery in regard to its examination of TE Slack and its subsequent handling of the complaint of the Jupiter Session. In regard to issue 1, with the concurrence of the Respondent, originally submitted procedural issues were included in the complaint. Those issues had been contained in the original document submitted by the complainants and bearing the heading "Complainants' Brief," which contained 9 pages of discussion of the complaint and 17 pages of appendices.

Believing the document to be in fact a brief, complainants were requested to submit a formal complaint. In so doing the procedural issues of the complaint were inadvertently omitted. That document is RoC page 1. The procedural issues that were considered are as follows:

"The Presbytery's Judicial Commission did not adjudicate the specific complaint of the Jupiter Presbyterian Church Session by failing to demonstrate where (or how) TE Dennis Slack is out of accord with the Westminster Standards. . . Presbytery was out of order in its handling of our complaint on [2]¹ counts:

- (a) Contrary to *The Book of Church Order*, the court improperly delayed adjudication of the case;
- (b) the commission failed to try the case in accordance with *The Book of Church Order*.

In addressing the issue of whether Presbytery acted properly in its handling of the complaint, Complainants assert that they were never summoned to meet with Judicial Commission as required by the *BCO* (43-5; 43-8; and 43-9). *BCO* 43-5, provides "The complainant himself may present his complaint, or he may obtain the assistance of a communing member of the Presbyterian Church in America, who is in good standing, in presenting the complaint."

Complainant also asserts that the commission acted on the final report without having the required quorum present. The quorum for ecclesiastical commissions is set forth in the *Book of Church Order*, "Every commission appointed by Presbytery shall consist of at least two teaching elders and two ruling elders ..." *BCO* 15-2.

The Record of the Case reveals that the Commission met on April 18, 1995 and on May 11, 1995. The letter from the Commission chairman's notes, "Since one of our Ruling Elders, Craig Bulkely, was unable to be present at our final meeting, I have sent the signed report to him for review." RE Bulkely was one of two Ruling Elders on the Commission, the third Ruling Elder was unable to attend the first meeting and was not called to the second and final meeting. (RoC 21.)

In light of the procedural defects, this case is returned to Presbytery for re-hearing. This opinion does not address the substantive issue regarding membership in the court.

This opinion was written by John B. White, Jr.

V. Voting on Proposed Decision

Approved by SJC: 18 Concurring, 0 Dissenting, 2 Recused, 4 Absent

VI. Concurring Opinion

I CONCUR in the majority opinion but believe there is an even more basic deficiency in the procedures carried out by the Presbytery and its Judicial Commission which needs to be addressed by the parties at the time of their subsequent actions.

The points raised by my esteemed brothers in the majority opinion are certainly serious and justify remand. However, there is an even more fundamental error which, after it was committed, infected the entire process thereafter, thus poisoning, as it were, the stream of truth and subsequent action in the matter.

Summarizing the history of the case to illustrate the point, note that on October 12, 1994, Presbytery, after a motion had been made to approve TE Slack's examination in theology, voted in the negative 30-21 with one abstention. This was the sum and substance of their action. A subsequent motion was made seeking to have the Presbytery declare that their disapproval of the examination was based on TE Slack's theonomic views. The motion failed. Thus, Presbytery specifically declined to state that theonomic views were the basis of their action.

In the complaint of TE Slack filed November 3, 1994, (later denied for lack of standing), he gave as his reason "that the General Assembly has affirmed that no particular view of the application of the judicial law for today should be made a basis for orthodoxy or excluded as heresy when in accord with the Westminster Standards." In its complaint filed November 6, 1994, Jupiter Session said, as particularly pertinent, that "the Presbytery has turned a blind eye to the Position Papers of the 11th General Assembly regarding the 'general equity' of the various penal sanctions..." etc. From the reasons given in these complaints, it is quite clear that both complainants sought to make the theonomic views of TE Slack the issue in this case. This is not to fault them or charge them with devious motives, for it is clear that they genuinely thought that the issues as they presented them constituted the essence of the case. But there was not, nor has there been to this day, any proof that this was the basis for Presbytery's refusal to approve the theological examination.

But Presbytery fell into an inadvertent "trap." When Presbytery's Judicial Commission framed the issues in its proposed decision of May 11, 1995 (RoC, p. 24), it declared Issue 2 to be: "Did the Presbytery err in finding TE Dennis Slack out of accord with the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 19 IV?" The Commission then acted upon this issue. In fact, the Judicial Commission grievously erred in that it had no power of substantive basis to make such a declaration as to the reason for Presbytery's earlier action.

Presbytery continued this foundational error by acting on the Judicial Commission's proposed decision. From that time on the debate in this matter has been framed in terms of the permissible bounds of views on theonomic ethics. An issue thus presented is whether Presbytery, by its action approving Issue 2 of the JC's report, had the power to declare what a previous presbytery had intended, when the minutes of the meeting of October 18, 1994, reflected no such finding. I do not believe it had such power, and the fact that the Presbytery continued to perpetuate an error begun by its JC could not give it authority, retroactively, to declare what a previous Presbytery had meant.

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A simple analysis of the specific evidence will show clearly why this is and must be so. In practical terms we think of the body of presbyters (in this case 52) sitting for a significant period of time, perhaps one-half hour or perhaps much more, while a candidate is being examined. During that time these men, coming from diverse backgrounds of training and experience, make an effort to evaluate the candidate as best they can while seeking to apply the scriptures and our subordinate standards based on what they know and hear of the man. During the examination they may hear many things of which they approve, a few things of which they are doubtful, and probably some things concerning which they wish they had better understanding. Different presbyters may have varying ideas as to which of those categories some of the candidate's views may fit into. But at the end of the examination a vote is taken, as was done in this case. Now, short of a specific statement by the presbyters themselves as to what was the precise basis for disapproval by the majority, how can it be stated with any degree of assurance as to why his exam was not approved. In this particular case one presbyter sought to have the Presbytery make such an action. It declined to do so.

An analysis of the attendance at the two Presbyteries is further supportive of my argument. We can compare the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on October 18, 1994, (RoC p. 12-13), when the examination was disapproved, with the minutes of the Stated Meeting of July 18, 1995 (RoC, p. 41-42), when the Judicial Commission's judgment was affirmed. While the RoC does not show all of the presbyters enrolled at the two presbyteries, the limited records clearly establish that the two bodies were not composed of precisely the same men. The complete minutes would be needed to show the full extent of the disparity. However, the point is obvious. Even if it were within Presbytery's power to take an action regarding the intent of a different body, it would be impossible for the presbyters at the July 18, 1995, meeting to declare what was in the minds of the presbyters on October 18, 1994, within the bounds of the 9th commandment.

In conclusion, one issue must be: Must a church court, when declining to approve a theological examination, declare with specificity the reason or reasons on which the disapproval was based and be prepared to defend those reasons before a higher court? While from a pastoral perspective we might wish the response would be in the affirmative, the answer must be NO. As the CONCURRING OPINION in the Gunter case states: "The *BCO* clearly permits a court to determine its membership. The Session has the responsibility to examine potential Officers and make recommendations to the congregation of those who the Session deems fit to serve. This does not require justification or reason on the part of the Session." The same principle regarding Session's membership applies to Presbyteries as well. Examinations are conducted and votes are taken, but the full body cannot be required to give its reasons.

This, then, is a question of presbyterial power. The Presbytery of Southern Florida followed the proper procedures through the time of the theological examination and then voted not to approve the candidate. There is no biblical or confessional basis on which the Presbytery can be compelled to declare its reasons. Because of the radical error of the Judicial Commission and Presbytery in framing an issue they had no right nor factual basis to pose, all subsequent actions have been conducted in a framework of

confusion and misunderstanding. This makes a remand doubly important in this case.

/s/ John H. VanVoorhis, Member
Standing Judicial Commission

¹Original complaint contained three items, one was deleted by the Commission, because it was not part of the record of the case. (4-10-97)

2. **That the Judgment of the SJC in the Case 95-7 Edgemont Session vs. Westminster Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.** *Adopted*

**EDGEMONT SESSION
VS.
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERY**

CASE 95-7

I. Summary of the Facts

This case came before Westminster Presbytery as a timely filed complaint on January 25, 1995 (BCO 43-2). It was found in order, adjudicated by Westminster Presbytery, and later approved as the act of Presbytery on May 16, 1995.

Prior to its consideration, however, the 16th General Assembly adopted a report by a study committee on the subject of Freemasonry and ordered "that this report be adopted by the General Assembly and distributed, together with the former report, as a pastoral letter to all sessions and presbyteries of the PCA" (*Minutes* 16th GA, p. 149). Among other things, this GA study asserted that "participation in Masonry seriously compromises the Christian faith and testimony and may lead to a diluting of commitment to Christ and His Kingdom" (*Minutes* 16th GA, p. 506). The General Assembly called upon all its members to study and/or reconsider this subject, and to "institute programs of education and instruction regarding Freemasonry and what we consider to be its perils for Christians who belong to it" (*Minutes* of 16th GA, p. 148). Additionally, that Assembly encouraged courts to study, exhort, and instruct before invoking judicial procedures (cf. *Minutes* 16th GA, pp. 148-149). Also, before the 16th GA there were 2 Overtures from Missouri Presbytery which provided that formal church discipline be taken against any PCA church member who was a member of Freemasonry. Both of those Overtures were answered in the negative with specific comments (*Minutes* 16th GA, pp. 43-44, 226-227).

Westminster Presbytery has concurred with and supported this advice of the General Assembly, particularly by way of a previous study and action in July, 1993, when it found that "membership in Freemasonry and activity in its ritual leads to a diluting of commitment of Christ and His Kingdom" (RoC, p. 7).

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In its judgment of July 10, 1993 sustaining a complaint against Edgemont Session for adopting a Positions and Policy Manual which found “no conflict between their (Officers’) commitment to Christ, the church and Freemasonry,” Westminster Presbytery gave this pastoral advice:

“Westminster Presbytery exhorts gently, yet faithfully, those associated with Freemasonry to reconsider their relationship with Freemasonry.” (RoC p. 8).

On February 28, 1994 the Edgemont Session removed the offending provisions on Freemasonry from its “Positions and Policies Manual” (RoC p. 26). Thus the issues in this case did not arise in a vacuum, nor apart from previous study, counsel, exhortation, deliberation and advice by the General Assembly and Westminster Presbytery.

On October 8, 1994 Westminster Presbytery responded to a request for advice from Edgemont Session as follows:

“...it is the advice of Westminster Presbytery that it would be improper and unbiblical for a session to approve a man to stand for election who is an active member of Freemasonry (RoC p. 26).

On November 28-30, 1994, the Edgemont Session approved a list of elder nominations. At least one of these nominees was an active member of Freemasonry (RoC, pp. 35-36). On December 19, 1994, Clarence Whitaker complained to the Session referring this motion.

On January 8, 1995, the congregation of Edgemont Church elected these nominees, which included at least one who was a member of Freemasonry (RoC, p. 73).

On January 27, 1995, a member of the Edgemont Church complained to Westminster Presbytery (RoC, pp. 79-80).

The original complaint of January 27, 1995, alleged that the Edgemont Session’s action approving a Freemason for the office of ruling elder was a public offense, demonstrated disregard for Scripture and the counsel of Presbytery, and was out of accord with the earlier opinion of the PCA General Assembly (RoC, pp. 79-80). In this complaint, the complainant set forth as one of his reasons:

“2. Whereas the Session of Edgemont Presbyterian Church received counsel and advice from Westminster Presbytery that it is improper and unbiblical for a session to approve a man to stand election who is an active member of Freemasonry” (RoC, pp. 79 and 102).

Westminster Presbytery heard the January 27, 1995, complaint at its May 16, 1995, meeting. The complaint was sustained; and in its decision Westminster Presbytery took the following action, to-wit:

“Westminster Presbytery upholds the second point of the complaint of RE Clarence Witcher against the Edgemont

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Session. Westminster Presbytery hereby annuls the action of the Session of Edgemont on November 30, 1994, approving a member of Freemasonry to stand for election to church office (RoC, p. 104).

On June 6, 1995, the Edgemont Session then filed a complaint against Westminster Presbytery, which complaint was heard by Presbytery and denied on October 14, 1995. In its response to the Edgemont Session upon denial of the complaint, Westminster Presbytery stated:

“Presbytery responds that her actions did not constitute deposition. Presbytery properly adjudicated the complaint of RE Witcher against the actions of the Session of Edgemont. The rules for adjudicating complaints are found in *BCO* 43. ‘A complaint is a written representation made against some act or decision of a court of the Church’ (emphasis added). The powers which may be exercised in the case of complaints are...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.’ (*BCO* 43-10) Thus in its adjudication of the complaint, Westminster Presbytery annulled the action of approving to stand for election an individual actively engaged in Freemasonry. The result of the action to annul had the effect of declaring an active Freemason not presently serving on Session as ineligible to stand for election. Thus the decision said nothing to any individual’s ordination. That would require following the process of *BCO* 32 and, in the case of a ruling elder, would only come before Presbytery by way of appeal.

In its implementing motion Presbytery states that ‘such an individual is no longer able to serve an active member of the Session.’ Presbytery took no action to depose. Its action was addressed to the error of the Edgemont Session. Presbytery properly stated the effect of the decision, but left to the Session the manner in which that decision was to be applied. As stated earlier, Presbytery refused to act on the proposed amends, recognizing that she had no authority to do so. Presbytery merely stated the implications of her decision and left the Edgemont Session with the responsibility to deal with it.” (RoC, pp. 126-127).

The Edgemont Session then filed this complaint (95-7) with the Standing Judicial Commission on November 7, 1995. The complaint was first heard by a panel of the Standing Judicial Commission on August 1, 1996, and then under relevant provisions of the SJC Manual was heard by the entire Standing Judicial Commission on October 18, 1996. Following that full hearing, the Standing Judicial Commission appointed a panel to write a proposed decision for

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consideration by the full Standing Judicial Commission. The Panel's decision was presented to the full Standing Judicial Commission in final form on March 7, 1997.

II. Statement of the Issues

1. Did Westminster Presbytery act on the Complaint in an unconstitutional manner?
2. Did the action of Westminster Presbytery void or cancel the original jurisdiction of Edgemont's Session to approve for office of ruling elder a man who was a Freemason.

III. Judgment

1. No; Westminster Presbytery acted within the bounds of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America.
2. No; Westminster Presbytery could not "act for" the Edgemont Session by voiding or canceling the original jurisdiction of Edgemont Session to approve for the office Ruling Elder a man who was a Freemason.

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

Although the issues of this case touch on a sensitive subject that is not alike clear to all, no unconstitutional irregularity has been demonstrated from the Record of the Case. Westminster Presbytery properly heard a complaint brought before it. As a court of the Presbyterian Church of America, it had the obligation to do so under Chapter 43 of the *Book of Church Order*. The initial complaint claiming that the Edgemont Session had erred in approving an elder candidate who was a Freemason was initiated by a member of the Edgemont Church. Presbytery decided the complaint — it did not seek to install or impose one of its own members on the Edgemont Session; it did not act contrary to earlier General Assembly recommendations on this matter; it did not act in a hasty or unconstitutional manner. From the record of the case, it seems clear that Westminster Presbytery acted patiently, affording all parties opportunity for study, discussion, correction, and finally complaint.

Westminster Presbytery echoes the urgings of the 16th General Assembly that sessions and presbyteries deal with this matter patiently and pastorally. When that has been done, however, a presbytery may find it proper to act as Westminster Presbytery acted, so long as the court does not violate the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Here, there was no constitutional violation, as we understand the record of the case. Westminster Presbytery, in essence, after hearing the complaint, determined that in its opinion this elder candidate was not qualified to hold office on theological grounds because he was a Freemason. Westminster Presbytery had the constitutional right to reach this conclusion. But, this decision, which upholds Westminster Presbytery's disposition of the complaint, should not be interpreted in such a way as to raise the 16th General Assembly's study on Freemasonry to a constitutional status. This Standing Judicial

Commission holds fast to the proposition that no court of the Presbyterian Church in America can, by judicial fiat, change the Constitution. *The Book of Church Order* provides the only method of amending the Constitution (*BCO* Chapter 26). The action of the 16th General Assembly in adopting the report of the Study Committee on the subject of Freemasonry and distributing the same to the Church as a “pastoral letter” should be considered as provided in *BCO* 14-7 — “to be given due and serious consideration by the Church and its lower courts when deliberating matters relating to such action.” This decision is meant to do no more than to uphold a presbytery’s right to make such a decision regarding the qualifications of a Ruling Elder on theological grounds. In reaching such a conclusion, the presbytery could look to the Study Paper on Freemasonry, together with any number or variety of studies, opinions or other writings it felt relevant in a given case. The citation of such authority in a given case would not raise that authority to constitutional status.

The PCA Constitution grants to its lower courts certain areas of constitutional discretion and restricts its lower courts in certain areas by constitutional prohibitions.

In reviewing Edgemont’s Session exercise of a constitutional discretion, the Presbytery does not have the authority or power to simply impose its view of how that discretion ought to have been exercised. For Presbytery to use its authority and power to review the action of the lower court as an opportunity to replace the Session’s exercise of that constitutional discretion with the Presbytery’s exercise of that discretion would violate that fundamental principle under our Constitution which prohibits a higher court from “acting for” a lower court (see *Chappell v. Eastern Carolina Presbytery* — SJC Case 90-4 — *PCA Digest 1973-1993*, page 436ff and the 14th GA action per its *Minutes* pages 104-105). The Session’s discretion, however, is always prohibited from contradicting the Constitution.

If Westminster Presbytery had taken action to depose this elder candidate, or if the presbytery had otherwise attempted to “act for” the Edgemont Session in the exercise of its constitutional discretion and original jurisdiction, the Constitution would have been violated. However, Westminster Presbytery makes it clear in its “Response” (RoC p. 127), *supra*, to the complaint that it did not intend for its action to be so interpreted.

Thus Westminster Presbytery did not attempt to “act for” the Edgemont Session but did “act on” the issue in a proper constitutional manner exercising only its “ministerial and declarative powers” (Preliminary Principle No. 7).

Westminster Presbytery showed in its “Response”, *supra*, that it understood that these principles prohibited it from “acting for” the Edgemont Session by voiding or canceling the original jurisdiction of the Session to approve a man who was a Freemason as eligible for office of Ruling Elder.

Hence, although some may be tempted to extrapolate a variety of views from this decision, both the judgment and reasoning are carefully limited to the particular facts of this case. This decision should not be used — nor is it intended to be used — to determine issues that are not spoken to in the

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Constitution, nor expanded to create sweeping church law beyond what is adjudicated herein. Specifically, this judgment declares that Westminster Presbytery acted ministerial and declaratively and did not intend to “act for” or in place of the Edgemont Session but “acted on” a complaint.

Westminster Presbytery has properly stated the limitations of its power, as well as the responsibility of the Edgemont Session in its response to Presbytery’s decision. Therefore, there is no constitutional impropriety; and the Complaint must be and is denied.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert Ferguson

/s/ Mark Belz

/s/ David Hall

/s/ W. Jack Williamson

/s/ John Ragland

V. Voting on Proposed Decision

Approved by the SJC: 19 concur, 2 recused, 3 absent, March 7, 1997

3. **That the Judgment in the Case 95-9 David Stockment vs. Southern Florida Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.** *Adopted*

DAVID STOCKMENT

VS.

SOUTHERN FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

CASE 95-9

I. Summary of the Facts

1. On July 19, 1994, TE Dennis Slack was examined by the Presbytery of Southern Florida for transfer from Great Lakes Presbytery. His examination was sustained in all areas except theology.
2. On October 18, 1994, TE Slack was examined again in the area of theology. His examination was not sustained.
3. On November 6, 1994, the Session of Jupiter Presbyterian Church filed a complaint against the action of Presbytery in denying TE Slack’s transfer.
4. On January 17, 1995, Presbytery found the complaint in order and appointed a judicial commission to investigate the matter and report back to the next meeting of Presbytery.
5. At the April 18, 1995, meeting of Presbytery, the commission reported that its written report would be presented at the next meeting of Presbytery.
6. The commissions’ report together with a concurring opinion was mailed to Presbyters prior to the July 18, 1995, meeting.
7. At the meeting, the member submitting the concurring opinion attempted to present a dissenting opinion. The dissenting opinion was not received.

8. On August 15, TE Stockment complained against Presbytery's refusal to receive the dissenting opinion.
9. At its October 17, 1995, meeting Presbytery ruled the complaint administratively out of order based on the exception clause in *BCO* 43-1: "except that no complaint is allowable in a judicial case in which an appeal is taken."
10. On November 13, 1995, TE Stockment filed a complaint with the General Assembly against the action of Presbytery in ruling his complaint administratively out of order.

II. Statement of the Issue

Did the Presbytery of Southern Florida err in denying a complaint of TE David Stockment on the basis of the exception clause in *BCO* 43-1?

III. Judgment of the Case

Yes. The exception clause in *BCO* 43-1 applies only to appeals as defined in *BCO* 42 and the complaint is sent back to Presbytery of Southern Florida with instructions for a hearing.

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

Although Mr. Stockment's complaint was timely filed (RoC p. 19), Respondent ruled it "administratively out of order according to *BCO* 43-1 because it deals with issues in the Jupiter Session's Complaint which is now on appeal with the General Assembly."

In so doing respondent applied a misinterpretation of the exception language of *BCO* 43-1, to-wit:

"...except that no complaint is allowable in a judicial case in which an appeal is taken." [emphasis added]

In this instance, the exception language refers to "appeals" as defined in *BCO* 42. "An appeal is the transfer to a higher court of a judicial case on which judgment has been rendered in a lower court and is allowable only to the party against whom the decision has been rendered." *BCO* 42-1 [emphasis added] Clearly this language refers to a case where a party has been tried. "Only those who have submitted to a regular trial are entitled to an appeal." (*BCO* 42-2)

In the case at hand, the party bringing the complaint has not been party to a trial but is merely complaining against an act of Presbytery. "A complaint is a written representation made against some act of decision of a court of the Church." *BCO* 43-1 Such complaint may be made by "any communing member of the church in good standing ...against any action of a court to whose jurisdiction he is subject..." (*BCO* 43-1)

The exception clause which follows is intended to prohibit a complaint on a case that has been tried and decided under *BCO* Rules of Discipline for judicial process and "the party against whom the decision has been rendered" has appealed under Chapter 42 "Appeals."

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Respondent argued that the action of filing a “complaint” under BCO 43 to the next higher court is in fact an appeal. The clear language in BCO 43, however, is that taking an “act or decision is alleged to be in error” to the next higher court is a complaint and not an appeal.

We, therefore, conclude that Presbytery erred in declaring the complaint administratively out-of-order. We return the matter to Presbytery for a hearing.

This opinion was written by John B. White, Jr.

V. Voting on Proposed Decision

Approved by SJC: 18 Concurring, 0 Dissenting, 2 Recused, 4 Absent, 11/22/96

4. **That the Judgment of the SJC in the Case 95-10 Stuart Merriam vs. Tennessee Valley Presbytery (Appeal) be approved.** *Adopted*

**STUART MERRIAM
VS.
TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

CASE 95-10

I. Summary of the Facts

1. In April, 1986 TE Stuart Merriam was received into the Tennessee Valley Presbytery of the PCA as a minister transferring from PCUSA. He was granted permission to labor outside the bounds of presbytery to serve as the General Director of the Highland Christian Center, in Papua New Guinea, a mission which Dr. Merriam founded in 1964.
2. In 1992, TE Merriam was charged in criminal court in Papua New Guinea with two counts of committing unnatural offenses, contrary to S. 210 of the criminal code of Papua New Guinea, wherein an unusual offense is described as an act of “carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature.”
3. The offenses alleged against Dr. Merriam involved unnatural acts against minors who at one time or another had lived with Dr. Merriam and his wife. One offense was alleged to have occurred between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 1983. The second offense was alleged to have occurred between January 1 and December 31, 1982.
4. TE Merriam was formally interviewed and charged on August 12, 1992, a period of approximately ten years having passed between the alleged offenses and the time the criminal charges were made.
5. TE Merriam was convicted on the two counts in March 1993 and sentenced to 5 years hard labor on each count, to be served concurrently. Dr. Merriam was 69 years old at the time of the sentence.

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6. In April 1994 the Court of Appeals in Papua New Guinea reviewed Dr. Merriam's case and overturned his conviction and dismissed the first charge against him while sustaining his conviction on the second charge. His sentence was reduced to a jail term of three years.
7. Reports of TE Merriam's legal troubles "came to the attention of the members of Tennessee Valley Presbytery (TVP) before his trial but presbytery decided not to take action until the judicial process in Papua New Guinea had run its course."
8. In October 1994 the TVP "heard a report of the judgment of the Appeals Court in Papua New Guinea (PNG)."
9. At the meeting of TVP held on October 11, 1994 a motion to initiate immediate judicial procedure against TE Merriam was made and seconded but the motion failed upon vote by the members of TVP.
10. At the same October 11, 1994 meeting of the TVP, the Stated Clerk of TVP "was instructed to correspond with TE Merriam to ascertain his response to the accusations being brought against him." (RoC p. 19) This letter from the Stated Clerk of TVP is dated November 28, 1994 (RoC p. 19).
11. On April 1, 1995 the TVP instructed its Stated Clerk to send a "second letter" to TE Merriam. That letter is identified as "The second citation in keeping with *BCO* 32-6" (RoC p. 21), but it is also described in the TVP minutes of April 1, 1995 as "the second letter to TE Merriam in accordance with with *BCO* 34-4, requesting that TE Merriam respond within 30 days" (RoC p. 20).

At the same meeting of the TVP on April 1, 1995, a motion was made to appoint a judicial commission "to deal with the circumstances surrounding Dr. Merriam" (RoC p. 20).
12. The judicial commission of the TVP appointed to deal with the circumstances surrounding Dr. Merriam made its report on July 11, 1995, at the Summer Stated meeting of the TVP and the following actions were taken by the TVP against TE Merriam:
 - (1) that TE Merriam be charged with "public scandal based upon his criminal court convictions."
 - (2) that TE Merriam be "suspended from his official functions as a TE in the PCA (not a censure)."
 - (3) that "process be instituted against TE Merriam (*BCO* 31-2) to proceed according to *BCO* 32-3."
 - (4) that "a judicial commission be established to conduct judicial procedures."

No prosecutor was appointed to prepare the indictment and to conduct the case as required in *BCO* 31-2.

13. On August 15, 1995 the TVP judicial commission met and rendered its decision. No indictment was drawn; and nothing was served on the accused, along with the names of the witnesses then known to support it [*BCO* 32-3 (2)]. No notice or citation was given or served on the accused [*BCO* 32-3 (3)]. No charges were served on the accused with the opportunity for him to plead guilty

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or not (*BCO* 32-3). The accused could not be present; but no counsel was assigned to represent him (*BCO* 32-3). No trial was actually conducted as the TVP Judicial Commission simply relied on the “due process of the Papua New Guinea criminal court” (RoC p. 64).

The TVP Judicial Commission then voted 4-0-1 to recommend to the presbytery that “TE Stuart Merriam be adjudged as disqualified for the office of the Christian Ministry. . . and do hereby depose him from the office of Teaching Elder” (RoC p. 68).

At the time of this meeting of the judicial commission TE Merriam was out of jail on parole; but as a condition of parole, he was not permitted to leave Papua New Guinea (RoC p. 8).

14. On October 10, 1995 at the Fall Stated meeting of the TVP, the Presbytery voted to “receive and adopt” the decision of the judicial commission. (RoC p. 52)
15. The Stated Clerk of the TVP notified Dr. Merriam of the action taken by the presbytery at its October 10, 1995 meeting by means of a letter dated November 1, 1995 (RoC p. 56).
16. In a letter dated December 19, 1995 and addressed to Dr. Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk of the PCA, Dr. Merriam filed a written notice of appeal of the October 10, 1995 action of the TVP to receive and adopt the findings of the Commission (RoC pp. 1-17). The appeal alleges numerous irregularities and violations of judicial process in the proceedings of the lower court (*BCO* 42-3).
17. The appeal was referred to the Standing Judicial Commission and has been designated as Judicial Case 95-10.
18. The judicial panel appointed to hear Judicial Case 95-10 met by teleconference on March 19, 1996; and on June 19, 1996 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida at the PCA General Assembly, heard the case.
19. It is our information that Dr. Merriam is now free to leave Papua New Guinea if he chooses to do so.

(Editorial Note: Those items in quotations are directly lifted from the TVP Judicial Commission Minutes of 8-15-1995 and located on p. 63 of the RoC, unless otherwise indicated.)

II. Statement of the Issues

1. Did TVP practice and follow the principles of and procedures for due process as set forth in the PCA *Book of Church Order* in its dealing with Dr. Merriam?

III. Judgment of the Case

1. No. TVP did not practice and follow the principles of and procedures for due process as set forth in the PCA *Book of Church Order* in dealing with Dr. Merriam. The case is therefore remanded to TVP for a new trial which complies with the PCA *Book of Church Order* provisions for due process.

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

In this case, word of the charges and subsequent conviction of TE Merriam in criminal court in Papua New Guinea (PNG) came to the attention of the TVP. The TVP reasoned that ecclesiastical censure should be applied to TE Merriam since his guilt had already been established in criminal court and was a matter of public record in PNG. The Moderator of the TVP, in his communications to TE Merriam dated November 28, 1994 states that,

“ . . . We are concerned to honor your position as a fellow elder in good standing with this Presbytery. At the same time, we are also concerned for the honor of Christ. Because your trial and conviction are a matter of public record, we must take steps to deal with what has become a public scandal.” (RoC p. 19)

The TVP determined that ecclesiastical discipline was necessary to protect the integrity of the gospel witness in PNG.

But, the Judicial Commission appointed by TVP decided this case without a trial and gave as its reason:

“It found that without gathering the same witnesses and rejudging the case as in 1993 (which we deem virtually impossible) that a conclusive statement about Dr. Merriam’s guilt or innocence would be difficult, especially given the guidelines of *BCO* 32-20 and 35-3.” (RoC p. 3)

So, this Judicial Commission did not follow principles of and procedures for due process outlined in our *BCO*. Instead, they relied on the “due process” of the Papua New Guinea criminal court. We know little about the judicial process in New Guinea; but we hold that it cannot and should not be substituted for a trial in a Court of the Church of Jesus Christ. This is a very serious matter to the accused, Dr. Merriam. Although it would be difficult to conduct such a trial under the PCA’s rules for due process, we must not ignore these rules for the sake of convenience. We have outlined in items 12 and 13 of the Summary of the Facts the numerous violations by TVP of the principles and procedures for due process in the *PCA Book of Church Order*. One of the most serious of these violations was TVP’s failure to appoint counsel to represent the accused (*BCO* 32-3). The TVP sought to conduct an ecclesiastical trial while TE Merriam was necessarily absent due to travel constraints imposed on him as a condition of probation in Papua New Guinea. An ecclesiastical trial could have been conducted in TE Merriam’s absence. But *BCO* 32-3 clearly requires that counsel should have been assigned to represent TE Merriam. This was not done.

The TVP acted within its authority in bringing charges and conducting an ecclesiastical trial, but it neglected to afford TE Merriam the procedures provided in our *BCO* for due process. This breach of due process under the principles of and procedures for due process in our *Book of Church Order* requires that this case be remanded to TVP for a new trial following the rules set out in the *PCA Book of Church Order*.

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Heard by Panel of Standing Judicial Commission on June 19, 1996 and parties informed of unanimous recommended decision of Panel.

Signed on this 21st day of August, 1996.

/s/ Michael D. Bolus

/s/ James L. Smith, Jr.

/s/ W. Jack Williamson

NOTE: This decision was written by James L. Smith, Jr. and W. Jack Williamson with full concurrence of Michael D. Bolus.

V. Voting on Proposed Decision

Approved by SJC: 17 Concurring, 3 Recused, 4 Absent, 11/22/1996

5. **That the Judgment of the SJC in the Case 95-11 James Landrum et al. vs. Mississippi Valley Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.**

On motion, pursuant to *BCO* 15-5, sentences 3 and 4, the following constitutional question (#2) was referred to Committee on Constitutional Business:

Is **Judgment III.B.** out of accord with the Constitution and, if Presbytery did not deal properly with the exception in Judgment III.A., would not the case need to be remanded?

At a later session [see 25-38, p. 170] the Committee on Constitutional Business responded as follows:

“Response

Yes. It is the opinion of the CCB that, since only a Presbytery has the power to vote on whether exceptions to the Constitution strike at the vitals of religion so as to exclude a man from ordination, and that **Judgment III.A.** has identified Mr. Blaha’s views as an exception to the Constitution though the Presbytery did not, the SJC has erred in not remanding this case to the Presbytery to recognize, vote on, and record the exception.

However, while it is the historic practice of Presbyterianism for presbyteries to vote on exceptions to the Constitution, there is no constitutional requirement for same. Therefore it is the opinion of the CCB that **Judgment III.A.** is unconstitutional in requiring Presbytery to do something which is not required by the Constitution, and that therefore both Judgments in Case 95-11 should be disapproved.”

On Thursday afternoon, the SJC Chairman reported and once again posed the decision of the SJC in Case 95-11. (see 25-38, p. 170)

Disapproved 229-423

Therefore, the General Assembly **on motion** pursuant to *BCO* 15-5, sentence 6, **referred Case 95-11** to a 20 man Special Judicial Commission to be appointed by the Moderator. The Moderator requested volunteers for the commission to submit their names to the Stated Clerk. He also ruled that the

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case must follow procedures of the 1996 edition of the *BCO* and *RAO* as well as the 1996 edition of the *SJC Manual of Operations*, and to report to the 26th General Assembly.

**JAMES LANDRUM, ET AL.
VS.
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY**

CASE 95-11

I. Summary of the Facts

- A. On October 17, 1995, the Mississippi Valley Presbytery (hereinafter MVP) examined TE James Blaha for ordination.
- B. The theological portion of Mr. Blaha's examination was sustained by a majority of two to one.
- C. Among the views expressed by Mr. Blaha during his examination and in a position paper prepared by him in 1993 prior to his licensure examination were the following:
 - 1. Mr. Blaha believes that none of the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased, with the exception of apostleship.
 - 2. Mr. Blaha believes in the continuation of the gift of tongues and practices speaking in an unknown ecstatic tongue in private prayer.
 - 3. Mr. Blaha believes that, while the gift given to the apostles and Old Testament prophets to convey authoritative, canonical, special revelation has ceased, there remains a continuing New Testament gift of prophecy of a "'lower' and mixed form of God's disclosing of Himself," though this gift is not "intrinsically revelatory." [RoC, p. 16, Blaha position paper, 1996]
- D. The Complaint of October 23, 1995, against MVP's action of October 17, 1995, in sustaining the theological portion of Mr. Blaha's ordination examination was not sustained by MVP at a called meeting on November 3, 1995, by a majority of two to one. The Complainants then informed MVP of their intention to complain to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (hereinafter GA).

II. Statement of the Issues

- A. Did MVP err in not recognizing and noting that Mr. Blaha's views of prophecy and tongues as an exception to the Constitution?
- B. Did MVP err in sustaining the theological portion of Mr. Blaha's examination for ordination on October 17, 1995, in light of his views concerning tongues and prophecy?

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III. Judgment

- A. Yes [3-0]
- B. No [2-1, with dissent by TE LeRoy Ferguson]

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

The Commission questions whether Mr. Blaha's views of tongues and prophecy strike at the vitals of Reformed doctrine presents substantial difficulty to this court. For example, his views of prophecy in the New Testament seem to be out of accord with the Constitution (RoC, pp. 16f) and to be in tension with his averring that he holds a constitutional view of the Canon. That being the case, his exceptions should have been acknowledged and noted by the MVP at the time it voted to sustain Mr. Blaha's theological examination. Pronouncements of the GA -- both judicial and otherwise -- must be reviewed in determining whether MVP erred in sustaining Mr. Blaha's theological examination. The burden is on a complainant to prove that a court of the church has erred in an action it has taken. That burden has not been met here.

There is substantial discussion at this point in the history of the PCA regarding how strictly one must subscribe to the Standards of the Church in order to be acceptable for ordination to the office of teaching elder. While some believe that no exceptions at all to the Church's Standards should be permitted, the fact is that many, if not most, candidates for ordination express reservations about some section of the *WCF* and/or *BCO* at the time of examination. The most common exceptions relate to Sabbath observation, but many others are also expressed. Our presbyteries nonetheless usually approve candidates who have expressed reservations about one section or another of the *WCF* and/or *BCO*. Until and unless the GA deals directly with the issue of strict subscription to the Standards of the PCA, we are unable to say that a presbytery has erred solely because it has approved a man for ordination who has expressed an exception.

Concerning Mr. Blaha's specific exceptions, we must look for guidance in the 1974 GA's "A Pastoral Letter Concerning the Experience of the Holy Spirit in the Church Today" [*M2GA*, Appendix N] as well as related judicial cases since that time. Unless a court of the church finds that a lower court has clearly crossed the somewhat vague lines drawn in those documents in approving a candidate with exceptions in these areas, the higher court may not disturb the decision of the lower court which has a much clearer understanding of what the candidate believes than the higher court possibly can have.

God's Word is, of course, the first place we should look for guidance in this matter. However, as the brief of MVP's respondent and the 1974 GA pastoral letter point out, Scriptural references are not clear concerning whether the specific gifts of tongues and prophecy have ceased (e.g. 1 Corinthians 1: 4-8, 1 Corinthians 12 through 14, and Hebrews 1:1-2).

The relevant GA cases since that time are instructive as to how far one may stray from the clear, cessationist language of the *WCF* and *BCO* yet still remain an acceptable candidate for the Gospel ministry:

1. The 1980 case of *Carl W. Bogue et al. vs. Presbytery of the Ascension* concerned a candidate who "affirmed his belief that currently the gift of

speaking in an unknown tongue, when interpreted by the gift of interpretation, communicates revelation from God, although the nature of the revelation was not clearly defined.” [M8GA, 8-63, p. 93] GA sent the matter back to Ascension Presbytery to re-examine the candidate to clarify his views on continuing revelation.

2. The 1986 case of *Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr., et al. vs. Calvary Presbytery* concerned a minister who was approved by Calvary Presbytery for transfer from another denomination. He believed the following:
 - A. “He affirmed that, while the gift given to the apostles and prophets to convey authoritative, canonical, special revelation has ceased, there remains a continuing New Testament gift of prophecy which does not have canonical authority and there is the possibility of revelation today from God.”
 - B. “He denies that such prophecy or revelation today has canonical authority or authority to bind the conscience.”
 - C. “He affirms that the canon is closed, and the Scriptural revelation is full, complete, supreme, final.”
 - D. “He affirms that any prophecy or revelation today must be tested by and submitted to Scripture.” [M14GA, 14-91, p. 229]

GA held that “Calvary Presbytery was in error in sustaining the examination of [the candidate] and receiving him as member of Presbytery, in that his expressed theological views relative to the matter of continual revelation are unconstitutional and are fundamentally out of accord with the doctrine of the Presbyterian Church in America.” [Ibid.] It also held that “[t]he Constitutional Standards of the PCA do not allow for a type of continuing revelation that is not canonical Scripture (which is complete) but is more than mere illumination and providence, a type of non-authoritative, non-canonical, new revelation.” [Ibid., p. 230]

Mr. Blaha has stated that “[t]hese gifts are not intrinsically revelatory. No revelation is received from God through them.” [Mr. Blaha’s position paper of Fall, 1993, RoC p. 16.] We are therefore not able to say that Mr. Blaha’s views violate the holding of this particular case.

3. In the 1988 case of *TE Robert G. Rayburn et al. vs. Missouri Presbytery*, the Presbytery directed its Candidates and Credential Committee not to find non-cessationist candidates out of accord with our system of doctrine if they would commit themselves to the following:
 - A. “The gifts do not communicate binding special revelation, and any claiming the gifts shall not be allowed to demand other believers’ submission to their claims.”
 - B. “Not only is the canon of Scripture closed, but no gift is to be allowed which has the practical effect of *functioning* as a normative source of truth or divine instruction from God, alongside the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures.”
 - C. “Any view which holds that one in the present day can inerrantly predict future is not allowed.”

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- D. "The Candidates and Credentials Committee has the right to instruct candidates not to teach on this subject until the General Assembly takes a position." [*M16GA*, 16-97, pp. 213-214]

The GA held that the terms of this test are not outside the system of doctrine of the PCA. The respondent for MVP holds Mr. Blaha forth as a candidate who fits within these strictures, and we find him to be correct.

4. That same year (1988) the case of *TE James Serio et al. vs Palmetto Presbytery* stemmed from the licensure examination of a candidate who believed the following:
- A. "He affirmed that God continues the activity of special revelation outside of the canon of Scripture."
 - B. "He affirmed that none of the miraculous gifts, except the gift of apostleship, has ceased since the apostolic age, including speaking in tongues and prophecy."
 - C. "He affirmed that God presently reveals [H]is will by means of propositional truth which comes through prophecy and tongues, outside the canon of Holy Scripture, and since the closing of the Biblical canon."
 - D. "He affirmed that present day 'prophecy' is a gift manifested by forthtelling and foretelling."
 - E. "He affirmed that God speaks directly to people 'through voice, dream and vision,' today."
 - F. "He affirmed that such communication does not contradict Scripture."
[*M16GA*, 16-88, p. 195]

GA held that Palmetto Presbytery erred in sustaining said candidate's licensure examination because "his expressed theological views relative to the matter of continuing revelation are unconstitutional and are fundamentally out of accord with the doctrine of the Presbyterian Church in America." [*Ibid.*] Mr. Blaha's views do not include continuing revelation in the sense disapproved of in this case.

5. Finally, the 1992 case of *Robert D. Hopper vs. James River Presbytery* was a complaint by a teaching elder whose views had changed to allow *theoretically* that tongues and prophecy *may* be present in any age. (The minister in question had personally experienced neither.) James River Presbytery decided that he should be disallowed to teach and preach his views of prophecy and tongues, even though the Presbytery found that Mr. Hopper's views "do not violate the fundamentals of the system of doctrine set forth in the Westminster Standards." [*M20GA*, 20-69, p. 160] The GA approved the silencing of the teaching elder in question. In that case, however, three of the four ruling elders at the complainant's local church were in disagreement with the pastor's new views, and the peace of the local church was therefore a serious concern. The SJC decision in that case cited a 1990 action of GA which stated the following: "Presbyteries do have jurisdiction over TEs and have the authority to restrict a minister from preaching his views which the presbytery is convinced may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of the churches under its care (*BCO* 13-9 and 34-5)." [*M20GA*, 20-69, p. 164, citing *M18GA*, p. 205] MVP's seemingly contrary decision in the Blaha matter was surely influenced to some extent by

the fact that the church calling Mr. Blaha was fully aware of his views and there was no threat of disruption within the church because of Mr. Blaha's views.

The following dictum from the 1992 *Herman Gunter III et al. vs. Central Florida Presbytery* case, a case dealing with the issue of theonomy, is also especially relevant in the instant case:

As a court, the Session of [the local c]hurch exercised its right to determine the issue before it in such a manner that would promote the peace, purity and progress of the local church. When an issue is not clearly defined and/or still being debated within the Church, and/or where the issue is judged to disturb the peace or progress of the church, deference should be given to the court of original jurisdiction with regard to its judgments, which may be reviewed by higher courts.

It is clear from the *BCO* that a court, upon hearing a candidate's examination, judges whether his views are in conformity with the system of doctrine taught in the *Confession*. The court may also judge whether a noted exception is acceptable in light of the system of doctrine expressed in the *Confession*. In either case, the court has the responsibility to determine the acceptability of the views given and to judge their conformity to the *Confession*.

This right of a court to determine acceptability may result in differing positions being taken on [the] same issue by various courts in the Church. When a theological issue is not uniformly received in the Church, this may result in different judgments being rendered by different courts on the same issue. This disparity may continue until the issue is resolved by the broader Church. For example, one court may interpret what is permissible in the area of Christian liberty broadly, while another court may interpret it narrowly.

As the Church deliberates and gives definition to issues being discussed and debated within the Church, all courts can rely on these clearer definitions to judge what is in conformity with the system of doctrine taught in the *Confession* (Cf. Case no. 90-8, *M19GA*, 1991, p. 84. The issue was whether a Session could grant exceptions in the areas of Infant Baptism and Limited Atonement. The judgment of the General Assembly was that these two theological issues are essentials of the system of doctrine taught in the *Confession*, thus giving clearer direction to all courts of the Church.) [*M20GA*, 20-69, pp. 198-199]

The Pastoral Letter of 1974 gave the broader Church some guidance as to how to handle issues such as those brought fourth in the Blaha case, and is intended for pastoral guidance. The issues of tongues and prophecy are still unsettled issues as exceptions to the PCA Standards, and as long as the GA's decisions in previous judicial cases are not contradicted by the outcome, a court is able to determine for itself the position it will take on these issues. When and if the GA decides to issue a definitive statement on these issues, all lower courts will be bound to abide by its terms.

In conclusion, MVP is the appropriate court to determine whether a Candidate's views fall within Confessional bounds. That court knows Mr. Blaha and his views well and is in the best position to evaluate them. The GA's "Pastoral Letter" and the judicial decisions it has sustained over the years do not clearly indicate that Mr. Blaha's views strike at the vitals of our system of doctrine, and we are therefore unable to hold that MVP erred in sustaining Mr. Blaha's examination for ordination.

We do not believe that there is any need to remand this matter back to MVP for re-examination of Mr. Blaha on the theological issues which are the subject of this case since that Presbytery knew him and his views well and found them acceptable on the

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occasions of his licensure and ordination examinations. Since the Presbytery is able to accept candidates with certain exceptions to the Confessional Standards, it is highly unlikely that the two-to-one majority that sustained Mr. Blaha's examinations would change appreciably simply because they have been advised that Mr. Blaha's views constitute an exception to the Standards of the PCA.

/s/ John W. Lane

/s/ Edward J. Robeson, III

/s/ LeRoy H. Ferguson

(as to statement of Facts, Statement, of
Issues, and Judgment #1 only)

This decision was written by RE John W. Lane. RE Edward J. Robeson, III concurs with the entire Decision, including Reasoning and Opinion. Partial Dissent of TE Ferguson as to Judgment on Issue #2 is attached hereto.

V. Voting on the Proposed Decision

Approved by the SJC: 11 Concurring, 7 Dissenting, 1 Recused, 5 Absent,
3/8/97

VI. Concurring and Dissenting Opinion Case 95-11

We the undersigned eight ruling and teaching elders in the Presbyterian Church in America and members of the Standing Judicial Commission (SJC) concur in part from the decision rendered in this case. We represent the largest number of SJC members to file a written dissent to a judicial decision since the inception of the SJC in 1989. We do not file this dissent lightly. We believe the majority have erroneously adjudicated a very important issue, which will threaten the PCA's status as a member of the reformed community. It is our prayer that the General Assembly will exercise its authority under *BCO* 15-5 and disapprove Part B of the judgment in this case. The record in this case is relatively small, and the issues are simple and clear. There is no issue in this case which involves intricate procedural questions. This case can be heard by this General Assembly or by a special commission appointed by the Assembly in accordance with *BCO* 15-5. The Assembly may also set aside (*BCO* 43-10) Mr. Blaha's theological examination and instruct Mississippi Valley Presbytery to provide Mr. Blaha with opportunities for instruction in this area of theology in an effort to bring his views into conformity with the Constitutional Standards of the PCA, then to re-examine Mr. Blaha on the issues in question to determine whether his views have been brought into conformity with the Constitutional Standards of the PCA.

We concur with the judgment on Statement of Issue A: "Did MVP (Mississippi Valley Presbytery) err in not recognizing and noting that Mr. Blaha's views of prophecy and tongues constitute an exception to the constitution?" We believe, however, that a majority of the SJC weakened the strength of this judgment by removing important language from the Reasoning and Opinion of the judgment offered by the original panel appointed to hear the case. We dissent on the judgment on Statement of the Issue B: "Did MVP err in sustaining the theological portion of Mr.

Blaha's examination for ordination on October 17, 1995, in light of his views concerning tongues and prophecy?" and the Reasoning and Opinion portion of the decision dealing with this judgment. We offer the following as appropriate reasoning as to why the portion of the theological examination of Mr. Blaha should be set aside (BCO 43-10).

REASONING FOR THIS PARTIAL CONCURRENCE

We concur in the facts as they are set forth in the Summary of the Facts and in the adjudication of the first issue. The first issue is: "Did MVP (Mississippi Valley Presbytery) err in not recognizing and noting that Mr. Blaha's views of prophecy and tongues constitutes an exception to the constitution?" The majority of the SJC answered the question affirmatively. The majority correctly found the MVP did err in not recognizing and noting that Mr. Blaha's views of prophecy and tongues constitute an exception to our constitutional standards. We wholeheartedly concur in that judgment. Unfortunately, the reasoning and opinion section was gutted following action by members of the minority on this issue after adoption of the judgment. This happened after the constituency of the SJC changed during the deliberation process. The gutting of the rationale for the first judgment leaves a nonsensical decision as to that issue. Therefore, a separate concurrence is required for purposes of integrity and intelligence.

We believe the Summary of the Facts adequately support the first aspect of the judgment in which we concur. Mr. Blaha admitted to MVP that he was a non-cessationist. He believes that **none** of the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased with the exception of apostleship. Mr. Blaha practices speaking in an unknown, ecstatic tongue in private prayer and, accordingly, believes in the continuation of the gifts of tongues. Mr. Blaha's own words are as follows: "The nature of prophecy as set forth in the New Testament is fundamentally different than that of the Old Testament. It is not revelatory as we understand *revelation* theologically." That view rightly caused the finding of the fact in the majority opinion that "Mr. Blaha believes that, while the gift given to the apostles and Old Testament prophets to convey authoritative, canonical, special revelation has ceased, there remains a continuing New Testament gift of prophecy of a *lower* and mixed form of God's disclosing of Himself, though this gift is not *intrinsically revelatory*."

We find that these views are clearly contrary to the constitutional standards of the Presbyterian Church in America. While the members of the SJC were not in agreement as to each standard contradicted by Mr. Blaha's personal views, those standards in which there was majority agreement and mentioned in the complaint were Westminster Confession of Faith 1-1, 21-3 and *Book of Church Order* 7-1. The undersigned concur that these constitutional standards of the PCA are sufficiently clear and that Mr. Blaha's admitted views are exceptions to those particular sections of the constitution. The majority of the SJC found that his views were exceptions, although there was no unanimous view as to all applicable standards. There was unanimous concern among the majority as to Mr. Blaha's unequal views of the authority of prophecy in the Old and New Testaments. We were quite surprised to learn that some of our brethren on the SJC did not believe Mr. Blaha's views were exceptions or

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scruples to our constitution. Nevertheless, the majority ruling as to this issue is clear and correct: the views of Mr. Blaha are exceptions to the constitutional standards of the PCA.

Ordinarily, a separate concurring opinion on such a clear issue would not be required. It is respectfully submitted that members of the court who are in the minority on an issue should not attempt to destroy the integrity of a judgment by destroying its rationale. This can be done when time presses strongly on members of the court and when the dynamics of the court change by early departures of certain of its members. It is submitted that members of a minority should allow the majority to express its own rationale for its decision without the intervention of the minority. A member not satisfied with a judgment is free to issue a dissent therefrom. He should not destroy the integrity of the majority decision by gutting its rationale. This will lessen the need for separate concurrence, such as this one.

REASONING FOR THE DISSENT

A majority of the Standing Judicial Commission agreed that Mr. Blaha's views are out of accord with the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the Presbyterian Church in America's *Book of Church Order*. Though it was eventually removed from the Reasoning and Opinion section of the Decision by a sharply divided SJC, the original panel charged with hearing this case said that Mr. Blaha held exceptions concerning *Westminster Confession of Faith* 1-1 and 21-3 and *Book of Church Order* 7-1. A majority of the SJC agreed with the panel that Mr. Blaha was out of accord with our Constitution; however, they were unwilling to specifically cite where he was out of accord and they were unwilling to set aside Mr. Blaha's exam and instruct Mississippi Valley Presbytery to re-examine Mr. Blaha. Despite all good intentions to extend the fellowship of the church as broadly as possible, and despite the rationalizations given in the proposed decision, one reality still remains: the views held by the candidate in question are clearly opposed to the express language of both the *Confession of Faith* (1-6; 21-3) and the *Book of Church Order* (7-1). To uphold such contradiction is to deny, overlook, or distort part of the Constitution of our church (26-1).

Mr. Blaha's belief that New Testament prophecy was not revelation and that such prophecy continues today and should be practiced in the church places his beliefs beyond the limits allowed in all previous cases in the PCA. Such views, which the majority of the SJC rules to be exceptions to our Constitution, are far more substantive than earlier cases that merely required presbyteries to be circumspect before approving Pentecostal type views. Since the SJC has ruled that his views were indeed exceptions, they should require Mississippi Valley Presbytery to present his views as exceptions to the Constitution and allow the court of original jurisdiction the opportunity to record and vote on the acceptability of those exceptions.

Mr. Blaha's Views

The two areas where Mr. Blaha's views are exceptions to the Constitution of the PCA are his views concerning speaking in tongues and his views of the continuation of prophecy in the church today. Mr. Blaha believes that there were two types of tongues speaking in the New Testament: One that was "clearly heard as human language" and

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“another kind, seen in First Corinthians [that] is difficult to reconcile with a human dialect” (RoC 16). Though Mr. Blaha believes that the gift of tongues (and other extraordinary gifts) must be carefully handled in the church and though he says that they are “not necessarily practiced in the worship of the congregation,” he goes on to say that “these gifts of the Spirit must be beneficial for the life of the church.” This language leaves us in doubt as to Mr. Blaha’s views concerning the practice of prophecy, tongues, healing and other such gifts in the worship service of the local congregation. Does Mr. Blaha believe that it would be appropriate in the worship service of a PCA church for speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues to take place? Since MVP has not had Mr. Blaha answer this question we have no way of knowing.

In the area of prophecy, Mr. Blaha’s views give even greater reason for concern than his views on tongues. The candidate believes that not only is the current manifestation of prophecy in the church not revelatory, but also that the NT gift of prophecy was not revelatory: “The nature of prophecy as set forth in the NT is fundamentally different than that of the OT. It is not revelatory as we understand ‘revelation’ theologically.” (RoC, p. 17) Viewing prophecy as continuing just as it did in NT times, this candidate’s view of prophecy—which touches on matters of the sufficiency and authority of Scripture—needs to be examined more carefully in light of his views on the non-revelatory character of NT gifts of tongues and prophecy. This fact alone justifies reexamination.

Though the majority rely on the 1974 General Assembly’s Pastoral Letter on this subject for guidance in this case, it is clear that the Letter is an inadequate guide for a judicial decision with such weighty ramifications. In reality, the Assembly has not spoken about every view of tongues and prophecy, but it has spoken clearly about views similar to those of this candidate. Earlier Assemblies have ruled that similar views were out of accord with our standards and not permissible as small exceptions. The PCA has taken the following stand on the continuation of extraordinary gifts: “The Constitutional Standards of the PCA do not allow for a type of continuing revelation that is not canonical Scripture (which is complete) but is more than mere illumination and providence, a type of non-authoritative, non-canonical, new revelation.” (*MI4GA*, 14-91, p. 230) The difficulty with Mr. Blaha’s view is that it appears to grant revelatory content (a “lower and mixed form of God’s disclosing of Himself,” (Summary of the Facts C-1) to prophecy and tongues but does not wish to call it revelation. Even though Mr. Blaha does not wish to call this disclosing of God to individuals and group revelation, it is clear that his view is exactly what was not allowed in the above case.

The majority suggest that even though the judicial case that they presented as evidence clearly show that the candidate’s views are out of accord with the doctrinal position of the PCA, nonetheless his views can be viewed as acceptable because the 1974 Pastoral Letter gave “the broader Church some guidance as to how to handle issues such as those brought forth” by this case. However, while the 1974 Pastoral Letter may be interpreted by some to justify this, the subsequent judicial cases (as approved by a number of Assemblies) have more precisely defined acceptable limits. The majority report seems to rely on an earlier, singular, and non-constitutional standard more than on standard expositions of Scripture found in the Westminster Standards. Some in our church may wish to amend the language of either the Confession of Faith

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or the *BCO* to allow for more charismatic expressions. To pursue such constitutional amendment (as Miss. Valley recognizes) would be one honest and honorable way to provide for those ends; at present, however, to approve such is to contradict existing standards. An honest interpretation of the meaning of revelation and the words in our standards (in the paragraphs referenced above) prevents us from harmonizing these views; we cannot escape a choice. No sufficient or persuasive argument is made in this case to convince us that it is better to ignore or reconstruct the language to move in that direction.

Again Mr. Blaha's views on how the gift of prophecy should be used in the local church are as clouded as his view on how the gift of tongues, healing and other extraordinary gifts should be used. It would seem as though he would not want to rule out that all of these have a proper place in the weekly worship service. Again, since MVP has not had him answer these questions, we have no way of clearly knowing the answers.

The Right and Need for Presbytery to Recognize and Vote Clearly On Exceptions

The majority of the Standing Judicial Commission have said that this should not be sent back to the Presbytery for re-examination because it is "highly unlikely that the two-to-one majority that sustained Mr. Blaha's examination would change appreciably simply because they have been advised that Mr. Blaha's views constitute an exception to the Standards of the PCA" (Decision Case 95-11, p. 6). This reasoning presumes too much knowledge on the part of the SJC. The SJC does not know how members of the Presbytery would react if they were told that Mr. Blaha's views were in reality an exception to the Standards. Some in Presbytery might have voted the way they did because they were told that Mr. Blaha's views were in keeping with the Standards. If they were told that the General Assembly had found that his views were in actuality an exception, there would seem to be a reasonable expectation that a majority of the Presbytery would want to re-examine Mr. Blaha. This is even more likely if they were to find out that Mr. Blaha's views were essentially the same as those addressed in the 1986 *Gentry et al. vs. Calvary Presbytery* and the 1988 *Serio et al. vs. Palmetto Presbytery* judicial cases.

The SJC does not have the right, as is so frequently and forcefully argued, to substitute its judgment for that of a Presbytery. In this case it does not have the right to act for Mississippi Valley Presbytery by saying how they would react to the knowledge of the exceptions held by Mr. Blaha. We have no authority to say "this wouldn't make any difference," as the majority's reasoning does. Presbytery must make its own decision on that question. Having been made aware that the General Assembly considers these practices and views to be exceptionable should make a substantive difference when MVP rethinks this case. The right for Presbytery to recognize and vote on exceptions to the standards is basic to the Presbyterian form of government. The minority do not wish to take that inalienable and original jurisdiction away from the lower court by imposing our presumed opinions or predicting outcomes.

Even members of the minority recognized that the candidate's views are extreme and beyond anything yet considered in other cases. The General Assembly must seriously consider the question: Is there any limit in this area of so-called "non-

revelatory” prophecy or tongues, etc., beyond which the PCA will not tolerate as acceptable? While the Pastoral Letter of 1974 was helpful for its time and wise for the peace of the Church, it is not of constitutional authority, especially if it contradicts explicit provisions in our standards. The discretion of any court cannot contravene explicit constitutional language (95-7); nor can a previous Assembly’s study report be elevated on par with the constitution nor contradict it.

The SJC has attempted to avoid judicial activism. This majority recommendation, if approved however, would transgress that approach. To rule that this matter is an exception and not properly recorded, but then to have the SJC autonomously judge the relative weight of that issue is to lodge original jurisdiction with the higher court before the lower court even has an opportunity to re-examine the matter in light of the finding in Issue #1 of this Judgment. Even had both issues been answered in the negative, this would have been a form of activism strongly in favor of the advance of charismatic expressions. As it stands, the majority report is a case of a higher court “acting for” the lower court, which has never had the opportunity to review this candidate’s views as exceptions.

Even with the vague stance of the PCA on charismatic issues, once it is confirmed that the view was in fact an exception, then it would naturally follow that MVP should re-hear the examination in the light of that new context, regardless of the additional effort involved and regardless of their subsequent conclusion. The majority presumed that it could predict how the presbytery would act under such circumstances; the minority are not so prescient.

The right for Presbytery to recognize and vote on exceptions to the church Standards is basic to the Presbyterian form of government. The majority of the SJC have said that the Presbytery in essence did this when they voted to approve the examination of Mr. Blaha, but this is simply not the case. Presbytery has the responsibility to list the exceptions and the right to vote on them for the record. The General Assembly should allow Mississippi Valley Presbytery to exercise this right by sending the case back to them to have Mr. Blaha re-examined.

For these and other reasons, we ask the Assembly to reject the proposed decision and retry it, or to set aside the examination of Mr. Blaha and remand it to the presbytery of original jurisdiction with instructions to note this view as an exception to the Standards as per Judgment #1 in this case and to instruct the Presbytery to re-examine him and to give special care to the area of the continuation of extraordinary gifts. The Presbytery should be further instructed to provide instruction for Mr. Blaha in the theological areas in question prior to his re-examination to provide opportunity for him to grow in his understanding of what the Scriptures teach concerning these issues in hope of bringing his views into conformity with the Constitution of the PCA.

RE Harrison Brown
 RE Dale Peacock
 RE John Van Voorhis
 TE LeRoy Ferguson, III

RE Robert Miller
 RE Wayne Sparkman
 TE John P. Clark
 TE David W. Hall

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6. **That the Judgment of the SJC in the Case 96-1 Hugo Andrino vs. Southern Florida Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.** *Adopted*

**HUGO ANDRINO
VS.
SOUTHERN FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

CASE 96-1

I. Summary of the Facts

1. On November 22, 1995, the Session of Shenandoah Presbyterian Church passed a motion suspending Mr. Hugo Andrino from his position on the Board of Shenandoah Christian School.
2. On December 18, 1995, Mr. Andrino filed a complaint against this action of the Session.
3. On January 11, 1996, the Session first passed a motion sustaining Mr. Andrino's above complaint. Subsequent to this action and during the same meeting, the Session then passed a motion to administratively remove Mr. Andrino from the Shenandoah School Board.
4. On January 25, 1996, Mr. Andrino then filed a complaint against this subsequent action of Session, in which they administratively removed him from the School Board.
5. On February 22, 1996, Mr. Andrino's complaint was denied by Session.
6. On March 21, 1996, Mr. Andrino filed a complaint with the Southern Florida Presbytery
7. On April 16, 1996, Southern Florida Presbytery, based upon the finding of its Judicial Committee, denied Mr. Andrino's complaint, adding *dicta*, recommending that the Session of Shenandoah Presbyterian Church take appropriate measure to seek reconciliation with Mr. Andrino in a timely manner.
8. On April 29, 1996, Mr. Andrino filed his complaint with the General Assembly.
9. On Saturday, October 19, 1996, the Standing Judicial Commission heard the case.

II. Statement of the Issues

Did Southern Florida Presbytery err in sustaining the action of the Session of Shenandoah Presbyterian Church in Administratively removing the complainant, Mr. Andrino, from the Shenandoah Christian School Board?

III. Judgment of the Case

No. The Session acted in accordance with *BCO* 12-5(d) which gives the Session authority "to establish and control all special groups in the church."

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IV. Reasoning and Opinion

1. Southern Florida Presbytery was correct in affirming that the Session has the authority to make administrative decisions in the conduct of the affairs of the church, as per *BCO* 12-5(d).
2. Thus the administrative removal of Mr. Andrino from the School Board should not be seen as judicial in intent. There was no charge of impropriety or wrong made against Mr. Andrino by this action of the Session.
3. The actions and decisions of Session, whether administrative or judicial, are reviewable actions, as per *BCO* 27-1 and 43-1. Indeed, this fact is demonstrated in this very case, in the complainant's exercise of his right of process, now even here before the General Assembly.
4. The record does not reflect that the Session abused its considerable discretion in domain in upholding Session's decision.

This opinion was written by RE Wayne Sparkman

V. Voting of Proposed Decision

Approved by the SJC: 14 concurring, 5 recused, 5 absent, 11/22/96

7. **That the judgment of the SJC in the Case 96-2 Benjamin Robeson, et al., vs. Central Georgia Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.**

Issue #1 and Judgment #1 Adopted

NOTE: Pursuant to *BCO* 15-5, sentence 3 and 4, Issue #2 and Judgment #2 were referred to Committee on Constitutional Business as follows:

Whereas, a commission is authorized to deliberate upon and conclude the business referred to it (*BCO* 15-1); and

Whereas, there is no apparent evidence from the Record of the Case that Issue 2 of Judicial Case 96-2 was referred to or laid before this commission to be adjudicated;

Therefore, I move that Issue 2 (and the judgment rendered on it, Judgment 2) of Judicial Case 96-2 be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Business (cf., *BCO* 15-5) to determine the following constitutional issue: Can the Standing Judicial Commission adjudicate an issue or matter that was not referred to or laid before it?

Committee on Constitutional Business's Response:

At a later session (see 25-22, Second Supplemental Report, I, #1, pp. 134 ff), CCB reported as follows:

"It is the opinion of the CCB that the answer is: No.

"The CCB reminds the Assembly that it is the duty of the SJC to assemble and frame from the complaint, brief(s), and the Record of the Case, the summary of the facts and the statement of the issues in any case. New issues are never to be initiated by the SJC so as to make it a court of original jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of the Assembly to decide whether the

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statement of the issues has been framed properly, which will be reflected by what the Assembly votes: shall the judgment be approved, disapproved, or referred to a study committee.

“The CCB recommends that commissioners be directed to read carefully the entire case and that a time be docketed for the Assembly’s vote on Case 96-2 relating to issue #2 and judgment #2 only.”

Adopted

On Thursday afternoon chairman of the SJC reported and put the question on Issue #2 and Judgment #2 in Case 96-2. These were *Adopted*

BENJAMIN ROBESON, et al.
VS.
CENTRAL GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

CASE 96-2

I. Summary of the Facts

A candidate for the ministry was recently received by Central Georgia Presbytery to fill one of its particular church’s pulpits. The candidate in question had previously been ordained (1969) by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and in 1977 was called to be the Pastor of the Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church in MI. In 1979, he resigned that pastorate after confessing to an adulterous affair that led to a divorce. The Record does not indicate whether or not he sued out the divorce or whether his first wife, the innocent party, did. Throughout, he maintained that he had had a biblical divorce, although this was not defined with precision in the testimony before the SJC.

The candidate voluntarily stepped down from his pastorate (1979) and chose to refrain from the pastoral ministry until such time as God made it abundantly clear that he should resume such calling. Shortly after his divorce, (May, 1980), he re-married and has remained faithful to that marriage. Both the candidate in question and other witnesses testify that he has been truly repentant. In 1985, he was ordained (not restored) to ecclesiastical office as a Ruling Elder in the PCA, thus accepting our constitution beginning at that time. His Session was satisfied that he met the biblical qualifications for that office. He taught various classes and Sunday Schools, all under the supervision of several PCA Sessions and without record of complaint.

In 1995, he was invited to fill a pulpit in the bounds of another presbytery (Central Georgia Presbytery) as Ruling Elder Stated Supply. At the time, few details of his previous marriage and divorce were explored. Subsequently, the Thomson Presbyterian Church apologized to the Presbytery for not following proper procedure in calling this candidate as Stated Supply. After becoming acquainted with his ministry, the Session of the church where he had served as Stated Supply decided to call him as their Pastor. He was presented to the Presbytery for examination on October 10, 1995.

At this meeting of presbytery, some of the circumstances of his divorce and remarriage were unclear. Various presbyters inquired about the circumstances. The

candidate's examination was not arrested, but approved as a whole by the Presbytery. On November 7, 1995, a Complaint was timely filed, objecting to this act. At its January 20, 1996, meeting, Central Georgia Presbytery appointed a commission to investigate this matter and the Complaint. The Commission heard the Complaint, and after deliberation adopted the Majority Report by a 5-4 vote. The Commission's judgment was upheld by Central Georgia Presbytery on April 9, 1996, by a 42-30 vote.

The Complainants then forwarded this Complaint to the General Assembly through its SJC (filed April 29, 1996). The case was heard by the SJC on November 22, 1996 in Atlanta.

II. Statement of the Issues

1. *Notwithstanding any other considerations*, is a man who admits to adultery while a minister in another denomination, and who admits to being the guilty party in a divorce and remarries another woman other than his first wife, absolutely prohibited by the *Book of Church Order* from being received as a Teaching Elder in the PCA?

2. Under the circumstances as set forth in the Record of the Case, did Presbytery err in receiving the candidate into its membership as a Teaching Elder?

III. Judgment in the Case

1. No

2. With the information available to the SJC in the Record of the case, it is impossible for us to make a judgment on this issue. Therefore, the examination of the candidate in question by Central Georgia Presbytery is set aside and the Presbytery is instructed to re-examine him under *The Book of Church Order* 21-4. Further, the Presbytery is instructed to give special attention to the requirement that all use of the extraordinary clause be clearly documented. Presbytery is also instructed to investigate thoroughly the circumstances surrounding the candidate's divorce and the status of his ordination credentials at the time of his examination on October 10, 1995.

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

As to Issue #1, *The Book of Church Order* does not explicitly prohibit a person from serving in office, if repentance has been made and deemed appropriate by the court of jurisdiction. The assumption is clear that a minister may be restored to office under certain circumstances (*BCO* 34-8). While we are sensitive to the possibility of scandal in the areas in question above, we cannot on constitutional grounds mandate that it is impossible to restore a man who truly repents, provided that certain moral requisites are maintained. Earlier Assembly studies and judicial decisions have set forth certain parameters that should be met (cf. *Minutes 20th GA* pp. 633-636; cf. also *Minutes 22nd GA*, pp. 88-93). Lacking such clear prohibition, the SJC is not able to create standards that are not already in the constitution.

By this decision, we reaffirm the earlier judgment on a similar case: "By concurring with the Presbytery's decision, far from recognizing an *unconstitutional* right for unbiblically divorced and remarried men to hold office, this decision only applies when a Presbytery adjudges that certain conditions have been met. (*Minutes, 22nd GA*, p. 90).

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As to Issue #2, the setting aside of the candidate's examination (*BCO* 43-10) is not because a candidate who is guilty of adultery and unbiblical divorce is automatically (and indefinitely) disqualified from holding office. Rather, in this case the number of procedural irregularities on the part of the Presbytery raises the question of whether or not essential background matters pertaining to this candidate were adequately confirmed. These irregularities include but are not limited to the following:

A. The Presbytery examined the candidate as an ordained minister. The Record does not contain evidence that the candidate held current ordination credentials as a minister. In light of the fact that the candidate had been ordained as a Ruling Elder in the PCA, his standing as an ordained minister in another denomination at the time of his examination by Presbytery is called into question. The Record of the case does not document the candidate's prior ordination and it is not apparent that all the requirements of *BCO* 21-4 were pursued. This is the procedure that would have been required if Presbytery were to have received the candidate as an ordained minister from another denomination.

B. The Presbytery failed to investigate thoroughly the facts of the candidate's adultery, divorce, and subsequent remarriage. A failure to understand these facts prevented the Presbytery from evaluating whether the candidate's case is one that allows for ordination after adultery, divorce, and remarriage.

C. It appears from the Record of the Case that prior to the candidate's examination at Presbytery, the circumstances surrounding his prior adultery, divorce, and remarriage were not fully disclosed to the pulpit committee, the Session, and the congregation of Thomson Presbyterian Church. The presbytery should have investigated to determine if the congregation had been aware of the circumstances of his divorce and remarriage when they called him.

D. *BCO* 34-8 requires that in order for a deposed man to be restored to office there must be a "general sentiment of the church [is] strongly in his favor." It has not been demonstrated that there is a strong sentiment beyond the local church level to restore this candidate to the office of minister. While it is not clear from the Record of the Case that the candidate was deposed, the general principle of strong approbation by the church at large as contained in *BCO* 34-8 does apply to this case.

In remanding this matter back to the Presbytery of original jurisdiction, we do not wish to impede the work of an acceptable candidate for the ministry nor usurp the proper role of the lower court. However, in order to determine the issues, additional examination and evidence is necessary prior to this appellate body making a judgment of whether or not proper care has been taken in this matter.

Note: Subsequent to the SJC's meeting substantive correspondence was received from one party who was not satisfied with the "progress report" (cf. Letter of 12/12/96). At their January 8-9, 1996 meeting, the Officers of the SJC acted to "bring the letter and attachments to the attention of the two members of the SJC who have been given the task of perfecting the wording of the judgment in this case before it come before the March meeting of the SJC. It is the recommendation of the Officers of the SJC that the March meeting of the SJC evaluate the comments...in arriving at the

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wording of the decision..." (Ellipses are used in this case to avoid bringing up the very issues which we believe could be prejudicial.)

The committee assigned to draft the decision believes that this material that the Officers voted to send to us should not be considered until the other party is provided copies of same and is allowed to respond directly to the plenary SJC in a similar fashion. The authors believe that this is contrary to the SJC Manual and its rather iron-clad times and procedures for submission of materials. However, if this additional material is to be considered, then in the interests of fairness, if one party's additional brief is to be heard, therefore, the other party should receive copies of it and have the opportunity to respond. The Officers may wish to circulate the one party's brief to the other party and bring both sets of correspondence to the March 1997 stated meeting.

However, in present form, we believe that consideration of such correspondence goes beyond the Manual and could be constructed as either circularization or *ex parte* communication. As such, we request that the Officers *not* send out such material until the SJC has had an opportunity to act on this procedural issue.

This decision was originally drafted in committee by LeRoy Ferguson. David Hall and Paul Fowler drafted the final version. Submitted on 1/29/97 by David Hall

V. Voting on Proposed Decision

Approved by the SJC: 12 Concur, 4 Dissent, 4 Absent, 2 Recused, March 7, 1997

8. **That the Recommendation of the SJC in the Case 96-3 John T. DeBardeleben III Memorial (Reference from 24th GA) be approved.**

Adopted

JOHN T. DeBARDELEBEN III MEMORIAL

CASE 96-3

The Standing Judicial Commission files this Report and recommendation with the 25th General Assembly on the Memorial from John T. Debardeleben III alleging "important delinquencies" and "unconstitutional proceedings" in actions of the Session of the Peace Valley Church, a congregation of Philadelphia Presbytery, PCA." The 24th General Assembly referred this Memorial to The Standing Judicial Commission for action. The Commission notes that this referral is not a judicial case although some previous related matters have been the subject of judicial proceedings.

In accordance BCO 40-5 the Session of Peace Valley Church and Philadelphia Presbytery were cited to appear before the Standing Judicial Commission at its October Stated Meeting. Mr. DeBardeleben appeared in person and by his representative to review the matters contained in his Memorial.

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I. Facts relating to the Memorial

1. On March 27, 1993, Philadelphia Presbytery appointed a judicial commission to investigate and adjudicate, as necessary, problems regarding the marriage of TE John T. DeBardeleben.
2. During May, June, and July, 1993, the commission met, investigated the matter and after trial, found Mr. DeBardeleben guilty of sexual immorality; physical abuse and a pattern of verbal and psychological abuse of his wife; hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession; and violation of ordination vows. The Commission deposed him from the office of Teaching Elder and indefinitely suspended him from the Sacraments of the Church.
3. The Commission by a 4-to-3-vote concluded that Mrs. DeBardeleben had grounds for “divorce on the basis of Sexual Immorality as committed against her....”
4. Philadelphia Presbytery, at its September 11, 1993, meeting approved the Commission’s report with the exception of the item relating to Mrs. DeBardeleben’s grounds for divorce. Presbytery defeated a motion to approved the Commission’s finding regarding divorce. A subsequent motion that Mrs. DeBardeleben did not have biblical grounds for divorce also was defeated.
5. Presbytery, however, did approve a motion advising Mrs. DeBardeleben “to seek and submit to the counsel of her local session as to whether or not she has biblical ground for divorce....”
6. During the fall and winter of 1993, the Session of Peace Valley Church undertook a study of the biblical issues of divorce and the particulars of this case.
7. On October 6, 1993, Mr. DeBardeleben asked to be informed of when the PVC Session would take up the question and asked to be present in person and with representative for the deliberation.
8. The Session determined that “*de novo*” trial on the matter of grounds for divorce was not required since Mr. DeBardeleben had already been tried, found guilty, and deposed from the ministry by Philadelphia Presbytery. The Session so advised Mr. DeBardeleben.
9. On October 14, 1993, Mr. Debardeleben repeated his request and raised the issue of procedural irregularities against which complaint could be made to Presbytery if he were not allowed to be present.
10. The Peace Valley Session reiterated its position and began the process of reviewing the matter of divorce.
11. During the fall of 1993, Mr. DeBardeleben joined the Princeton Presbyterian Church, a congregation of New Jersey Presbytery, thereby removing himself from the jurisdiction of Philadelphia Presbytery.
12. PVC Session, having reviewed the issue of biblical grounds for divorce and the trial record, concluded at its meeting on February 10, 1994, that Mrs. DeBardeleben was “...found to have biblical grounds for divorce on the basis of sexual immorality committed by Mr. DeBardeleben.” The Session’s determination was communicated to both Mr. and Mrs. DeBardeleben.

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13. On March 11, 1994, Mr. DeBardeleben requested the opportunity to be heard by the Session and to bring his pastor and another representative.
14. The Peace Valley Session agreed to reconsider its decision and agreed to meet with Mr. DeBardeleben and his pastor, but denied his request to bring an additional representative.
15. On April 7, 1994, Mr. DeBardeleben and his pastor met with the PVC Session and presented his views and arguments relating the matter of Mrs. DeBardeleben's biblical grounds for divorce.
16. On April 14, 1994, the PVC Session formally reconsidered its conclusion regarding Mrs. DeBardeleben's biblical grounds for divorce. The Session concluded that, "...having considered his [Mr. DeBardeleben's] arguments and the material presented in various papers, we reaffirm our previous position that Deborah DeBardeleben is found to have biblical grounds for divorce."
17. On May 10, 1994, Mr. DeBardeleben complained against the action of PVC Session to both Philadelphia and New Jersey Presbyteries.
18. At its meeting of May 14, 1994, Philadelphia Presbytery found Mr. DeBardeleben's May 10th letter not to be a complaint as such and voted "...not to received the communication..."
19. New Jersey Presbytery at its September 17, 1994, meeting appointed a commission "...to correspond with Philadelphia Presbytery and to seek some means of resolution by adjudicating this matter in the Philadelphia Presbytery. If such communication fails, the Commission should present a memorial to be considered by Presbytery."
20. In March, 1995, representatives of Philadelphia and New Jersey Presbyteries met and reviewed the matter. The representatives of New Jersey Presbytery subsequently advised Philadelphia Presbytery that they "...went away from that meeting feeling as though all of our questions had been answered. We are going to recommend to our Presbytery that there be no further investigation of this matter in that you and your committee did all that there was to do for the sake of Jack, his family, and Christ's Church."
21. At its May 20, 1995, meeting New Jersey Presbytery received the report of its Commission and voted to "...have no further part in this matter..."
22. On June 16, 1995, Mr. DeBardeleben wrote New Jersey Presbytery complaining against its decision to take no further action and suggesting that the matter be sent to the General Assembly as a Reference.
23. On May 23, 1995, the Stated Clerk of New Jersey Presbytery wrote the GA Stated Clerk asking the "...General Assembly to consider the time limit as beginning on that date (May 20, 1995)..."
24. On June 16, 1995, Mr. DeBardeleben wrote The Standing Judicial Commission asking that it receive his "complaint and schedule a forum to adjudicate it."
25. The Officers of the SJC met by telephone conference call on July 18, 1995, and determined to recommend to the next full meeting of the SJC that the Commission "should not accede to this case because it was not properly in order...either as a complaint (*BCO* 43-2), an appeal (*BCO* 42-4, or reference (*BCO* 41-1)." That determination was confirmed by the full Standing Judicial

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Commission at its March, 1996, meeting and adopted by the 24th General Assembly.

26. On May 9, Mr. DeBardeleben sent a Memorial to the 24th General Assembly. Said Memorial was referred to the Standing Judicial Commission which considered the matter at its October, 1996 meeting.

II. Statement of the Issues

1. The Memorial at hand alleges "important delinquencies and unconstitutional proceedings" on the part of Peace Valley Church Session. Specifically it is alleged that PVC Session erred procedurally in not allowing Mr. DeBardeleben to appear prior to making its determination that Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce.
2. The Memorial also alleges that PVC Session erred in the substance of its decision by going beyond the Scripture and the PCA standards in its finding regarding divorce.
3. A third issue raised by the Memorial related to whether Mr. DeBardeleben was improperly denied access to appropriate courts of the church.

III. Opinion

1. As regards the procedural question a review of relevant documents and oral presentations in this matter, clearly shows that the Session of Peace Valley Church properly did not view the matter of determining whether Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce to be the subject of a trial or hearing.

Philadelphia Presbytery had tried and found Mr. DeBardeleben guilty of sins involving (1) sexual immorality, (2) physical abuse and a pattern of verbal and psychological abuse of his wife, (3) hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, and (4) violation of the ordination vows. In the view of PVC Session, a retrial of the case was not warranted; and therefore, Mr. DeBardeleben's initial request to appear before the PVC was refused.

On February 10, 1994, the PVC Session concluded that based on a review of the issue of biblical grounds for divorce and the trial evidence, Mrs. DeBardeleben did have biblical grounds for divorce. Subsequently, however, the Session agreed to reconsider its decision and prior to doing so it met with Mr. DeBardeleben and his pastor. After considering both the written material provided and the oral arguments, the PVC Session reaffirmed its decision that based on Mr. DeBardeleben's trial and conviction of charges of sexual immorality, Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce. That decision was communicated to both Mr. and Mrs. DeBardeleben.

2. Without providing a detailed review of the rather sensitive and delicate particulars raised at Mr. DeBardeleben's trial, the Standing Judicial Commission is of the opinion that the PVC Session acted within the parameters of *BCO* 11-4 in concluding the matter before it.

3. As regards to the question of a higher court review of the decision and Mr. DeBardeleben's access to appropriate courts of the Church, several matters must be considered. The first related to his standing before Philadelphia Presbytery.

Though deposed for cause Mr. DeBardeleben continued on the rolls of Presbytery. He was advised of this fact by letter from the Stated Clerk of Presbytery on October 14, 1993:

The *BCO* stipulates that when a teaching elder is deposed from office, he shall be assigned to membership in some particular church, subject to its Session's approval. In view of your relocation and residence out of the Presbytery's bounds, Presbytery voted to commit this assignment of membership to its Assistance and Membership Committee. They are to be in touch with you to assist you and make the assignment when you are ready. Until then it is Presbytery's judgment that you continue on the roll of Presbytery, in a similar status to members of a church which is dissolved--Presbytery holds their membership for a time and grants letters as the individuals are ready to join new churches. [emphasis added]

At the time of this communication, Mr. DeBardeleben was aware that the question of whether Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce was in the hands of the PVC Session. He had written the pastor of Peace Valley Church on October 6, 1993, "I would like to be informed as to when the Session of the Peace Valley Church will take up its consideration of the marital issues pending between my wife and me."

The PVC pastor responded on the following day, "PVC's Session will begin to consider the question, 'does Deborah DeBardeleben have Biblical grounds to divorce her husband Jack DeBardeleben?' at its regular Thursday morning meeting on October 21, 1993."

In his response of October 14, 1993, Mr. DeBardeleben wrote, "I am also requesting that you delay considering this question until after I have met with you, lest the whole matter be referred to Presbytery on procedural grounds." [emphasis added] It is clear that at this point Mr. DeBardeleben was aware of the possibility of taking the matter to a higher court for review.

Mr. DeBardeleben had all the procedures and access available to him (including representation) that any member did. For his own reasons, he chose not to use in a timely fashion certain constitutional procedures that were available to him. When a member of a court fails to lodge timely complaints, the higher courts do not have an absolute obligation to reverse a lower court's action merely because a complainant is not satisfied with the outcome and wishes for further review.

In the final analysis, Mr. DeBardeleben's lack of standing before Philadelphia Presbytery was a matter of his own doing. He joined the Princeton Presbyterian Church in New Jersey Presbytery (where the suspension from the Sacraments was removed by

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the Princeton Session ¹) even though he knew that a matter of vital interest to him was pending before the PVC Session.

Further, while he no longer had standing before Philadelphia Presbytery, his representative did and could have complained against Peace Valley Church's actions, particularly at the time of Presbytery's approval of PVC's minutes.

Instead, Mr. DeBardleben, himself, complained to Philadelphia Presbytery, where he had no standing and to New Jersey Presbytery, which had no jurisdictions.

IV. Conclusion

In light of these circumstances, it is the recommendation of the Standing Judicial Commission that the General Assembly declare that all matters relating to John T. DeBardleben, III now or previously pending before the General Assembly, are ended, concluded and terminated.

V. Voting on Proposed Recommendation:

Approved by the SJC: 17 Concurring, 3 Recused, 4 absent, 11/22/96

VI. Concurring Opinion

This opinion concurs in the majority's recommendation in this case. This matter first came before the 24th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in 1996. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Standing Judicial Commission that the case not be heard. *John T. DeBardleben III, vs. Philadelphia Presbytery, No. 95-3, M24GA*, pp. 177-178. In essence, it was found that Mr. DeBardleben had no standing as a member of one PCA congregation in one presbytery to raise a complaint under BCO 43 against an action of a session of another PCA congregation in another presbytery.

A separate concurring opinion to the 24th General Assembly noted the **apparent** injustice which was occurring in not allowing the review by higher courts of a very significant action by a lower court directly affecting the marriage of two members of the PCA. *Ibid* at pp. 178-184. Although agreeing that Mr. DeBardleben could not technically enter a complaint, the concurring opinion in *dicta* noted the existence of the memorial in BCO 40-5, which appeared to offer a path through the procedural maze which had **appeared** to confound Mr. DeBardleben's effort to seek higher court review of a Session's decision directly affecting his marriage. The memorial now before the Assembly was filed thereafter.

Without dissent, the SJC in response to this memorial has recommended that all further proceedings in this matter be stayed. This decision, in effect, recommends finalizing a decision by a session, which decision was never reviewed for correctness by

¹ At the time of this case the censure of suspension from the sacraments could be reversed by a session, without consulting with or even notifying the court administering the suspension. *The Book of Church Order* at 37-9 was amended in 1994 to include the following:

If the censure(s) does not include excommunication, the presbytery inflicting the censure(s) shall retain the authority to remove the censure(s) and, at its discretion, restore him to office. This authority is retained by the presbytery even when a divested or deposed minister is assigned, under the provisions of BCO 46-8, to a session.

a presbytery or a General Assembly. The session's decision was that one of its members had biblical grounds to divorce her husband, who was a member of a sister PCA congregation in a sister presbytery. Because this concurrence in the present recommendation seems at odds with the earlier position in *DeBardleben I* stated in *dicta*, it was felt necessary to issue this concurring opinion.

The facts have been ably set forth in the recommendation of the majority. Only those critical to this concurrence will be reiterated herein.

Important Facts

By a vote of 4-3, the Commission appointed by Philadelphia Presbytery found that the "cumulative effect" of the sexual sins committed by Mr. DeBardleben gave his wife biblical grounds for divorce. By a vote of 18-29, the Presbytery in September of 1993 failed to adopt this judgment by its Commission. A second motion was proposed that Presbytery find that Mrs. DeBardleben did not have biblical grounds for divorce. This motion was also defeated. Philadelphia Presbytery then voted to refer the matter as to whether biblical cause for divorce existed to the Session of Peace Valley Presbyterian Church where Mrs. DeBardleben was a member. Peace Valley PC is a member of Philadelphia Presbytery.

After the ecclesiastical disciplinary process had been completed by Philadelphia Presbytery, Mr. DeBardleben submitted to the ecclesiastical discipline imposed upon him. The thirty days period in which he could have appealed the Presbytery's adjudication passed without an appeal from Mr. DeBardleben, who did not contest the discipline and deposition imposed upon him by Presbytery. Most importantly, Mr. DeBardleben did not file a complaint against Presbytery's action in refusing to find that Mrs. DeBardleben did **not** have biblical grounds for divorce. During this time, Mr. DeBardleben remained a member of Philadelphia Presbytery, and he did have standing to enter complaints against actions by that court. Neither Mr. DeBardleben nor any other member of Philadelphia Presbytery entered a complaint against the actions by Presbytery in September of 1993.

Following his censure and deposition, Mr. DeBardleben began attending the Princeton Presbyterian Church which is a member of New Jersey Presbytery. After a season, the Princeton Session accepted Mr. DeBardleben's confession of sin, and his suspension from the Lord's Supper was lifted after he had exhibited the proper fruits of repentance. Mr. DeBardleben was accepted as a member of Princeton PC, thus restoring his visible membership within the Bride of Christ. This restoration was in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ by one of His duly constituted courts and was a judgment entitled to respect and deference by all faithful members of the Church.

The Peace Valley Session took action in early 1994 finding that its member did have biblical grounds for divorcing her husband. No member of that congregation entered a complaint against that action. Mr. DeBardleben did attempt to enter a complaint, but it was not received, because he was not a member of the Peace Valley PC. His attempts to seek review of the Peace Valley Session decision from both Philadelphia Presbytery and the New Jersey Presbytery were, likewise, unsuccessful.

The concurring opinion in *DeBardleben I* was concerned that procedure was being inadvertently elevated above the higher mandates of justice and mercy. The

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concurring opinion believed that a member of the PCA was entitled to review of a decision by a PCA court, which decision directly affected the marriage covenant between two members of the PCA. The concurring opinion opined that the memorial (*BCO 40-5*) would provide the procedural review mechanism, if complaint and appeal were unavailable. At the hearing held on this memorial in October 1996, the SJC determined without dissent that all further proceedings in this matter should be stayed.

Reasoning

Justice should never be circumvented in the courts because of procedure. The concurrence in *DeBardeleben I* was concerned that justice appeared to have been thwarted because of technical rules of procedure. The concurring opinion would not countenance such an apparent injustice. Because of critical facts emphasized during the argument and consideration of this case, this concurring opinion is now persuaded that Mr. DeBardeleben **did** have the ability to seek review of the decision which ultimately resulted in the Church's sanctioning of his wife's divorce. He did not, however, timely avail himself of that review.

The concurring opinion in *DeBardeleben I* opined that the procedural vehicle known as the memorial should allow higher court review of the decision by the Peace Valley Session adverse to Mr. DeBardeleben. The memorial is set forth in *BCO 40-5* thusly:

“When any court having appellate jurisdiction shall be advised, either by the records of the court next below **or by memorial**, either with or without protest, or by any other satisfactory method, of any important delinquency or grossly unconstitutional proceedings of such court, the first step shall be to cite the court alleged to have offended to appear by representative or in writing, at a specified time and place, and to show what it has done or failed to do in the case in question.

“The court thus issuing the citation may reverse or redress the proceedings of the court below in other than judicial cases; or it may censure the delinquent court; or it may remit the whole matter to the delinquent court with an injunction to take it up and dispose of it in a constitutional manner; or it may stay all further proceedings in the case; (*sic*) as circumstances may require.”

To implement *BCO 40-5* requires that there be an “important delinquency or grossly unconstitutional proceeding” of a lower court. This concurring opinion cannot find that there was a grossly unconstitutional proceeding by any of the lower courts. Mr. DeBardeleben was not a member of Peace Valley PC or Philadelphia Presbytery when the Peace Valley Session made its judgment declaring Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce. Since the Peace Valley Session took an action, only a member of that court could file a complaint against its action. Therefore, Mr. DeBardeleben had no constitutional standing to challenge the action.

The question then becomes whether there was an “important delinquency” requiring the Assembly to require the review sought by Mr. DeBardeleben. The concurring opinion in *DeBardeleben I* initially thought that such an important delinquency had existed. It appeared unjust to not allow Mr. DeBardeleben to seek

higher court review of the Session's decision finding that his wife had biblical grounds to divorce him. Not without prayerful and agonizing consideration, that position has been abandoned in this concurring opinion.

This concurring opinion believes that the concept of "important delinquency" is different from "grossly unconstitutional proceeding." It is reasonable to conclude that "important delinquency" encompasses a situation which may not necessarily be unconstitutional as defined in our *BCO*. This concurring opinion concludes that "important delinquency" is sufficient to encompass an act of injustice. Under this interpretation, the court receiving the memorial has authority to take the actions available under *BCO* 40-5, which it may deem proper under the circumstances. Under this provision, the higher court may find that an act of injustice has occurred which should be corrected, which may not necessarily have been unconstitutional under our *BCO*. The very difficult issue in this case was in determining what is biblically required under these particular facts. That is, has an important delinquency or injustice occurred which requires further action by the courts in this case?

God's Word mandates that His courts render just judgments. Deuteronomy 16:18. Also, see 2 Samuel 23:3. Our Lord requires all of His people to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly. Micah 6:8. These are infallible, inerrant commands from a just and righteous God. They are not suggestions or guidelines; they are commands. Provisions in our constitution cannot be interpreted contrary to God's Word, for they are "subject to and subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments." Preface to the *BCO*, section III, The Constitution Defined. Therefore, this concurring opinion remains convinced that our constitution cannot be interpreted to subvert the very justice it was designed to achieve.

Our *BCO* was designed to ensure justice in the courts of the Lord Jesus Christ, not to deny it. The judiciary cannot construe the *BCO* in a hyper-technical fashion which would circumvent the very justice which the Church is mandated to provide. Such cannot be countenanced in the ecclesiastical courts of a perfect God.

The question then focuses upon whether an "important delinquency" existed which requires further action in this case. In a very close call, this concurring opinion believes no important delinquency occurred because of several critical factors. Mr. DeBardeleben was still a member of Philadelphia Presbytery when it took an important action. Following the Presbytery's refusal to accept its Commission's judgment that Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce, a motion was made that Philadelphia Presbytery find that the sins committed by Mr. DeBardeleben did **not** constitute biblical grounds for divorce. This is the very judgment which Mr. DeBardeleben requests the ecclesiastical courts to now make. The record reflects that Presbytery refused to adopt that motion. At that point in time, Mr. DeBardeleben had standing to complain against Presbytery's refusal to grant the motion. He had until thirty days thereafter to file a complaint. He did not do so.

Assuredly, Mr. DeBardeleben can provide good reasons for not filing a complaint. He had just been deposed from the ministry. He had repented of his sins and accepted without appeal his deposition. He probably had the hope that the Peace Valley Session would agree with his theological argument that his sins did not give his wife biblical grounds for divorce. However, Mr. DeBardeleben was not a member of

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Peace Valley PC, and he had no standing to complain against its actions. He was a member of Philadelphia Presbytery when it took an action adverse to him. He did have standing to complain against its action in refusing to find Mrs. DeBardeleben did not have biblical grounds for divorce, and he did not do so. When Philadelphia Presbytery transferred the issue to Peace Valley PC, it removed the issue from its court to another court. Mr. DeBardeleben had no standing to complain against actions by the Peace Valley Session. He could have complained against Philadelphia Presbytery's action, but he did not. The opportunity for review which this writer initially believed never existed did, in fact, exist. Mr. DeBardeleben did not timely avail himself of the opportunity to complain against Presbytery's actions.

While the actions of lower courts are subject to review by the higher courts, those actions become final and binding judgments on the members of the lower court unless a timely complaint or appeal is made as is appropriate. When Philadelphia Presbytery remanded the issue to the Peace Valley PC, it was vesting that court with the authority to determine whether Mrs. DeBardeleben had biblical grounds for divorce. Mr. DeBardeleben could have entered a complaint at that time against that action by Philadelphia Presbytery. Neither he nor any other member of Philadelphia Presbytery did so. The action thereby became a final action. It does not appear prudent under these peculiar facts to utilize the memorial as a vehicle to allow review of an issue which was already subject to review.

The jurisdictional requirements in our *BCO* exist for sound reasons. The time delays set forth therein are reasonable and cannot be tampered with unconstitutionally. The particular facts of this case do not warrant a finding that an "important delinquency" occurred mandating further action in this matter. This judgment is made acknowledging with acute awareness the fallibility of men and church courts. WCF XXXI, section III, and Preface to the *BCO*, section II, Preliminary Principles (7).

Biblical Admonitions

It is clear that Mr. DeBardeleben committed serious sins. It is equally clear that the Princeton Session, which has oversight and accountability over Mr. DeBardeleben (Hebrews 13:17), has found that he has repented and been restored to the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. For that, the Church should rejoice. At the hearing before the SJC, it became manifest that anger continues to exist toward Mr. DeBardeleben by some members of Philadelphia Presbytery. It appears that the latter disagree with the Princeton Session's judgment that Mr. DeBardeleben is repentant and has done what he can to exhibit his repentance. Those individuals appeared to exhibit offense over the **past** sins committed by Mr. DeBardeleben and by their judgment that Mr. DeBardeleben remains impenitent. This is a particularly troubling situation and needs to be resolved for the glory and honor of Christ and His Church. These wounds should not be allowed to fester.

It is true that Mr. DeBardeleben's sins were heinous, but they are not sins which cannot be covered by the blood of our Savior. Mercy is freely given to those who confess and forsake their sins. Proverbs 28:13. It must not be forgotten that the Princeton Session has oversight over Mr. DeBardeleben. It has found him penitent. It has accepted his confession, and it has determined that Mr. DeBardeleben has turned

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from his past sins. Others should not attempt to make an independent finding contrary thereto, for to do so is to violate scriptural mandates. If new offenses are perceived to exist, then individuals must proceed in a biblical and constitutional manner in dealing with those.

At the hearing before the SJC, the parties made accusations against one another of misstating facts. These are serious accusations. Inadvertent misstatements are one thing; deliberate misstatements are an entirely different matter, for they constitute lying. If a brother believes he has been sinned against, he must follow the commands of our Master. There is no other option. We must truly take care that we honor and esteem others more highly than we esteem ourselves. Romans 12:10. It is important for us to protect the good name of our brothers and to presume no evil. We are to bear gently with one another. Ephesians 4:1-3. Where sin exists with which we cannot bear, however, we must confront in accordance with Scripture. Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3 and Galatians 6:1. We may not speak evil of one another. James 4:11. Our instructions are clear and cannot be ignored with impunity.

It is the prayer of this concurring opinion, that reconciliation will be achieved between Mr. DeBardeleben and any others who may still be offended with him. If sin remains, the offender needs to confess his sins and seek reconciliation. If one is offended, he must privately confront the offender. Once confronted, the offender must repent and ask forgiveness. All children of the Lord Jesus Christ are to freely offer forgiveness to a brother who asks for it. Those who show no mercy will be judged without mercy. James 2:13. We who do not forgive our brothers cannot honestly repeat our Lord's prayer asking our Father to forgive our debts *just as* we forgive our debtors. Only our omniscient God is the Judge of the heart. Jeremiah 17:9-10. We must take care that we do not unwittingly attempt to assume His role.

The Princeton Session has made a judgment that Mr. DeBardeleben has repented of his previous sins, and it has restored him into the visible Church. That is a judgment by a duly constituted court of the Lord Jesus Christ which must be honored. It cannot be ignored. Mr. DeBardeleben must now be subject to the judgment of the Peace Valley Session declaring his wife to have biblical grounds for divorce. That will, undoubtedly, be a difficult thing to do. May he be given sufficient grace to submit. All members of the PCA must now be subject to the judgment of the Princeton Session that Mr. DeBardeleben is penitent for his past sins and that he has been restored to the Kingdom of God. If other offenses are perceived, they need to be approached in a biblical fashion. No other recourse is available to faithful members of our Lord's Church. May all good men honor the commands which have been so clearly set before us all. May God be glorified in this sad case. May He continue to have mercy upon us all.

/s/ M. Dale Peacock
November 21, 1996

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9. **That the Judgment of the SJC in the Case 96-4 Larsen vs. Pacific Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.** *Adopted*

**RAY LARSEN
VS.
PACIFIC PRESBYTERY**

CASE 96-4

I. Summary of the Facts

1. On Tuesday evening, January 23, 1996 (1/23/96), the congregation of Calvary Presbyterian Church of Glendale, California met at the call of the Session to hear a report of the investigative commission of Pacific Presbytery, to receive information on a lawsuit in which the church was involved, and to take action on the resignation of TE David Tickner, associate pastor of Calvary Church.
2. During the course of this congregational meeting, RE Ray Larsen, a member of Calvary Church, alleges certain irregularities occurred about which he filed complaint to Pacific Presbytery on January 25, 1996 (1/25/96).
3. Pacific Presbytery received the communication of RE Larsen's complaint against the conduct of the congregational meeting on January, 27, 1996 (1/27/96), and referred the complaint to the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Glendale judicial commission (also referred to as the investigative commission).
4. Following Presbytery meetings on February 20, 1996, May 17-18, 1996, and June 11, 1996, during which the record indicates Presbytery did not take up the matter of RE Larsen's complaint, RE Larsen filed complaint on June 11, 1996, to the General Assembly against Presbytery's inaction on his complaint of January 27, 1996.

II. Statement of the Issues

1. Did Pacific Presbytery err in the manner in which it handled RE Larsen's complaint of January 25, 1996 (1/25/96)?
2. Did the Moderator of the congregational meeting of Calvary Presbyterian Church on January 23, 1996 (1/23/96) err in his conduct of the meeting by:
 - a. Not allowing a motion to table?
 - b. Not permitting RE Larsen to offer his explanations about the cost of the lawsuit during the course of the congregational meeting?
 - c. Not recognizing an appeal from a decision of the Moderator?

III. The Judgment

1. Yes, Pacific Presbytery did err in the manner in which it handled RE Larsen's complaint.
2. No, the Moderator did not err in his conduct of the congregational meeting of Calvary Presbyterian Church on January 23, 1996.

IV. Reasoning and Opinion

Complainant alleges and the record of the case confirms that Presbytery has not acted on RE Larsen's complaint since he filed it with Presbytery on January 27, 1995 (1/27/96). His complaint was assigned to the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Glendale Judicial Commission on January 27, 1996 (1/27/96). The Presbytery did not take up the matter of RE Larsen's complaint at its February 20, 1996; May 17-18, 1996; or June 11, 1996 meetings.

The Judicial Commission did not give response to RE Larsen's complaint until July 13, 1996.

BCO 43-2 states in part, "The court shall consider the complaint at its next stated meeting, or at a called meeting prior to its next stated meeting." Presbytery's respondent acknowledged in his brief: "We are guilty of not answering the complaint in the prescribed time limit."

The old saying, "justice delayed is justice denied" certainly applies here. Adding untimely delay in a church situation which has been tense and difficult has only added to the tension and difficulty. The unnecessary delay has tied up the Complainant's life since he has had to wait for some kind of response and resolution to the matter. We acknowledge the Respondent's explanation that the task of the Commission was great because of a large volume of business, and appreciate the Respondent's honest admission of failure to deal with this Complaint in a timely manner. This explanation and admission does not, however, alleviate the fact of the additional frustration added to the Complainant because of the failure to act on his Complaint in a timely fashion. *BCO 43-2* requires that complaints be handled in a timely manner.

We have accepted the complaint against certain actions of the Moderator of the Calvary Presbyterian Church congregation meeting of January 23, 1996 (1/23/96), on the basis of *BCO 43-3*, "If, after considering a complaint, the court alleged to be delinquent or in error is of the opinion that it has not erred, and denies the complaint or fails to act on the complaint, the complainant may make complaint to the next higher court." (Emphasis added). We do not believe justice will be served by referring this back to Presbytery for proper action, so we have acted to answer RE Larsen's complaint.

RE Larsen complains that the Moderator did not allow a motion to table during the congregational meeting. The record of the case indicates that no motion was ever made and consequently never disallowed. Complainant acknowledges in his complaint: "While no motion was actually made, the clear impression was made that it would not be appropriate and that the proper action was to concur." *Roberts Rules of Order* do not require the Moderator to anticipate what motions might be made. A Moderator cannot be faulted for not allowing a motion when no such motion was made. RE Larsen, himself as a member of the congregation had every opportunity to present such a motion if he were so inclined, though the record of the case indicated he did not. Therefore, we deny this specification of error.

RE Larsen complains, secondly, that the Moderator did not allow him to present information about the financial aspects of the lawsuit. The minutes of the Session

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meeting on Monday, January 22, 1996 (1/22/96), indicate the following, "It was agreed that discussion should be limited regarding the lawsuit, that the call was for information only per Minutes of 1/9/96. The agenda was set for 1. Election of Moderator and Clerk; 2. Report of commission; 3. Information on lawsuit; 4. Action on Resignation of TE David Tickner."

There is nothing in the record which indicates the Session had by motion authorized RE Larsen to give information on the cost of the lawsuit during the congregation meeting. Consequently, the Moderator was not obligated to recognize RE Larsen for the purpose of giving financial information on the lawsuit. Therefore, this specification of error is denied.

RE Larsen's final specification of error is the Moderator's refusal to recognize RE Larsen's appeal from the decision of the Moderator not to allow him to discuss the financial aspect of the lawsuit. At this point not having the minutes of the congregational meeting as part of the record of the case, we are relying upon the interim Session's answer to RE Larsen's complaint dated July 13, 1996, which was admitted to the record with the concurrence of all parties.

In this response we find this particular citation relevant: "In a subsequent discussion with the Session, the Moderator explained that since he heard no second to the motion to appeal, and since he thought that the issue had been addressed twice, it was time to close the meeting." We conclude, since the appeal was not seconded, the Moderator was not obligated to put the question to the congregation since *Roberts Rules* specifies under APPEAL item 4. "Must be seconded." (*Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* [1981], p. 220). We, therefore, deny this specification of error.

/s/ Mark Belz, Chairman

/s/ Paul Kooistra

/s/ John Ragland, Secretary

(This preliminary judgment was written by John Ragland with the concurrence of RE Belz and TE Kooistra.)

V. Voting on Proposed Decisions

Approved by the SJC: 18 Concur, 2 Recused, 1 Abstain, 3 Absent,
March 8, 1997.

10. **That the Findings of the SJC in the Case 96-5 Paul Jones vs. Central Florida Presbytery (Complaint) be approved.** *Adopted*

**FINDINGS ON CASE 96-5
PAUL JONES
VS.
CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESBYTERY**

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I. Summary of the Facts

1. The January 8-9 meeting of the Officers received advice that Mr. Jones had yet to get his complaint in order, notwithstanding the detailed advice which was provided to Mr. Jones by TE Michael Bolus, Secretary of SJC, in December 1996. The Officers deferred further consideration of this case until February 1997 to ensure that Mr. Jones had a full 30 days to put his complaint in order.
2. At the February 14-5, 1997, meeting, the Officers considered the revised RoC (dated January 29, 1997). The Officers had also received numerous other faxes and letters from Mr. Jones all of which were modified copies of previous submissions and none of which responded directly to the advice Mr. Bolus had given in December 1996.
3. The Officers noted that the issues set out in the December letter do not appear to be addressed in the correspondence from Mr. Jones, namely that a complaint needs to make accusations about specific actions of the Presbytery.
4. Secondly, Mr. Jones was given from December 1996 to February 1997 to get his complaint in order. He has sent many letters and faxes but he continues to focus his accusations against the actions of people in the Presbytery and the Orangewood Session but does not focus upon specific actions of the Presbytery which are complainable.
5. In addition the Officers noted that Mr. Jones is under censure — indefinite suspension from the sacraments by the Orangewood Session (RoC pages 96-97, and Additional RoC, page 187, Minutes of the Presbytery page 187) and under BCO 31-8 the court is enjoined to exercise very great caution before receiving accusations from such a person.

II. Disposition of the Case

Thus the Officers recommended that this case be not found in order.

III. Voting on the Proposed Findings

Approved by the SJC: 18 Concurring, 2 Recused, 3 Absent, 1 Abstain,
March 3, 1997

11. **That the Recommendation of the SJC in the Case 96-7 Reference Re. Stuart Merriam from Tennessee Valley Presbytery (Reference) be approved.**

Adopted

**RESPONSE TO REFERENCE FROM TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY
RE: STUART MERRIAM**

CASE 96-7

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I. Report from the Officers:

1. After the Tennessee Valley Presbytery received information concerning the decision of the SJC in the Case 95-10 Merriam v. Tennessee Valley Presbytery (which referred the judicial case against Stuart Merriam back to the Tennessee Valley Presbytery for rehearing) the Tennessee Valley Presbytery determined to refer the matter of rehearing the case back to the SJC with a request that the SJC rehear the case from the beginning.
2. On December 13, 1996, the Stated Clerk of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery (J. Render Caines) wrote to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly requesting, on behalf of his Presbytery, that the SJC take up the case against Stuart Merriam and make final disposition.

II. Recommendation and Vote by the Commission

A substitute to deny the request to accede to Tennessee Valley Presbytery was adopted: 16 concurring, 4 dissenting, 1 recused and 3 absent, 3/8/97.

25-17 Voting on Book of Church Order Amendments

The Assembly moved to consideration of amendments to the *Book of Church Order* proposed by the Twenty-Fourth General Assembly.

ITEM 1. That *BCO* Preface II, Preliminary Principles be as follows:

[see *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-17, A, 2, pages 312f]

- a. Substitute principle 8 with the following:
 “8. Since ecclesiastical discipline must be purely moral or spiritual in its object, and not attended with any civil effects, it can derive no force whatever, but from its own justice, the approbation of an impartial public, and the countenance and blessing of the great Head of the Church.”
- b. Add the following paragraph as the unnumbered conclusion to the entire section on Preliminary Principles:
 “If the preceding scriptural principles be steadfastly adhered to, the vigor and strictness of government and discipline, applied with pastoral prudence and Christian love, will contribute to the glory and well-being of the Church.”

Adopted

FOR	44	AGAINST	5
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN VOTE	
ASCENSION	33	0	1	+
CALVARY	1	67	1	-
CENTRAL CAROLINA	50	0	1	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA	43	0	0	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	44	1	0	+
COVENANT	48	1	3	+

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EASTERN CANADA	10	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	25	2	1	+
EVANGEL	53	0	4	+
FELLOWSHIP	41	0	0	+
GRACE	41	0	5	+
GREAT LAKES	18	3	3	+
GULF COAST	35	0	4	+
HEARTLAND	28	0	2	+
HERITAGE				
ILLIANA	18	2	0	+
JAMES RIVER	30	3	3	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	18	1	3	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	10	0	2	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	15	1	1	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	69	0	1	+
MISSOURI	10	4	5	+
NASHVILLE	33	0	0	+
NEW JERSEY	4	18	7	-
NEW RIVER	25	1	2	+
NORTH GEORGIA	34	16	10	+
NORTH TEXAS	26	2	0	+
NORTHEAST	31	3	4	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	7	11	2	-
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	18	6	0	+
PACIFIC	11	0	2	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	35	0	2	+
PALMETTO	35	3	1	+
PHILADELPHIA	32	1	0	+
PITTSBURGH	27	0	4	+
POTOMAC	68	0	0	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	13	0	1	+
SIOUXLANDS	15	0	0	+
SOUTH COAST	18	0	1	+
SOUTH TEXAS	26	4	8	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	42	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	3	9	0	-
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	26	7	1	+
SOUTHWEST	11	4	1	+
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	36	0	2	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	24	0	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	24	0	3	+
WESTMINSTER	0	39	0	-

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 2. That *BCO* 6-5, 20-3, 24-3, 25-1, 25-2 and 25-3 be amended as follows:
 [see *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-58, III, 20, pp. 312f]

- a. Add a new *BCO* 6-5 to read:
 “6-5. A congregation may, at its discretion, set the minimum voting age for its communing members, provided it is not greater than eighteen (18) years of age. The congregation may also, at its discretion, set a different voting age for different matters provided it is not greater than eighteen (18) years of age.”
- b. Amend *BCO* 20-3 by adding to sentence 3, so as to read as follows:
 “All communing members in good and regular standing, **who have been entitled to vote by the congregation**, but no others, are entitled to vote in the churches to which they are respectively attached.”

Similarly, amend *BCO* 24-3 by adding to the first sentence so as to read as follows:
 “All communing members in good and regular standing, **who have been entitled to vote by the congregation**, but no others, are entitled to vote in the election of church officers in the churches to which they respectively belong.

- c. Add to *BCO* 25-1 the following sentence:
 “However, the congregation may, at its discretion, set the minimum age for its communing members in accord with *BCO* 6-5.”
- d. Add “**voting**” before “communing members” in *BCO* 25-2, a, b, c, d, and e.
- e. Amend *BCO* 25-3 twice so that it reads:
 “. . .resident **voting** communing members. . .”

On **Item 2**, a parliamentary inquiry was raised concerning the counting of abstentions in the determination of an issue when a majority vote is required. The Moderator ruled that, according to *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 1990 Edition, Sect. 43, p. 385, when a majority vote is required, it means more than half of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote, excluding blanks and abstentions. Based on this ruling, the votes of two Presbyteries (Fellowship and South Texas) were deemed to be “For”, rather than “Against”, thus providing the necessary number of Presbyteries in favor of this *BCO* amendment.

Nevertheless, on voting for these amendments, they were Defeated.

FOR	39	AGAINST	11
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN VOTE	
ASCENSION	2	32	0	-
CALVARY	34	31	2	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	36	14	2	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA	41	4	0	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	16	22	2	-
COVENANT	53	3	1	+
EASTERN CANADA	9	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	9	17	4	-
EVANGEL	53	7	1	+

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FELLOWSHIP	20	18	2	+
GRACE	34	8	1	+
GREAT LAKES	17	6	3	+
GULF COAST	24	14	3	+
HEARTLAND	26	0	4	+
HERITAGE	23	2	2	+
ILLIANA	18	2	0	+
JAMES RIVER	4	32	3	-
KOREAN CAPITOL	18	0	1	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	10	1	1	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	16	1	0	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	66	9	1	+
MISSOURI	18	1	1	+
NASHVILLE	32	1	0	+
NEW JERSEY	30	1	0	+
NEW RIVER	11	19	1	-
NORTH GEORGIA	51	9	2	+
NORTH TEXAS	26	7	1	+
NORTHEAST	26	12	5	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	13	7	1	+
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	27	0	0	+
PACIFIC	12	0	1	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	32	5	1	+
PALMETTO	19	40	0	-
PHILADELPHIA	31	4	2	+
PITTSBURGH	24	11	3	+
POTOMAC	44	3	3	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	10	3	1	+
SIOUXLANDS	14	0	1	+
SOUTH COAST	20	0	1	+
SOUTH TEXAS	18	15	5	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	4	36	1	-
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	13	1	1	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	45	0	0	+
SOUTHWEST	0	16	1	-
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	14	23	0	-
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	19	6	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	4	21	1	-
WESTMINSTER	9	31	0	-

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ITEM 3.** That *BCO* 15-1, 15-4, and 15-5 be amended as follows:
[See *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-17, B, 4, pp. 73-78]
- A. Substitute *BCO* 15-1 with the following:
“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. 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 in 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. 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 commissioned it.”
- B. Amend *BCO* 15-4, sentence 3, so as to read:
“Each class shall serve a four year term, **and each subsequent Assembly shall declare the Standing Judicial Commission as a whole to be its commission.**”
- C. Substitute *BCO* 15-5 with the following:
“15-5. 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 the case.
- b. In each case the Standing Judicial Commission 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 in the minutes of the General Assembly and shall be reported by the Stated Clerk to the next General Assembly. The judgment shall be effective from the time of its announcement to the parties.
- c. (1) If, within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of adjournment of a Standing 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 Standing Judicial Commission file written notice of their intention to file a minority decision with the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, and within twenty (20) days from the adjournment do file such a minority decision, such minority decisions shall be considered a minority report and shall be understood as defined by the Manual of the Standing Judicial Commission.
- (2) No such reference from the Standing Judicial Commission shall be considered by the General Assembly unless the report of the

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Standing Judicial Commission and the minority report have been mailed to the clerk of Session of each church at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

- (3) The Assembly shall act upon such a reference from the Standing Judicial Commission, in each case without question, discussion, debate, or amendment, as follows:
- a. The Standing Judicial Commission shall have 30 minutes to present its decision to the Assembly.
 - b. The minority shall have 30 minutes to present its decision to the Assembly.
 - c. The Standing Judicial Commission shall have 10 minutes to reply to the minority report.
 - d. The decision of the minority shall be proposed and the General Assembly shall, without question, discussion, debate, or amendment approve or disapprove of the minority report.
 - e. If the General Assembly disapproves the minority report, the General Assembly shall take up the decision of the Standing Judicial Commission without question, discussion, debate, or amendment, approve or disapprove of the decision of the Standing Judicial Commission.
- (4) If the General Assembly approves of a proposed decision, it shall be the decision of the General Assembly, and printed in its minutes. There may be no complaint or appeal from such a final decision of the General Assembly. 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, and in either instance the case shall be tried on the record as delivered to the stated clerk. Any such special commission shall then proceed to consider the case and shall report its decision, in like manner, to the General Assembly for its approval or disapproval. In any event, the full record of the case, including written testimony of witnesses, all documents, exhibits and papers shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk for permanent preservation.”

Adopted

FOR	45	AGAINST	5
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	VOTE
ASCENSION	29	1	4	+
CALVARY	66	0	1	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	50	1	4	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA	43	3	2	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	33	0	0	+
COVENANT	55	2	2	+
EASTERN CANADA	9	0	1	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	6	21	2	-
EVANGEL	64	0	2	+

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FELLOWSHIP	38	0	0	+
GRACE	28	6	6	+
GREAT LAKES	19	0	7	+
GULF COAST	31	0	6	+
HEARTLAND	28	0	2	+
HERITAGE	23	2	4	+
ILLIANA	19	1	0	+
JAMES RIVER	32	3	5	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	13	1	3	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	9	0	3	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	15	0	2	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	75	0	1	+
MISSOURI	17	0	8	+
NASHVILLE	33	0	0	+
NEW JERSEY	0	28	3	-
NEW RIVER	5	20	5	-
NORTH GEORGIA	44	3	10	+
NORTH TEXAS	32	0	1	+
NORTHEAST	31	7	2	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	4	16	0	-
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	16	8	4	+
PACIFIC	10	1	2	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	34	0	5	+
PALMETTO	37	7	9	+
PHILADELPHIA	33	0	4	+
PITTSBURGH	36	2	5	+
POTOMAC	62	0	2	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	13	1	4	+
SIOUXLANDS	14	0	1	+
SOUTH COAST	20	0	0	+
SOUTH TEXAS	20	1	13	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	39	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	11	0	4	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	44	0	0	+
SOUTHWEST	4	9	4	-
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	34	0	3	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	25	0	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	20	0	7	+
WESTMINSTER	28	7	4	+

[NOTE: TE Frank J. Smith respectfully requested his negative vote on Item 3 of the *BCO* amendments be recorded.]

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ITEM 4. Amend *BCO* 19-1 by adding after the first sentence the following:
 [See *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-58, III, 12, page 294]

“An ordained teaching elder who is a member in good standing of another Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America may be licensed after being examined as to his views, according to the provision of *BCO* 13-6. This license shall immediately become void if the minister’s own Presbytery administers against him a censure of suspension from office or the sacraments, or deposition from office, or of excommunication (in the event of such censures, the Presbytery with jurisdiction shall always notify the licensing Presbytery).”

Adopted

FOR	47	AGAINST	2
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	VOTE
ASCENSION	34	0	0	+
CALVARY	54	13	3	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	54	0	4	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA	47	0	3	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	35	0	0	+
COVENANT	56	0	3	+
EASTERN CANADA	10	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	18	8	4	+
EVANGEL	65	0	0	+
FELLOWSHIP	39	0	0	+
GRACE	41	2	1	+
GREAT LAKES	25	0	4	+
GULF COAST	41	0	1	+
HEARTLAND	30	0	0	+
HERITAGE				
ILLIANA	16	0	4	+
JAMES RIVER	27	1	5	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	15	2	2	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	11	0	1	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	16	0	1	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	81	0	0	+
MISSOURI	22	0	1	+
NASHVILLE	33	0	0	+
NEW JERSEY	24	0	6	+
NEW RIVER	25	0	4	+
NORTH GEORGIA	68	0	0	+
NORTH TEXAS	35	0	0	+

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NORTHEAST	38	0	0	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	3	15	2	-
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	22	0	0	+
PACIFIC	14	0	3	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	35	0	2	+
PALMETTO	60	1	0	+
PHILADELPHIA	36	0	0	+
PITTSBURGH	24	0	3	+
POTOMAC	58	1	2	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	14	5	0	+
SIOUXLANDS	15	0	0	+
SOUTH COAST	19	0	1	+
SOUTH TEXAS	31	4	4	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	32	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	14	0	1	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	19	28	2	-
SOUTHWEST	14	2	1	+
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	37	0	0	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	25	0	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	20	0	6	+
WESTMINSTER	40	0	0	+

ITEM 5. Amend *BCO* 19-6 by adding the following new sentence at the end:
 [See *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-58, III, 13, page 295]

“The license may be terminated at any time by a simple majority vote of the issuing Presbytery. The Presbytery shall always record its reasons for this action in its minutes.”

Adopted

FOR	48	AGAINST	1
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN VOTE	
ASCENSION	33	1	0	+
CALVARY	73	0	0	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	51	0	3	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA	50	0	1	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	34	1	1	+
COVENANT	58	0	0	+
EASTERN CANADA	9	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	19	7	3	+
EVANGEL	69	0	0	+
FELLOWSHIP	39	0	0	+
GRACE	42	1	2	+
GREAT LAKES	26	1	2	+
GULF COAST	39	0	2	+

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HEARTLAND	29	0	1	+
HERITAGE				
ILLIANA	19	1	0	+
JAMES RIVER	34	0	2	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	13	0	4	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	10	0	2	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	17	0	0	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	72	0	0	+
MISSOURI	24	0	0	+
NASHVILLE	33	0	0	+
NEW JERSEY	30	0	2	+
NEW RIVER	29	0	1	+
NORTH GEORGIA	69	1	1	+
NORTH TEXAS	35	0	0	+
NORTHEAST	37	0	0	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	19	0	1	+
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	25	0	0	+
PACIFIC	14	0	2	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	36	1	0	+
PALMETTO	60	0	2	+
PHILADELPHIA	36	0	1	+
PITTSBURGH	24	0	2	+
POTOMAC	59	0	1	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	12	1	4	+
SIOUXLANDS	14	0	1	+
SOUTH COAST	21	0	0	+
SOUTH TEXAS	31	3	6	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	31	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	13	0	2	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	54	0	0	+
SOUTHWEST	7	10	0	-
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	36	0	0	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	15	10	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	21	1	4	+
WESTMINSTER	40	0	0	+

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ITEM 6. Vacate *BCO* 46-5 and add new *BCO* 38-4 as follows:
 [See *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-58, III, 15, page 296]

“38-4. When a member of a particular church has willfully neglected the church for a period of one year, or has made it known that he has no intention of fulfilling the church vows, then the Session, continuing to exercise pastoral discipline (*BCO* 27-1a and 27-4) in the spirit of Galatians 6:1, shall remind the member, if possible both in person and in writing, of the declarations and promises by which he entered into a solemn covenant with God and His Church (*BCO* 57-5, nos. 3-5), and warn him that, if he persists, his name shall be erased from the roll.

If after diligently pursuing such pastoral discipline, and after further inquiry and due delay, the session is of the judgment that the member will not fulfill his membership obligations in this or any other branch of the visible church (cf. *BCO* 2-2), then the session shall erase his name from the roll. This erasure is an act of pastoral discipline (*BCO* 27-1a) without process. The session shall notify the person, if possible, whose name has been removed.

Notwithstanding the above, if a member thus warned makes a written request for process (i.e., *BCO* Chapters 31-33, 35-36), the session shall grant such a request. Further, if the session determines that any offense of such a member is of the nature that process is necessary, the session may institute such process.”

Adopted

FOR	45	AGAINST	5
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	VOTE
ASCENSION	17	15	2	-
CALVARY	62	0	0	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	51	0	2	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA	35	2	18	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	30	5	3	+
COVENANT	47	7	5	+
EASTERN CANADA	10	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	6	17	3	-
EVANGEL	65	1	2	+
FELLOWSHIP	38	1	0	+
GRACE	38	2	3	+
GREAT LAKES	22	2	7	+
GULF COAST	41	0	1	+
HEARTLAND	26	0	0	+
HERITAGE	27	0	1	+
ILLIANA	25	0	0	+
JAMES RIVER	32	1	3	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	16	0	0	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				

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KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	9	0	3	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	17	0	0	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	55	6	9	+
MISSOURI	24	0	0	+
NASHVILLE	30	0	3	+
NEW JERSEY	21	3	8	+
NEW RIVER	20	6	2	+
NORTH GEORGIA	4	49	2	-
NORTH TEXAS	34	0	0	+
NORTHEAST	36	4	1	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	14	2	4	+
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	25	1	0	+
PACIFIC	11	3	3	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	35	0	2	+
PALMETTO	55	7	0	+
PHILADELPHIA	34	2	3	+
PITTSBURGH	32	0	1	+
POTOMAC	62	0	0	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0	16	0	-
SIOUXLANDS	15	0	0	+
SOUTH COAST	17	2	2	+
SOUTH TEXAS	34	0	6	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	36	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	11	1	3	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	54	0	0	+
SOUTHWEST	0	18	0	-
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	34	1	1	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	24	1	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	23	0	4	+
WESTMINSTER	28	1	3	+

ITEM 7. Amend *BCO* 39 by adding a new section 39-3 as follows:

[See *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-17, C, 5, pp. 79f]

“39-3. While affirming that the Scripture is ‘the supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined’ (*WCF* 1.10), and that the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America is ‘subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inerrant Word of God’ (*BCO* Preface, III), and while affirming also that this Constitution is fallible (*WCF* 31.3), the Presbyterian Church in America affirms that this subordinate and fallible Constitution has been ‘adopted by the church’ (*BCO* Preface, III) ‘as

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standard expositions of the teachings of Scripture in relation to both faith and practice' (BCO 29-1) and as setting forth a form of government and discipline 'in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity' (BCO 21-5.3). To ensure that this Constitution is not amended, violated or disregarded in judicial process, any review of the judicial proceedings of a lower court by a higher court shall be guided by the following principles:

1. A higher court, reviewing a lower court, should limit itself to the issues raised by the parties to the case in the original (lower) court. Further, the higher court should resolve such issues by applying the Constitution of church, as previously established through the constitutional process.
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 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.
4. The higher court does have the power and obligation of judicial review, which cannot be satisfied by always deferring to the findings of a lower court. Therefore, a higher court should not consider itself obliged to exhibit the same deference to a lower court when the issues being reviewed involve the interpretation of the Constitution of the Church according to its best abilities and understanding, regardless of the opinion of the lower court."

Adopted

FOR	49	AGAINST	1
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	VOTE
ASCENSION	34	0	0	+
CALVARY	69	0	0	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	47	0	3	+

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CENTRAL FLORIDA	50	0	1	+
CENTRAL GEORGIA	34	0	0	+
COVENANT	61	0	1	+
EASTERN CANADA	10	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	17	1	4	+
EVANGEL	21	31	6	-
FELLOWSHIP	40	0	0	+
GRACE	42	3	0	+
GREAT LAKES	23	0	7	+
GULF COAST	41	1	1	+
HEARTLAND	28	0	2	+
HERITAGE	30	5	2	+
ILLIANA	17	0	3	+
JAMES RIVER	33	0	5	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	17	0	2	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	10	0	2	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	17	0	0	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	70	0	1	+
MISSOURI	20	0	2	+
NASHVILLE	33	0	0	+
NEW JERSEY	26	0	5	+
NEW RIVER	24	0	4	+
NORTH GEORGIA	44	2	6	+
NORTH TEXAS	35	0	0	+
NORTHEAST	42	0	1	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	14	1	2	+
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	17	4	5	+
PACIFIC	13	0	0	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	29	0	1	+
PALMETTO	53	2	5	+
PHILADELPHIA	35	0	3	+
PITTSBURGH	28	0	4	+
POTOMAC	57	0	4	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	13	0	3	+
SIOUXLANDS	14	0	1	+
SOUTH COAST	20	0	1	+
SOUTH TEXAS	24	1	13	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	37	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	12	1	2	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	51	0	0	+
SOUTHWEST	17	2	0	+
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	33	0	1	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				

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WARRIOR	25	0	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	19	0	6	+
WESTMINSTER	35	0	0	+

ITEM 8. Amend BCO 46-2 paragraph 3 to read:

[See *Minutes of 24th GA*, 24-58, III, 17, page 310]

“If a member, after having thus been advised, shall neglect for one (1) year to have his membership transferred, ~~his name shall be removed by the Session unless special permission is granted by the Session for such as: servicemen, students, etc. to remain on the roll.~~ **the session shall then proceed, according to BCO 38-4, except in special cases such as: servicemen, students, etc.”** *Adopted*

FOR	43	AGAINST	5
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PRESBYTERY	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	VOTE
ASCENSION	15	12	7	+
CALVARY	61	0	0	+
CENTRAL CAROLINA	53	0	2	+
CENTRAL FLORIDA				
CENTRAL GEORGIA	35	0	1	+
COVENANT	59	0	3	+
EASTERN CANADA	10	0	0	+
EASTERN CAROLINA	4	18	2	-
EVANGEL	67	0	1	+
FELLOWSHIP	38	0	2	+
GRACE	39	1	0	+
GREAT LAKES	24	2	3	+
GULF COAST	37	0	4	+
HEARTLAND	26	0	0	+
HERITAGE				
ILLIANA	25	0	0	+
JAMES RIVER	31	2	3	+
KOREAN CAPITOL	22	0	0	+
KOREAN CENTRAL	17	0	0	+
KOREAN EASTERN				
KOREAN NORTHWEST				
KOREAN SOUTHERN				
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	10	0	2	+
KOREAN SOUTHWEST				
LOUISIANA	17	0	0	+
MID-AMERICA	13	0	1	+
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	71	0	3	+
MISSOURI	24	0	0	+
NASHVILLE	33	0	0	+
NEW JERSEY	30	0	1	+

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NEW RIVER	8	13	7	-
NORTH GEORGIA	1	46	3	-
NORTH TEXAS	35	0	0	+
NORTHEAST	36	3	1	+
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	12	0	3	+
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	26	0	1	+
PACIFIC	12	0	1	+
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	29	0	0	+
PALMETTO	55	3	0	+
PHILADELPHIA	34	1	1	+
PITTSBURGH	30	1	2	+
POTOMAC	63	0	0	+
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0	16	0	-
SIOUXLANDS	15	0	0	+
SOUTH COAST	18	2	2	+
SOUTH TEXAS	36	0	6	+
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	37	0	0	+
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	13	0	2	+
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	53	1	0	+
SOUTHWEST	0	19	0	-
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA				
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	35	0	1	+
TENNESSEE VALLEY				
WARRIOR	25	0	0	+
WESTERN CAROLINA	23	0	4	+
WESTMINSTER	38	0	1	+

25-18 Assembly Recesses for Worship

The Assembly recessed for lunch at 11:50 with a season of prayer led by TEs Bryan Chapell and Morton Smith to reconvene at 2:00 PM. The worship service tomorrow will led by Heartland Presbytery (instead of Southwest Florida Presbytery).

Third Session - Wednesday Afternoon June 11, 1997

25-19 Assembly Reconvenes

The Assembly reconvened at 2:02 PM with prayer by RE Howard Q. Davis and the singing of "Blessed Assurance."

25-20 Greetings from the President of National Association of Evangelicals.

Dr. Paul Gilchrist led the Assembly in prayer and introduced Dr. Donald Argue, President of National Association of Evangelicals, who brought greetings to the 25th General Assembly and reported on the work of NAE. [See Communication 2, p. 54]

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25-21 Greetings from President of Belhaven College

On a point of personal privilege, TE James Baird introduced Dr. Roger Parrott, President of Belhaven College, who reported on the work of the College.

25-22 Committee on Constitutional Business

RE Frank C. Young, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report.

After the report, the Committee was excused from the floor to continue their work.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS TO THE 25th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. INTRODUCTION

Your Committee on Constitutional Business (CCB) met only one time subsequent to the 24th General Assembly (GA). This meeting was held on April 21, 1997 in Atlanta, Georgia. The CCB was able to complete all of the work assignments at that meeting. Two (2) members and one (1) alternate member of the CCB were absent.

II. NON-JUDICIAL REFERENCES

Reference No. 1 - from New River Presbytery:

1. Is a candidate for ordination required to declare a formal exception to the standards if he does not hold to a literal six 24-hour day period of creation?
2. Is an officer who has been previously ordained required by the second ordination vow to inform his Presbytery or Session of being out of accord with the standards if he does not hold to a literal six 24-hour day period of creation?

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that GA take no action on the New River resolution (BCO 41-5, RAO 7-2(2)).

Although there is some question whether the resolution from New River Presbytery, adopted at its 69th Meeting, is a proper reference, since there apparently is no associated matter pending before the Presbytery (BCO 41-1), the CCB received the resolution. To answer the resolution would *ipso facto* make the CCB responsible for determining previously-unspecified exceptions to the Constitution. Should a presbytery wish to establish its own view of what is an exception to the constitutional standards as normative for the rest of the Church, then the proper procedure would be to overture the GA to adopt the presbytery's view as the view of the Church and to enter the same into the constitutional standards of the PCA.

III. OVERTURES

Overture 1 - from Southwest Florida Presbytery

"Amend BCO 13-6, Re: Require Transfers from Other Denominations to be Fully Examined"

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that the proposed amendment is not in conflict with any portion of the Constitution of the PCA.

Overture 8 - from Potomac Presbytery

"Amend BCO 20-2, Re: To Clarify the Role of Pulpit Committee"

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that the proposed amendment is not in conflict with any portion of the Constitution of the PCA.

Overture 9 - from Evangel Presbytery

"Amend New RAO 15-1, Re: To Reflect Scriptures as the Ultimate Authority in Discipline"

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that the proposed amendment is not in conflict with any portion of the Constitution of the PCA.

The CCB notes that the Overture corrects a constitutional deficiency in the language of RAO 15-1, as amended by the 24th General Assembly.

Overture 14 - from the Session, First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA

"Amend BCO 21-4 and 24-1, Re: Prohibit Ordination to Men with Unbiblical Divorce or Remarriage"

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that the proposed amendment is not in conflict with any portion of the Constitution of the PCA.

IV. ASSEMBLY ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment No. 1 - Removing Members from the Roll

The 24th General Assembly referred **Overture 26** from Potomac Presbytery and **Overture 6** from Northeast Presbytery to the CCB to perfect the language of the proposed amendments to *BCO* 38-3 and report back to the 25th General Assembly.

The CCB will forward its work to Potomac Presbytery for consultation and recommends the following language: [NOTE: See First Supplemental Report, II, pp 132 for amended proposal.]

"a) When a member or officer of a particular church or presbytery renounces communion with this branch of the visible church by joining some other branch of the Church of Jesus Christ and is in good standing therewith, the irregularity shall be recorded and his name removed from the roll. In the event formal, written charges are pending against that person at that time, then the court of jurisdiction shall, at its discretion:

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- 1) retain that person's name on the roll, conclude the process in accord with *BCO* 31-2, and conduct the case; or
- 2) remove that person's name from the roll, without further process, which removal may, at the court's discretion, be excommunication; or
- 3) remove that person's name from the roll and communicate the pending charges to that branch of the church which the person has joined.
 - b) When a member or officer of a particular church or presbytery renounces communion with that branch of the visible church by joining a group judged by the court with jurisdiction as failing to maintain the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity (*BCO* 2-2), said court shall warn the person of his danger and remove his name from the roll. In the event formal, written charges are pending against that person at that time, then the court shall follow the procedures set forth in paragraph (a).
 - c) When an officer so renounces communion, he shall be deemed to have resigned from active service in his office."

The CCB notes that as Protestants, we should distinguish our view of the church from the historic Roman Catholic definition of the church. Protestants begin with the basic definition that the church is invisible in essence, while the historic Roman Catholic view starts with the essence of the church vested in its visibility. Thus the historic Roman Catholic view confuses the particular church with the universal visible church, hence, no one outside the Roman Catholic church (or any of its congregations) can be saved.

The WCF clearly begins with the definition of membership of the invisible church:

"[t]he catholic or universal Church, which is invisible, **consists of the whole number of the elect**, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof" (WCF 25-1)

then the universal visible church:

"[t]he visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), **consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and their children**" (WCF 25-2)

and finally a particular visible church:

"[t]his catholic Church hath been sometimes more, sometimes less visible. And **particular Churches, which are members thereof**, are more or less pure, according as the doctrine of the Gospel is taught and embraced, . . ." (WCF 25-4)

and *BCO* 6-2 further defines the communing members of a particular church:

"[c]ommuning members are those who have made a profession of faith in Christ, have been baptized, and have been admitted by the Session to the Lord's Table."

It is clear that there have been members of the invisible church and the universal visible church who were not received into a particular church, e.g. the thief on the cross, men on the battlefield led to faith in Christ without benefit of baptism, reception into a particular church, and those attending Christian churches without traditional rolls.

Therefore, caution needs to be exercised to not define removal from the roll of a particular church as equivalent to excommunication from the universal visible church. Let it be recognized that there are irregularities.

Assignment No. 2 - Reports from Committees of Commissioners

The 24th General Assembly referred a procedural question to the CCB, concerning the manner in which Committee of Commissioner Reports were made to the GA. The CCB's Report to the 24th GA was given orally. The CCB's oral Report to the 24th GA is recorded in the June 18-21, 1996, Minutes of the CCB, to wit:

"The General Assembly referred a question to the CCB concerning the propriety of the Committee of Commissioner on Bills and Overtures (B&O) making amendments to overtures that go further than mere improvements to the statement, when the original text of the overture was not printed in the B&O Report.

It was moved and carried to advise that the procedure adopted by B&O was a technical violation of the Manual for Operation of Committees of Commissioners. It was noted that B&O had reviewed the procedure with the Stated Clerk and been instructed to proceed in such a manner, due in part to problems with typing and printing the reports of the various committees.

It was moved and carried to advise that the technical violation could be handled by having the B&O make the recommendation in its Report as a Substitute for the whole.

It was moved and carried to advise that finding a permanent solution to the problem be referred to the CCB to report to the next General Assembly."

The 24th GA received and adopted the CCB's oral Report. However, the Minutes of General Assembly did not contain the referral of finding a permanent solution to the problem. Therefore, unless otherwise instructed, the CCB will proceed to find a solution to the problem referred.

V. ADVICE TO THE STATED CLERK

When a person "resigns" from membership in a church or presbytery, is this not tantamount to renouncing the jurisdiction of the body and is there a constitutional bar to a court accepting this "resignation?"

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Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that there is no constitutional bar that would prevent a court from accepting the "resignation" and removing the person's name from the roll.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ RE Frank C. Young, Chairman
/s/ RE Samuel J. Duncan, Secretary

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. INTRODUCTION

Your Committee on Constitutional Business (CCB) met immediately prior to the 25th General Assembly. This meeting began on June 10, 1997 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

II. ASSEMBLY ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment No. 1 - Removing Members from the Roll: Amendments to BCO 38-3

The 24th General Assembly referred **Overture 26** from Potomac Presbytery and **Overture 6** from Northeast Presbytery to the CCB to perfect the language of the proposed amendments to **BCO 38-3** and (for original proposals, see *M24GA*, III, 18, pp. 310 ff and item 16, pp. 299 ff) report back to the 25th General Assembly.

The CCB, after consulting with representatives from Potomac Presbytery, amends its prior report and recommends the following language for **BCO 38-3**, to wit:

- a. When a member or minister of the Presbyterian Church in America shall attempt to withdraw from the communion of this branch of the visible Church by affiliating with some other branch (**BCO 2-2**), if at the time of the attempt to withdraw he is in good standing, the irregularity shall be recorded, his new membership acknowledged, and his name removed from the roll. But if at the time of the attempt to withdraw there is a record of an investigation in process (**BCO 31-2**), or there are charges (**BCO 32-3**) concerning the member or minister, the court of original jurisdiction may retain his name on the roll and conduct the case, communicating the outcome upon completion of the proceedings to that member or minister. If the court does not conduct the case, his new membership shall be acknowledged, his name removed from the roll, and, at the request of the receiving branch, the matters under investigation or the charges shall be communicated to them. ~~In either case, if the member or minister is an officer, such removal from the roll shall thereby withdraw from him all authority to exercise his office as derived from this Church.~~
- b. When a member or minister of the Presbyterian Church in America shall attempt to withdraw from the communion of this branch of the visible church by affiliating with a body judged by the court of original jurisdiction as failing to maintain the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity (**BCO 2-2**), that member or minister shall be warned of his danger, and if he persists, his

name shall be erased from the roll, thereby, so far as the Presbyterian Church in America is concerned, ~~removing him from membership in good standing in any branch of the visible Church,~~ **he is deemed no longer to be a member in any body which rightly maintains the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity**, and if an officer, thereby withdrawing from him all authority to exercise his office as derived from this Church. When so acting the court shall make full record of the matter and shall notify the offender of its action.

Adopted as amended and sent down to presbyteries for advice and consent.

The CCB notes that as Protestants, we should distinguish our view of the church from the historic Roman Catholic definition of the church. Protestants begin with the basic definition that the church is invisible in essence, while the historic Roman Catholic view starts with the essence of the church vested in its visibility. Thus the historic Roman Catholic view confuses the particular church with the universal visible church, hence, no one outside the Roman Catholic church (or any of its congregations) can be saved.

The WCF clearly begins with the definition of membership of the invisible church:

"[t]he catholic or universal Church, which is invisible, **consists of the whole number of the elect**, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof . . ." (see WCF 25-1)

then the universal visible church:

"[t]he visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), **consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and their children . . .**" (see WCF 25-2)

and finally a particular visible church:

"[t]his catholic Church hath been sometimes more, sometimes less visible. And **particular Churches, which are members thereof**, are more or less pure, according as the doctrine of the Gospel is taught and embraced, . . ." (see WCF 25-4)

and *BCO* 6-2 further defines the communing members of a particular church:

"[c]ommuning members are those who have made a profession of faith in Christ, have been baptized, and have been admitted by the Session to the Lord's Table."

It is clear that there have been members of the invisible church and the universal visible church who were not received into a particular church, e.g. the thief on the cross, men on the battlefield led to faith in Christ without benefit of baptism, reception into a particular church, and those attending Christian churches without traditional rolls.

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Therefore, caution needs to be exercised to not define removal from the roll of a particular church as equivalent to excommunication from the universal visible church. Let it be recognized that there are irregularities.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Amend the Manual - The CCB amended its Manual to designate the election of its officers will be conducted at the spring meeting, not at the meeting of the General Assembly.

IV. NON-JUDICIAL REFERENCES

Reference No. 3 - from Heartland Presbytery

1. Under what circumstances and what constitutional authorization does a teaching elder properly communicate (i.e. register an accusation) with the [GA] CRPR about a presbytery, not his own, whose records are about to be reviewed by the GA CRPR?
2. If a presbytery has complied with *BCO* 13-11 and *RAO* 14-10, is it likely to be guilty of violating the PCA constitution when it seeks to control its own minutes (e.g. limiting publication and distribution)?

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that, in regard to the circumstances, anyone who has a concern about any important delinquency or grossly unconstitutional proceedings of a court may communicate such concerns to the GA CRPR (*BCO* 40- 5). The CCB notes that this communication should be carefully considered and cautiously made.

It is the advice of the CCB that, in regard to the constitutional authority, Chapter 40 of the *Book of Church Order*, specifically, *BCO* 40-5 provides the constitutional authority for such a communication. The CCB notes that it is the duty of the GA CRPR to act upon the communication, as it deems appropriate.

It is the advice of the CCB that the second question is not framed in a manner that can be answered by the CCB.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(NOTE: Presented on Thursday morning. See 25-38, p. 170)

I. CONSTITUTIONAL INQUIRIES

Constitutional Inquiry #1 - regarding Case 96-2 (see 25-16, V, 7, p. 93)

Can the Standing Judicial Commission adjudicate an issue or matter that was not referred to or laid before it?

Response

It is the opinion of the CCB that the answer is: No.

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The CCB reminds the Assembly that it is the duty of the SJC to assemble and frame from the complaint, brief(s), and record of the case, the summary of the facts and the statement of the issues in any case. New issues are never to be initiated by the SJC so as to make it a court of original jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of the Assembly to decide whether the statement of the issues has been framed properly, which will be reflected by what the Assembly votes: shall the judgment be approved, disapproved, or referred to a study committee.

The CCB recommends that commissioners be directed to read carefully the entire case and that a time be docketed for the Assembly's vote on **Case 96-2** relating to issue 2 and judgment 2 only. *Adopted*

Constitutional Inquiry #2 - regarding Case 95-11 (see 25-16, 5, p. 80 ff)

Is **Judgment III.B.** out of accord with the Constitution and, if Presbytery did not deal properly with the exception in **Judgment III.A.**, would not the case need to be remanded?

Response

Yes. It is the opinion of the CCB that, since only a Presbytery has the power to vote on whether exceptions to the Constitution strike at the vitals of religion so as to exclude a man from ordination, and that **Judgment III.A.** has identified Mr. Blaha's views as an exception to the Constitution though the Presbytery did not, the SJC has erred in not remanding this case to the Presbytery to recognize, vote on, and record the exception.

However, while it is the historic practice of Presbyterianism for presbyteries to vote on exceptions to the Constitution, there is no constitutional requirement for same. Therefore it is the opinion of the CCB that **Judgment III.A.** is unconstitutional in requiring Presbytery to do something which is not required by the Constitution, and that therefore both Judgments in Case 95-11 should be disapproved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RE Frank C. Young, Chairman

/s/ TE Frank D. Moser, Secretary

THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(NOTE: Presented on Thursday evening - see 25-50, p. 196)

I. REFERENCE

Reference No. 2 - from Grace Presbytery:

At the Eighty-eighth Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery, held on the 13th of May, 1997, the Presbytery, in attempting to adjudicate a complaint against the action of the session of one of our churches, entered into a debate as to the meaning of *BCO* 24-1, which states that "Public notice (of a congregational meeting to elect church officers)

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shall be given of the time, place, and purpose of this meeting at least one month prior to the appointed time, during which time the congregation is asked to submit names to the Session . . ." & etc. The adjudication of the complaint and the resolution of the matter hinges upon the understanding of this passage, to wit: whether a session may require that nominations for church officers be tendered by a deadline which is less than the one month required before the meeting to act on these nominations are to be acted upon, or whether the nomination period must be left open for the entire one month period.

Pursuant to the provisions of *BCO* 41-1 & 2, the Presbytery voted to make a reference to the General Assembly on this matter in the hope that some clarification might obviate the need for this matter to be addressed judicially beyond the Presbytery level. In making this reference, the Presbytery is asking only for advice (*BCO* 41-3) in order that it may adjudicate the complaint. We are not asking for a final disposition of the case. Presbytery asserts its desire to discharge its responsibility in this matter (*BCO* 41-5), but is almost evenly divided on the meaning of the language of *BCO* 24-1, and prays the assistance of the Assembly in clarifying this language.

Response:

It is the advice of the CCB that the following is the proper understanding of *BCO* 24-1:

BCO 24-1 imposes several requirements preparatory to the election of officers:

- 1) public notice of the time, place, and purpose of a meeting to elect officers must be given;
- 2) such notice must be given at least one month before the meeting;
- 3) the congregation must be allowed to make nominations;
- 4) nominees must receive instruction;
- 5) nominees must be examined; and
- 6) the session must report the names of those eligible for election prior to election day.

It logically follows that this whole process may be held in as little as one month. It also follows that requirements 4, 5, and 6 above must be held after the period of nominations is closed, if the above order is followed step by step.

Conceivably the period of nominations could be as little as one day and still conform to *BCO* 24-1. Practically, a longer time is preferable. In any case requirements 4, 5, and 6 must be completed prior to election day. Naturally, this order of procedure prohibits keeping the nomination period open right up to election day, as well as prohibiting nominations from the floor.

However, *BCO* 24-1 does not require that the above order be followed, only that each element be included without fail. A session could establish a period of instruction for all male members interested in being considered for nomination and election. On completion of the instruction, the session could examine all those who complete the course and certify any or all of them as eligible for nomination. The session could then set the date, time, and place for election (at least one month in advance) and call for nominations from the congregation, listing as potential nominees those men who were examined and certified. This period of nomination could extend right up to just prior to

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election day, when the session would then make its final report. Other rearrangements of the required six elements could also be adopted.

The CCB therefore advises specifically that

- 1) a session may require that nominations for church officers be tendered by a deadline short of the minimum one-month period of time between the announcement of a meeting to elect officers and the occurrence of that meeting; and
- 2) it would seem that, ordinarily, a session would wish to set a significantly longer period of time than the minimum time allowed, in order to accomplish the instruction, examination, and reporting explicitly called for in *BCO* 24-1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RE Frank C. Young, Chairman

/s/ TE Frank D. Moser, Secretary

25-23 Ad-Interim Committee on Options for Medical Insurance

TE Dominic Aquila, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report.

REPORT OF THE AD INTERIM COMMITTEE ON OPTIONS FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE TO THE 25th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA JUNE 1997

The 24th General Assembly adopted the following recommendations:

1. That IAR be instructed to implement a pilot Health Maintenance Organization program in at least one area of the country. IAR would test this plan or plans for that specific area and evaluate its effectiveness and feasibility for reduced costs and its ability to provide coverage for all PCA pastors and lay workers in the selected area including those considered uninsurable. Potential for expansion to other geographical areas would be included in the evaluation.
2. That IAR investigate the availability and costs of a high deductible insurance plan which would stand on its own merits or be adapted for use with Medical Savings Accounts if and when enacted by the Congress.
(The goal of both of these recommendations is to see a significant reduction in premium costs.)
3. That the Committee be continued for one year in order to review the results of recommendations 1 and 2, report these results to the 25th General Assembly, and that it be authorized to spend up to

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the balance of the unused portion of its original funding mandate (approximately \$7,000).

IAR was instructed by the General Assembly to implement an HMO pilot program. A plan was implemented in Atlanta on August 1, 1996 using Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Georgia. The Committee received a report that indicated that there were a number of service issues with respect to the implementation of this pilot program which were difficult to resolve. There have also been continued minor service issues due to lack of timely responses from BC/BS of Georgia. In anticipation of August renewals, specifications have been prepared to solicit competitive alternatives.

IAR has been exploring another possibility with our present carrier, Pacific Mutual. Pacific Mutual has been in the process of developing Point of Service (POS) plans throughout the United States. POS plans look and act similarly to HMOs. During 1997 Pacific Mutual will be adding 70 POS locations, primarily in large metropolitan areas. The hope is that by January 1, 1998, the PCA plan will be able to offer a POS plan to participants in these 70 markets. The expectation is that Pacific Mutual will be aggressive on the rating structure for their POS plan. The hope is that this will serve to reduce rates for PCA participants next year.

If this should come to pass, then IAR can solicit our churches in those 70 markets and encourage them to continue or return to our program. A solid dual or triple option POS plan will be highly competitive with local or regional carriers from both a benefit and rating structure standpoint.

IAR also investigated the availability and costs of a group high deductible insurance plan that could stand on its own merits or be adapted for use with Medical Savings Accounts (MSA). It was determined that the cost for this type of policy would not have reduced premium costs significantly. Congress did enact legislation regarding MSAs, however, this legislation had a number of provisions that would make it unfavorable for the PCA to implement such a program as a part of its group plan. The Committee believes the MSA concept has merit and may be pursued by individuals where available.

The purpose of the Committee was to study the matter of the cost of medical insurance and determine options, if any, for the same. We wrote in our first report to General Assembly with regard to our recommendations: "The goal of both of these recommendations is to see a significant reduction in premium costs." While the cost reduction has not been significant, the exploration of options has widened. Also, since a number of circumstances have changed in the medical insurance area since the Committee's appointment, we can report to General Assembly that we have fulfilled our assignment and recommend that IAR continue to pursue options for medical insurance and report regularly to the General Assembly on its progress. As reported above, We believe that IAR is, in fact, continually investigating options in order to keep the PCA's medical insurance affordable and is seeking to secure the best coverage for the least cost.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That IAR continue to pursue options for medical insurance and report regularly to the General Assembly on its progress. *Adopted*

2. That the Committee be dissolved.

Adopted

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ TE Dominic Aquila, Chairman	/s/ TE Robert Ferguson
/s/ TE Brent Bradley	/s/ RE Ralph Paden
/s/ RE Hal Shepherd	/s/ RE Thomas Stein
/s/ RE John White, Jr	/s/ RE Will Thompson

25-24 Committee of Commissioners on Insurance, Annuities and Relief

RE John N. Albritton, Jr., Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. He introduced RE James Hughes, Director of IAR, who introduced Trustee RE Tom Stein, outgoing Chairman of the Board, TE Robert Clarke, and RE Gary Campbell.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

1. Minutes of the Board of Trustee meetings of August 16, 1996, November 8, 1996, and February 28, 1997.
2. Annual Report of IAR for 1996 and report of Permanent Board to GA. [see Appendix G, p. 358]

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

1. RE Tom Stein presented his concerns on the continued viability of the PCA sponsored health insurance program. His comments related to the work of the Ad Interim Committee on Options for Medical Insurance.
2. Mr. Hughes discussed the retirement program pointing out that there are now ten investment options ranging from a money market fund to an aggressive equity fund. He mentioned that an Asset Allocation Worksheet and an audio tape discussing the investment options are now available.

III. Recommendations

1. That the Minutes of Board meetings of August 16, 1996, November 8, 1996, and February 28, 1997 be approved. *Adopted*
2. That the audit report dated December 31, 1996, by Arthur Andersen & Company be received. *Adopted*
3. That the General Assembly approve the use of Arthur Andersen & Company to conduct the 1997 audit. *Adopted*
4. That the 1998 budget be received with the understanding that it is a spending plan and that adjustments will be made during the year, if necessary, by the Trustees. *Adopted*
5. That the General Assembly urge our member churches to participate in the annual Christmas Offering or budget regular benevolence giving to support relief activities through the Ministerial Relief Fund. *Adopted*

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6. That the General Assembly recognize and commend the efforts of Ann Llewelyn for her dedication and sensitive ministry to the widows and other beneficiaries of our IAR relief program. *Adopted*
7. That the General Assembly approve the 15th Amendment to the Presbyterian Church in America Voluntary Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan (see Appendix Two, p. 366) and that the resolution related to this amendment be adopted and included in the Minutes of the General Assembly. *Adopted*
8. That the General Assembly commend Jim Hughes, the staff and the Board of IAR for their diligent and faithful labors on our behalf this past year. *Adopted*

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Covenant
Fellowship
Grace
Heartland
Nashville
New River
Northeast
Northern California
Northern Illinois
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Siouxlands
Southeast Alabama
Southwest Florida
Westminster

Commissioner

TE Claude McRoberts, III
TE John Gess
TE Steven B. Shuman
TE Scott Sauls
RE Jack Watkins
TE David Currence
TE Preston Graham
TE Donald Treick
TE Andrew Adams
TE Robert Cassis
RE John Simmons, Jr.
RE Stan Jenkins
RE Frank Rusticus
TE Kevin Carr
RE John N. Albritton, Jr.
TE Edward Ouimette
TE Henry Johnson

The Assembly paused to sing "I Know Whom I Have Believed".

25-25 Personal Resolution #1 from TE Julian Dusenberry

Personal Resolution was **received** from TE Julian (Skip) Dusenberry **and referred** to Committee of Commissioners on Bills and Overtures: (For text, see 24-45, III, 8, p. 193.)

25-26 Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the World

TE Paul Kooistra, Coordinator of MTW, addressed the Assembly. He reported on God's blessings upon the work of the PCA in world missions, especially emphasizing the need for greater prayer by our churches for the work of MTW.

TE Kennedy Smartt, Chairman of Committee of Commissioners on MTW, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report.

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I. Business Referred to the Committee

The following business was referred to the committee:

The report of the Permanent Committee. [see Appendix J, p. 424]

The minutes of the following meetings of the Permanent Committee:

- (1) March 7-8, 1997
- (2) October 3-4, 1996
- (3) The draft of the minutes of the March 6-7, 1997, meeting were available but not subject to review since they had not been approved by the Committee.

The Proposed 1997 budget.

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

1. Reviewed and discussed the recommendations and minutes of the Permanent Committee.
2. Discussed miscellaneous concerns related to the work of Mission to the World including the situation of the Madrid team.

III. Recommendations

1. That May 7, 1998 be set as the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization and Revival as part of the National Day of Prayer and that the General Assembly at this time unite in prayer that God would send many more laborers to His harvest field. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly urge the churches to set aside a portion of their giving for the suffering peoples of the world and that, to that end, it be recommended that a special offering for relief and mercy needs around the world be taken during the Easter season of 1998. *Adopted*
3. The Committee on Mission to the World has reviewed the performance of the Coordinator and his staff. With thanksgiving to God, the Committee on Mission to the World recommends that the General Assembly express its gratitude to Teaching Elder Paul D. Kooistra for his excellent service as Coordinator of Mission to the World and that he be re-elected to the office of Coordinator. *Adopted*
4. That the proposed budget of MTW, as presented through the Administrative Committee, be approved. *Adopted*
5. That the cooperative agreement with Action International Ministries be approved. (Appendix J, Attachment 1, p. 435) *Adopted*
6. That the cooperative agreement with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America be approved. (Appendix J, Attachment 2, p. 439) *Adopted*
7. That the minutes of the meeting of March 7-8, 1996 be accepted with exceptions noted. *Adopted*

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EXCEPTIONS:

Failure to indicate who the alternates were (13-13c6)

NOTATIONS:

The information in the brackets on page 15 is inadequately referenced.

8. That the minutes of the meeting of October 3-4, 1996 be accepted with exceptions noted. *Adopted*

EXCEPTIONS:

Failure to indicate who the alternates were (13-13c6).

NOTATIONS:

Page 2, 8 RE Robert Massingill wrongly identified as TE.

9. That MTW list at the beginning of their minutes the chairmen of the subcommittees. *Adopted*

TE Roland Barnes offered prayer for Mission to the World.

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Central Carolina
Central Georgia
Eastern Carolina
Evangel
Fellowship
Grace
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Heritage
Illiana
James River
Louisiana
Mid-America
Mississippi Valley
Missouri
Nashville
North Georgia
Northeast
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Siouxlands
South Texas
Southwest Florida
Susquehanna Valley
Tennessee Valley
Western Carolina
Westminster

Commissioner

TE Dan King
RE Ben Robeson
RE Truett Bennett
RE Phil Anderson
TE Scott Hill
TE James Richter
RE Don Barnes
TE Don Rackley
TE Doug Perkins
TE David Baer
TE Mark Kuiper
RE George T. Thompson
RE Lyle Fogle
RE Robert B. Mims
RE Oscar Koirtyohann
RE George Heard
TE Kennedy Smartt
TE Brad Evans
TE Jim Richwine
RE Larry Kitke
RE Eugene K. Betts
RE Gary Master
RE Richard Larson
TE Tom Stein, Jr.
TE Mike McCrocklin
TE Randall R. Greenwald, Secretary
TE David J. Fidati
RE Mark Wilson
TE William P. Laxton
TE James Reedy

25-27 Committee of Commissioners on Covenant Theological Seminary

TE Michael Woodham, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. He introduced TE Bryan Chapell, President of the Seminary, who reported to the Assembly on the work of the Seminary. TE Joseph Pipa closed the report in prayer.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

- A. The report of the Permanent Committee. [see Appendix F, p. 331]
- B. The minutes of the following meetings of the Board of Trustees:
 - 1. September 27-28, 1996
 - 2. January 31-February 1, 1997
 - 3. May 16-17, 1997 (NOTE: these were not reviewed because they have not yet been approved by the Board of Trustees)
- C. The minutes of the following meeting of the executive committee of the Board of Trustees:
 - 1. December 6, 1996
 - 2. March 7, 1997
- D. The financial audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996 (attached to the minutes of September 27-28, 1996)

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

Various aspects of theological education at Covenant Theological Seminary.

III. Recommendations

- 1. That the proposed 1997-8 Fiscal Year Budget for Covenant Theological Seminary be approved. *Adopted under AC*
- 2. That the financial audit for Covenant Theological Seminary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, by Humes and Barrington, CPA's be adopted. *Adopted*
- 3. That the minutes of the Covenant Theological Seminary Board of Trustee meetings be approved without exception for September 27-28, 1996; and January 31-February 1, 1997; and that the minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees be approved for December 6, 1996, and March 7, 1997. *Adopted*
- 4. That the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America be urged to support the work and progress of Covenant Theological Seminary through their giving, prayer, and recommendations, so that the future leadership of Christ's Church is advanced and safeguarded through a united effort that further strengthens and secures the Biblical purposes of the entire denomination. *Adopted*
- 5. That prayer be offered for the ministry of Covenant Theological Seminary thanking God for its historic preservation, recent growth and ministry opportunities; and, petitioning that God would sustain its defense of Biblical orthodoxy, its upholding the confessional standards of our denomination, its ministry training mission, and its love for Christ and his people. *Adopted*

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6. That the revisions to the Seminary's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws required by statute changes in the State of Missouri be approved. [see Appendix F, Attachments 1, p. 338, and 2, p. 339] *Adopted*
7. That General Assembly offer deep and sincere thanks to Almighty God for the faithful and diligent service of the administration and faculty of Covenant Theological Seminary to Christ and His Church. *Adopted*

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Calvary
Central Carolina
Central Florida
Central Georgia
Evangel
Fellowship
Grace
Great Lakes
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Heritage
Mississippi Valley
Missouri
Nashville
North Georgia
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Rocky Mountain
Southern Florida
Southwest Florida
Susquehanna Valley
Western Carolina
Westminster

Commissioner

RE Robert Oldaker
TE Robert Spears
RE Junior Ward
TE David Burke
TE Scott Reiber
TE Charles Garland
RE Donald Johnson
RE G.O. Rummels
TE Petros Roukas
TE Charles DeBardeleben
RE Walter Ramsour
TE Dwight Dunn
TE Philip Strong
TE Doug Madi
TE James Bachmann
RE Brian White
RE Ed Miller
TE P. Cameron Kirker
TE LeRoy Capper
TE Robert Thompson Jr.
TE Andrew Zeller
TE Michael Woodham, Chairman
RE Henry Whitmore
RE W. Lee Troup
RE Stephen Doty
RE Roger Schultz

25-28 Theological Examining Committee

TE Samuel B. Hoyt, Jr., Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EXAMINATION 25th General Assembly Presbyterian Church in America

The purpose of the Theological Examining Committee is to determine the Theological soundness and knowledge of first and second level Executives and Agency

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leaders of the Presbyterian Church in America in regard to the Scriptures, Confessions, Government and History of our Church.

The Theological Examining Committee met in Atlanta at our Assembly Offices on April 26, 1997 at 11 a.m.

Those present, Ruling Elders: William Cranford, Terrill Elniff and George Moss; Teaching Elders: Steven Clark and Samuel Hoyt, Jr.

We examined Mr. Paul Curnow who has been called as a second level Executive by the PCA Foundation. Mr. Curnow is not ordained and has transferred his membership within the past year from the Salvation Army to a Presbyterian Church in America congregation. He was examined by the Committee in regard to Christian experience and call, his views and knowledge in Theology, Bible and the Sacraments and his commitment to the *Book of Church Order* and government of the church and history of the Presbyterian Church in America. The examination was approved. He was encouraged to continue his growth in all these areas.

/s/ Samuel B. Hoyt, Jr., Chairman

Adopted

25-29 Committee of Commissioners on Covenant College

TE John MacRae, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and introduced RE Frank Brock, President of the College, who addressed the Assembly. Dr. Brock introduced Mr. Eddy Hilger, Admissions Department, who provided first hand admissions perspective regarding frequently asked questions.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

1. Report of the Board of Trustees [see Appendix E, p. 314]
2. Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for October 23, 1996 and March 19, 1997
3. Minutes of the Board of Trustees for October 24-25, 1997 and March 20-21, 1997
4. Proposed budget for 1997-1998
5. Financial Audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 1996

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

1. Report of the Board of Trustees via Chairman of the Board Joel Belz and President Frank Brock
2. Financial Audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 1996
3. 1997-1998 Budget
4. Policy on Campus Speakers

III. Recommendations

1. That the assembly praise the Lord for His grace evident in the progress of the ministry of Covenant College as reflected in their report to the General Assembly, and thank the Lord for the leadership of the Board of Trustees, President Frank Brock and the administration and faculty.

Adopted

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2. That the minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for October 23, 1996 and March 19, 1997, and the minutes of the Board of Trustees for October 24-25, 1997 and March 20-21, 1997 be approved without exception. *Adopted*
3. That the proposed budget for 1997-1998 be approved. *Adopted under AC*
4. That the Statement of Policy for visiting speakers and student chapels be approved as an acceptable response to the instructions of the 24th General Assembly (*M24GA*, page 224, Recommendation 5b). *Adopted*

Statement of Policy

Our Purpose and Claim:

Covenant College invites to its campus speakers who force or encourage us to think more biblically. Usually, invited speakers will do this on the basis of our common faith. Occasionally, however, it will be our disagreement in perspective or belief that will challenge us to encounter our biblical faith at more depth.

Rationale:

To faithfully pursue our academic calling, faculty and students must engage ideas and beliefs which may be either sincerely and intentionally adhered to or hypothetically offered. Pedagogically, we are bound to see these ideas as clearly as possible. This may allow adherents to speak for themselves, where possible. We must be judicious in such encounters, but encounters with people of opposing beliefs should not be avoided. We must "test the spirits" of our times and seek to understand what is true (1 John 4:1).

Explanations of policy

Given:

- Covenant College maintains as faculty only those who are committed to Christ, the Westminster Confession, the purposes of the college, and the teaching of students from a conscientiously biblical perspective. It remains the responsibility of each faculty member to be discerning, both of the learning potential from speakers within and without the college, and of the mind of Christ which evidences the true faith.
- Faculty members have primary responsibility to engage in analysis and dialogue with outside speakers in timely and effective ways. Faculty will always respond on the basis of our biblical perspective, from within the Reformed tradition, and in answer to the very real challenges of our times.
- Students are also responsible for and encouraged in this engagement, as they are able.
- The Bible is our final authority and - under the Spirit's interpreting action - is adequate to answer all objections. We need not shy away from any encounter.
- Speakers brought to campus are invited guests and should be treated with due respect and civility by all. They should never be invited here merely for the sake of our disagreement, nor should they come under any false pretense or undue censure.

It is always our hope to testify to them of Christ, especially where we disagree, to offer them and our students biblical truth winsomely.

Some qualifications:

- Sometimes the challenge to think more biblically comes best from those with whom we disagree theologically, ideologically, or philosophically. However, in no case will “foolish controversies” be promoted (Titus 3:9).
- No invitation to address the college constitutes automatic endorsement of any speaker’s views, in whole or part. In fact, at times it is precisely our presumed disagreement that justifies the invitation of a speaker. Those who assume such endorsement by the college are mistaken.
- The presence of any one speaker on any given occasion should not be considered in isolation from the teaching of the Bible and the college as a whole; rather, each speaker should be judged by the overall learning practices of the college. We ask those who want to evaluate the college on the basis of speakers to be willing to consider the entire spectrum of speakers who are invited.
- The college distinguishes between meetings for worship and assembly. When we meet for worship, even though we are not a church, it is our endeavor that every aspect of such a meeting be orthodox. However, when meeting for assembly, it may well be the case that an invited speaker be recognizably heterodox or even non-Christian. This distinction between gatherings for worship or assembly must be maintained and should not be mistaken either within or without the college community, although these are scheduled daily and meet in the building commonly referred to as the “chapel.” The chapel is actually the Dora Maclellan Brown Chapel and Fine Arts Building.

5. That the financial audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, be approved. *Adopted*
6. That the assembly grant five minutes to a representative of Covenant College to present the Covenant College Church Partnership Promise. *Adopted*
7. That the Board of Trustees’ expression of appreciation to Dr. Nicholas P. Barker (Board of Trustees’ Minutes, March 20-21, 1997, p. 7) be reprinted in the minutes of the assembly. *Adopted*

TO OUR BROTHER AND COLLEAGUE, NICHOLAS P. BARKER

Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Stepping aside after three decades in a college-shaping role, you are doing again now what you have done so consistently as long as we have known you. You have exhibited extraordinary modesty both in assuming responsibility and in giving it up.

Your imprint on our work together at Covenant College includes your high standards of performance in scholarship and every other endeavor; your

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

appreciation for all that is beautiful; your love for the art of effective teaching; your esteem for students; your loving nurture of the faculty; your compassion for the poor; your gentleness in relationships; and your obvious respect for those with whom you disagree.

Yet in the exercise of all those gifts, your regular demonstration of a servant's heart has reflected the fruit of God's spirit with a fullness and a sweetness few of his people ever exhibit.

May God be a constant helper to you and your family, and may you find yourself always in his wonderful presence.

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Calvary
Central Carolina
Central Florida
Central Georgia
Covenant
Eastern Canada
Evangel
Fellowship
Great Lakes
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Heritage
James River
New River
North Georgia
North Texas
Northern California
Northern Illinois
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Susquehanna Valley
Tennessee Valley
Western Carolina
Westminster

Commissioner

TE Larry R. Elenbaum
RE Charles C. Miller
TE J. Alex Coblentz
RE Richard S. Johns
RE Jack North
TE Brad Stewart
TE Alan Mills
RE Thomas Al Saunders
TE John M. "Chip" McArthur, Jr.
RE Steve Bedi
RE Vince Kane
TE Mark Morritt
RE Eugene Wentling
TE Frank P. Crane
TE Steve Leonard
TE Mark Rowden
TE Dale L. Smith
TE David R. Brown
TE Chris Vogel
TE Rick DeMass
RE Gary J. Senn
RE John Harley
RE Jean-Pierre Pressan
TE John MacRae
RE Carl E. Thompson, Jr.
TE Michael Delozier
TE Rick Franks

25-30 Assembly Recesses

The Assembly recessed by singing "All For Jesus" at 5:05 PM to reconvene Thursday morning at 8:00 AM. (The Clerk and Moderator deemed it not necessary to reconvene after evening worship.) Prayer was offered by TE M. D. Conner.

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Fourth Session - Thursday Morning June 12, 1997

25-31 Assembly Reconvenes

The Assembly reconvened at 8:05 AM with prayer by TE Charles McGowan and the singing of "To God Be The Glory".

25-32 Approval of Minutes

The *Minutes, Twenty-Fifth General Assembly*, Sessions One through Three, having been distributed, were approved as printed subject to corrections and/or additions being submitted in writing to the recording clerks.

25-33 Personal Privilege

With prior permission of the Moderator, TE Donald Graham addressed the Assembly commending the work of the many seminaries which have contributed to the ministry of the PCA. By common consent, it was agreed to allow several of these seminaries to make 5 minute reports on their work at the next General Assembly as part of the celebration of our Twenty-Fifth General Assembly.

25-34 Committee of Commissioners on Mission to North America

TE Hugh Barlett, Chairman, led in prayer and presented the report. He introduced TE Cortez Cooper, Coordinator for Mission to North America, who addressed the Assembly concerning the work of the Committee. TE Cooper introduced the following men, who spoke as to the respective work of MNA: TEs Larry Allen (Church Planting), Chris Bennett (Chaplains), Gary Cox (Revitalization), Paul Hahn (Campus Ministries), and Louis Wilson (Multicultural Church Planting).

Mr. Richard Roeters brought the Assembly a report on the ministry of Bethany Christian Services. TE Barlett closed the report with prayer.

I. Business Referred to the Committee:

The business referred to the MNA Committee of Commissioners consisted of:

1. Report from Mission to North America [see Appendix I, p. 390]
2. Recommendations from MNA
3. Overtures # 3, 5, 6, 7, 11.
4. Proposed 1998 MNA budget
5. Minutes from MNA Permanent Committee meetings

II. Statement of Major Issues Discussed:

The Committee expressed appreciation to GA/MNA for its work. Our discussion centered upon the MNA recommendations, including the budget for 1998; the Overtures 3, 5, and 7 that related to presbytery boundaries; the Overture 6 that pertained to women and their involvement in MNA seminars; and the Overtures 17, 18 and 33 which focused on the Campus Study Committee.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

III. Recommendations to the General Assembly:

1. That the General Assembly commend and thank TE Cortez A. Cooper, Jr. for his leadership as MNA Coordinator, and re-elect him for another year. *Adopted*
2. That the General Assembly express its gratitude to God for the staff of Mission to North America and for their faithful and effective work. *Adopted*

TE Cortez A Cooper, Jr.	Coordinator of Mission to North America
TE Frederick T. Marsh	Coordinator of Church Relations
TE John P. F. Smed	Coordinator of Church Planting
TE J. Allen Thompson	Coordinator of Multicultural Church planting
TE E. Marvin Padgett	Coordinator of Campus Ministries
TE Archie B. Parrish	Coordinator of Revitalization and Evangelism
TE David P. Peterson	Coordinator of Chaplain Ministries
TE William B. Leonard	Associate Director of PRJC (Chaplain Ministries)

Support Staff

Alice Blackwelder	Part-Time Secretary
Annette Carter	Administrative Assistant, Campus Ministries
Shirley Crowder	Assistant to the Coordinator of Campus Ministries
Lynn Eldridge	Administrative Assistant, Church Planting
Bekki Gowens	Development Assistant, Campus Ministries
Nancy Gray	Development Assistant for MNA
Barbara Green	Assistant to the Coordinator of MNA
Janet Haynes	Part-Time Secretary, Church Planting
Van Hoyt	Bookkeeper, Campus Ministries
Sheryl Toph	Assistant to the Coordinator of Church Planting
Sheila Wortham	Development Support Services
Sharon Worthy	Communications Secretary
3. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to establishing 2000 churches and missions by the year 2000, and thank God for the increased church planting that is occurring under local church and presbytery sponsorship and for all PCA church planters, multicultural church planters and missionaries, chaplains, Campus Ministries staff and interns, and International Students Christian Fellowship missionaries. *Adopted*
4. That the congregations represented by this Assembly be reminded of their covenant obligation to meet the ASKINGS for MNA and all other PCA Committees and Agencies, to the best of their ability, in accordance with conscience, recognizing the responsibility that follows when they, through their representatives assembled, both approve of the programs of these Committees and Agencies, and authorize spending for the same in their annual budgets. *Adopted as amended*
5. That the General Assembly express its gratitude to the Lord for a Thanksgiving Offering of more than \$43,000 and commend to the churches of the PCA the opportunity to support Urban and Mercy Ministries, preferably through an offering taken during the Thanksgiving season; and further, that churches consider how they may directly participate in greater measure in Urban and Mercy Ministries. *Adopted*

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6. 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, encourage continued support by churches and presbyteries, and invite the Bethany representative to speak to the Assembly for five minutes at this, or a more opportune, time. *Adopted*
7. That the General Assembly commend to the churches these resources and opportunities for ministry available through MNA:
- The opportunity to seek the Lord's leading in church planting, campus ministry or the chaplaincy.
 - The opportunity to support church planting (Anglo and Multicultural), campus ministries, revitalization, chaplain ministries (especially through THE CHAPLAIN GUARDIAN CORPS), financially (in addition to Partnership Share/Askings participation) and in prayer.
 - The opportunity to build relationships of fellowship and ministry with Korean churches and other ethnic groups within the PCA, as well as with other true believers in our local communities.
 - Utilize the resources of Revitalization and Evangelism materials and consultation services.
 - Recommend to church members that they subscribe (at no cost) to MNA INTERCESSOR, MULTIPLY, and MNA UPDATE.
- Adopted*
8. That **Overture 3** from Northeast Presbytery requesting formation of a New York City Metro Presbytery be approved with boundary adjustments as proposed by New Jersey Presbytery in **Communication 5** (see Communication from Northeast Presbytery). The effective date of the erection of this new Presbytery shall be the date set for convening by the Convenor (TE Timothy Keller). *Adopted as amended*

OVERTURE 3 From Northeast Presbytery

“Erect a New York City Metro Presbytery”

Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Northeast Presbytery hereby overtures the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to form a “New York City Metro” presbytery, consisting:

1. of the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, Lower Westchester (south of a latitude line drawn from the corner of the oblong section of CT to the southern border of Sleepy Hollow, NY), Nassau, Suffolk in New York State;
2. of the counties of Hudson, Union, Essex, Passaic, Bergen, Somerset, Mommouth, Middlesex, Morris, Mercer (east of I-295) in New Jersey;
3. of Fairfield County, CT “panhandle” south of and excluding Norwalk, New Canaan and Wilton, CT.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. (contingent upon the approval of Christ Church, New Haven), the remainder of Fairfield County and New Haven County in Connecticut.

This is also contingent upon the approval of the New Jersey Presbytery with regards to counties in this description within its bounds.

Adopted at the Winter Stated Meeting of Northeast Presbytery on January 17-18, 1997. Attested by: /s/ Norman A. Therrien, Stated Clerk

TO: Northeast Presbytery and New Jersey Presbytery

FROM: TE Tim Keller, on behalf of several PCA elders in the greater NYC area

DATE: January 17, 1997

History

The initial expression of interest in planning for a new presbytery came during a June meeting of PCA church planters which Redeemer Presbyterian Church supports financially within both Northeast Presbytery and New Jersey Presbytery. That group decided to hold a meeting in September to consider this prospect and invited all PCA churches and missions in New Jersey, Northeast, and Korean Eastern Presbytery that were within a 25 mile radius of Manhattan. In addition, we invited representatives of MNA committees of both New Jersey and Northeast Presbytery, as well as those of the MNA General Assembly. We met in September and November, and then decided to petition NJ and NE Presbytery for a new presbytery in covering an approximately 50-60 mile radius from NYC. We have determined to meet again January 23, 1996, and have invited all PCA churches within the proposed bounds.

Recommendation

Therefore be it resolved, that the Northeast Presbytery hereby overtures the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to form a "New York City Metro" presbytery, consisting:

1. of the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, Lower Westchester (south of a latitude line drawn from the corner of the oblong section of CT to the southern border of Sleepy Hollow, NY), Nassau, Suffolk in New York State;
2. of the counties of Hudson, Union, Essex, Passaic, Bergen, Somerset, Mommouth, Middlesex, Morris, Mercer (east of I-295) in New Jersey;
3. of Fairfield County, CT "panhandle" south of and excluding Norwalk, New Canaan and Wilton, CT.
4. (contingent upon the approval of Christ Church, New Haven), the remainder of Fairfield County and New Haven County in Connecticut.

This is also contingent upon the approval of the New Jersey Presbytery with regards to counties in this description within its bounds.

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Churches and Missions from NE Presbytery: 5 churches, 4 missions

Churches:

Covenant, Flushing (Queens), NY	(Northeast)
Faith, White Plains, NY	(Northeast)
Village, NY, NY	(Northeast)
Redeemer, NY, NY	(Northeast)
(contingent) Christ, New Haven, CT	(Northeast)

Missions:

Comunidade Crista, Mineola, NY	(Northeast)
Northshore, Cold Spring Harbor, NY	(Northeast)
Trinity, Rye, NY	(Northeast)
(contingent) Comunidade, Danbury, CT	(Northeast)

Churches and Missions from New Jersey Presbytery: 6 churches, 2 missions

Churches:

Comunidade, Newark, NJ	(New Jersey)
Covenant, Short Hills, NJ	(New Jersey)
Princeton, Princeton, NJ	(New Jersey)
New Life, Middleton, NJ	(New Jersey)
Mt. Carmel, Somerset, NJ	(New Jersey)
Grace Community, Somerville, NJ	(New Jersey)

Missions:

Tabernaculo de Gracia, Patterson, NJ	(New Jersey)
Redentor, E. Brunswick, NJ	(New Jersey)

COMMUNICATION 5 From the Presbytery of New Jersey

May 20, 1997

The Rev. Dr. Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk
Presbyterian Church in America
Atlanta, GA 30345-4305

Dear Paul:

Enclosed are all the documents that should come to your attention as a product of the May 17, 1997, meeting of the Presbytery of New Jersey. Included are: The action of Presbytery on the *BCO* Amendments handed down by the 1996 General Assembly; and the action of Presbytery pertaining to the proposed partition of Presbytery to form The Greater Metropolitan Presbytery. The latter action involves three separate actions which are presented here in two individual documents.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I am anticipating the General Assembly and praying for God's direction and his blessings on your efforts and those of your staff. I look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs.

In the bonds of Jesus' love,
/s/ James A. Smith, Stated Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

Action of the Presbytery of New Jersey responding to a complaint and a recommendation regarding the formation of the "Greater Metropolitan Presbytery"

The Presbytery received a complaint from the Session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, against the action of Presbytery at its February 1997 meeting adopting an overture to partition Presbytery in order to form a metropolitan New York Presbytery. Subsequently the same session asked Presbytery to ask for a delay in the formation of the new Presbytery.

Presbytery first voted no to the request for delay and then voted to deny the complaint, that is to stand by its action at the February meeting.

Presbytery then considered a motion requesting amendments to the parameters of the partition within the state of New Jersey. The motion as amended is enclosed as a separate document.

Attest: /s/ James A. Smith, Stated Clerk, New Jersey Presbytery

ATTACHMENT B

Overture to amend the parameters of the borders of the "Greater Metropolitan Presbytery"

Whereas, The Presbytery of New Jersey is not opposed to the concept of a New York Metropolitan Presbytery and has voted in favor of an overture to have General Assembly erect such a Presbytery;

Whereas, In our opinion the action Presbytery was asked to approve has weaknesses rising out of the haste with which the action was taken, to wit, at least one church that desires to be in such a Presbytery was excluded, and two (or more) churches included prefer not to be;

Whereas, Presbytery as Presbytery had no opportunity for negotiation and could only vote up or down on the proposed new Presbytery;

Whereas, Though Presbytery approved the proposal it did so with much pain on the part of many and concerns by some that this pain was not given adequate consideration by the committee which drew up the parameters of the proposed new Presbytery;

Whereas, General Assembly has before it an overture passed by both the Presbytery of the Northeast and the Presbytery of New Jersey which was submitted in timely fashion and is therefore properly before the Assembly;

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Therefore be it Resolved that the Presbytery overture the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado on June 19-13, 1997, to,

- I. Receive this overture (which is in effect an attempt to perfect the above mentioned overture) even though it is late according to the requirements of RAO 10-7, 8 and 9,
- II. Consider the wisdom of approving the formation of the new, Greater Metropolitan Presbytery but with the following adjustments in the borders within the State of New Jersey,
 1. The inclusion of all the counties north of the southern borders of Middlesex and Mercer counties in the Greater Metropolitan Presbytery and;
 2. The inclusion of Monmouth county in the continuing Presbytery of New Jersey.

The Presbytery understands that the Northeast Presbytery may request the definition of the boundaries within their region as they see fit.

Attested: /s/ James A. Smith, Stated Clerk

COMMUNICATION 3 From Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mr. Laurel, NJ

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
550 Union Mill Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054-9558

May 23, 1997

The Reverend Mr. Paul Gilchrist
Presbyterian Church in America
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Mr. Gilchrist

I believe that you are aware of the controversy in New Jersey Presbytery over the proposed division. A complaint and resolution from this Session failed at the May stated meeting of New Jersey Presbytery to a vote of 20 to 12. The Session believes very strongly that those considering this issue at the General Assembly level need to know the view point being taken by the minority. I have been authorized by the Session to pursue this at General Assembly level since I am going to be there. We do not want to cause turmoil on the floor so will not be presenting a personal resolution, but do want to have those considering the issue see our concerns. I am sending to you our complaint and resolution so the Committee of Commissioners, Mission to North America, can consider the minority view.

Our intention is not to be divisive, though I am sure many will view our opposition in this way. The point could be made that a denial of the division

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could result in, ashamedly, a presbytery at war with itself and unable to come to brotherly agreement. However we feel strongly that this division is very detrimental to the churches in the continuing presbytery and that MNA needs to come up with guidelines for such divisions so that the whole presbytery can be engaged in the process. It seems to us that much thought, by some, went into what would be good for them and very little thought went into considering what would be good for all.

The fact that presbytery had to revisit the issue again and redraw the boundaries because many were not happy, shows the lack of communication with even the churches that would be or would want to be a part of the division. That issue will also be presented to the Committee of Commissioners. It should be known however, that there are churches in the new presbytery that have expressed, officially and unofficially, that they are not happy with even this modification. It should be known also that the vote, 20-12, does not reflect the strength of the feelings in presbytery. Many agreed with the items we have taken issue with, but voted for division anyway believing it was a done deal and more problems would arise due to attitudes if we delayed the division. Whether division occurs or not is not the point, it is the way it was done and the lack of consideration for the weakened presbytery which remains, that we feel needs to be considered in our case and in future presbytery divisions.

Please refer this letter and the enclosed material to the Committee of Commissioners, Mission to North America, so they can see it as they deal with the issue of the proposed division. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

For Christ's Glory,
/s/ Gary Englestad, Moderator of Session

ATTACHMENT A
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
550 Union Mill Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054-9558

March 6, 1997

TE James A. Smith, Clerk
Presbytery of New Jersey, PCA
Brick, NJ 08723-8022

Dear Jim,

The following complaint was passed by the Session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mount Laurel, on March 6, 1997. We intend that it be considered at the May meeting and accompany the request being made at this year's General Assembly to divide the Presbytery.

"We, the members of the Session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, unanimously complain against (BCO 43) the action of the

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Presbytery of New Jersey, which seeks to have General Assembly approve a division of the Presbytery.”

We make this complaint because we believe that such an action will be of great detriment to the churches that remain in the presbytery. We complain about this action on the following grounds:

1. There was no need demonstrated for such a division of the Presbytery. All arguments were from the view of a potential growth among the churches that will be leaving the Presbytery. We believe a division should occur based on actual need, not some potential need. The fact is that Presbytery is too small to divide at this time. No argument was made for there being greater potential for growth among the churches that remain, in fact, argument could be made to the contrary.
2. Such a division will take most of the stronger churches and join them with other strong churches from another presbytery, while the remaining churches in New Jersey Presbytery will be the weaker churches and they will be left without any plan to join with other churches. We believe such an action is short sighted and only considers the benefits to half the Presbytery. For example, the churches leaving will form a presbytery that is at least the size of the old New Jersey Presbytery while the remaining churches in Presbytery will go from seventeen churches, to no more than nine, just over the limit for the number of churches required to have a presbytery. The budget will drop from \$15,000 a year to about \$3,000 a year, based on past giving of the churches. We doubt that it is ever good policy, when dividing a church or a presbytery, that the mother church or presbytery have most of its finances and membership taken away.
3. The division was planned out by a small group of churches without any consultation or thought out plan as to what would happen to the churches that remained. We oppose a process that presents an issue of this magnitude and importance without discussion by the whole Presbytery of a transition plan prior to any action to actually divide the Presbytery. Some of our ministers were having meetings and planning while other churches were intentionally left in the dark. Brotherhood demands that such tactics not be taken. As an example of the bad planning: two churches, in the proposed new presbytery, were not even consulted as to which presbytery they wanted to be a part of. A request of these two churches to be a part of the old presbytery is being forwarded to General Assembly to perfect the plan. This approach is being taken since they do not want to wait another year to be where they want to be. We believe many more imperfections should be resolved before the General Assembly approves this plan.
5. All the reasons given to make a new presbytery such as: a common orientation to New York city, similar demographics, and closeness of geography are ignored for the remaining Presbytery. The remaining

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

churches are far removed in geography, culture, and orientation to any city or to each other. We deny that a presbytery should be formed on demographic considerations alone. We protest a division that makes an attempt to improve the demographics of one group of churches while making worse the demographics of the remaining churches.

6. It was not demonstrated that the effort at church planting would be carried out any better in a new presbytery than in the one that presently exists. This is just one of many arguments given that were based on promises and wishful thinking rather than demonstrated reality. The failure of church plants recently in the northern counties of New Jersey had nothing to do with the make up of the Presbytery. The successful church plants have been supported by the churches in the southern counties.

Thank you for considering our viewpoint.

In Christ's Service,
The Session, Evangelical Presbyterian Church

/s/ TE Gary Englestad, Moderator

/s/ RE John Mardirosian, Clerk

ATTACHMENT B

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
550 Union Mill Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054-9558

May 14, 1997

Whereas, the Presbytery of New Jersey has petitioned General Assembly to divide off eight churches and two missions to join with other churches to form a new presbytery; and

Whereas, there was no need demonstrated for such a division of the Presbytery, all arguments being made from the view of a potential growth among the churches that will be leaving the Presbytery. We believe a division should occur based on actual need, not some potential need. The fact is that Presbytery is too small to divide to this extent at this time. Also, no argument was made for there being greater potential for growth among the churches that remain, in fact, argument could be made to the contrary.

Whereas, such a division will take most of the stronger churches and join them with other strong churches from another presbytery, while the remaining churches in New Jersey Presbytery will be the weaker churches and they will be left without any plan to join with other churches. We believe such an action is short sighted and only considers the benefits to half the Presbytery. For example, the churches leaving will form a presbytery

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that is at least the size of the old New Jersey Presbytery while the remaining churches in Presbytery will go from seventeen churches, to no more than nine, just over the limit for the number of churches required to have a presbytery. The budget will drop from \$15,000 a year to about \$3,000 a year, based on past giving of the churches. We doubt that it is ever good policy, when dividing a church or a presbytery, that the mother church or presbytery have most of its finances and membership taken away.

Whereas, the division was planned out by a small group of churches without any consultation with or thought out plan as to what would happen to the churches that remained, we oppose a process that presents an issue of this magnitude and importance without discussion by the whole Presbytery of a transition plan prior to any action to actually divide the Presbytery. Some of our ministers were having meetings and planning while other churches were intentionally left in the dark. Brotherhood demands that such tactics not be taken. As an example of the bad planning: two churches, in the proposed new presbytery were not even consulted as to which presbytery they wanted to be a part of. A request of these two churches to be a part of the old presbytery is being forwarded to the General Assembly to perfect the plan and one church left out of the plan wants to be included. These requests are being considered now since these churches do not want to wait another year to be where they want to be. We believe that, even though these defects be corrected at the May meeting of Presbytery, many more imperfections should be resolved before the General Assembly approves this plan.

Whereas, all the reasons given to make a new presbytery such as: common orientation to New York city, similar demographics, and closeness of geography are ignored for the remaining Presbytery; the remaining churches are far removed in geography, culture, and orientation to any city or to each other. We deny that a presbytery should be formed on demographic considerations alone. We protest a division that makes an attempt to improve the demographics of one group of churches while making worse the demographics of the remaining churches.

Whereas, it was not demonstrated that the effort at church planting would be carried out any better in a new presbytery than in the one that presently exists, but was one of many arguments given that were based on promises and wishful thinking rather than demonstrated reality. The failure of church plants recently in the northern counties of New Jersey had nothing to do with the make up of this Presbytery. The successful church plants have been supported by the churches in the southern countries also.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the Presbytery of New Jersey and General Assembly delay the implementation of the division of New Jersey Presbytery for a year so that the whole Presbytery can devise a plan that

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

will benefit both the churches around New York City and the churches that remain in the continuing presbytery.

Adopted at a called meeting of the Session, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Mount Laurel, New Jersey, May 14, 1997. This resolution is based on the complaint filed previously with the Clerk of Presbytery.

/s/ Gary Englestad, Moderator

/s/ John Mardirosian, Clerk of Session

COMMUNICATION 4 From Northeast Presbytery

May 19, 1997

Rev. James A. Smith, Stated Clerk
New Jersey Presbytery
Brick, NJ 08723

Dear James,

The Northeast Presbytery convened for its Stated Meeting on May 16-17, 1997, in West Springfield, Massachusetts. We considered your request regarding the supplemental overture for the Metro (NYC) Presbytery. The following motion was approved by our Presbytery:

"MSC to instruct the Stated Clerk to write a letter to General Assembly indicating that Northeast Presbytery takes no exception to any amendments made by New Jersey Presbytery concerning boundaries relative to New Jersey. We further clarify our intention that the Portuguese work in Danbury, Connecticut be included in the Metro (NYC) Presbytery."

If I can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to call. The Lord's richest blessings upon you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

/s/ Norman A. Therrien, Stated Clerk
Northeast Presbytery

9. That **Overture 7** from New Jersey Presbytery requesting formation of a New York City Metro Presbytery be approved with the following adjustments in the boundaries within New Jersey as requested in **Communication 5** (p. 153) from the New Jersey Presbytery.
 1. Include in the New York City Metro Presbytery all of the counties north of the southern boundaries of Middlesex and Mercer counties [New Jersey].

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2. Include Monmouth County [New Jersey] in the continuing of New Jersey Presbytery.

Adopted

OVERTURE 7 From the Presbytery of New Jersey
“Erect a NY City Metro Presbytery”

It was moved that the Presbytery of New Jersey overture the General Assembly to form a “New York Metro” Presbytery, consisting:

1. of the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, Westchester (south of a line running from the NE corner of the Connecticut panhandle to the southern border of Sleepy Hollow, NY), Nassau and Suffolk in New York;
2. of the counties of Hudson, Union, Essex, Passaic, Bergen, Somerset, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Mercer (east of I-295) in New Jersey;
3. of Fairfield County, Connecticut “panhandle” (west of and excluding New Canaan, Wilton and Norwalk), and
4. (contingent upon the approval of Christ Church, New Haven), the remainder of Fairfield County and New Haven County in Connecticut.

Approved at the 79th Stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Jersey.

Attested by: /s/ James A. Smith, Stated Clerk

10. That **Overture 5** from Covenant Presbytery requesting a change in the boundaries of Covenant and Louisiana Presbyteries be approved, pending approval by Louisiana Presbytery. *Adopted*

OVERTURE 5 From Covenant Presbytery
“Redraw Boundaries of Covenant And Louisiana Presbyteries”

Whereas, the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamps, Arkansas, Lafayette County, has discussed, prayed, and voted;

Whereas the First Presbyterian Church of Stamps, Arkansas is two and one-half hours from the closest other PCA church of Covenant Presbytery;

Whereas on the average the teaching and ruling elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamps, Arkansas, must drive six to seven hours to attend meetings of Covenant Presbytery;

Whereas, the attendees from Stamps, Arkansas must spend for overnight lodging prior to most meetings of Covenant Presbytery;

Whereas, the drive after meetings of Covenant Presbytery back to Stamps is very tiring and long with attendees sometimes arriving home in the early hours of the morning;

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Whereas, the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Stamps, Arkansas feels that they would be better stewards of the Lord God's resources in Louisiana Presbytery;

Be it resolved, that Covenant Presbytery boundary lines be redrawn in order that Miller, Lafayette, Columbia, and Union Counties be transferred to Louisiana Presbytery upon Louisiana Presbytery and General Assembly's approval.

Adopted at the Winter Stated Meeting of Covenant Presbytery on February 4, 1997

Attested by: /s/ Grover E. Gunn III, Stated Clerk

11. That the General Assembly request the MNA/GA work together with the Stated Clerk's office to define a process for dividing or creating new presbyteries which would include the presbyteries and the churches that will be affected by the change in boundaries. *Adopted*

12. That **Overture 6** from New Jersey Presbytery concerning women leaders in MNA seminars be answered in the negative.

Grounds: Seminars led by women on biblical and theological exposition will have women as the intended audience. The Scriptures and the subordinate standards are clear that only men are to be appointed as elders. The subordinate standards are clear that the preaching of the Word in the public worship on the Lord's Day is to be conducted by elders, under the oversight of the session. The GA recognizes that the ministry of women within the church, including MNA, must be exercised within the bounds of Scripture, including 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

Adopted as amended

OVERTURE 6 From the Presbytery of New Jersey

"Concern About Women Leaders in MNA Seminars"

It was moved that the Presbytery instruct the clerk to communicate to the GA our deep concern about the use of women as teachers and worship leaders in seminars sponsored by the General Assembly MNA and to request that the General Assembly instruct MNA to cease from this practice.

Adopted at the 79th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Jersey.

Attested by: /s/ James A. Smith, Stated Clerk

13. That the 25th General Assembly delay its answer to **Overtures 17, 18 and 33** (see *M24GA*, 24-31, III, 7, p. 196) until the 26th GA, and that the Campus Study Committee, appointed by the GA MNA Committee March 1996 (3-96-37), after consultation with concerned presbyteries, bring specific recommendations to the 26th GA concerning Reformed University Ministry's relationship with the PCA.

Adopted

14. That Recommendations 19 (see Appendix I, p. 406, **Overture 11** from Covenant Presbytery, and 20 (see Appendix I, p. 407) **Overture 17** from Grace Presbytery, be answered **in the negative** with reference to Recommendation 13.

Adopted

OVERTURE 11 From Covenant Presbytery

“Discharge MNA’s Responsibility for RUM and Establish RUM as a Separate Committee of GA”

Whereas, four Presbyteries sent four overtures to the 24th General Assembly, the overture from Covenant Presbytery being Overture 18, requesting that GA/RUM become a General Assembly permanent committee rather than a subcommittee of GA/MNA;

Whereas, the 24th General Assembly responded to these overtures by recognizing a study committee of the GA/MNA, which GA/MNA had appointed prior to the Assembly, by committing the study of the RUM issue to this study committee, and by stating that the study committee would bring its recommendations to the 25th General Assembly through GA/MNA;

Whereas, the GA/MNA Committee study committee has proposed the restructuring of RUM which will transfer the administrative oversight of Mississippi/RUM from the Mississippi Presbyteries' joint administrative oversight committee in Jackson, Mississippi, to GA/MNA in Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas, the GA/MNA Committee study committee proposed this transfer of oversight without consulting representatives from any of the Presbyteries involved and without giving the Presbyteries involved any explanation;

Whereas, Covenant Presbytery is strongly opposed to and will not voluntarily consent to a transfer of the administrative oversight of its flourishing campus ministries from the Mississippi Joint Committee on Campus Work, established in 1975 as an administrative servant of the participating Mississippi Presbyteries, to MNA/Atlanta;

Whereas, Covenant Presbytery has been disturbed by the proposals of the GA/MNA study committee;

Whereas, Covenant Presbytery has been involved in the work of campus ministry within its geographic bounds since its 8th Stated Meeting (April 14, 1975) when it called TE Ford Williams as "Minister to Students at Mississippi State University";

Whereas, Covenant Presbytery, at its 9th Stated Meeting (July 14, 1975), established a Joint Committee together with Mississippi Valley Presbytery to oversee its campus ministry;

Whereas, Covenant Presbytery, at its 17th Stated Meeting on July 18-19, 1977, adopted a Policy Manual for the Committee on Campus Work and expressed its intention to hire a Coordinator of Campus Ministries in

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cooperation with Grace and Mississippi Valley Presbyteries, effective January 1, 1978;

Whereas, the 4th General Assembly (1977) adopted the guidelines that "the Committee on Mission to the United States [now Mission to North America] function in this matter [i.e., in college campus work] primarily as a coordinating and resource body" and "be responsible for the development of college campus ministries where there is no Presbytery that can so function";

Whereas, the 4th General Assembly exhorted the Presbyteries "to become actively involved in a ministry to the college campuses in their geographic bounds";

Whereas, Covenant Presbytery's campus ministry has grown since its 1975 origin such that Covenant Presbytery now has five flourishing campus ministries within its bounds (three in Mississippi and two in western Tennessee) with pastoral responsibility for nearly one thousand students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Covenant Presbytery overtures the 25th General Assembly to take the following actions:

1. To spread upon the minutes of General Assembly the attached report from the Mississippi Joint Committee on Campus Work, which MJCCW unanimously adopted on March 24, 1997, and which Covenant Presbytery unanimously endorsed at its called meeting on April 8, 1997;
2. To reaffirm the principle implied in the action of the 4th General Assembly that a PCA presbytery has a right to administer and oversee its own campus ministry;
3. To instruct the GA/MNA Committee that its study committee has been discharged from further consideration of Covenant Presbytery's Overture 18 to the 24th General Assembly;
4. To answer Covenant Presbytery's Overture 18 to the 24th General Assembly by constituting GA/RUM a General Assembly permanent committee or agency with equal status with the other permanent committees and agencies of the General Assembly.

Adopted at the April 8, 1997 Called Meeting of Covenant Presbytery.

Attested by Grover E. Gunn III, Stated Clerk

TO: The MNA Appointed Study Committee for Reformed University Ministries to Study Presbytery Overtures 17,18 and 33 Concerning the Constitution of RUM as a Separate and Permanent Committee

FROM: The Mississippi Joint Committee for Reformed University Ministries

DATE: March 3, 1997

At the 24th General Assembly overtures were presented from the three (3) Mississippi Presbyteries and Southeast Alabama Presbytery. The overture recommends the study of a proposal to create a General Assembly level committee for the oversight of RUM. The effect of these overtures would be

that the RUM Committee would no longer be a subcommittee of MNA. Having received the overtures, the MNA Committee appointed a Study Committee to consider them.

This appointed Study Committee has apparently summarily dismissed these overtures and their recommendation for a General Assembly permanent committee for RUM. In its stead, the Study Committee has indicated its intention to recommend to the MNA Committee that a new more centralized structure be imposed on RUM. This would effectively be a recommendation that the overtures be answered in the negative. However, before the Study Committee took a final vote, they believed it was wise to consult with the Mississippi Joint Committee.

The Mississippi Joint Committee would make the following responses to the proposed recommendation for structural changes to Reformed Universities Ministries:

1. The Mississippi Committee is concerned that the Study Committee did not review the content of the overtures and did not have an official representative of the overturing Presbyteries to speak on their behalf or to defend their merits.
2. It appears to the Mississippi Joint Committee that the Study Committee has stepped beyond the bounds of its assignment. Neither the General Assembly nor MNA has asked for it to recommend such proposed structural changes. Indeed, the overtures which the General Assembly sent down to MNA point in the exact opposite direction of the Study Committee's proposals. The Study Committee should act on the overtures handed down to it, research them, debate them, vote them up or down, and report their findings to MNA, and through MNA back to the General Assembly.
3. The Mississippi Joint Committee does not have the authority to assent to such a proposed organizational structural change. The Mississippi Committee answers to the Presbyteries which it represents. Any such changes would have to go before the three Presbyteries for approval. Assembly agencies and subcommittees have no sovereignty whatsoever over Presbyteries.
4. Regarding this proposed change, the basic issue is: Will RUM be "Atlanta driven" or "Presbytery driven"? Will RUM be "top down" or "grassroots"? Will RUM Atlanta be seen as a "supervisor" or a "facilitator and servant" of the brethren? This philosophical question really appears to be the crux of the issue for the Mississippi Committee. We have always been very concerned about attempts to circumvent or reduce the authority of Presbyteries.
5. The proposed change will directly and indirectly result in bureaucratic centralization of authority and administration. Presbyterian history shows centralized bureaucracy had always bred mediocrity, theological reductionism and heterodoxy.

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6. This proposal of the Study Committee creates a greater potential for micro-managing local affairs from the "top". This violates current management theory, current trends in the national (and world) government, current trends in the PCA (e.g. MTW).
7. This proposed change violates the principles of the Southern Presbyterian, "grassroots" approach to oversight of church agencies. The PCA specifically refused to call its agency coordinators "directors" for this very reason. We do not believe in coordinators usurping the authority of church courts, but merely in their facilitating mutual Kingdom labor. They are servants, not Lords, hence "coordinators" not "directors". Disagreement with this philosophy is to argue for an entirely new philosophy not yet adopted by the PCA.
8. This proposed change is a novel approach which differs from the basic principles of the affiliated agreement between RUM Mississippi and PCA RUM. This should be remembered by all involved in the discussion. Any unilaterally "imposed" violation of the agreement by Atlanta would render that agreement null and void. The word "imposed" is in quotes because Atlanta does not in fact have the authority or ability to "impose" on RUM Mississippi. RUM Mississippi is under the authority of and controlled by the three (3) Presbyteries.
9. Some have argued that this proposed change in organization and structure is consistent with the original design and structure of RUM. First, we may note that the Presbyteries and Campus Ministers asked for changes in the structure of RUM. Second, the manual cannot override Presbyterian power or the basic affiliated agreement. Third, even if the proposed change is historically consistent, we must recognize that the Presbyteries, Area Coordinators, and Campus Ministers are adamantly opposed to micro-managing from Atlanta and realize the superiority of handling things from the field.
10. The Mississippi Joint Committee unanimously opposed the proposed change for the restructure of Reformed University Ministries as it applies to the Mississippi Joint Committee. Also, the Committee is prepared to voice this opposition to the member Presbyteries.
11. It is the firm belief of the Joint Committee that any effort to bring the authority, structure, power and money under the Atlanta office, and thus reduce the role of the Mississippi Joint Committee to mere advice and consent, will remove the final authority away from Presbytery and may have direct and severe negative financial consequences.

OVERTURE 17 From Grace Presbytery

“Establish RUM as A Permanent Committee of General Assembly”

Whereas, since the beginning of Reformed University Ministries, it has been assigned to and has been given oversight through a subcommittee of the Mission to North America Committee, and

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- Whereas**, the primary objective of Mission to North America is the planting of new churches, and
- Whereas**, Reformed University Ministries is an encouragement to the church planting process but is not technically a church planting enterprise, and
- Whereas**, The General Assembly will be asked to approve a new Coordinator for Reformed University Ministries who will function much like the other coordinators of the existing permanent Committees, and
- Whereas**, Reformed University Ministries has been greatly blessed of God and grown widely throughout the Presbyterian Church in America, and
- Whereas**, the overall budget for Reformed University Ministries comprises nearly one half of the entire budget of Mission to North America, and
- Whereas**, for future growth and expansion of Reformed University Ministries in the late 1990's and even into the next century, certain administrative changes are necessary,
- Therefore Be it Resolved**, that the Presbytery of Grace overtures the 24th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America that Reformed University Ministries be given full "agency" status in conformity to *BCO* Chapter 14 and RAO Article IV.

Adopted by Grace Presbytery on May 14, 1996.

Attested by: /s/ Eugene Case, Stated Clerk

15. That the minutes of the MNA Permanent Committee meetings of 6/18/96, 10/3-4/96, 3/6-7/97, and 5/30/97 be approved with notations reported to the Committee and **the following exceptions**.
- At several points (10-96-24 and 10-45 through 47) a teaching elder's status is changed. Such changes in terms of call need to be approved by the man's presbytery. This follows from *BCO* 20-1 and the precedent of the 23rd General Assembly with regard to the changes in terms of call for missionaries. There is no evidence in the minutes of such involvement on the part of the relevant presbyteries. This is especially serious in 10-96-45 where MNA "will dissolve [a TE's] pastoral relationship immediately" if a support deficit continues. The TE's presbytery must concur in such a dissolution. (*BCO* 23-1, cf. 20-1).
 - While the minutes of the Committee reflect the adoption of the various recommendations to General Assembly, there is no evidence in the minutes that the Committee ever saw or approved the "Report of the Committee on Mission to North America," nor that they authorized anyone else to write or approve the report. If it is a committee report it needs to be adopted by the Committee. (Robert's Rules 50).
 - The Committee has one serving as Secretary who is not a member of the Committee.

Grounds: RAO 4-10.a requires that the chairman of a subcommittee must be a member of the permanent committee. It is irregular that a person not elected by the General Assembly to serve on the MNA Committee is serving as an officer

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of the Committee. RAO 4-16 states that the secretary is an officer of the permanent committee.

Adopted

16. That the General Assembly adopt the 1998 MNA budget, which includes the growth budget, and commend such to the churches for their support.

Adopted under AC

17. That the General Assembly note that the entire 1998 budget of MNA Campus Ministries, as well as that of the affiliated campus ministries, is provided to the General Assembly for its information; and further, that the Assembly note with thanksgiving the opportunities and challenges represented by the entire 1998 budget.

Adopted

Commissioners present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Calvary
Central Carolina
Central Georgia
Evangel
Fellowship
Great Lakes
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Heritage
James River
Louisiana
Mississippi Valley
Missouri
Nashville
New Jersey
New River
North Georgia
North Texas
Northern California
Pacific NW
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Siouxlands
Southeast Alabama
Southern Florida
Southwest Florida
Western Carolina

Commissioner

RE Jay Neikirk
TE E. Crowell Cooley
RE Jimmie Mitchell
TE Roland S. Barnes
TE Rob Bailey
RE Len Gwin
TE Larry Allen
TE Robert S. Hayes
RE Gordon Wirtjes
TE Dan Kiehl
RE Bruce Honts
TE Bob Dillard
TE J. Ligon Duncan III
TE Hugh Barlett, Chairman
TE Arch Warren
TE D. Worth Carson
RE Louie Hutchinson
RE Doug Russ
RE W. C. (Duke) Cornell
TE Michael Howard, Secretary
RE Richard Mercer
TE Lee Ferguson
TE Jonathan Inman
TE Todd Williams
TE Terry Baxley
RE Karl Pasch
TE Aaron Fleming
TE Michael Rybka
RE William Earnest
RE Michael Everhart

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25-35 Prayer

The Assembly was led in prayer by TE Norman Evans for the family of TE Dwight Monk, who left this life June 10, 1997.

25-36 Motion to Reconsider

A motion was made to **reconsider** Recommendation 2 of the Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations. [See text of report at 25-15, p. 56] This motion was **defeated**.

The Assembly paused to sing "When Morning Gilds the Skies."

25-37 Committee of Commissioners on Ridge Haven

RE David Wilcox, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. He introduced TE Robert Brunson, President of the Board of Directors, who introduced TE Jackson Beall (who spoke about children's ministries at Ridge Haven) and TE Malcolm Griffith (who spoke about adult ministries).

I. Business Referred to the Committee

Referred to the Committee of Commissioners was the business of examining the minutes, the budget and the audit as presented to the committee by the Board of Ridge Haven.

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

Major issues discussed revolved around the wording of the document entitled "*The Ridge Haven Policy on Women Preaching and Teaching in its Camps and Conferences*" The committee concluded the issue was essentially semantic, and asked the author of the document, Administrator Morse Up De Graff, to delete references to women "preaching," to include specific references from the BCO, and present the revised policy for review by the Committee of Commissioners at the 26th General Assembly.

III. Recommendations

1. That the Sessions, Churches, and members of the PCA be encouraged to pray for Ridge Haven. *Adopted*
2. That the Kevitt and Lee Financial Audit for 1996 be accepted. *Adopted*
3. That Ridge Haven's 1998 budget be approved as submitted through the Administrative Committee. *Adopted under AC*
4. That the Sessions and Churches of the PCA be requested to include Ridge Haven in the annual budgets to underwrite the PARTNERSHIP SHARE approved by the General Assembly. *Adopted*
5. a. That the minutes of the Board of Directors of August 20, 1996 be approved with the following notation:

The approval of the previous minutes was not included; there were no references to the BCO in the policy statement attachment A, "*The Ridge Haven Policy on Women Preaching*

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and Teaching in its Camps and Conferences;” and the semantics were misleading to the actual intent of the policy.

- b. That the minutes of the Board of Directors of February 25, 1997, and May 13, 1997, be approved without exception.
- c. That the minutes of the Board of Directors of June 2, 1997, be approved with the following notations:

Purpose for the called meeting was not clearly stated.

Adopted

- 6. That the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven, Inc., review the Ridge Haven policy entitled, *“The Ridge Haven Policy on Women Preaching and Teaching in its Camps and Conferences”* in the coming year and that the Committee of Commissioners of the 26th General Assembly review this policy.

Adopted

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Calvary
Central Carolina
Central Georgia
Evangel
Fellowship
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Heritage
James River
Louisiana
North Georgia
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Potomac
Southeast Alabama
Southwest Florida
Susquehanna Valley
Tennessee Valley
Westminster

Commissioner

RE David Wilcox, Chairman
TE James Watson
RE William Hatcher
RE Bill Whorton
TE Richard Schwartz
TE Tom Stanton
TE Stuart Kerns
RE John Haldeman
TE Clyde Bowie
RE Mark Jonker
TE Alan Johnson
RE James Eugene Klugh
RE Samuel Grillo
RE David Lambert
RE Mac Gardner
TE Jim Mitchell
TE Ken Hash
TE George Long
TE Carl Howell

25-38 Constitutional Business

RE Frank C. Young led in prayer and presented the report (see 25-22, p. 128). The Moderator ruled that the advice of the Committee on Constitutional Business in Constitutional Inquiries 1 and 2 would be received without discussion, only questions, because the CCB was not functioning as a study committee (per *BCO* 15-5), but responding to a request of the Assembly.

Concerning Constitutional Inquiry 1, the Assembly **adopted** the recommendation of CCB, see 25-22, p. 134, and docketed action on **Case 96-2** for 3:45 PM Thursday.

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Concerning Constitutional Inquiry 2, a motion to **proceed to vote on Case 95-11** was **adopted**. For action on **Case 95-11**, see under 25-16, V, 5, p. 80.

25-39 Assembly Recesses

The Assembly recessed at 11:35 AM to worship led by Heartland Presbytery, after a moment of personal privilege by TE Craig Childs in apology for his dilatory motion of yesterday. TE Childs led the Assembly in prayer.

Fifth Session - Thursday Afternoon June 20, 1996

25-40 Assembly Reconvenes

The Assembly reconvened at 2:00 PM with prayer by TE Steve Jussely and the singing of "Fairrest Lord Jesus."

25-41 Committee of Commissioners on Christian Education

Coordinator Charles Dunahoo led the Assembly in prayer and presented the Committee's program. He spoke of the great opportunities for the Reformed faith to impact the world in our day and age. TE Mark Cushman, Chairman of Committee of Commissioners on CE&P, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. TE Michael Potts closed the report with prayer.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

1. Report of the Christian Education & Publications Committee; [see Appendix D, p. 307]
2. Review of minutes of the Christian Education & Publications Committee: June 18, 1996, September 26, 27, 1996, February 20, 21, 1997;
3. Overture 15 from South Coast Presbytery.

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

The Committee of Commissioners heard the report of the Coordinator of Christian Education and Publications. Then they divided into three groups to examine the following three areas:

1. Minutes of the permanent committee,
2. CE&P 1998 budget and 1996 audit,
3. Recommendations of the permanent committee and Overture 15. After their discussion the Committee of Commissioners went into executive session to frame and adopt it's report to the General Assembly.

III. Recommendations

1. That in response to *M24GA*, p. 235, that the exceptions listed have been corrected in the minutes. *Adopted*

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2. That the 1997 Women in Ministry Conference for wives of teaching and ruling elders to be held in Atlanta, August 22-24, 1997, be approved and that prayer for God's blessing be included in the closing of this report.
Adopted
3. That appreciation be expressed to the Women in the Church and participating churches for the contribution of over \$87,000 to the Administrative Committee.
Adopted
4. That the 1998 Spring Holy Land Tour sponsored by CE&P-WIC be approved.
Adopted
5. That concerning Recommendation 6, *M24GA*, p.236, that due to the late date of the 1998 General Assembly (June 29 - July 3) that the conference for pastors and their families be postponed with a later date to be announced.
Adopted
6. That the local churches be encouraged to participate in the "Celebrate the Child" campaign sponsored by CE&P.
Adopted
7. That the General Assembly approve the following recommendation:
That the General Assembly transfer the oversight of the PCA News Office/Information Center from under CE&P to that of the Administrative Committee for the purpose of cultivating information relations with news media and that CE&P be relieved of the responsibility of a PCA News Office.
Adopted
8. That CE&P enter into partnership with Presbyterian Youth of America, a group of PCA pastors, in youth ministry and that prayer for God's blessings be included at the closing of this report.
Adopted
9. That following our annual evaluation, we unanimously recommend TE Charles Dunahoo be elected as coordinator of Christian Education & Publications for the coming year.
Adopted
10. That CE&P be allowed to use the term "certificate of completion" with the following definition and understanding:
The words "certificate of completion" used in its training program simply indicates that those participating at all levels of CE&P's training seminars and other programs have completed the particular training course. Note: This has no relation to approval relating to local churches, but only to say that this training has been completed with a certificate of completion. (See Recommendation 13, *M24GA*, p.237)
Adopted
11. That the proposed CE&P budget for 1998 be approved.
Adopted under AC
12. That the 1996 audit be found in order and approved.
Adopted
13. That appreciation be expressed to the following members rotating off the Great Commission Publications Board: RE Ralph Mittendorff and RE Jack Sullivan. That appreciation be expressed to the following members rotating off the CE&P Committee: RE George Harris, TE Donald Musin, and TE Michael Potts.
Adopted

14. That the minutes of the permanent Committee for meetings of June 18, 1996, September 26-27, 1997, and February 20-21, 1997 be approved with notations and without exceptions. *Adopted*

15. That **Overture 15** from South Coast Presbytery be answered **in the negative** *Adopted*

Grounds:

Let the *BCO* continue to provide guidance concerning the role of women in the church.

OVERTURE 15 From the South Coast Presbytery

“Appoint a Study Committee On the Role of Women in the Church”

Whereas, there are powerful influences in our society to destroy the creational structures of gender, and hence the family, and to force people into a more or less androgynous understanding of sexuality; and

Whereas, there has been and will continue to be inevitable exposure of PCA members, especially our youth and our women, to these often cleverly-packaged androgynous ideas without much help in understanding their real significance; and

Whereas, there is enormous strength in the “evangelical egalitarianism” movement; and

Whereas, gender relativization has become a defining issue for many mainline and also evangelical/conservative denominations, and seems to be the first step towards the acceptance of homosexuality; and

Whereas, there will soon appear a “sexless” translation of the NIV, with the possibility of its replacing the present NIV (no doubt the translation most used by PCA congregations), by the year 2000; and

Whereas, the very active, successful and committed organization of *Women in the Church*, desirous of seeing the PCA in a submissive, biblical way, has already asked the male leadership for a clear statement on the PCA position; and

Whereas, various *ad hoc* solutions are already being practiced in our churches which, if not dealt with now, will perhaps one day divide us irreconcilably; and

Whereas, it is timely to raise this issue now in as much as most of our membership is still socially conservative, as well as being committed to biblical authority;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the 1997 General Assembly appoint a church-wide study committee to produce a biblically-balanced statement on the role of women in the church, to serve as a guideline as we seek to witness intelligently and intelligibly to Christ in the growing pagan-androgynous American culture of the twenty-first century. This committee will operate with a maximum annual budget of \$5,000 for all years that it is continued, and the funds will be provided through designated gifts made to the Administrative Committee.

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Adopted at the April 26, 1997 stated meeting of the South Coast Presbytery.

Attested by: /s/ Douglas E. Swagerty, Stated Clerk

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Calvary
Central Carolina
Central Florida
Central Georgia
Evangel
Grace
Gulf Coast
Heartland
James River
Louisiana
Mississippi Valley
Nashville
New Jersey
New River
North Georgia
Northern Illinois
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Southeast Alabama
Southwest Florida
Tennessee Valley

Commissioner

RE Herbert Nida
TE Benjamin Shaw
RE Bill Black
TE Thomas A. Eddy
TE Larry Gamble
TE Steven Hamilton
RE Douglas Leavengood
TE Rick Fennig
RE Jerry M. Keen
RE Dan Carrell
TE Dana W. Casey, Secretary
TE Iain Wright
TE Kevin Teasley
TE David Miner
RE Wesley Bitzer, Jr.
RE Bob Blaylock
RE Don Norton
RE Terry Van Wechel
TE Eddie Spencer
TE James A. Flom
TE Bill Massey
TE Bart Lester
RE Larry Gillespie
TE Mark Cushman, Chairman

25-42 Committee of Commissioners on Interchurch Relations

TE William Smith, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the supplemental report (see text at 25-15, p. 56). **Recommendations 12 and 13** were handled at this time.

TE Ligon Duncan offered prayer for TE Ian Wright regarding his probable expulsion from the USA and return to Scotland.

25-43 Nominating Committee

RE Jack Merry, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report (See Appendix K, p. 446.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the General Assembly authorize the Nominating Committee to develop a Manual of Operations which would seek to include: (1) The purpose and responsibilities of the Nominating Committee; (2) the schedule for the process of submitting nominations; and (3) the actual process and forms for nominating;

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and that the General Assembly direct the Nominating Committee to submit the proposed manual to the 1998 General Assembly for information as part of its report. (See *M24GA*, 24-54, IV, 1, pg. 267 for precedent involving the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records Manual.) This manual would take effect after the 1998 General Assembly and any subsequent changes to the manual must be reported to the General Assembly for information.

Adopted

2. In an effort to save approximately \$15,000 of the \$20,000 expense for this committee, that the 1998 full meeting of the Nominating Committee be held one day prior to the General Assembly in St. Louis, rather than in Atlanta in the spring as in the past. This will mean the Nominating Committee report will be available on the first day of the General Assembly with the *Supplement* rather than in the *Handbook*.

Defeated

The Ad-Hoc Committee submitted a new nominating form (see Appendix K, p. 473) consisting of one page with pertinent data, signature of the Presbytery Clerk, a statement from the candidate regarding his qualifications, and a one page endorsement by the committee or agency involved or by some PCA Elder. The committees also requested that two or three other members be appointed by the chairman to serve on the committee which will meet again on September 26, 1997 and January 30, 1998.

The new form for nominations was noted

ELECTION RESULTS:

The Assembly elected the following men:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Class of 2001

TE William C. Hughes, MS Valley RE Charles Bobyack, W. Carolina

Alternates

TE Al Herrington, E. Carolina RE Wm (Bingy) Moore, Potomac

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Class of 2001

TE Michael Woodham, S. Florida RE Jim R. Baird, Westminster

TE Terry Johnson, C. Georgia

Alternates

TE Rod Mays, Calvary RE Jeff Oxman, Pacific

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

Class of 2001

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TE Robert M. Ferguson, S. Texas RE Robert Miller, New River

TE John "Chip" McArthur, Fellowship RE Tom Leopard, Evangel

The Assembly paused to sing "It is well with my soul."

25-44 Report of Standing Judicial Commission

TE Robert M. Ferguson, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented **Case 96-2** which was adopted at this time. [see 25-16, p. 93]

25-45 Committee of Commissioners on Bills and Overtures

TE T. David Gordon, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. The report was concluded with prayer by TE Gordon.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

- Overture 1 Southwest Florida Presbytery
- Overture 8 Potomac Presbytery
- Overture 9 Evangel Presbytery
- Overture 10 Northern California Presbytery
- Overture 13 Philadelphia Presbytery
- Overture 14 Session of First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

The Committee discussed the relation of ecclesiastical bodies to the civil magistrate, the nature of constitutional government in the church, the relation of subordinate standards to the Scriptures, and the roles of men and women in society.

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III. Recommendations

1. That **Overture 1** from Southwest Florida Presbytery be answered in the affirmative. *Adopted and sent down to presbyteries for advice and consent*
Grounds:
Same as for Overture 1 given below.

OVERTURE 1 From Southwest Florida

“Amend *BCO* 13-6 To Require Transfers from Other Denominations to be Fully Examined.”

Whereas the provision of our *Book of Church Order* relative to the admission of ordained ministers from other denominations currently stipulates that they be examined only on their views, and

Whereas other denominations may not hold men to as high degree of knowledge which we demand of our own candidates, and

Whereas men might therefore enter the position of TE who could not sustain an ordination exam as expected of a candidate,

Therefore, we request that the Presbytery of Southwest Florida overture the 24th General Assembly to make the following changes to *BCO* 13-6: [additions are underlined; deletions struck through]

13-6. Ministers seeking admission to a Presbytery from other Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church in America shall be examined on Christian experience, and also touching their views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government. If applicants come from other denominations, the Presbytery shall examine them thoroughly in knowledge and views as required by *BCO* 21-4 and ~~also~~ require them to answer in the affirmative the questions put to candidates at their ordination. Ordained ministers from other denominations being considered by Presbyteries for reception may come under the extraordinary provisions set forth in *BCO* 21-4.

Grounds:

As it reads it allows for men to be ordained in the PCA without giving satisfaction to the Presbytery of their knowledge in any area. We are permitted to examine a man only with reference to his views whether he comes from another PCA Presbytery, a sister Reformed denomination, or an independent, Charismatic, Baptist, or some other denomination. This seems to be a weakness in our polity. We have sought to maintain the highest standards for a PCA teaching elder. It is our contention that the *BCO* should require that if a man is coming to us from another denomination he must sustain the same exam for ordination, in knowledge and views, as any candidate.

Adopted at the April 9, 1996, meeting of Southwest Florida Presbytery.

Attested by: /s/ Michael A. Kendrick, Sated Clerk

NOTE: Received too late for 1996 General Assembly, held over for the 25th General Assembly in 1997. /s/ PRG

2. That **Overture 8** from Potomac Presbytery be remanded to Potomac Presbytery for refinement. *Adopted*

Grounds:

1. The title of the Committee needs to be brought into conformity with *BCO* 5-11.
2. The relation of the Pulpit Committee to the Session needs to be further defined.
3. The *BCO* references cited need to be checked to make certain they are germane.
4. More detailed grounds for the change need to be specified.

OVERTURE 8 From Potomac Presbytery

“Amend *BCO* 20-2 To Clarify Role of Pulpit Committee”

Whereas, the *Book of Church Order* does not specify the duties of a pastoral search committee appointed by the congregation; and

Whereas, in newly planted churches where members may not yet be fully acquainted with Presbyterian practices and procedures such a lack of specification can and has led to confusion;

Therefore, Potomac Presbytery overtures the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly to amend the *Book of Church Order* 20-2 by adding a new concluding sentence to the second paragraph, after the words “as designated by the congregation (see *BCO* 25)”, as follows:

“This pulpit committee shall, after consultation and deliberation, recommend to the congregation a pastoral candidate who, in its judgment, fulfills the Constitutional requirements of the office (e.g., *BCO* Chapters 8, 13-2 and 21) and is most suited to be profitable to the spiritual interests of the congregation (cf. *BCO* 20-6).”

Adopted at the Twenty-Ninth Stated Meeting of Potomac Presbytery held on February 8, 1997 at Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, Maryland.

Attested by: /s/ Richard R. Larson, Stated Clerk

3. That **Overture 10** from Northern California Presbytery be answered in the affirmative as amended.

“Therefore be it resolved that when the General Assembly sends to the Presbyteries any proposed changes to the *Book of Church Order*, any rationale, if adopted, be included in order that the Presbytery might understand the arguments in favor of the proposal and give those arguments due consideration.”

Adopted

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OVERTURE 10 From Northern California Presbytery

“That Rationale for *BCO* Amendments Be Included When Sent Down to Presbyteries For Advice and Consent.”

Whereas, the forms for voting on *BCO* amendments only give the wording of the *BCO* amendment; and

Whereas, none of the arguments supporting the change are given, and

Whereas, due consideration of these arguments cannot be considered in the voting;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Presbytery of Northern California requests the General Assembly to include explanations with any proposed changes to the *Book of Church Order* in order that the Presbytery might understand the arguments in favor of the proposal and give those arguments due consideration.

Adopted at the Spring Stated meeting of Northern California Presbytery on February 26 and 27, 1997.

Attested by: /s/ Arthur R. Schick, Stated Clerk

4. That, if the General Assembly adopts the Committee’s recommendation on Overture 10, the Committee on Constitutional Business be directed to recommend any proposed changes in the *RAO* necessary to implement it.

Adopted

5. That **Overture 9** from Evangel Presbytery be answered **in the negative**.

Adopted

Grounds:

1. The supremacy of Scripture is not in any way threatened by the vows required of SJC members. The Committee concurs with Evangel’s desire to be zealous in promoting the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture, but does not believe the doctrine of Scripture’s sufficiency is threatened in any way by the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendation. The *Book of Church Order* plainly states that the Constitution “is subject to and subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inerrant Word of God” (*Preface to BCO*). Further, the supremacy of the Scriptures is expressly affirmed by the Ad Hoc Committee’s language: “The question underlying these vows is not whether Scripture or Constitution shall be the final judge of controversies--our answer is without hesitation ‘the Scripture’.” (*M24GA*, p. 77).
2. The 24th Assembly approved the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommended “package” of recommendations. That “package” was essential to the Committee’s work, since the “package” of recommendations provided safeguards and procedures deemed essential to securing the unanimous recommendation of the Committee. Further, this “package” was

- overwhelmingly approved by the 24th Assembly, and therefore, to modify any part of that package, without reconsidering the whole, would be contrary to both the Committee's work and the Assembly's action in adopting it, and would threaten the very unity previously enjoyed.
3. Evangel's Overture confuses the issue of the sufficiency of Scripture with the question of whose interpretation of Scripture will govern judicial cases. The issue is not whether Scripture is supreme or human opinion is supreme; the issue is: whose interpretation of the supremely-authoritative Scripture will reign in judicial cases. The only proper answer to that is to insist that the church's interpretation, reflected in her constitutional documents, must have precedence over the interpretation of several judges in a judicial case.
 4. Evangel's Overture threatens the very nature of constitutional government. If several judges may interpret Scripture differently than the Church has done in her constitutional documents, there can be no confidence that the constitution will have any directive role in the church.
 5. The vows proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee provide a substantial, and necessary, check against judicial activism. Without such protection, several individuals sitting in judicial capacity may have the practical effect of drafting new laws, or amending existing laws. It is essential, therefore, that we not duplicate in the Church the sad effects of judicial activism in our nation's civil courts.
 6. Evangel expresses concern regarding what history teaches when human traditions replace Scripture. The Committee of Commissioners does not think Scripture's supremacy is threatened by the proposed vows. The Committee is concerned that history demonstrates a grave danger to attend those communions that refuse to be governed by their own constitutions. The twentieth century has witnessed the decline of a number of once-Reformed communions, whose decline in each case paralleled the communion's permission of a form of judicial activism, by which judicial actions contravened the express will of the church in her constitutional documents.

OVERTURE 9 From Evangel Presbytery

"Amend New RAO 15-1 To Reflect Scriptures As the Ultimate Authority in Discipline"

In June 1996, the 24th General Assembly preliminarily adopted several changes to RAO 15-1 which were imbedded in the "Package" of recommendations from the AICJP. The final adoption of these RAO changes were made contingent upon our presbyteries and the 25th General Assembly (June 1997) adopting several related *BCO* amendments. Should these proposed *BCO* amendments be adopted by the 25th General Assembly, we overture the

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General Assembly to make the following amendments to the “brand new” RAO 15-1.

Whereas: Present language of the 4th and 5th vows for SJC judges (as approved in June 1996);

- “4. I will judge according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, through my best efforts applied to nothing other than the record of the case and other documents properly before me; and
5. If in a given case I find my view on a particular issue to be in conflict with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, I will recuse myself from such case, if I cannot conscientiously apply the Constitution.”

[see *M24GA*, p. 76-77]

THEREFORE: Proposed new amendment to the 4th and 5th vows for SJC judges:

(note: change in language is underlined for emphasis)

- “4. I will judge according to the principles of Scripture and of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, though my best efforts applied to nothing other than the record of the case and other documents properly before me; and
5. If in a given case I find my view on a particular issue to be in conflict with the principles of Scripture and the constitution of the PCA, I will recuse myself from such case, if I cannot conscientiously apply the principles of Scripture and the Constitution.”

Rationale for amendment

1. At the 24th General Assembly (June 1996), we heard an outstanding report from the Ad Interim Committee on Judicial Procedure. We were asked to comply with an extraordinary procedure for approval. We were asked to consider recommendation 4 (after discussion and deliberation) as a “package” to be addressed in only one of two ways:

A. adopt without amendment or

B. recommit to the Committee for further study and recommendation. [see *M24GA*, p. 71-72]

We were persuaded then (and still are now) that such an extraordinary procedure was in fact warranted and indeed necessary in order to properly deal with the decision which the AICJP had to put before us. We did, in fact, adopt the “package” without amendment.

However, we do feel that this matter of the 4th and 5th vows for the SJC judges may not have been given the consideration which they should have been given. Accordingly, we feel that the language of these vows needs to be amended in order to protect one of our precisely held beliefs: “Sola Scriptura”.

- II. **Our Westminster Confession of Faith warns us** against making anything other than Scripture (including the “doctrines of men”) to be our authority in settling controversies of religion.

“X. The supreme Judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other than the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.”

[*WCF* ch. 1, Section X]

III. **Our Book of Church Order warns us** that the basis for our discipline process must be the Scripture, nothing else.

A. Excerpt from 27-3:

“Discipline is for the purpose of godliness (1 Timothy 4:7); therefore, it demands a self-examination under Scripture.”

B. Excerpt from 27-5:

“Scriptural law is the basis of all discipline because it is the revelation of God’s Holy will.”

C. In both of these excerpts, the Scripture, not the PCA Constitution, is our standard for consideration. The net effect of the present 4th and 5th vows for the SJC judge is to replace the Scripture with our Constitution as the real authority for settling an issue and determining a judgement.

D. Although the AICJP, in several of its documents, appealed to the second ordination vow (*BCO* 21-5) and *BCO* 29-1 as a basis for substituting the Constitution for the Scripture as the actual standard to be used in judicial cases, we do not find these extrapolations and interpretations to be persuasive or compelling -- particularly in light of the fact that *BCO* 29-1 itself there specifies that the stand to be used in judicial process is to be the Word of God, not the Constitution.

IV. **Scripture warns us** to avoid setting up the “traditions of men” as authoritative because it will be the human tendency to inevitably pit the doctrinal traditions of men against the very Word of God.

“And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘THIS PEOPLE HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’

“Neglecting the commandments of God, you hold to the tradition of men.” He was also saying to them, “You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER; and, HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, LET HIM BE PUT TO DEATH; BUT YOU SAY, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God)’, you no longer permit him to do anything for his

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father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”
[Mark 7:5-13]

- V. **History warns us** that making our human understandings of Scripture to be on par with Scripture is asking for disaster. When the Mother Church insisted that the traditional-doctrinal understanding of the Scripture as interpreted by the Pope and the church was the only proper understanding of the Word of God, the Reformers properly saw this as creating the “tradition of the church” as an authority competing with that of the Scripture themselves. I’m sure that the Mother Church probably implied that this was necessary in order to preclude private understandings of Scripture which might compromise the unity of the church, but the Reformers were not confused by that rhetoric -- their battlecry gelled very succinctly -- “Sola Scripture” -- one authority, Scripture and nothing else.

Adopted at the 79th Stated Meeting held on January 28, 1997, of Evangel Presbytery. Attested by: /s/ Hubert C. Stewart, Stated Clerk

6. That **Overture 13** from Philadelphia Presbytery be answered **in the negative**.

Adopted

Grounds:

1. The situation does not justify the Assembly’s intervention in a political matter. (*WCF* 31.4)
2. The Biblical arguments provided were not entirely persuasive. (*WCF* 1.6).
3. The Overture calls the General Assembly to repent of negligence and lack of charity, and the Committee is not persuaded that such sins have been manifested.
4. Several unanswered questions arose from the overture (e.g. whether women serving in combat would be subject to discipline by church courts if the overture were adopted).

OVERTURE 13 From Philadelphia Presbytery

“Opposition to Women in Combat”

Whereas, our nation has now for several decades been advancing the policy and practice of bringing women into the roles of military warriors; and

Whereas, this policy and practice is starkly contrary to the will of Almighty God, as expressed by the consistent and extensive testimony of Holy Scripture which reveals righteous and intentional Creative distinctions between man and woman, including woman’s unique capacity to give birth and nurture to human life, but man’s unique assignment to protect woman in her God-given role; and

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Whereas, in keeping with these unique roles, the calling as combatant for the conducting of lawful war is properly and exclusively addressed to man and not woman; and

Whereas, every nation is sustained by the providence of God, and where it is the calling of the people of God to bear witness to truth about the will of God;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado, receive as information the attached rationale regarding the consistent testimony of all Scripture respecting the proper role of men, alone, to be military warriors, and urges all Presbyteries to give studious and prayerful attention to this truth and the further implications of Scripture for informing the conscience; for guiding and instructing the personal obedience of faithful men and women in their prayer for government leaders; for their effort to promote awareness of the Biblical world-view under our Scriptural commission to make disciples of our nation; and for their personal actions regarding voluntary military service; and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be communicated to other Bible-believing denominations, so they may be encouraged prayerfully and studiously to consider the grave implication of our nation's manifest confusion and willing disregard of the Creator's intention for mankind created in His image, male and female, as reflected by this novel policy which overturns all Biblical instruction and historical precedent in civilized human experience; and

Be it further resolved, that we respectfully urge the President, the Congress, and the Court, to repent, in view of their fearful accountability before ALMIGHTY GOD, and as, by Government license and instruction, we are behaving dangerously contrary to the revealed will of God which intends man to behave as protector and benefactor of woman in a godly culture; and

Be it further resolved that this communication also be construed as an expression of contrite appeal for recognition that such a monstrous overturning of God's intention for man and woman has progressed in public view over several decades without notice or Biblical counsel by the Church, a manifest expression of our own sinful negligence and lack of love, for which we beg humble forgiveness from those who govern, from the citizens, and from God.

RATIONALE FOR THE OVERTURE OPPOSITION TO WOMEN IN COMBAT

INTRODUCTION

The sovereign Maker of heaven and earth has established for His own glory an order in creation governing the position which each part holds. God has revealed His will concerning this order, both in creation itself and in the Scriptures. When mankind arrogantly or ignorantly defies the divine order and

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abrogates divine law, he brings God's inevitable wrath upon society itself, for suppressing the truth by pretending autonomous freedom from God (cf. Romans 1:18-32; Isaiah 19:16; Nahum 3:13).

With this conviction we must bear witness as ministers of God, that this nation's policy of military training, equipping and incorporating women for the enterprise of war and assignments to kill is contrary to the revealed will of God, from whom all human government derives its just authority (cf. Gen. 9:1-7). A society has no warrant to expect approval from Almighty God when such a policy opposes the Sovereign's expressed will. Instead, there is Biblical warrant to fear divine discipline. The assignment of women to be warriors, positioned to engage the men of enemy forces, marks an abdication by men of their solemn duty toward women as well as a fundamental abuse of women.

THE CREATION ORDER

According to the Genesis account, the LORD God designed and created mankind to manifest His image. He made them male and female, arranging for each person to exhibit and experience distinctive features and functional roles for God's glory and mankind's good. The policy of women serving in combat is a recent expression of American culture ignoring God's authority to determine and prescribe the place, purpose, and function of His creatures. Originally, God established Adam to be the head of his family and assigned him the task of tending and guarding the garden (cf. Gen. 2:15-17). God then created Eve to assist and complement Adam in his labor. As leader,¹ Adam held the greater responsibility for protecting the garden, including the protection of his wife from evil. This arrangement was normative for mankind.

ADAM'S FAILURE AND THE PROMISE OF A WARRIOR - REDEEMER

Adam, as the head (cf. Eph. 5:23), led his family into sin by failing God's command to guard the garden and his wife from the seductive intruder, and by relinquishing his headship to Eve by following her lead in consuming the forbidden fruit. Adam's sin warranted God's judgment, which He expressed in the form of enduring penalties upon the parties in the garden: man, woman, and serpent. God's disciplinary curse was directed against Adam in his role as head and primary steward of the creation by ordaining that hardships would impede all man's endeavors. God's curse was addressed toward Eve in her role as helpmate by ordaining pain in childbirth and a rational tension with her husband. God cursed the serpent, identified as Satan himself, by promising the woman a child who would defeat the serpent (cf. Gen. 3:15-19; Rev. 12:1-6; Rom. 8:18-22; 1 Tim. 2:15). The Bible records that this promised seed of woman would be the divine warrior (cf. Isa. 42:5-13, especially verse 13; cf. Ex. 15:3, Rev. 6:2) who would defeat the evil one, annul the curse and its effect upon the created order (cf. Rom. 8:19-21) and redeem mankind (cf. 2 Cor. 5:18-19).

God's promise was fulfilled in the coming of the eternal Son of God who took on human flesh in the womb of a woman, was born a man, and was given the name Jesus. As avenger (cf. Rom. 12:14-13:7; 1 Thess. 4:6), Jesus executes wrath upon evil doers. As redeemer, he sends the Spirit to raise up heirs of God. The Lord Jesus Christ opened up the Kingdom of heaven, has defeated the devil, and has overcome death for all who believe (cf. Rev. 19:11).

THE WARRIOR IS BORN OF WOMAN

By taking on human flesh in the womb of Mary, the Lord Jesus Christ definitively sanctified and brought to perfection the creation order and high calling for man and woman (cf. Matt. 1:18-21; Lk. 1:30-33). As the true warrior, Jesus is the paradigm for men in their calling to protect those who are the bearers of life (cf. Ex. 15:3; Isa. 42:13; Rev. 6:2). As the mother of this promised warrior, Mary is blessed in the bearing of Christ. Symbolically, all women, married or single, are dignified in their symbolic identification with the Creator's divine purpose for woman as life-bearer of children -- children who are not only made in God's image, but also invited by God to become His sons and daughters through faith in Jesus Christ.

THE HUSBAND AND THE BRIDE

The Bible pictures Jesus as the husband who delivers His Bride, the Church, from the wicked enemy. This picture of the relationship between Christ as husband and the Church as bride (cf. Eph. 5:22-32; Song of Songs) reinforces the truth that man has the primary responsibility of guardian and protector.

¹ 1 Corinthians 11:3; cf. Westminster Larger Catechism (questions 123-133) which elaborates on the practical implications of the Fifth Commandment to honor one's father and mother.

In this paradigm, the man is called upon to represent Christ as servant and guardian;² the woman represents the Church as redeemed humanity where she helps her husband primarily by bearing godly offspring (cf. Gen. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:13-15; Titus 2:4-5; Gal. 4:21-31; Rev. 12:17) and assisting him in cultural activities (e.g., education, arts, science, industry, etc., cf. Prov. 31:10-31).

THE TESTIMONY OF BIBLICAL HISTORY AND LAW

Throughout the Biblical narrative God reveals His normative social order to be the man serving as provider and protector and the woman serving in her high calling as a homemaker and helpmate in all aspects of life (cf. Deut. 20:1-7; 24:5; Prov. 31:10-31; Titus 2:4). This divine prescription for man, created as faithful servant and guardian of woman is explicitly sanctioned in the law of God as revealed through Moses. God appointed that the army of Israel was to be composed explicitly of qualified men, never of women (cf. Deut. 20:1-9; 13-14; only men were considered combatants as only men were to be struck down during the siege of a foreign city). The Lord commands women not to wear the garb of a warrior, the mighty man, and commands men not to wear the garments of a woman (cf. Deut. 22:5; a woman is not to wear the clothing of a combatant so that she might not be confused as a combatant). Furthermore, the Lord God revealed to us that it is wrong to defy the divine ordering, and mix roles, male and female in general; and in particular, it is wrong to mix their roles in life taking and life bearing (cf. Deut. 14:21; 22:5-6; Matt. 5:17-20; Rom. 3:31).

THE ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN

The consistent witness of the Scriptures, then, is that the enterprise of lawful war,³ with its license to destroy human life, is God's particular calling upon men. Lawful war is a special work of man, the protector, just as bearing children is a special work of woman as the protected one (cf. 1 Tim. 2:15). In exercising the role as agents of divine wrath, bringing righteous vengeance against evil, men represent the Man, Christ, the perfect avenger (cf. Josh. 5:13-15; Ps. 2; Rev. 19:2). This calling is inconsistent with the holy vocation of women as exemplified by Eve, the mother of all living (cf. Gen. 3:20), and by Mary, the mother of Him who is eternal. Women are to be the bearers of life not agents of death (cf. 12 Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:5). A woman symbolizes redeemed humanity, the Church, through whom God brings forth his sons and daughters.

In addition to the testimony of the Bible, God's creation itself confirms this order. Since God is wise and good, this difference in vocation is fully consistent with the distinctions He designed in men and women. Physically and psychologically, God made men to be warriors and women to be mothers. God restricts the recruitment of combatants to men, not because of some accidental or creatively imbued inferiority in women, but because God's unique purpose for woman as the bearer of life is to reflect the great life-giving work of God Himself. In this role she is to be recognized, honored and exalted, not perverted, sullied and degraded with the bloody work of war.

When men shrink from bold obedience to this divine calling, and especially when they allow women to respond in their stead, such men are guilty of violating the fifth commandment which calls upon the head to guard and protect the helper. By contrast, as men willingly serve and love God their Creator, they ought to be motivated to serve faithfully women and children by providing and protecting them from all enemies. Before God, women need to encourage men to be protectors, and men need to honor and love women by protecting them.

Our nation's arrogant reversal of these creatively ordained roles signals the same fundamental defiance of the Creator by His creatures which was exhibited by our parents in the Garden, and as surely foreshadows the emergence of every sort of sin and evil, and warrants the judgment of God. Tolerant silence about such a monstrous and perverse prostitution of women as to make them warriors, would have ominous portent in the context of the LORD's grim warning to His prophet Ezekiel, about the accountability of a faithless prophet.

² Exodus 32:25-29; Numbers 26:6-9 (Levites were initially involved in protecting and guarding the people of God by joining Moses in executing those who worshipped the golden calf. There is a close relationship between tabernacle and war camp; cf. Leviticus 15:11-18 and Deuteronomy 23:9-14 -- strict laws of ceremonial cleanliness were applied. The Levites' activity in the tabernacle is described by the term, to wage war or serve. The Levites' have a particular type of "warfare" as they served God and Israel -- Numbers 4:3, 23).

³ *The Westminster Larger Catechism*, Question 136, *What are the sins forbidden in the sixth commandment?*, does distinguish between three occasions where there may be a legitimate taking of human life: public justice (cf. Numbers 35); lawful war (cf. Deuteronomy 20); and necessary defense (i.e., self-defense, cf. Exodus 22:2-3). This overture is addressing the occasion of lawful war and combatants.

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May the Presbyterian Church in America, and the larger community of Biblical faith not be weighed, and found wanting, for lack of prophetic courage and love. May it, rather, take full throated leadership in announcing truth about reality which will not be spurned with impunity.

ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR OVERTURE; OPPOSITION TO WOMEN INCOMBAT

1. **In the beginning, God created the man to protect both the garden and the woman in the garden. "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend [dress] and keep it. (Gen. 2:15).**

Man is placed there to *dress* it and *keep* it. The word we have translated *dress* is 'bad, the normal Hebrew verb meaning "to serve". So again the note is sounded that man is placed in the garden as servant. He is there not to be served but to serve. The second verb -- *keep* or "tend" (Heb. *samar*) -- carries a slightly different nuance. The basic meaning of this root is "to exercise great care over," to the point, if necessary, of guarding. This emphasis on guarded keeping is substantiated by the fact that the poetic synonym of *samar* is always *nasar*, "to protect" (Deut. 33:9; Ps. 12:8; [Eng.7]; 105:45; 119:34, 55-56, 145-146; 140:5 [Eng. 4]; 141:3; Prov. 2:8; 11; 4:6; 5:2; 27:18). The same root is used in the next chapter to describe the cherubs who are on guard to prevent access to the tree of life in the garden (Gen. 3:24). The garden is something to be protected more than it is something to be possessed.⁴

2. **As Moses expounded the Ten Commandments in the book of Deuteronomy, only men were mustered to comprise Israel's army.**

Throughout the Bible, all the pronouns referring to warriors are masculine. Deuteronomy 20 clearly states that only men were expected to muster for combat. If there were any men who had just married, acquired a field or simply were afraid to fight, they were excused from combat. Two of the exemptions stated in Deuteronomy 20 concern the bride and the land. In the beginning, God gave man a bride and land (Gen.2). The man was especially given the role of guarding and protecting his bride and land.

Not only did the Israelite leaders muster men only for combat, the Israelites considered only men of other nations as combatants. In the case of war with outside aggressors, the leaders of Israel's army were to drive the intruders back to the enemies' own fortified cities where an offer of peace was to be extended. If the peace were not accepted, only men were to be put to the sword while women and children were spared (cf. Deut. 20:12-15). God's pattern as established throughout the Bible is that men, not women, have the responsibility to go into combat if war is necessary (Gen. 14:14; Num. 31:3, 21, 49; Deut. 20:5-9, 13-14; Josh. 1:14-18; 6:3, 7, 9; 8:3; 10:7; 1 Sam. 16:18; 18:5, 2 Sam. 11:1; 17:8; 23:8-39; Ps. 45:3-5; Song of Sol. 3:7-8; Isa. 42:13, etc.)

3. **God warns against women appearing as combatants. Consider the following stipulation concerning the wearing of clothes: "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God" (Deut. 22:5).**

"Note that the description of the female dressing up uses language of a decidedly military flavor. 'No woman shall put on the gear of a warrior' is an accurate translation."⁵ Two words provide color for the particular interpretation of the passage, *keli* and *gabbar*. *Keli* is "a noun denoting the equipment, containers, tools, etc., appropriate to a given service or occupation."⁶ The noun for man used in the passage is *geber* which is derived from the verb, *gabbar*. It means mighty man or warrior. This interpretation conveys the same understanding as expressed by Josephus, the Jewish historian and military leader, in his commentary on the Torah: "Beware, above all in battle, that no woman assume the accoutrements of a man nor a man the apparel of a woman."⁷ The Reformed Church of the United States comes to the same conclusion

⁴ Victor P. Hamilton, *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), p. 171.

⁵ Calum M. Carmichael, *Law and Narrative in the Bible: The Evidence of the Deuteronomic Laws and the Decalogue* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1985), page 162.

⁶ R. Laird Harris, ed. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, volume 1 (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1980). p. 983.

⁷ Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities*, Books I-IV with an English translation by H. St. J. Thackerary, M.A. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1930), p. 621.

in its Special Committee Report: *The Biblical View of Women Serving in the Military* (April 26, 1996).

Deuteronomy 22:5 is given as an example on how a society can prevent a culture of death from developing or preserving life from violence. It is a concrete application of the moral principle expressed in the sixth commandment: "You shall not murder" (Deut. 5:17; cf. Deut. 19:1 - 22:8).⁸

4. **The account of Deborah** (cf. Judges 4-5) confirms the stated position. Debroah did not join Barak on the battle field against Sisera, the commander-in-chief of the Canaanites. Deborah remained on top of Mt. Tabor. Jael, who eventually killed Sisera, carried out her unique task at home. Jael was not mustered and sent to fight the enemies of Israel. She did not put on combat gear, and she used a domestic implement. One of the salient points of this curious story is that Barak is shamed for initially balking at protecting Israel. In context, the book of Judges reveals Israel at a very low point in its relationship to God ("In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" -- Judges 21:25). Even Deborah's historically unique part as judge over Israel highlights the advanced decadence of men, in particular.

5. **Christ is the Divine Warrior and men are to represent the God-Man.**

"The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name: (Ex. 15:3) and our Kinsman Redeemer/Avenger (cf. Deut. 25:4-10; 19:6, 12; Num. 35; Josh. 20). God calls upon men [males] to represent Christ in the role of kinsman redeemer (i.e., officers in the Church who proclaim peace and reconciliation, Jn. 20:20-23; 1 Tim. 2) or kinsman avenger (i.e., executioner or combatant of the State who actually carry out the penalty of death by wielding the sword, Romans 13). The two Nazirites of the Old Covenant, Samuel and Samson; and, the two angels, Gabriel and Michael, point to Christ Jesus as redeemer and avenger.

In the Old Covenant, the death of a family member was the occasion for a kinsman to act. In the case of the levirate law, the kinsman functioned as a redeemer who was to raise up a seed for his deceased brother's name. In the case of murder, the kinsman functioned as a prosecutor/avenger for God and the land (cf. Gen. 4:10; 2 Sam. 14:5-7). In the New Covenant, the family no longer acts as the kinsman or agent of redemption or vengeance.

The true Kinsman, Jesus Christ, has fulfilled the law and serves as the Royal High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. In heaven, Christ acts as Kinsman Redeemer/Avenger. On earth, the function of the kinsman is separated between the Church as the agent of redemption (cf. Jn. 20:19-23) and the State as the agent of vengeance (cf. Rom. 12:19-13:6). This arrangement is based upon God's design for the New Covenant age. Among the priesthood of all believers united to Christ, only men are called by God to serve as officers within the royal priesthood which is comprised of men, women and children. These officers are servant priests who symbolize Christ, the Great High Priest, serving His Bride, the Royal Priesthood. In the State, only men ought to be commissioned as combatants to serve the task of punishing the wicked with the iron sword (i.e., functioning as executioners of God's penalty of capital punishment by killing the offender; functioning in combatant roles in the military).

The point of all this is to say that God calls only men to execute capital punishment or prosecute war as men symbolize and point to Christ Jesus as Kinsman Avenger. God defines the role of men and women. Women in combat is a specific example of mankind rejecting God's gracious Word.

6. **Church History speaks against women serving as combatants.**

The eminent Church Father John Chrysostom gives a pertinent warning as he preached in his own day from the Epistle to Titus, "Women was not made for this, o man, to be prostituted as common. O ye subverters of all decency, who use men, as if they were women, and lead out women to war, as if they were men! This is the work of the devil, to subvert and confound all things, to overlap the boundaries that have been appointed from the beginning, and remove those which God has set to nature."⁹

⁸ Deuteronomy 19:1 - 22:8: [1] Violence (19:1-21); [2] War (20:1-20); [3] Violence and Persons (21:23); [4] Additional laws (22:1-8). "The theme is preserving life from violence. The first law (Deut. 19) is a provision for negligent manslaughter, the last law (Deut. 22:8) prohibits negligence. (James B. Jordan, *Covenant Sequence in Leviticus & Deuteronomy*, p. 64).

⁹ Philip Schaff, ed., *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, Volume XIII, Saint Chrysostom: Homilies on Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, and Philemon (New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1889), page 539 (*italics mine*).

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Though Plato wrote theoretically about women serving as combatants, decadent tribes occasionally evidenced it. Soviet Russia and Israel briefly embraced (and abandoned) it, and scattered women in history have participated even heroically as warriors, this nation's commitment to advancing a sexually integrated military culture, with women serving even as warriors, is historically unprecedented in civilized culture.

7. **The Sovereign Creator has directed providentially the affairs of western societies in which not one can be cited as establishing a policy of recruiting women for combat roles until the most recent times.**

The present U.S. policy is a social experiment clearly distorting God's revealed order for the complementing roles of the sexes. A society's resolute departure from the biblical norm is an expression of rebellion and defiance before God (cf. Rom. 1:18 ff). Such disobedience portends chaos and death. It is imperative that our nation review present social policies concerning men and women in combat.

8. **The present policy of women in combat is pure social experimentation.**

While it takes the form of an appeal for fairness and honor toward women, it is at heart the result of a mistaken conception about truth and reality; it manifests itself in a struggle over notions of right and wrong. This policy does not represent a biblical view of truth.

9. **The policy of women as combatants does not work.**

Insistent efforts to legislate and coerce this policy leads to cynicism and to various types of immorality. Examples include inappropriate fraternization of women and men in preparation for and during combat missions; demoralization of male soldiers and sailors; accidental and deliberate pregnancies which lead to personnel shortages as women must be transferred from a combat zone, which may also lead to abortions, and which jeopardize the effectiveness of the military to defend; creation of risky "double standards" to accommodate peculiarities of feminine physique; false belief that human culture prospers based solely on objective human attributes of "capability", intelligence, and resolute ambition, rather than on wise reliance, in obedience, on the mercy and power of God; confusion about gentlemanly care for women, in general; sloth and carelessness on the part of men concerning their defined role; immodesty; careless risk to children and to the extreme that the nation's women would be subjected willingly to risk of capture and impregnation by an enemy, all for the pitiful purpose that men might be spared the risk of battle and to gratify the social engineering passions of those who reject a theocentric world and life view.

NOTE: A Minority Report for Recommendation 6 was offered as a substitute motion, which was amended. The Minority Report was defeated.

Minority Report from the Bills and Overtures Committee after action to deny Overture 13 on OPPOSITION TO WOMEN IN COMBAT

The minority having heard very persuasive arguments of the Committee against the Overture from Philadelphia Presbytery do concur with the Committee in not recommending that the Overture as presented be adopted as the position of the Assembly, do nevertheless believe that this is an issue which our Assembly should address. We therefore recommend the substitution of the following testimony in place of the Overture from Philadelphia.

Testimony of the PCA regarding Women in Combat

Whereas, the Bible indicates the clear role distinctions of men and women as created. The man was created first while woman was created to be a help-mate for him, and

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Whereas, after the fall the distinctive roles of the man and woman were recognized in the language of the curse addressed to each of them. Adam was cursed in regard to his "bread winning" task while the woman was cursed in regard to her child bearing, and

Whereas, the sinfulness of man has introduced warfare between men, as James teaches (James 4:1-2), and

Whereas, Biblical history recognizes that God did sanction warfare on the part of his people in the midst of sinful and warring nations, and though the record at times indicates that women were involved in warlike activities (Judges 4), they were exception, not the norm, and women were never recruited for, nor trained for military combat, and

Whereas, the role distinction continues in the New Testament with the clear headship of the man both in family and church (Eph.5; Cor. 11), and

Whereas, Peter teaches that husband (men) are to give ". . . honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel. . ." (1 Peter 3:7), which implies that it is the role of men to be protectors of women and not the reverse, and

Whereas, both the civil magistrate and the church are institutions of God, and thus properly to be regulated by His Word, and

Whereas, it is incumbent on the church to speak clearly to the world as to how we are to live, both personally and as a society, and whereas the church by our silence on this issue has failed in this aspect of our prophetic ministry,

Therefore, be it now resolved

1. **That**, while recognizing the right and duty that women have to self defense, which may involve physical violence, it is our conviction that the Biblical teaching does not ordinarily give a nation the warrant to recruit women for combat roles in the military.
2. **That** we call upon our Presbyteries and Sessions, pastors and teachers, throughout the denomination to instruct their congregations in this regard, and
3. **That** we urge any of our female members involved in training which can lead to engaging in active combat or considering such a career to make a careful study of God's Word.
4. **That** the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council and the National Association of Evangelicals, and to our military chaplains, and
5. **That** the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Senate, and the House of Representatives as our testimony.

/s/ Morton H. Smith

/s/ Robert H. Miller

/s/ William M. Harris, IV

/s/ M. Dale Peacock

/s/ G. Brent Bradley

/s/ Houston Welch

/s/ J. Howard Donahoe

/s/ Jerry I. Maguire

On Friday morning (see 25-56, p. 223), the following commissioners registered their affirmative votes on the Minority Report concerning women in combat: Geoffrey Andress, Larry Ball, Wilson Barbee, Frank Barker, William S. Barker, Tom Barnes, Terry Bayly, Richard Bledsoe, Jim Bowen, G. Brent Bradley, Ronald J. Brady, Wayne Brauning, Robert Byrne, LeRoy S. Capper, Richard Clodfelter, George Coxhead, George Crocker, William Earnest, Ron Ellis, David Forsland, David Frierson, James M. Garretson, John M. Goodman, Randall R. Greenwald, E. Kent Hanson, John B. Harley III, Mark Hecht, Steve C. Hill, David Kenyon, Montgomery Kirk, Lyle Lagasse, Greg LaVert, Stephen Leonard, William B. Leonard, Tom Leopard, Robert H. Miller, Albert F. Moginot, Erwin Morrison, Frederick Neikirk, Herbert W. Nida, Pat Parham, Stephen L. Parker, Joseph Pipa, John R. Riddle, Virgil B. Roberts, Carl G. Russell, Daren L.

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Russell, Tom Sandhoff, Burke Shade, Michael Singenstreu, Robert Slimp, Morton H. Smith, Dale L. Smith, Bob Sproul, Donald Stone, Tom Sullivan, Greg Thurston, John F. Tolson, Jr., Donald Treick, Timothy Verner, Junior Ward, Patrick J. Womack.

7. That **Overture 14** from the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Georgia, be answered **in the negative**. *Adopted*

Grounds:

1. The issue of divorce and remarriage is very complex, and no single solution can be recommended for every case.
2. It is inconsistent to single out one particular sin as perpetually disqualifying a man for church office.
3. Our Constitution makes provision for the restoration of men deposed from office for scandalous sin, and those provisions would provide direction for cases such as this. (*BCO* 38-4).
4. The overture had already been considered and rejected by Central Georgia Presbytery.

OVERTURE 14 From the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA

“Amend *BCO* 21-4, a,1 and *BCO* 24-1,a to Prohibit Ordination to Men with Unbiblical Divorce or Remarriage”

Whereas, the PCA was founded, in part, out of a dissatisfaction with the tolerance of moral failure by many who held office in the PCUS, and,

Whereas, *BCO* 8-2, 9-3, and 16-3 outline the qualifications for those who hold office in the church, and,

Whereas, there is no explicit explanation contained in the wording of the constitutional statements of the PCA concerning divorce and remarriage as relates to the qualifications of those who hold office in the church, and,

Whereas, there exists disagreement and confusion in the PCA as to this issue as exemplified by Judicial Cases 51, 92-9a, and 96-2, and,

Whereas, the reports of the Id Interim Theological Committee on Divorce to the 7th GA and the Ad Interim Committee on Divorce and Remarriage to the 20th GA, while extensive, helpful, and in some instances controversial, are not constitutionally binding, and,

Whereas, church courts, in requiring obedience to the laws of Christ, “admit those qualified to sealing ordinances and to their respective offices, and they exclude the disobedient and disorderly from such offices. . .” (*BCO* 11-2), and,

Whereas, *BCO* 21-4,a,1 and *BCO* 24-1,a, make specific reference to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Georgia Presbytery hereby overtures the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America that *BCO* 21-4,a,1 be amended by appending the following:

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“No man who has been divorced/remarried on less than Scriptural grounds, or who has been the guilty party of a Biblical divorce, or who is married to a woman thus divorced may be considered as a candidate for ordination. Presbyteries may adopt stricter guidelines, but this minimum standard is binding upon all courts.”

And that *BCO* 24-1,a be amended by appending the following:

“No man who has been divorced/remarried on less than Scriptural grounds, or who has been the guilty party of a Biblical divorce, or who is married to a woman thus divorced may be considered as a candidate for ordination. Sessions may adopt stricter guidelines, but this minimum standard is binding upon all courts.”

Approved at the Called Meeting of the Session, First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Georgia, on March 23, 1997.

Attested by: /s/ W. F. Dillard, Jr, Clerk of Session
/s/ Dr. John W. P. Oliver, Moderator

The Overture to Central Georgia Presbytery from the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA regarding the amendment of *BCO* 21-4,a,1 and 24-1,a was rejected at the Spring Stated Meeting of Presbytery on this date, April 8, 1997.

Attested by: /s/ Julian Davis, Stated Clerk
/s/ Terry L. Johnson, Moderator

8. That **Personal Resolution #1** from Julian (Skip) Dusenbury be answered as follows:

The PCA concurs in the decisions by (NIV) CBT, IBS, and Zondervan Publishing to not pursue their plans to publish a “gender-inclusive” version of the NIV in the United States, believing that such a version is inconsistent with the Biblical doctrine of divine inspiration.

Adopted

Grounds:

Although the institutions referred to in the overture are not under the jurisdiction of the PCA; and although the General Assembly could not possibly be expected to review the vast amount of religious publications that appear annually, nor to advise publishers on their policies; nevertheless we believe the translation of Holy Scripture to be a matter of public and ecclesiastical interest.

Personal Resolution #1 from TE Julian D. Dusenbury (as amended).

The PCA commends the decisions by (NIV) CBT, IBS, and Zondervan Publishing to not pursue their plans to publish a “gender-inclusive” version of the NIV. However, we are disappointed that in Great Britain they have for

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commercial reasons gone ahead and published a “gender inclusive” version of NIV.

We are, however, disturbed and disappointed that the reasons given for this decision have to do with commercial considerations rather than theological principle. We would encourage each of those parties to renewed reflection upon their awesome responsibility as--in some sense--trustees of God’s Holy Word. While we appreciate and share their desire to communicate God’s truth as clearly as possible to the people of our own day, we would also urge upon them the duty to steadfastly resist the pressures of sinful human culture which would obscure, diminish or subvert every aspect of God’s inerrant truth. We are particularly concerned that the NIV continue to clearly and faithfully preserve the distinction between men and women which our wise and gracious God has established in creation and revealed in His Word. The 25th General Assembly hereby instructs our Stated Clerk to communicate our commendation and our concerns to these (NIV) CBT, IBS, and Zondervan Publishing Company.

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Central Carolina
Central Georgia
Eastern Canada
Eastern Carolina
Evangel
Fellowship
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Illiana
James River
Louisiana
Mississippi Valley
New River
North Texas
Northeast
Northern California
Northern Illinois
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Southeast Alabama
Southwest
Southwest Florida
Susquehanna Valley
Western Carolina
Westminster

Commissioner

TE Irfon Hughes
TE S. Scott Willet
RE John J. Marshall
TE Don Codling
RE Robert D. Brown
RE Houston Welch
TE Daren L. Russell
RE William M. Harris IV
TE Larry C. Hoop, Secretary
TE Mike Singenstreu
TE Howard Griffith
RE M. Dale Peacock
RE Eugene McRoberts, Jr.
TE Jerry I. Maguire
TE David A. Sherwood
TE T. David Gordon, Chairman
TE Marcus J. Serven
TE Paul Winters
TE Nathan E. Lewis
RE Dean Ezell
RE Robert H. Miller
RE Howie Donahoe
RE William H. Moore IV
RE Armistead R. Harper
TE Vincent Wood
TE Dwight L. Dolby
TE Freddy Fritz
TE Morton H. Smith
TE G. Brent Bradley

25-46 Procedural Motion to Amend the Docket

The docket was amended by a two-thirds vote to delay recess for dinner by 30 minutes (to 5:30 PM), and recess for the day will be delayed at the discretion of the Moderator if there is reasonable expectation of concluding the business of the Assembly today.

25-47 Assembly Recessed

The Assembly recessed at 5:30 PM with the singing of "Amazing Grace" and prayer by TE James Richter to reconvene after worship this evening.

**Sixth Session - Thursday Evening
June 12, 1997**

25-48 Assembly Reconvened

The Assembly reconvened at 9:23 PM with prayer by TE Fredric Mau.

25-49 Committee of Commissioners on PCA Foundation

TE Frank Hitchings, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. He introduced RE Robert (Neal) Ham of the Board of Trustees who addressed the Assembly. Appreciation for the ministry of RE John W. S. Hudson was expressed, and prayer was offered by RE Ham for the Hudsons and for the work of the Foundation.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

1. The minutes of the PCA Foundation Board Meeting of August 17, 1996.
2. The minutes of the PCA Foundation Board Meeting of March 1, 1997.
3. The Report of the PCA Foundation to the General Assembly. [see Appendix L, p. 479]
4. The Report of the Auditors (Capin Crouse Accountants and Consultants) entitled "Financial Statements with Independent Auditors' Report" - (December 31, 1996).

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

1. Guidelines for giving to organizations outside the PCA and what was given in 1996 to non-PCA ministries.
2. Proportion of funds given to PCA ministries compared with non-PCA ministries.
3. Advantages of using PCA Foundation over other foundations or private institutions.
4. The 1998 Budget.

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III. Recommendations

1. That the minutes of August 17, 1996 and March 1, 1997 be approved without exception. *Adopted*
2. That the proposed 1998 budget be approved as presented through the Administrative Committee. *Adopted under AC*
3. That the Independent Auditors' Report of the PCA Foundation be received noting that it was unqualified in all areas finding the PCA Foundation in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The management letter of the independent auditor noted that all prior year recommendations have been implemented and current year recommendations have been or are being implemented. *Adopted*
4. That all local PCA congregations be encouraged to consider the variety of ways in which the Foundation can serve them. *Adopted*
5. That the Assembly commend RE John W. S. Hudson for his 16 years of faithful service and fruitful ministry to the members of the PCA through his work with the PCA Foundation. The Assembly also thanks RE Stanley J. Riordan for his willingness to serve as interim President of the PCA Foundation and commends his staff and the Board of Trustees for their diligence in carrying out the work of the PCA Foundation. *Adopted*

NOTE: Upon adopting item 5, the General Assembly gave Mr. Hudson a standing ovation.

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Central Georgia
Covenant
Gulf Coast
Heartland
Mississippi Valley
Nashville
Pacific Northwest
Palmetto
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Southeast Alabama
Tennessee Valley
Warrior

Commissioner

RE George R. Caler
TE Richard Edwards
RE Jim Alinder
TE Danny Shuffield
RE Donald Donaldson
TE Robert Schwanebeck
TE Ian Sears
RE Jim Hill
TE David Mulholland
TE Dean Ulrich
TE Jim Ferguson
TE Henry Bishop
TE Frank Hitchings
RE John Graham

25-50 Constitutional Business Committee

TE Frank Moser presented the Committee's response to Reference No. 2. The Assembly **received** this, and the entire report, and ordered these spread upon the *Minutes*. [See 25-22, p. 128 for the text of the reports.]

25-51 Committee of Commissioners on Administration

TE S. Michael Preg, Jr., Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report. He yielded to RE William Joseph, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, who reported on the work of the Committee and the status of the mortgage on the office building. TE Preg closed the report with prayer. The Assembly thanked RE William Joseph for his service to the Assembly and Administrative Committee, and TE Lee Ferguson offered prayer.

I. Business Referred to the Committee

1. The Report of the Permanent Committee [see Appendix C, p. 249]
2. The Minutes of the Board Of Directors June 18, 1996
3. The Minutes of the Board of Directors October 12, 1996
4. The Minutes of the Board of Directors March 14, 1997
5. The Minutes of the Permanent Committee June 18, 1996
6. The Minutes of the Permanent Committee October 11 & 12, 1996
7. The Minutes of the Permanent Committee March 14 & 15, 1997
8. The Audited Financial Report of the Administrative Committee General Fund and the PCA Building Fund

II. Statement Of Major Issues Discussed

1. The Policy Regarding the PCA ® Service Mark
2. The 1998 Budgets
3. The 25th Anniversary Celebration in its time and funding aspects.
4. The Guidelines for Assembly display participation.

III. Recommendations

1. That the Minutes of the Permanent Administrative Committee June 18, 1996 be approved with notations; October 11 & 12, 1996 be approved with notations; March 14 & 15, 1997 be approved with notations.
Adopted
2. That the Minutes of the Board of Directors June 18, 1996 be approved with notations; October 12, 1996 be approved with notations; March 14, 1997 be approved with notations .
Adopted
3. The 25th General Assembly expressed its gratitude to the Lord for the good spirit of cooperation among the Coordinators, Directors, and Presidents of the committees and agencies.
Adopted
4. That the Assembly express its deepest appreciation for the AC staff, specifically in Atlanta, for Mr. Ross E. Cook, Business Administrator, Mrs. Laurel De Bert, Administrative Assistant, Chaplain Bob Fiol, Assistant to the Stated Clerk, and for Mr. Jerry Kornegay, Director of the PCA Historical Center in St. Louis for his excellent work with the PCA archives.
Adopted

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5. That the Assembly commend the Stated Clerk for his excellent work and that he be elected for another year of service as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. *Adopted*
6. That in response to the exception taken to the AC Minutes, as reported by the Committee of Commissioners for the Administrative Committee at the 24th General Assembly, the AC respectfully disagrees with the exception in that the named college and seminary did not meet the criteria for an approved exhibitor as established by the Administrative Committee several years ago. Further, it needs to be pointed out that no one knows the particular reason a given member votes the way he does. In the future the permanent Administrative Committee should give rationale and include criteria not met when disallowing exhibitors from the display area of the General Assembly and that this be communicated in the minutes of the committee and to the requesting exhibitors. *Adopted*
7. That the 25th General Assembly accept the invitation from Great Lakes Presbytery and approve the meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on June 15-18, 1999. *Adopted*
8. That the 25th General Assembly accept the invitation from North Texas Presbytery to meet in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, for the 29th General Assembly in June 2001, subject to suitable facilities being available. *Adopted*
9. That the 25th General Assembly accede to the request of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee that the 26th General Assembly be designed for a time for renewal and celebration by designing all the worship and inspirational services around the theme of the 25th Anniversary Celebration without reducing time spent on the business of the church. *Adopted*
10. That the 25th General Assembly release the AC from the responsibility to provide yearly addresses based on "Revival and Reformation in the Presbyterian and Reformed Heritage" as mandated by the 22nd General Assembly. *Adopted*
11. That General Assembly express its gratitude to the Women In the Church for the 1996 WIC Love Gift to the AC and the Building Fund. We praise God for the generous and sacrificial giving of those who so wonderfully participated. *Adopted*
12. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Administrative Committee of \$1,285,045 and to add an amount not to exceed \$8,000 for the 20 member Special Judicial Commission erected by the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly; and \$945,045 for Partnership Shares. [Note: The \$100,000.00 estimated for the 25th Anniversary Celebration included in this budget will be raised by the subcommittee for the celebration and they are authorized to spend no more than they actually raise.] *Adopted*

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13. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for the PCA Office Building of \$620,535. *Adopted*
14. That Christian Education and Publications record the WIC Love Gift as \$100,000 and add a Designated Reserve line item expense in the amount of \$70,000; and that the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Christian Education and Publications of \$2,279,383 and \$1,437,383 for Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
15. That the General Assembly approve that the proposed expense budget for Mission to North America of \$5,119,078 and \$5,033,578 for Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
16. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Mission to the World of \$23,588,643 and \$3,877,700 for Partnership Shares with notation changing "Coord." on line 10, pg 439 to "staff". *Adopted*
17. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Covenant College of \$15,713,199 and \$1,400,000 for Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
18. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Covenant Theological Seminary of \$5,148,300 and \$1,590,00 for Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
19. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget of Insurance Annuities and Relief of \$759,450. *Adopted*
20. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for PCA Foundation \$458,635. *Adopted*
21. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Ridge Haven Conference Center of \$1,042,600 and \$538,300 for Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
22. That General Assembly authorize the AC staff to edit the budget approval motions to include the dollar amount of the expense budgets and of the Partnership Shares budgets. *Adopted*
23. That the General Assembly approve Robins, Eskew and Farmer, PC, as auditors for the Administrative Committee, Christian Education & Publication, and Committee on Mission to North America for the calendar year ending December 31, 1997. *Adopted*
24. That the General Assembly approve Capin, Crouse & Co. as auditors for the Committee on Mission to the World for the calendar year ending December 31, 1997. *Adopted*
25. That the 25th General Assembly receive the accompanying chart as the acceptable response to the GA requirements for an annual report on the cost of the AC's mandated responsibilities. *Adopted*

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AC GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSIBILITIES

DESCRIPTION	1996 TOTAL	PER COMM.
General Assembly (1)	\$162,085	\$132
Standing Judicial Commission	46,736	38
Interchurch Relations	6,729	5
Ad Interim (Jud. Proc)	6,855	6
Committee on Constitutional Business	4,162	3
Nominations (2)	1,588	1
Review of Presbytery Records (3)	5,218	(3) 4
Theological Examining Committee		
TOTALS	\$233,373	\$190

NOTES:

- (1) 1229 Registered Commissioners in 1996
- (2) AC's 1/9 share of total
- (3) Already included in GA

26. That the 25th General Assembly set the commissioner registration fee for 1998 at \$140. *Adopted*

Grounds:

The average cost of General Assembly, per commissioner, for the last 3 years is \$133. Costs are higher when GA is held at a convention facility, as opposed to use of a PCA church, due primarily to the rental of the meeting spaces.

Our scheduled meetings through 2001 will all be in convention hotels, or convention facilities. With the current strong economic environment hotels and convention centers have begun pushing their rates up faster than the average inflation rate.

With the 25th GA, we begin a year of celebrating which will culminate in a special celebration of 25 years in St. Louis. While the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee has just begun its planning, it is apparent that there will be special functions and activities which will increase the cost for General Assembly in 1998. [See the chart below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COSTS

YEAR	COMMISSIONERS	TOTAL COSTS	COST PER COMM.
1994	1293	166,984	129.14
1995	1117	155,411	139.13
1996	1229	162,084	131.88

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27. That the General Assembly continue the policy of reduced registration fees for Honorably Retired and Elder Emeritis Commissioners, which would be 1/3 of the approved registration fee. *Adopted*
28. That the Assembly direct the Board of Directors to prepare a statement describing what is actually trademark protected so that there may be a clear understanding of what is or is not permissible regarding its usage. This statement is to be distributed to all sessions and ministers of the PCA by the 26th General Assembly. (M24GA, 24-53 III, 26, p. 241) *Adopted*
29. That MNA be requested to use the same basic budgetary format as used by the other agencies for purposes of clarity and understanding. *Adopted*
30. That the churches be encouraged to meet the recommended Partnership Shares. *Adopted*
31. That the Administrative Committee encourage its auditors to include a management letter as part of the report. *Adopted*

Commissioners Present:

Presbytery

Ascension
Calvary
Central Carolina
Central Georgia
Covenant
Evangel
Fellowship
Heartland
Louisiana
Mississippi Valley
Missouri
New Jersey
North Georgia
Palmetto
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Potomac
Rocky Mountain
Siouxlands
Southeast Alabama
Susquehanna Valley
Tennessee Valley
Western Carolina

Commissioner

RE Steven C. Morley
TE David Bryan
TE Wilson Barbee
TE Ron Clegg
RE Joe Gibbs
TE Greg Poole
RE Frank Limerick
RE John Pink
TE Mark Duncan
TE Daniel Gilchrist
TE S. Michael Preg, Chairman
TE Gary Englestad
RE Gordon Moore
TE Gary Bainton
TE Erwin Morrison
TE Arnold Frank
TE Jack Waller
TE Jim Urish
RE Wayne R. Golly
TE Lamar B. Davis
RE Willard H. Lutz
TE Joseph V. Novenson, Secretary
RE William Horner

25-52 Report of Committee on Review of Presbytery Records

TE Grover Gunn, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. A list of Presbytery Minutes received by the Committee (See III below)

II. A list of the Presbyteries which have not submitted Minutes:
Pacific.

III. A Report concerning the Minutes of each Presbytery

1. That the Minutes of **Ascension** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **January 27, 1996; April 27, 1996; July 27, 1996; October 25-26, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
Adopted
2. That the Minutes of **Calvary** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **January, 27, 1996; April 25, 1996; July 27, 1996; October 24, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **General;**
 - c. Be approved with exception of substance stated below: **None;**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
Adopted
3. That the Minutes of **Central Carolina** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 26-27, 1996; April 27, 1996; October 26, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **July 20, 1996; There is a reference to a previous called meeting for which we have no minutes (RAO 14-3.c.1)**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
Adopted
4. That the Minutes of **Central Florida** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **General; January 16, 1996; April 20, 1996; July 16, 1996; October 26, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received these should be submitted to the 26th GA:**
Exception: January 17, 1995; July 18, 1995; April 22, 1995; September 12, 1995; October 21, 1995;
General: That exams for ordinations & transfer do not list all parts. (BCO 21-4)
Exception: General: No record of required 3/4 vote for waiving internship requirements (BCO 19-16)
Exception: April 22, 1995: (P. 3, "Examining," Paragraph 2): Reference to an examination in previous meeting is not found in the minutes of the previous meeting.
Adopted

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5. That the Minutes of **Central Georgia** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **January 20, 1996; April 9, 1996; June 19, 1996; July 20, 1996; October 8, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
6. That the Minutes of **Covenant** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **August 20, 1996; November 1, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **May 28, 1996; October 1, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: February 13, 1996: No record of examination in history of the Presbyterian Church in America (BCO 21-4.a.7)
 - That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: March 7, 1995: No record of exam in PCA history (BCO 21-4. a7)
Response: The church history examination mentioned on page 20 of the March 7, 1995, minutes included an examination in the history of the PCA. We regret this was not specifically stated in the minutes, and we will be more careful in the future. *Adopted*
7. That the Minutes of **Eastern Canada** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **April 17, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 22, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: September 26, 1996; Teaching elder removed without censure by administrative act of presbytery when judicial action seems necessary.
 - That the response to the 24th GA exception be found satisfactory.**
Exception: October 25, 1995: By appointing a member to further instruct a man whom it had just approved for ordination, the presbytery acknowledged that it was not fully satisfied with the individual's qualification (BCO 21-4).
Response: 1. "To avoid confusion, we respectfully note that the date was actually October 13, 1995:
2. Presbytery respectfully disagrees with the exception. We were satisfied with the candidate's qualifications, sufficiently to ordain him. However, we recognize that no one of us is perfect in his knowledge, and this presbytery has formally agreed that in some cases we will assign a person whom we are willing to ordain because of his gifts further study in some areas. Most of us have had mentors to whom we could turn for help in the early days of our ministry, though normally on an informal basis. This candidate was being appointed to a particularly difficult situation out of bounds of Presbytery. Our presbytery is so scattered that

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

there was nobody within five hours drive for him to visit and regularly interact with, and we thought it well to appoint a mentor to keep in touch with him and to encourage him by phone in times of need of help and particularly to guide him in areas in which he might well be tested in that difficult situation, but was not as thoroughly prepared as was possible.

3. We ask that the assembly recognize that this is a legitimate part of a presbytery's oversight of its members and was a legitimate and appropriate protection in our situation for a man whose whole ministry could be endangered as he set out to do a difficult task in God's service."

Adopted as amended

8. That the Minutes of **Eastern Carolina** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **July 20, 1996; October 10, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 20, 1996; October 19, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: April 20, 1996: Presbytery approved mission church elders' relaxed view of the Sabbath as "within the bounds of current acceptable PCA interpretation and practice." This statement appears to imply that this view is in conformity with WCF 21.8., rather than an allowable exception.
 - d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory;**
Exception: July 15, 1995: appendix B, report of commission, reads, "TE1 made a motion to permit the variation of *BCO* 21-5 question #1 to omit the words, "as originally given" and "inerrant." This motion was seconded. After discussion a vote was taken and the motion failed. NOTE: The roles of TE1 and TE2 were switched so that TE2 would be asking the constitutional questions and TE1 would be leading in a time of prayer and laying on of hands and extending the right hand of fellowship. This was agreeable to the commission."
The Review Committee agrees with the spirit of the action of the commission to defeat the motion, but the motion should have been ruled out of order as a violation of our Standards. Subsequent minutes of Presbytery do not indicate that the Presbytery has addressed what appears to be a serious exception of one of its members to his own ordination vows (*BCO* 21-5, #1 and 2; 40-4).
Response: 1. ECP agrees that the motion should have been ruled out of order since variation of the ordination vows in the Form of Government cannot be allowed.
2. ECP agrees that we should have noted this irregularity in the Commission's minutes and addressed it. ECP has now investigated the exception by TE Marshall (TE1), and has determined that he only intended to reaffirm his exception to these words and to avoid any implication that the manuscripts we have today are not authentic. Seeking to revise the vow at an installation was an error. TE Marshall's original request to omit these words at his reception into ECP, in July

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1987, was refused with the instruction that he “use the wording of the *BCO*, and encourage clarifying explanations if desired”. TE Marshall continues to take exception to the question as it has been altered by the PCA. He has also requested ECP to clarify its instruction to him of July 1987.

3. This response has been adopted by ECP, meeting on January 18, 1997, and a notation has been added to the July 1995 Minutes referencing this action. *Adopted*

9. That the Minutes of **Evangel** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **October 31, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 23, 1996; March 5, 1996; May 14, 1996; September 24, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 23, 1996: Candidate not asked *BCO* questions for coming under care (*BCO* 18-3)
Exception: September 24, 1996: Session recommendation of candidate is waived (*BCO* 18-2)
Exception: September 24, 1996: Candidate not asked *BCO* questions for coming under care (*BCO* 18-3)
Exception: September 24, 1996: No mention of 6 month membership requirement for coming under care (*BCO* 18-2) (repeated from previous year.)
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
10. That the Minutes of **Fellowship** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 27, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 25, 1996; September 19, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
11. That the Minutes of **Grace** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 9, 1996; May 14, 1996; September 10, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
12. That the Minutes of **Great Lakes** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 12-13, 1996; July 2, 1996; September 5, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **May 10, 1996; May 10-11, 1996; October 10-11, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**

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- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

13. That the Minutes of **Gulf Coast** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 10, 1996; May 14, 1996; October 12, 1996**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: October 12, 1996: No examination in Bible content, yet man was licensed (*BCO* 19-2)
d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

14. That the Minutes of **Heartland** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **March 15-16, 1996; August 16-17, 1996; November 8-9, 1996**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None**;
d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

15. That the Minutes of **Heritage** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **February 10, 1996; May 14, 1996; September 14, 1996; November 14, 1996**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
General: No directory or list of candidates or licentiates included (repeated from previous year; *RAO* 14-4.c.1)
d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

16. That the Minutes of **Illiana** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 13, 1996; October 19, 1996**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 13, 1996: Candidate's exception not explained.
Exception: April 13, 1996: Minutes of commission to ordain and install not approved or attached (*RAO* 14-3, *BCO* 15-1)
d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

17. That the Minutes of **James River** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 1, 1996; April 13, 1996; July, 13, 1996; October 12, 1996**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None**

NOTE: The following Exception was stricken because General Assembly has not made a definitive determination that there is only one possible interpretation of Genesis 1:

Exception: October 12, 1996: A candidate was approved for licensure while describing a view of Genesis 1 as a “poetic account.” There was no admonition from Presbytery not to teach this view.

- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted as amended

18. That the Minutes of **Korean Capital** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
 b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 1, 1996**;
 c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: Parts of licensure examination not listed (repeated from previous year RAO 14-3.e.5)
Exception: Parts of ordination examination not listed (repeated from previous year RAO 14-3.e.5)
Exception: No indication of examination of a teaching elder coming into presbytery (*BCO* 13-6)

- d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received these should be submitted to the 26th GA:**
Exception: October 3, 1994; April 3, 1995: There is no record of examination by the Presbytery, and no listing of the parts of examination (*BCO* 19,21). *Adopted*

19. That the Minutes of **Korean Central** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
 b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 13, 1996; October 14-15, 1996**;
 c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None**;
 d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

20. That the Minutes of **Korean Eastern** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
 b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 9, 1996**;
 c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: April 9, 1996: No obvious indication that the exam for ordination included each of the parts required by *BCO* 21-4 (repeated from previous year.)
 d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received these should be submitted to the 26th GA:**
Exception: April 11, 1995: Steps of ordination exam need to be stated (*BCO* 19, 21)
November 24, 1992: No record of annual review of session records.

Adopted

21. That the Minutes of **Korean Northwest** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;

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- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 16, 1996;**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: April 16, 1996: Presbytery required to meet twice a year. Minutes submitted for only one stated meeting.
Exception: Failure to examine a TE for reception into presbytery (*BCO* 21-4).
Exception: Failure to sign the Statement of Ministerial Obligation.
- d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received these should be submitted to the 26th GA:**
Exception: April 11, 1995; October 10, 1995: No details of all parts of ordination examinations were given (*BCO* 21-4);

Adopted

22. That the Minutes of **Korean Southeastern** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 8-9, 1996; June 4, 1996; November 12, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **April 8-9, 1996; November 12, 1996;**
Exception: April 8-9, 1996: No ruling elders named to commissions (*BCO* 15-2)
Exception: November 12, 1996: No quorum for presbytery meeting - only two ruling elders (*BCO* 13-4)
 - d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: June 12, 1995: no quorum present, (*BCO* 13-4);
Response: Korean Southeastern Presbytery fully acknowledges its failure to report a quorum present (*BCO* 13-4) for the Called Meeting, June 12, 1996. KSE Presbytery understands it is one of the most serious violations that breaches the Constitution of our Denomination, and is absolutely inexcusable. We regret and apologize for this matter. We will make our best effort, and endeavor to prevent it from being repeated in the future. KSE Presbytery will earnestly try to abide with the Constitution of the PCA.
The above response was adopted by the Korean SE Presbytery at its Stated Meeting (23rd), April 8, 1997. We humbly pray this response will be acceptable to the Committee of RPR to the 25th General Assembly, PCA.

Adopted

23. That the Minutes of **Korean Southern** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 15, 1996; June 27, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: June 27, 1996: The entirety of minutes is taken up with a trial and discussion of whether to dismiss a church. However, on page 5,

we learn that the hearing is postponed because the accused is not present. (BCO procedures for discipline need to be followed.)

- d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received this should be submitted to the 26th GA:**

Exception: General: No record of annual review of sessional records (BCO 13-9b).

Exception: October 9, 1995: No record that a commission was established to install a TE. *Adopted*

24. That the Minutes of **Korean Southwestern** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**

- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **October 10, 1995, April 16, 1996; October 15, 1996; November 19, 1996;**

- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:

Exception: April 16, 1996; October 15, 1996; November 19, 1996; Parts of examination should be listed (RAO 14-3.e.5).

Exception: October 10, 1995, April 16, 1996; October 15, 1996; November 19, 1996; No record of presbytery approval of session records (BCO 13-9b). Repeated from previous year.

Exception: General: Teaching elders transferred in and out of churches and presbytery without explanation or required examinations (BCO 13, 8).

Exception: October 15, 1996; Electing Ruling Elders requires training and congregational election and possible ordination (BCO 5-9).

- d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received this should be submitted to the 26th GA:**

Exception: October 12, 1994: See below

Exception: April 25, 1995: Response: See below

Exception: October 10, 1995. (Item 1 and 2) No record of congregational meetings to dissolve pastoral relationship ((per BCO 23-1). A TE was removed from Presbytery rolls without explanation (BCO 13-10).

Exception: General: Record of examinations for ordination and licensure is missing and parts of the exam are not recorded (BCO 13-5,6, 19-2,3, 21-4).

Exception: General: Ruling elders should be examined by sessions and not by the Presbytery (BCO 24:1; 11:4)

NOTE: Though it is recognized that Korean Presbyteries are doing this in accord with their Korean customs and culture.

Exception: General: There is no record of presbytery's approval of session records (BCO 13-9b; 40-1,2).

No record of commission to examine ruling elders before receiving mission church (BCO 13-8). *Adopted*

25. That the Minutes of **Louisiana** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **June 24, 1996;**

- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **General;**

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- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 16, 1996: No minutes of executive session.
Exception: October 19, 1996: Expiration of license to preach. Then licentiate did not apply for renewal. Procedures for renewal not followed.
General: Session records not reviewed in 1996.
- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

- 26. That the Minutes of **Mid-America** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **April 12, 1996; July 10, 1996; October 11, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 4, 1996: Presbytery voted to sustain the examination of transferring PCA TE even though the TE stated that he had not fully read all of the PCA subordinate standards (*BCO* 21-5, questions 2 & 3).
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

- 27. That the Minutes of **Mississippi Valley** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 16, 1996; February. 20, 1996; June 4, 1996; October 15, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: October 15, 1996: No record of exam in PCA church history for ordinand.
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

- 28. That the Minutes of **Missouri** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **January 16, 1996; April 16, 1996; July 16, 1996; October 15, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

- 29. That the Minutes of **Nashville** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 13, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **April 9, 1996;**
Exception: No actual minutes of stated meeting (*BCO* 13-11).
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

- 30. That the Minutes of **New Jersey** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **None;**

- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 2, 1996; May 18, 1996; September 28, 1996;**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: November 16, 1996: There is no mention of sessional endorsement of a candidate under care or of the six-month membership requirement in a local congregation (*BCO* 18-2).
 NOTE: The following Exception was ruled out of order by the Moderator because it is not a "serious irregularity," (*BCO* 40-3), nor has General Assembly made a determination that there is only one possible interpretation to the length of days in Genesis 1:
Exception: Presbytery's Affirmations and Denials Regarding the Interpretation of Genesis One includes the statement, "We affirm that one natural interpretation of Genesis One is the 24-hour day exposition. We deny that the 24-hour-day interpretation is the only exegetically possible interpretation."
 d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted as amended

- 31. That the Minutes of **New River** Presbytery:
 - a. Be approved without exception: **March 8-9, 1996; May 4, 1996; November 8-9, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: July 12-13, 1996: Man licensed who "holds exception in his view of the Sabbath (he does not believe that the Sabbath Day and Lord's Day are the same), the law (he is not absolutely sure that the Decalogue is the New Testament Ethic), and on who may administer the Sacraments (he cannot see that the administration of the sacraments is the sole prerogative of teaching elders; he believes that ruling elders and others who have demonstrated knowledge, understanding, and maturity concerning the sacraments should be allowed to administer them.))" WCF 21-7, 27-4, 19-2)
 - d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: November 10-11, 1995: Presbytery denied an overture from a neighboring session which should have been accepted because it dealt with a non-ordained man being allowed to teach Sunday School without a change in his views when he had been removed from teaching as a result of a judicial decision by the General Assembly (*PCA Digest* vol. I, p. 428). It appears Presbytery allowed a court under its oversight to act contrary to a GA decision (*BCO* 40-2.4, 14-6.c).
Response: The Presbytery finds that since both New River Presbytery and the Standing Judicial Commission declared the man ineligible to teach based on a number of exceptions, and that examination by the session of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has determined that this number of exceptions no longer exists, but rather there is only the

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exception in the matter of origins, and he has agreed not to teach on this subject, that he is eligible to teach.

Adopted as amended

32. That the Minutes of **Northeast** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **May 17-18, 1996; September 20-21, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 12-13, 1996: Presbytery approved a call that was not a proper call in that the call promised to provide financial care of the teaching elder yet also required the teaching elder to raise his financial support (*BCO* 20-1 and 20-6.)
Exception: March 30, 1996: Presbytery approved a man for membership who took exception to the standards on double predestination without recording the specifics of his differences.
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

33. That the Minutes of **Northern California** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **October 11, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: March 1, 1996: Presbytery adopted a clarification of *BCO* 21-4 which removes the significance of the Extraordinary Clause.
Exception: June 15, 1996: Presbytery received into its teaching membership a TE who was unwilling to use the term "evangelical church" in fencing the table. (*BCO* 58-4)
Exception: October 11, 1996: Presbytery approved the ordination of candidate whose views of Sabbath permitting work and employment in labor other than deeds of necessity and mercy are contrary to PCA Standards (*WCF* xx1.7. *LCQ* 116-117)
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

34. That the Minutes of **Northern Illinois** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 20, 1996; April 26, 1996; July 27, 1996; October 25, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below **None;**
 - d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

35. That the Minutes of **North Georgia** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 20, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 16, 1996; April 16, 1996; May 11, 1996; July 13, 1996; October 15, 1996;**

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- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: May 11, 1996: No quorum for called meeting. No ruling elder present (BCO 13-4).
Exception: November 26, 1996: No quorum for called meeting. No ruling elder present (BCO 13-4)
- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
Adopted
36. That the Minutes of **North Texas** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **January 26-27, 1996; March 16, 1996; April 26-27, 1996; July 26-27, 1996;**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **General.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: September 21, 1996: No record of completion and approval of internship in fulfillment of ordination requirements.
Exception: November 1-2, 1996: Candidate examined in theology indicates a belief in continuing revelation. The minutes record no details of his views.
- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required;**
Adopted as amended
37. That the Minutes of **Pacific** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **No minutes submitted.** It is recommended that Pacific Presbytery be given a year of grace to turn in their 1996 minutes due to Providential circumstances.
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery:
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
- d. **That as no response to the 24th GA exceptions was received these should be submitted to the 26th GA.**
Exception: May 20, 1995: A Commission is established by Presbytery to discipline a church member without describing the reasons. (BCO 11-4, 31-1, 13-9.)
Exception: General: pastoral calls and appendices are not included; Minutes of January 23, 1993 are missing.
Adopted
38. That the Minutes of **Pacific Northwest** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 12-13, 1996; April 26, 1996; June 14, 1996; October 4-5, 1996.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: April 26, 1996: Presbytery took no action on TE's change of views.
- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
Adopted
39. That the Minutes of **Palmetto** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **None;**

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- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 25, 1996; April 25, 1996; July 25, 1996; October 24, 1996; December 5, 1996;**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
- d. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

40. That the Minutes of **Philadelphia** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **January 27, 1996; March 9, 1996; May 10, 1996; June 10, 1996; September 14, 1996; November 9, 1996**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
- d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**

Exception: March 11, 1995: item 95-03-16 (pp. 4 & 5), & attachment # 7. Recommendation: Response #1, first sentence, fails to set forth clearly that the *BCO* 9-3 limits the office of deacon only to men. It also fails to set forth clearly that *BCO* 9-7 does not provide for training of women for diaconal ministry and for the setting apart of women, who assist the deacons, by a commissioning service.

Response: 1. Regarding an exception to Presbytery's March, 1995, Minutes. In response to the exception of substance in item 40.c. of the 1996 report of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records.

“Response #1, first sentence, fails to set forth clearly that the *BCO* 9-3 limits the office of deacon only to men. It also fails to set forth clearly that *BCO* 9-7 does not provide for training of women for diaconal ministry and for the setting apart of women, who assist the deacons, by a commissioning service”;

the Presbytery of Philadelphia sincerely regrets any confusion its action has occasioned. We respectfully report to the Assembly that no church within our Presbytery ordains women to the office of deacons, and that we did not intend to imply that. While we did not cite *BCO* 19-3 to that effect, we suggest that it is not necessary for us to do that -- we respectfully ask General Assembly to presuppose our commitment to the Constitution.

Presbytery is aware that member churches may take actions which are not explicitly authorized by the *BCO*, but we do not consider that the *BCO* describes in an exhaustive way all the things a church may do. Specifically, it seems reasonable to us that much of the training given to deacons would be of great value to those assisting in that work, and hence that those assisting be given that training also. We are unable to distinguish sharply between training useful to those doing diaconal ministry and training useful to those assisting in it. While we see no explicit permission of either training of women for diaconal service or of setting them apart for such non-ordained service by a commissioning service or any other form, we believe that our *Book of Church Order* was

not intended to be exhaustive and therefore that presbyteries are free to do that which is not contradicted by the *BCO* or by the sacred Word. Furthermore, had the reviewers noted the last paragraph in Presbytery's response in its *Minutes*, they would have seen Presbytery's adopted position that

" the Session refrain from teaching the congregation 'that Scripture allows for the inclusion of women in the office of deacon'. Such teaching clearly contradicts the requirements of the BCO and is liable to disturb the peace and unity of the Church. The proper forum for the discussion of such matters is the Presbytery."

We recognize the concern that "commissioning" might appear to be equivalent to ordination. We affirm again that that was not and is not our intention. Many of our denomination's churches recognize, or pray for, or express gratitude to God for the work done by people who are not officers of the church, such as Sunday school teachers, volunteers working with young people, those going on short-term missions trips, or the like. Sometimes the term "commissioning" is used within that context. While we believe our intention was clear and without desire to disturb the Church, we wish to submit to the judgment of the General Assembly and do therefore adopt the following motion:

"Presbytery urges its sessions that, whenever they recognize, commission, or pray for those doing special work for the church, they take particular care to make clear that God has gifted and chosen people for service in the Church in capacities other than ordained offices."

Adopted

41. That the Minutes of **Pittsburgh** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **January 13, 1996; April 27, 1996; July 20, 1996; October 19, 1996.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
- d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: April 29, 1995: Record is not clear if a candidate was examined.

Response: Pittsburgh Presbytery agrees that the presbytery itself must examine ordination candidates on the floor of presbytery, and in fact did so in this case in both theology and polity. However, the presbytery acknowledges that the wording of the minutes is imprecise, and in each case should have more correctly stated 'that the theology/polity exam, led before presbytery by a member of the Credentials Committee, be approved.' The minutes will be corrected, and presbytery will take greater care to be precise in recording future ordination exams."

Adopted

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42. That the Minutes of **Potomac** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **February 10, 1996; May 14, 1996; September 21, 1996; November 12, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
43. That the Minutes of **Rocky Mountain** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 26-27, 1996; April 26-27, 1996; September 4, 1996; September 26-27, 1996**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
44. That the Minutes of **Siouxlands** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 26-27, 1996; April 25-26, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: September 26-27, 1996: No record of dissolving Sioux Falls church or transferring or dismissing members (*BCO* 13-10)
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
45. That the Minutes of **South Coast** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 27, 1996; April 27, 1996; September 21, 1996; October 26, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
46. That the Minutes of **South Texas** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **April 26-27, 1996; October 25-26, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 26-27, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 26-27, 1996: No record of installation of TE by presbytery (*BCO* 21-8-10)
Exception: July 26-27, 1996: Three churches given mission status without presbytery providing temporary government (*BCO* 5-3).
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**
- Adopted*
47. That the Minutes of **Southeast Alabama** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **None;**

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- b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 23, 1996; April 23, 1996; July 16, 1996; October 22, 1996;**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 23, 1996: Review of sessional minutes does not indicate whether they are approved or disapproved (*BCO* 40-3 and 13-96).
Exception: February 20, 1996: Business other than that stated in the call should not have been conducted.
Exception: April 23, 1996: There is no record that the candidate's internship had been approved as required by *BCO* 21-4).
Exception: Review of sessional minutes does not indicate whether approved or disapproved (*BCO* 40-3 and 13-96).
Exception: Session endorsements of the two candidates are not given as required by *BCO* 18-2. Also there is no mention that candidates have been members of the congregation whose session provides the endorsements for at least six months as required (*BCO* 18-2).
Exception: July 16, 1996: There is no record that the ordinand was asked to indicate whether he has changed his previous views concerning the Confession of Faith, Catechisms and *BCO* since his licensure examination (*BCO* 21-4).
Exception: October 22, 1996: Session endorsements of the two candidates are not given as required by *BCO* 18-2. Also there is no mention that candidates have been members of the congregation whose session provides the endorsements for at least six months as required (*BCO* 18-2).
Exception: Review of sessional minutes does not indicate whether approved or disapproved (*BCO* 40-3 and 13-96).
Exception: October 22, 1996: Session endorsements of the two candidates are not given as required by *BCO* 18-2. Also there is no mention that candidates have been members of the congregation whose session provides the endorsements for at least six months as required (*BCO* 18-2).
Exception: There is no record of a congregational meeting of Woodland Presbyterian Church giving their agreement with the dissolution of the pastoral relation (*BCO* 23-1).
Exception: Review of sessional minutes does not indicate whether approved or disapproved (*BCO* 40-3 and 13-96).
- d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: April 25, 1995: Candidate approved for student supply without licensure (*BCO* 18-5, 22-5).
Response: Respectfully responding to the exceptions, Presbytery acknowledges that the action of April 25, 1995, in approving a student supply without licensure was not in accord with *BCO* 18-5 and 22-5, which we will be careful to observe. Kindly allow us to point out that the student involved was an ordained deacon in one of our churches, had

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served as acting chaplain in his Naval Reserve Unit, and had led services with great acceptability and appreciation in the pastorless rural church involved. To prepare more thoroughly in some areas, he requested deferring his licensure exam to the next Stated Meeting, at which time he was licensed.

Exception: October 24, 1995. Appendix C. Commission to ordain did not have proper quorum (*BCO* 15-1, 2).

Response: Concerning the lack of a proper quorum in the October 24, 1995 minutes, we humbly submit that the reviewer of this Commission's minutes understandably overlooked that there appear the names of four teaching elders present (including three from this Presbytery) and five ruling elders. (Please see the attached copy of the Commission minutes). We would ask that this be acknowledged.

Adopted

48. That the Minutes of **Southeast Louisiana** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **January 27, 1996; April 27, 1996; May 11, 1996; July 27, 1996; October 26, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None;**
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

49. That the Minutes of **Southern Florida** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **January 16, 1996; July 16, 1996; October 15, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **None;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: April 16, 1996: The worship service for the purpose of organizing a church and installing its pastor included a lady who "led one congregation in the opening prayer" and another lady who "read passages of Scripture" prior to the sermon. (Commissioners Report MC-6).
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

50. That the Minutes of **Southwest Florida** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **January 13, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 9, 1996; October 9, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: General: No directory, roll of presbytery, list of candidates under care and licenciates, Standing Rules were included with the minutes.
 - That the response to the 22nd GA be found satisfactory.**
Exception: October 8, 1994: There is no record of examination of a TE from another presbytery for licensure who was approved for Stated Supply (*BCO* 19-1), nor of the approved period of service.

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Response: The Presbytery of Southwest Florida acknowledges the exception taken by General Assembly Committee on Review of Presbytery Records to our action listed in section 9.f.1 of the minutes of October 8th, 1994. The exception is that we did not examine TE Michael Rybka, who was a member of another presbytery, before we approved him as stated supply to Faith Presbyterian Church in Wauchula, Florida. Nor did we approve the appointed time of his service. TE Rybka served as stated supply of Faith Presbyterian Church from September 8th, 1994 through December 4th, 1994. He has left Faith Church and TE Brook Larrison is now their pastor. We will strive to be more careful in the future.

- e. **No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.**

Adopted

51. That the Minutes of **Southwest** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 25-26, 1996; April 25, 1996; September 19, 1996**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: January 25-26, 1996: No installation of pastor of newly merged church.
d. **That the response to 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: September 22-23, 1994: No indication of annual review of session records.

Response: The Presbytery of the Southwest respectfully disagrees with the exception. The report of the Administration Committee includes its recommendations concerning the minutes reviewed on page 94-64, section 9-6 of our minutes. Those recommendations were adopted by PSW. We refer the exception back to the Assembly.

“September 22-23, 1994: On pages 94-60 and 94-61, section 9.4.4 there are no minutes to the executive session which Southwest entered into, contrary to *BCO* 13-11, 14-6c, 40-1, and *RAO* 14-3e6 (new)”.

The Presbytery of the Southwest acknowledges that its minutes with respect to its executive sessions may be confusing. PSW’s practice is to record all actions taken and decisions made immediately after rising from executive session. That is in fact what happened in the minutes referred to. Presbytery will from now on indicate in its minutes which motions and actions result from its executive sessions.

Adopted

52. That the Minutes of **Susquehanna Valley** Presbytery:

- a. Be approved without exception: **None**;
b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **February 17, 1996; May 18, 1996; September 21, 1996; November 16, 1996**;
c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None**;
d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: February, 18, 1995, May 20, 1995, September 16, 1995, November 18, 1995:

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Exception: General: No record of parts of examinations (*BCO* 19, 21)

Response: “M/S/C that the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery (SVP) respectfully disagrees with the exceptions of substance taken to its 1995 minutes where it states “No record of parts of examinations (*BCO* 19, 21)” since each set of minutes did record the parts of examinations according to the forms supplied in the *Handbook for Presbytery Clerks* (see D-13, D-15, D-16) which is also in accordance with *BCO* 13-6.

Exception: General: No report of candidates, TE’s laboring out of bounds, interns. No Standing Rules included.

Response: The observation that the Standing Rules were not included is correct and will be supplied in the future. Also, at each meeting a report on candidates and interns is received and reference to these will be made in future submittals. TE’s laboring out of bounds provide written reports to the Church and Ministerial Oversight Committee annually. These also will be reflected in future minutes.” *Adopted*

53. That the Minutes of **Tennessee Valley** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **None**;
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 13, 1996; April 20, 1996; July 9, 1996; October 8, 1996.**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: October 8, 1996: Commission to ordain and install did not report as required by RAO 14-3.e.4.
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.** *Adopted*
54. That the Minutes of **Warrior** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **None**;
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **January 16, 1996; April 16, 1996; July 16, 1996; October 15, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
Exception: April 16, 1996; July 16, 1996; October 15, 1996: Presbytery as a body has not taken action on the views of a TE regarding his belief in continuing revelation and in the continuation of all gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14, Romans 14, Ephesians 4) with the exception of apostleship (WCF 1-1 and *BCO* 13-9f). We recognize the extenuating circumstances which necessitated postponement at the July meeting.
 - No response to the 24th GA or previous assemblies is required.** *Adopted*
55. That the Minutes of **Western Carolina** Presbytery:
- Be approved without exception: **November 1, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **March 16, 1996; May 9, 1996; July 20, 1996; December 7, 1996;**
 - Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below: **None**;
 - That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: March 18, 1995 A new Standing Rule 4-2.6 gives unconstitutional powers to the Moderator and the Stated Clerk: The

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Moderator in consultation with the Stated Clerk may appoint a temporary moderator of the session, if needed for any vacant church, with the consent of the session of that church if there is one. The appointment is to be reported to the next stated meeting of Presbytery and to be ratified or changed at that meeting. If there is no session, the Moderator in consultation with the Stated Clerk may grant a teaching elder the temporary power of an evangelist, also to be reported for ratification or change by the next stated meeting of Presbytery.” BCO 13-9d , 15-1, and 12-3 make provision for these situations.

Response: Western Carolina Presbytery has recognized her failure to comply with the Book of Church Order in our action of March 18, 1995, wherein we added Article 4-2-6 to our Presbytery Manual. We have corrected this at our July 20, 1996; meeting by expunging this Article from our Manual. Further, we have no one currently empowered under the expunged Article. *Adopted*

56. That the Minutes of **Westminster** Presbytery:
- a. Be approved without exception: **February. 17, 1996;**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form reported to presbytery: **April 9, 1996; July 13, 1996; August 13, 1996; October 12, 1996;**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance stated below:
 - d. **That the response to the 24th GA exceptions be found satisfactory:**
Exception: General: Roll of presbytery not included.
Response: Westminster Presbytery had no exceptions of substance, and therefore had the understanding that no response was required. The only exception was a general exception that stated “Roll of Presbytery was not included.” A roll was sent to the Stated Clerk’s Office as is done every year. Either the roll was lost, or some other event must have caused its misplacement. *Adopted*

IV. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Presbyteries who did not respond to the exceptions taken by the 24th General Assembly to their 1995 minutes be reminded to respond to the 26th General Assembly in 1998.
2. That all Presbyteries who have had exceptions of substance to their submitted minutes be reminded of the necessity to respond as a requirement of our RAO. Compliance enables the CRPR to bring matters to a conclusion.
3. That the General Assembly again provide the use of computers and overhead equipment next year.
4. That Dr. Paul Gilchrist and Mrs. Sarah Nightingale Smith be thanked for providing the overhead equipment, typing, and other assistance.
5. That Presbyteries be thanked for the participation in the work of the Committee by those who read records even though they could not attend, and those who attended the sessions of the Committee.

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6. That all Presbyteries be diligent to elect members to this Committee, preferably those who plan to attend the 26th GA, and if not, those who will assist the Committee as first readers and report by mail.
7. That all Stated Clerks take note of the RAO-14 in the keeping and submitting of Presbytery records.
8. That Presbyteries be commended for improvement in record keeping.
9. The Committee thanks Chairman Grover Gunn and the officers for their diligent service.

Adopted

VIII. OFFICERS ELECTED TO SERVE NEXT YEAR AS FOLLOWS:

Chairman:	TE Chris Robins (Pittsburgh)
Vice-Chairman:	RE Bob Rogland (Pacific Northwest)
Secretary:	TE C. Chris Baker (Northeast)

IX. ROLL OF COMMITTEE ON REVIEW ON PRESBYTERY RECORDS:

PRESBYTERY	NAME
Ascension	TE Bob Peterson
Central Carolina	RE Paul English
Central Georgia	TE John Kinser
Covenant	TE Grover Gunn
Fellowship	TE Bob Sprinkle
Gulf Coast	RE George Fell
Heartland	RE Charles Meador
James River	TE Byron Snapp
Korean Southeastern	TE Dan Lee
Nashville	RE Mark Inman
New River	RE Virgil Roberts
North Georgia	RE Dwight Allen
Northeast	TE Chris Baker
Northern Illinois	RE Daniel Colvin
Pacific Northwest	RE Bob Rogland
Pittsburgh	TE Chris Robins
Potomac	TE Larry Wanselja
S. E. Louisiana	RE Ed Hackenberg
Southeast Alabama	TE Larry Gilpin
Southwest	RE Jack Quigley
Westminster	RE Dan Witcher

25-53 Assembly Recessed

The Assembly recessed at 11:05 PM with prayer by TE Grover Gunn, to reconvene at 9:00 AM on Friday.

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Seventh Session - Friday Morning June 13, 1997

25-54 Assembly Reconvenes

The Assembly reconvened at 9:00 AM with prayer by TE David Coffin.

25-55 Report of Committee on Review of Presbytery Records

TE Grover Gunn, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and continued the presentation of the report. **Recommendations 17, 30, 31, 36, 40 and 49** were handled at this time. TE Gunn closed the report with prayer. The Assembly adopted the following motion: "In light of the difficult and tedious work done by the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records, the General Assembly offers to the Committee its rising vote of thanks."

25-56 Point of Personal Privilege

RE William Earnest informed the Assembly of his desire to record his affirmative vote on the Minority Report concerning women in combat (they are listed at 25-45, III, 6, p. 191. Other commissioners also registered their affirmative votes.

25-57 Committee on Thanks

RE William (Bingy) Moore, Chairman, led the Assembly in prayer and presented the report which was **adopted**.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9,10, NKJV)

Those of us who have come from near and far to do the work of the church at this assembly know how the folks in the offices of the General Assembly in Atlanta and the legion of devoted brothers and sisters here in the Rocky Mountain Presbytery have heeded this mandate from God's Word! It is difficult to express the depth of gratitude we have for them and what they have done to insure the smooth and joyful operation of the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America.

We know what we have seen of their devoted efforts, but we may never know of the thousands of hours of prayer, planning, recruiting, meetings, telephone calls, letters, and all the other things that needed to be done. We do know, however, that these things did take place and that they were done to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and Owner.

We have the privilege of representing this Assembly in tendering our heartfelt thanks to all those who have shared their gifts with us.

In particular, we want to thank the folks of the local General Assembly Arrangements Committee, especially to its gracious Chairman, Bill Stephens,

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who directed the work of more than 300 people on nineteen different committees, and for the past 18 months, has labored more than “full time” to ensure the smooth operation of this assembly with both coolness and focus.

We offer our deep appreciation to the entire staff of Village Seven Presbyterian Church and the members of Rocky Mountain Presbytery and their volunteers who have generously given themselves to this work.

We want to thank those men who have served us so well on the platform. In particular we give thanks to retiring moderator TE Charles McGowan for his challenging sermon on Tuesday night and to those who conducted the evening inspirational services and the morning worship services. We express our appreciation to the present moderator, RE Sam Duncan for his fairness and humor in moving the business along while providing for debate on substantive issues. We give thanks for those who have labored on the platform, the Stated Clerk, TE Paul Gilchrist; recording clerks, TE’s David Dively, J. Robert Fiol and Steven Meyerhoff; Assistant Parliamentarians, TE Robert Ferguson and RE John B. White, Jr.; Time Keeper, Walter Lastovica and Sound Manager, Ed Nalley.

We especially thank the men who served on the Committees of Commissioners, whose efforts early in the week enabled the Assembly to do its work in an expeditious manner. We also commend their chairmen and secretaries who spent many hours in preparation of their reports.

We thank those men who have diligently distributed the paper and reports serving as floor clerks under the able direction of TE James Smith and his assistant RE Rick Springer.

We also want to thank the loyal and devoted servants of God from the Stated Clerk’s office in Atlanta who have come here to work long hours, often behind the scenes: Laurel De Bert, Nancy Barnosky, Ross and Pat Cook, Sue Campana, Stephanie Hauke, Monica Johnston, Sarah Smith, Stacey Van Voorhis, Christy Cook, and Ken Arthur.

“I will exalt you my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. Everyday I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; They will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.” (Psalm 145:1-7, NIV)

At the 25th General Assembly, in Colorado Springs, we have been able to look upon the awesome majesty of God’s mighty work in the setting of the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. Above all, we give thanks to God for His love and grace and for the work of the Holy Spirit at this Assembly.

We further call upon all elders and churches to pray fervently for the continuing outpouring of His Holy Spirit at the 26th General Assembly in St. Louis in 1998.

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Respectfully submitted by the following members of the Committee on Thanks:
RE Willaim (Bingy) Moore, Chairman RE Howard Q. Davis, Secretary
TE Steve Shuman TE Don Clements
TE George Mitchell

25-58 Approval of Minutes

The *Minutes, Twenty-Fifth General Assembly*, Sessions Four through Six, having been distributed, were approved as printed subject to corrections and/or additions being submitted in writing to the recording clerks.

The Assembly allowed the Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly, Session Seven to be approved by the Stated Clerk and commissioners from the Atlanta area.

25-59 Excused from Part of the Assembly

The following commissioners requested excuse from attendance in the final hours of the Assembly:

<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>TE Commissioner</u>	<u>RE Commissioner</u>
C. Florida	David Boxerman Douglas Falls	
C. Georgia Covenant	John W. P. Oliver Jason Strong Robert Penny	
E. Carolina Evangel Great Lakes Heartland	John Thompson Larry Allen Larry C. Hoop Tom Penning	RE Austin Leake
MS Valley Nashville N. Georgia SE Alabama	Philip Strong Rondell B. Shaw Oliver Claassen J. Paul Poynor	John Albritton William Joseph Frank Young, Jr.

25-60 Adjournment

On motion, the Moderator declared the Assembly adjourned at 10:25 AM to reconvene in St. Louis, Missouri on June 30, 1998. The Assembly joined in singing Psalm 133 and was led in prayer by the following ruling elders who were present at the Convocation of Sessions: Ivan Ward (Westminster), Jim Harrell (Westminster, Roanoke VA), J. Edmund Johnston, Jr. (First Presbyterian, Jackson MS), and Ed Nalley (Alta Woods, Jackson MS). The benediction was pronounced by TE Kennedy Smartt.

PART III

APPENDICES

The Appendices include the Reports of the Permanent Committees as originally submitted to the General Assembly, except where the text may have been amended by the Assembly. The recommendations in this section are those originally submitted by the Permanent Committees and may not have been adopted by the Assembly. See the reports of the committee of Commissioners for each of the respective committees to find the recommendations as they were adopted by the Assembly.

The budgets as approved by the Assembly are found in Appendix C, pp. 263 f.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

June 10-13, 1997

“...so that you become examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

(1 Thessalonians 1:7-8 NKJV)

It has been a real privilege for me to serve as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America. I constantly have to recognize that this Church belongs to Jesus Christ and to no one else. We serve merely as servants of the great King knowing that Jesus Christ, above all else is the Servant of God as proclaimed in the gospel according to Isaiah. From time to time we have to deal with problems that arise in the church. We are always glad to have the opportunity to answer questions about the PCA, it's faith and practice. More than anything else, it's a pleasure to correlate as much as we possibly can the statements in our *Book of Church Order* with principles established in the Scriptures. Questions are constantly swirling around on the role of women in the church, the regulatory principle of worship, the relationship of the pulpit search committee to the session, the relationship of pastors and sessions, between sessions and congregations, the meaning of this or that portion of *The Book of Church Order*, etc. As Stated Clerk, I am committed to the apostolic example of being “gentle, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children,” and being “well pleased to impart...our own lives because you [have] become dear to us.”

I. PUBLICATIONS

I begin my report as usual reporting on the publications produced by the Office of the Stated Clerk. Since much of our work goes from General Assembly to General Assembly, the first matter to report is that the *Minutes of the 24th General Assembly* went out as scheduled in September, distributed to all the commissioners and made available through the CE & P Bookstore here in Atlanta.

The *Directory of Churches* (often referred to as the “Blue Directory”) was completed and distributed in January. By May, we finish the work on the *1997 Yearbook* which appears in two volumes. This is a more comprehensive directory with information on presbyteries, General Assembly Committees, churches, statistics, and directory of all our ministers.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Commissioners Handbook for the 25th General Assembly went out in at the end of April, including all materials received up to that point; additional materials for General Assembly Commissioners are in the *Supplement* which is distributed at the beginning of the General Assembly. Once again it should be noted that churches not represented at General Assembly have been sent the report of the Standing Judicial Commission, in accordance with the requirements of *The Book of Church Order*.

II. BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER AMENDMENTS

There were eight items of amendments on the *The Book of Church Order* that were sent down to presbyteries by the 24th General Assembly for advice and consent. These are listed on page 251 of the *Commissioner's Handbook*. At the time of this writing, five of these amendments have passed; two are shy of two votes from passing and one is short a few votes. Those that have passed will need to be ratified by the General Assembly. It will be noted that those amendments dealing with the changes in *The Book of Church Order* chapter 15, were passed last year along with RAO amendments that were adopted by the 24th General Assembly subject to the final ratification of *BCO* amendments. Consequently, General Assembly will not need to act on these RAO amendments.

III. STATISTICS

A five year summary of PCA statistics is attached (Table 1, see page 240). For 1996 we are reporting 1163 particular churches and 175 missions. The total number of churches is up 1.8% from a year ago to 1338, an increase of 24. This reflects a 9.1% growth in the last 5 years.

As for membership, our statistics show a total of 277,899, which includes ministers, communicant members, and non-communicants. The total membership represents an increase of 2.4 % for the year, and 14.6% over the last 5 years. Both the rate of growth of churches and membership show a slow down. Of concern, I would point out that there were only 1912 adult baptisms in 1996 compared with 2607 in 1992. The statistics show a steady downward trend. This part of our statistics is the only indicator of the PCA's evangelistic endeavor.

In many ways, the giving patterns show a remarkable growth rate. Total contributions to churches were up 9.2% to over \$337 million. The pattern of disbursements is interesting: Total benevolences were up only 5.7%, whereas congregational current expenses were up 9.2% and building expenditures were up 9.6% from the previous year. This suggests that churches are increasing their staffs, programs and/or salaries, as well as expanding their building facilities, but contributing less to reaching out in benevolent ministries and activities.

APPENDICES

Even though total benevolences were up only 5.7%, it is encouraging to see presbyteries receiving an increase of 7.1% and General Assembly causes being increased by 8.4%

There is an interesting new set of statistics for the PCA. I have been aware for years that PCA has and supports missionaries more widely than through MTW. Statistics collected by name of PCA missionaries result in the following: There are 512 career missionaries serving under MTW. In addition, there are 689 career missionaries serving outside MTW. This makes a total of 1201 full-time missionaries. MTW missionaries are serving in 66 countries of the world, while non-MTW missionaries are serving in an additional 67 countries for a total of 133 countries. Table 3 (page 242) lists the nations served by our PCA full-time missionaries.

Unfortunately, the statistics still continue to be somewhat soft as long as there are churches for whom we have not received recent statistics. Last year there were 330 churches not reporting, while this year there were 356. Table 4 (page 243) lists these churches. I would encourage pastors and elders to see to it that these statistics are made available so that we can get a more accurate figure of what God is doing throughout our denomination.

Table 5 (page 239), gives a summary analysis by Presbyteries of churches contributing to General Assembly causes. The number of churches contributing to one or more General Assembly causes has remained level at about 82% average for the last 4 years. A close look of the support by committees or agencies leaves much room for growth and development. Nevertheless, we are very grateful for the churches which have been faithfully contributing to our denominational committees and agencies.

IV. NEW CHURCHES SINCE THE 24TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Table 6 (page 49) lists 34 churches added to the PCA since June of 1996. These are the ones that have been reported to our office. It should be noted that most of these have been organized from mission efforts. We welcome all of these. Following the tradition long established we will give special recognition during the 25th General Assembly of the commissioners representing these churches.

V. OTHER ASSEMBLY ASSIGNMENTS

The Stated Clerk has sought to be faithful to his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. He has tried diligently to fulfill all the responsibilities of his office and regularly reports to the chairman of the Administrative Committee, under whose supervision he serves. The clerk has attended presbytery meetings, preached in churches, conducted seminars, responded to multitudinous questions on the *BCO* and other General Assembly

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

documents, has conducted meetings of presbytery clerks, communicating fairly regularly with sessions and friends of the PCA. He has served as a resource person to various committees in order to enable them to do their work on behalf of General Assembly.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Let me express grateful appreciation for the hard-working staff without whose help it would be impossible to fulfill the duties of the office. Above all, the clerk gives thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, who wonderfully rules and overrules in the affairs of His people. We humbly offer the work of our hands and minds to His glory, honor and praise.

Faithfully submitted,

Paul R. Gilchrist
Stated Clerk of General Assembly

TABLE 1
FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA STATISTICS

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Presbyteries	54	54	56	56	56
Churches	1,086	1,114	1,122	1,142	1,163
Missions	140	142	155	172	175
Ministers	2,239	2,333	2,419	2,503	2,573
Candidates	359	395	412	465	546
Licentiates	193	195	187	182	151
Profession of Faith by Adults	4,212	3,950	4,347	4,618	4,619
Communicants	195,352	199,432	205,142	211,347	218,276
Non-communicants	44,969	48,786	53,324	57,413	57,050
Total Membership (Comm, Non-comm, Ministers) ...	242,560	250,551	260,885	271,263	277,899
Family Units	96,592	98,621	100,025	104,195	104,882
Sunday School Attendance (1)	112,671	114,816	111,088	113,210	116,921
Adult Baptisms	2,607	2,102	1,924	1,934	1,912
Infant Baptisms	4,682	4,600	4,814	5,127	5,081
Total Contributions	241,281,568	257,264,201	281,541,481	308,760,862	337,081,407
Per Capita Giving (2)	1,254	1,327	1,404	1,494	1,571
Assembly Causes	14,074,146	14,056,691	16,307,579	16,789,855	18,204,599
Presbytery Causes	2,871,124	2,867,439	2,744,221	2,927,446	3,136,607
Congregation Benevolences	52,246,829	59,763,208	58,239,885	39,422,707	41,160,573
Total Benevolences	69,192,099	76,687,338	77,291,685	59,140,008	62,501,779
Per Capita Benevolences (2)	360	395	385	286	291
Congregational Current Expenses	146,529,743	156,722,940	168,688,227	188,364,725	205,818,068
Congregational Building Expenditures	46,219,893	47,181,544	53,177,898	60,040,809	65,801,172
Total All Disbursements	261,941,735	280,591,822	299,157,810	307,545,542	334,121,019

(1) Beginning in 1992, the statistics show attendance. Until 1991, the numbers reflect enrollment.

(2) Presbytery and Assembly per capita giving was figured only for those congregations reporting financial statistics.

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TABLE 2

STATUS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PCA BY POSITION
as of December 31, 1996

	Column A [1995]	Column B [1996]	<i>Including:</i> Column C (Serving Out-of-Bounds)
Pastor	815	814	51
Senior Pastor	199	225	8
Associate Pastor	145	138	7
Assistant Pastor	193	230	14
Evangelist	38	32	21
Organizing Pastor	147	154	5
Subtotal	1,537	1,593	106
Administration	145	144	100
Chaplain	88	92	92
Foreign Missionary	159	163	32
Campus Minister	24	28	2
Stated Supply	18	18	2
Professor	78	76	53
Teacher	19	16	12
Out-of-Bounds	11	10	10
Subtotal	542	547	303
Honorably Retired	233	226	
Medically Disabled	2	2	
Without Charge	185	203	
Suspended	4	2	
Subtotal	424	433	
TOTAL	2,503	2,573	409

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TABLE 3

NON-MTW MISSIONARY STATISTICS

A.	Number of MTW Career Missionaries:	512
B.	Number of non-MTW Missionaries Supported by the PCA:	689
C.	Total Missionaries Supported by the PCA:	1,201
D.	Number of Countries of MTW Missionary Service:	66
E.	Number of Countries of non-MTW Missionary Service:	67
F.	Nations of the World Where Missionaries Serve: ⁽¹⁾	

1. Countries of Service for MTW Missionaries:

Angola	Ecuador	Japan	Romania
Argentina	England	Jordan	Russia
Australia	Eritrea	Kazakstan	Senegal
Austria	Ethiopia	Kenya	South Africa
Belgium	France	Korea	Spain
Belize	Germany	Malawi	Taiwan
Brazil	Guam	Mexico	Tanzania
British West Indies	Haiti	Niger	Trinidad
Bulgaria	Hong Kong	Nigeria	Uganda
Chile	Hungary	Papua New Guinea	Ukraine
Colombia	India	Peru	Venezuela
Cote d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Philippines	Zimbabwe
Czech Republic	Ireland	Poland	
	Italy	Portugal	
	Jamaica		

2. Additional Countries Served by PCA-Supported Missionaries:

Afghanistan	Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Sierra Leone
Albania	Estonia	Malaysia	Singapore
Aruba	Finland	Mali, West Africa	Slovakia
Belarus	Gambia	Malta	Slovenia
Benin	Ghana	Mauritania	Swaziland
Bolivia	Greece	Monaco	Switzerland
Bonaire	Greenland	Mongolia	Thailand
Botswana	Grenada	Morocco	Togo
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Mozambique	Tunisia
Cameroon	Honduras	Napal	Turkey
Caribbean	Iraq	Netherlands	Uzbekistan
Chad	Irian Jaya	Pakistan	Vietnam
China	Israel	Panama	Yugoslavia
Congo	Ivory Coast	Paraguay	Zaire
Costa Rica	Latvia	Saudi Arabia	Zambia
Croatia	Lebanon	Scotland	
Cuba	Liberia	Siberia	
Cyprus			

⁽¹⁾ Some missionaries are serving in very sensitive areas. Hence, these countries are not designated.

TABLE 4

CHURCHES NOT REPORTING 1996 STATISTICS

With Year for Which Statistics Were Last Received (* = No Statistics Available)

Ascension

(2 churches-0 missions-2 total)

Chapel, Beaver, PA	1995
Darlington Reformed, Darlington, PA	1991

Calvary (10-0-10)

Center Point, Moore, SC	1991
Clemson, Clemson, SC	1995
Edgefield, Edgefield SC	1994
Fulton, Greer, SC	1993
Grace Community, Greenville, SC	1990
Mountville, Mountville, SC	1984
Providence, Spartanburg, SC	1995
Reedy River, Conestee, SC	1995
Reidville, Reidville, SC	1992
Union, Abbeville, SC	1991

Central Carolina (5-4-9)

Christ Community, Sanford, NC (m)	*
Countryside, Cameron, NC	1992
Faith, Mt. Mourne, NC	1995
First, Ellerbe, NC	1995
Grace Covenant, Elon College, NC (m)	*
Harvest, Lincolnton, NC (m)	*
Moag Yaung, Matthews, NC (m)	*
Norman Harbor, Mooresville, NC	1995
University City, Charlotte, NC	1991

Central Florida (4-2-6)

Cross Creek, Jacksonville, FL (m)	*
Good News, St. Augustine, FL	1993
Ortega, Jacksonville, FL	1995
Pine Ridge, Orlando, FL	1993
River Ridge, New Port Richey, FL	1994
River of Life, Orlando, FL (m)	*

Central Georgia (4-2-6)

Camden Comm. Church, St. Marys, GA (m)	1994
Christ Comm. Church, Thomasville, GA	1994
First, Sandersville, GA	1995
Islands, Savannah, GA (m)	1995
North Macon, Macon, GA	1995
Westminster, Valdosta, GA	1995

Covenant (14-1-15)

Bassett, Bassett, AR	1993
Christ, Olive Branch, MS	1995
College Hill, Oxford, MS	*
Covenant, Greenville, MS	1995
Covenant, Little Rock, AR	1995
Faith, Aberdeen, MS	1995
Hickory Withe, Hickory Withe, TN	1993
Houlka, Houlka, MS	1995
Itta Bena/Morgan City, Itta Bena, MS	1995
Oak Ridge, Water Valley, MS	1995
Old Lebanon, Ackerman, MS	1990
Reformed, Pontotoc, MS	1990
River Valley Cov., Russellville, AR (m)	1995
Shongalo, Vaiden, MS	1993
Spout Springs, Ripley, MS	1994

Eastern Canada (1-0-1)

Grace Pres. Fellowship, Kitchener, ONT	1995
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Eastern Carolina (0-1-1)

Rocky Mount, Rocky Mount, NC (m)	*
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Evangel (4-2-6)

Courtland, Courtland, AL	1993
Eastside, Gadsden, AL	1991
Grace Fellowship, Albertville, AL	1994
New City Church, Birmingham, AL (m)	*
Presbyterian Church East, Birmingham, AL	1995
Redeemer, Madison, AL (m)	*

Fellowship – All Churches Reporting

Grace (18-0-18)

Bay Springs, Bay Springs, MS	1991
Bethany, Centreville, MS	1995
Calvary, Mize, MS	1995
Collins, Collins, MS	1993
Ellisville, Ellisville, MS	1995
Faith, Brookhaven, MS	1995
First, Taylorsville, MS	1990
Geneva, Waynesboro, MS	1995
Hopewell, Mt. Olive, MS	1993
McDonald, Collins, MS	1988

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Grace (continued)

Northwood Hills, Gulfport, MS	1991
Oldenburg, Roxie, MS	1987
Petal, Petal, MS	1988
Prentiss, Prentiss, MS	1994
Sleigo, Collins, MS	1984
Thomson Memorial, Centreville, MS	1995
Union Church, Union Church, MS	1991
Wesson, Wesson, MS	1992

Great Lakes (4-4-8)

Christ Covenant, Lexington, KY (m)	*
Church of the Covenant, Cincinnati, OH	1995
Good Shepherd, Warsaw, IN	*
Hope, Frankfort, KY (m)	*
Northwest, Dublin, OH	1992
River Oaks, Greenwood, IN (m)	*
Tates Creek, Lexington, KY	1995
Walnut Creek, Gahanna, OH (m)	*

Gulf Coast (6-0-6)

Christ, Lynn Haven, FL	1995
Concord, Gulf Breeze, FL	1995
Northeast, Pensacola, FL	1995
Safe Harbor, Destin, FL	1993
Westminster, Tallahassee, FL	1989
Wildwood, Tallahassee, FL	1994

Heartland (2-1-3)

Covenant, Grand Island, NE (m)	1995
Heartland Community, Wichita, KS	1995
Hope Evangelical, Iowa City, IA	1995

Heritage (3-0-3)

Calvary Reformed, Media, PA	1995
Cornerstone, Kemblesville, PA	1995
Immanuel, Downingtown, PA	1993

Illiana (3-3-6)

Center Grove, Edwardsville, IL	1994
Concord, Waterloo, IL	1992
First, West Frankfort, IL (m)	1986
Providence, Marion, IL (m)	*
Springfield, Springfield, IL (m)	*
Westminster, Vincennes, IN	1994

James River (4-0-4)

Eden Korean, Virginia Beach, VA	*
Grace Covenant, Williamsburg, VA	1994
The Coventry Church, Yorktown, VA	1989
West Hopewell, Hopewell, VA	1995

Korean Capital (11-6-17)

Ban Suk, Glen Burnie, MD (m)	*
Calvary, Cockeysville, MD	*
Central of Virginia, Fairfax, VA	1990
Damascus Korean, Silver Spring, MD (m)	*
Eden Korean, Herndon, VA	*
Emmanuel, Timonium, MD	1990
Korean Central, Baltimore, MD	1991
Korean of Centreville, Centreville, VA	*
Korean of S. Washington, Woodbridge, VA	1992
Korean Zion, Baltimore, MD	1993
McLean Korean, McLean, VA	1991
Mok Yang, McLean, VA (m)	1995
Rothem, Springfield, VA	*
SaRang Community, Rockville, MD (m)	*
Washington San Kwang, Chantilly, VA	*
Wheat PC of Washington, Bethesda, MD (m)	*
Young Saeng Korean, Centreville, VA (m)	1991

Korean Central (7-2-9)

First Korean of Springfield, Nixa, MO	1994
First Korean of St. Louis, Bridgeton, MO	1992
First Korean, Chicago, IL	1994
Highland Korean, Vernon Hills, IL	1994
Holy Nation, Chicago, IL	1994
Korean of Milwaukee, Whitefish Bay, WI(m)	1994
Madison Sah-lang, Madison, WI (m)	1993
Pilgrim Korean, Prospect Hts, IL	1995
Sungmin of Chicago, Chicago, IL	1995

Korean Eastern (5-5-10)

Bethel Korean, Philadelphia, PA (m)	1995
Hab Dong, Cheltenham, PA	1994
Korean of Edison, Edison, NJ (m)	1992
Korean of Southern NY, Woodside, NY	1995
Nak Won, Dresher, PA	1994
New Covenant, Ambler, PA (m)	1994
New Sprout, Bayside, NY	*
Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia, PA (m)	1994
Somang of Princeton, Princeton Junction, NJ	*
Union Korean, Ayer, MA (m)	1992

Korean Northwest (8-5-13)

Dong San, Dublin, CA	*
Eden Korean, Castro Valley, CA	*
Fremont Mil Al, Fremont, CA	*
Hanmaeum, San Jose, CA	*
Hosanna, San Jose, CA	1992
Korean Bethany, San Jose, CA	1991
Korean Jerusalem, Los Altos, CA (m)	1993
Korean of Salinas, Salinas, CA	1993
Korean, San Leandro, CA (m)	*

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Korean Northwest (continued)

Kwang Sung, Union City, CA (m)	*
Olympia First, Olympia, WA (m)	*
PCA Ark, Carmichael CA, (m)	1994
Stockton Ban Suk, Stockton, CA	*

Korean Southeastern (0-5-5)

Bethel Korean, Martinez, GA (m)	1994
Daleville, Daleville, AL (m)	1995
FWB Int. Comm., Ft. Walton Beach, FL (m)	1995
Korean in Jackson, Raymond, MS (m)	1993
New Jerusalem, Columbia, SC (m)	1993

Korean Southern (3-2-5)

Choong Hyun, Houston, TX	1995
Dallas Korean, Carrollton, TX	1991
First Korean, Carrollton, TX	*
Hope PC of Dallas, Dallas, TX (m)	*
Myung Seong, Killeen, TX (m)	1991

Korean Southwest (7-10-17)

Anaheim New Life, Anaheim, CA (m)	*
Asia, N. Hollywood, CA (m)	*
Calvary, Granada Hills, CA (m)	*
Cerritos New Life, Cerritos, CA (m)	*
Eastside Korean, Bellevue, WA (m)	*
Empire Livingstone Korean, Fontana, CA	*
Eun Sung, Glendale, CA (m)	*
Han Arem Church, Downey, CA (m)	*
Inland Korean, Pomona, CA (m)	*
Korean Holy & Grace, Los Angeles, CA	*
Korean-American, Phoenix, AZ	1992
Paul Mission Church, Glendale, CA (m)	*
Sa-Rang Korean, Cerritos, CA	1991
Sierra Vista Korean United, Sierra Vista, AZ	*
The Word Ch. of S. Calif., Torrance, CA (m)	*
Victory, Los Angeles, CA	1985
West Valley Korean, Reseda, CA	1993

Louisiana (1-0-1)

Atchafalaya, Melville, LA	1981
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Mid-America (5-0-5)

Beal Heights, Lawton, OK	1995
Christ, Broken Arrow, OK	1995
Covenant, Fayetteville, AR	1995
First Reformed, Minco, OK	1993
Grace, Norman, OK	1995

Mississippi Valley (14-0-14)

Bailey, Bailey, MS	1995
Concord, Pickens, MS	1995

Mississippi Valley (continued)

Covenant, Louisville, MS	1994
First, Philadelphia, MS	1989
Goodman, Goodman, MS	1987
Lakeland, Brandon, MS	1995
McBride Memorial, Camden, MS	1990
Mount Salus, Clinton, MS	1994
Old Madison, Canton, MS	1991
Providence, Clinton, MS	1994
Raymond, Raymond, MS	1995
Scooba, Scooba, MS	1990
Smyrna, Kosciusko, MS	1977
Tchula, Tchula, MS	1990

Missouri (7-1-8)

Grace & Peace Fell., St. Louis, MO	1995
Memorial, St. Louis, MO	1995
New City Fellowship, St. Louis, MO	1995
New City Fellowship N., St. Louis, MO (m)	*
New Port, Washington, MO	1995
Old Orchard, Webster Groves, MO	1994
Olive Branch, St. Louis, MO	1994
Redeemer, Columbia, MO	1995

Nashville (2-0-2)

Grace, Cookeville, TN	*
Grace, Nashville, TN	1993

New Jersey (5-1-6)

Comunidade Crista, Newark, NJ	1995
Covenant Bible Church, Cape May, NJ	1993
Evangelical of Star Cross, Williamstown, NJ	1993
Locktown, Flemington, NJ	1994
New Life, Shrewsbury, NJ	1995
Redentor, South River, NJ (m)	1995

New River (1-0-1)

Friendship, Princeton, WV	1995
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North Georgia (4-7-11)

Cornerstone, Conyers, GA	1990
Faith Korean, Alpharetta, GA (m)	*
Grace Han-Mee, Lilburn, GA (m)	1993
Grace, Cedartown, GA	1994
Harvester, Douglasville, GA	1995
New Covenant Fellowship, Atlanta, GA (m)	*
Open Door Community, Atlanta, GA (m)	*
Redeemer, Athens, GA (m)	*
Redemption Fellowship, Fayetteville, GA (m)	*
Rock of Ages, Atlanta, GA (m)	1995
Willow Woods, Snellville, GA	1992

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North Texas (6-1-7)

Colleyville, Colleyville, TX	1991
Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX	1995
Lakewood, Dallas, TX	1995
Lakeside, Grapevine, TX	1995
New Life, Midland, TX (m)	*
Town East, Mesquite, TX	1992
Westminster, Greenville, TX	1995

Northeast (8-6-14)

Christ, New Haven, CT	1994
Christ The King, Cambridge, MA (m)	*
Comunidade Crista, Mineola, NY (m)	*
Faith Ch. of Westchester, White Plains, NY	*
Jefferson, Jefferson, NH (m)	1988
New Hope, Johnson City, NY	1994
PC of Coventry, Coventry, CT	1995
Redeemer, Concord, MA	1995
Reformed, Duanesburg, NY	1993
The Village Church, New York, NY (m)	*
Trinity, Rye, NY (m)	*
Trinity, St. Albans, VT	1995
Westminster, Rock Tavern, NY	1991
Westminster, Worcester, MA (m)	*

Northern California (4-3-7)

New Song Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT (m)	*
Peninsula Hills, Los Altos, CA	1994
Ridge, Paradise, CA	1994
Second City Fellowship, Kapolei, HI (m)	*
Sierra View, Fresno, CA	1995
Soaring Oaks, Elk Grove, CA (m)	1995
Trinity Church Windward, Kailua, HI	1994

Northern Illinois (1-0-1)

Trinity, Aledo, IL	1993
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Pacific (2-0-2)

Calvary, Glendale, CA	1991
Foothills, San Bernardino, CA	1992

Pacific Northwest (1-2-3)

Grace Reformed, Sechelt, BC (m)	1995
Mountainview Comm., Agassiz, BC	1995
Valley West, Boise, ID (m)	*

Palmetto (5-1-6)

Andrews, Andrews, SC	1995
Dillon First, Dillon, SC	1995
Hilton Head, Hilton Head Island, SC	1995
Reedy Creek, Minturn, SC	1994
St. Matthews, St. Matthews, SC	1994

Palmetto (continued)

VineLife Church, Charleston, SC (m)	1995
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Philadelphia (4-1-5)

Church Without Walls, Philadelphia, PA (m)	1993
Korean Saints, Warminster, PA	1994
New Life Church, Philadelphia, PA	1993
Phila Soh Mang, Ambler, PA	1991
Promise, Philadelphia, PA	1993

Pittsburgh (1-0-1)

Redeemer Church, Pittsburgh, PA	1990
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Potomac (1-0-1)

Chantilly, Chantilly, VA	1995
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Rocky Mountain (3-2-5)

Holy Mountain Korean, Aurora, CO	*
New Life Korean, Denver, CO	*
Redeemer, Parker, CO (m)	*
Skyview, Englewood, CO (m)	*
Trinity Reformed, Montrose, CO	1995

Siouxlands (2-1-3)

Alexander, Underwood, ND	1994
Foothills Comm., Sturgis, SD (m)	*
Reformed, Lemmon, SD	1995

South Coast -- All Churches Reporting

South Texas (6-4-10)

Community, Natalia, TX (m)	*
Dios Con Nosotros, McAllen, TX (m)	*
Faith, San Antonio, TX	1991
First Reformed, Beaumont, TX	1995
Grace, McAllen, TX	1991
Iglesia Pres. Vida Nueva, Houston, TX (m)	1995
Oakwood Comm., San Antonio, TX	1995
Providence, Sugarland, TX	1991
Redeemer, Austin, TX	1995
Victoria, Victoria, TX (m)	1995

Southeast Alabama (9-0-9)

Bethel, Union Springs, AL	1995
Calabee, Shorter, AL	1990
First, Enterprise, AL	1995
Friendship, Hope Hull, AL	1993
Ozark, Ozark, AL	1994
Pea River, Clio, AL	1994
Pleasant View, Clayton, AL	1994
Providence, Montgomery, AL	1995
Trinity, Dothan, AL	1995

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Southeast Louisiana (1-0-1)

Faith, Clinton, LA 1994

Southern Florida (9-5-14)

Boynton Beach Comm., Boynton Bch, FL (m) *
 Brazilian, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (m) *
 Christ, Vero Beach, FL 1995
 El Shaddai, Miami, FL (m) *
 Faith, Miami, FL 1993
 Granada, Coral Gables, FL 1994
 Han Sarang Korean, Hollywood, FL (m) *
 Jupiter, Jupiter, FL 1993
 Korean Ban Suk, Miami, FL 1991
 Lighthouse Gospel, Coral Springs, FL (m) *
 PC of Boatswain Bay, West Bay, BWI 1991
 Providence, W. Palm Beach, FL 1995
 Redeemer, Miami, FL *
 Wellington, Wellington, FL 1995

Southwest (1-0-1)

Immanuel, Mesa, AZ 1995

Southwest Florida (7-2-9)

Community, Palm Harbor, FL 1992
 Cornerstone, Lutz, FL 1992
 Cornerstone, Sarasota, FL *
 Grace, Pinellas Park, FL 1995
 Iglesia Berea, Winter Haven, FL (m) 1995
 Iglesia Pres. de Tampa, Tampa, FL (m) 1995
 Marco, Marco Island, FL 1994
 Seminole, Tampa, FL 1995
 Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL 1992

Susquehanna Valley (1-0-1)

Church of the Servant, Palmyra, PA 1995

Tennessee Valley (7-1-8)

Brainerd Hills, Chattanooga, TN 1995
 Christ Covenant, Knoxville, TN 1995
 Ebenezer, Knoxville, TN 1994

Tennessee Valley (continued)

Grace Fellowship, Kingston, TN (m) *
 Highlands, Lafayette, LA 1993
 Red Bank, Chattanooga, TN 1995
 Trinity, Maryville, TN 1991
 Wayside, Signal Mountain, TN 1994

Warrior (10-0-10)

Akron, Akron, AL 1987
 Bethel, Sumterville, AL 1995
 Catherine, Catherine, AL *
 Central, Emelle, AL 1995
 Crescent Hill, Selma, AL 1995
 Gainesville, Gainesville, AL 1973
 Mt. Olivet, Gordo, AL 1979
 Myrtlewood, Myrtlewood, AL 1981
 Oxford, Cuba, AL 1977
 Woodland Heights, Selma, AL 1995

Western Carolina (9-1-10)

Cornerstone, Brevard, NC *
 Emmanuel, Franklin, NC 1995
 Fairview Christian Fellowship, Fairview, NC *
 Faith, Morganton, NC 1995
 Fellowship, Newport, TN 1995
 Grace Covenant, Brevard, NC 1994
 Grace Covenant, Hickory, NC (m) *
 Malvern Hills, Asheville, NC 1995
 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC 1995
 Westminster, Boone, NC 1994

Westminster -- All Churches Reporting

Total Number of Churches 262
Total Number of Missions 94
356

TABLE 5

SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY PRESBYTERY OF CHURCHES CONTRIBUTING TO G.A. CAUSES

NOTE: This analysis is based on the 1996 statistics in the PCA Yearbook.

Total Number of Churches	Administration Number	Christian Education Number	Mission to North America		Mission to the World		Covenant College		Covenant Seminary		Ridge Haven		Other G.A. Causes		G.A. CONTR. SUMMARY		
			Contrib.	Percent	Contrib.	Percent	Contrib.	Percent	Contrib.	Percent	Contrib.	Percent	Contrib.	Percent	Contrib.	Percent	Number
Ascension Churches	17	12	71%	8	47%	10	59%	13	76%	9	53%	3	18%	7	41%	15	88%
Missions	2	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	19	12	63%	8	42%	11	58%	13	68%	9	47%	3	16%	7	37%	16	84%
Calvary Churches	38	23	61%	20	53%	24	63%	27	71%	20	53%	18	47%	21	55%	31	82%
Missions	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	38	23	61%	20	53%	24	63%	27	71%	20	53%	18	47%	21	55%	31	82%
Central Churches	34	17	50%	12	35%	16	47%	24	71%	11	32%	12	35%	19	56%	26	76%
Missions	5	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	39	17	44%	12	31%	16	41%	24	62%	11	28%	12	31%	19	49%	26	67%
Central Churches	31	17	55%	14	45%	20	65%	23	74%	15	48%	8	26%	13	42%	25	81%
Missions	4	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%
Total	35	17	49%	14	40%	20	57%	24	69%	15	43%	8	23%	13	37%	26	74%
Central Churches	31	18	58%	11	35%	18	58%	24	77%	15	48%	8	26%	18	58%	29	94%
Missions	3	0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	1	33%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	34	18	53%	11	32%	19	56%	25	74%	15	44%	8	24%	18	53%	30	88%
Covenant Churches	39	18	46%	17	44%	21	54%	22	56%	14	36%	16	41%	9	23%	19	49%
Missions	2	1	50%	1	50%	1	50%	2	100%	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%
Total	41	19	46%	18	44%	22	54%	24	59%	15	37%	17	41%	9	22%	20	49%
Eastern Churches	4	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	3	75%	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%	2	50%
Missions	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	5	1	20%	1	20%	1	20%	3	60%	1	20%	1	20%	2	40%	4	80%
Eastern Churches	16	10	63%	9	56%	9	56%	12	75%	8	50%	7	44%	8	50%	13	81%
Missions	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	18	10	56%	9	50%	9	50%	12	67%	8	44%	7	39%	8	44%	13	72%
Evangel Churches	34	19	56%	15	44%	19	56%	24	71%	13	38%	8	24%	16	47%	29	85%
Missions	4	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	38	19	50%	15	39%	19	50%	24	63%	13	34%	8	21%	16	42%	29	76%
Fellowship Churches	12	9	75%	9	75%	11	92%	12	100%	7	58%	8	67%	8	67%	12	100%
Missions	1	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	0	0%	1	100%
Total	13	10	77%	9	69%	12	92%	13	100%	8	62%	9	69%	8	62%	13	100%
Grace Churches	42	18	43%	18	43%	21	50%	25	60%	12	29%	13	31%	22	52%	32	76%
Missions	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	42	18	43%	18	43%	21	50%	25	60%	12	29%	13	31%	22	52%	32	76%
Great Churches	27	13	48%	13	48%	16	59%	20	74%	14	52%	15	56%	15	56%	23	85%
Missions	5	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	32	13	41%	13	41%	16	50%	20	63%	14	44%	15	47%	15	47%	23	72%
Gulf Coast Churches	26	13	50%	12	46%	15	58%	20	77%	10	38%	9	35%	17	65%	24	92%
Missions	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	26	13	50%	12	46%	15	58%	20	77%	10	38%	9	35%	17	65%	24	92%
Heartland Churches	15	11	73%	11	73%	9	60%	14	93%	9	60%	11	73%	5	33%	10	67%
Missions	2	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
Total	17	12	71%	11	65%	9	53%	16	94%	9	53%	11	65%	11	65%	17	100%

APPENDICES

	Total Number of Churches	Administration		Christian Education		Mission to North America		Mission to the World		Covenant College		Covenant Seminary		Ridge Haven		Other G.A. Causes		G.A. CONTR. SUMMARY	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
New Jersey	17	10	59%	6	35%	7	41%	12	71%	7	41%	6	35%	3	18%	9	53%	16	94%
Churches	1	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
Missions	18	10	56%	6	33%	8	44%	12	67%	7	39%	6	33%	3	17%	10	56%	17	94%
New York	15	9	60%	10	67%	12	80%	12	80%	8	53%	6	40%	2	13%	11	73%	14	93%
Churches	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	16	9	56%	10	63%	12	75%	12	75%	8	50%	6	38%	2	13%	11	69%	14	88%
North Carolina	37	24	65%	22	59%	26	70%	26	70%	17	46%	16	43%	13	35%	27	73%	35	95%
Churches	10	1	10%	1	10%	3	30%	2	20%	2	20%	1	10%	0	0%	1	10%	3	30%
Missions	47	25	53%	23	49%	29	62%	28	60%	17	36%	16	34%	13	28%	28	60%	38	81%
North Dakota	7	8	47%	9	53%	12	71%	15	88%	10	59%	9	53%	3	18%	10	59%	16	94%
Churches	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
Missions	19	8	42%	9	47%	12	63%	15	79%	10	53%	9	47%	3	16%	11	58%	17	89%
Northwest	20	9	45%	8	40%	10	50%	10	50%	6	30%	7	35%	2	10%	7	35%	15	75%
Churches	11	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	1	9%
Missions	31	9	29%	8	26%	10	32%	14	45%	6	19%	7	23%	2	6%	8	26%	16	52%
Northern California	12	3	25%	1	8%	6	50%	10	83%	6	50%	1	8%	1	8%	0	0%	10	83%
Churches	7	0	0%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	1	14%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	19	3	16%	1	5%	7	37%	10	53%	7	37%	2	11%	1	5%	0	0%	11	58%
Northwest Illinois	22	8	36%	8	36%	11	50%	17	77%	8	36%	8	36%	3	14%	6	27%	18	82%
Churches	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	23	8	35%	8	35%	11	48%	17	74%	8	35%	8	35%	3	13%	6	26%	18	78%
Pacific	10	3	30%	3	30%	3	30%	5	50%	3	30%	3	30%	1	10%	1	10%	5	50%
Churches	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	10	3	30%	3	30%	3	30%	5	50%	3	30%	3	30%	1	10%	1	10%	5	50%
Pacific Northwest	17	10	59%	7	41%	7	41%	11	65%	9	53%	8	47%	1	6%	7	41%	15	88%
Churches	9	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%
Missions	26	10	38%	7	27%	7	27%	13	50%	10	38%	8	31%	1	4%	8	31%	17	65%
Palmatto	44	30	68%	29	66%	30	68%	38	86%	28	64%	25	57%	28	64%	29	66%	39	89%
Churches	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	45	30	67%	29	64%	30	67%	38	84%	28	62%	25	56%	28	62%	29	64%	39	87%
Philadelphia	24	9	38%	10	42%	11	46%	17	71%	11	46%	9	38%	3	13%	11	46%	19	79%
Churches	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	26	9	35%	10	38%	11	42%	17	65%	11	42%	9	35%	3	12%	11	42%	19	73%
Pittsburgh	19	12	63%	11	58%	13	68%	15	79%	11	58%	11	58%	5	26%	15	79%	17	89%
Churches	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	20	13	65%	11	55%	14	70%	15	75%	11	55%	11	55%	5	25%	15	75%	17	85%
Potomac	50	34	68%	33	66%	38	76%	41	82%	33	66%	29	58%	19	38%	27	54%	47	94%
Churches	3	2	67%	1	33%	0	0%	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%	2	67%
Missions	53	36	68%	34	64%	38	72%	42	79%	34	64%	30	57%	20	38%	28	53%	49	92%
Rocky Mountain	14	4	29%	3	21%	2	14%	7	50%	4	29%	4	29%	0	0%	6	43%	7	50%
Churches	3	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missions	17	4	24%	3	18%	2	12%	7	41%	4	24%	4	24%	0	0%	6	35%	7	41%
Siouxlands	10	6	60%	6	60%	4	40%	6	60%	5	50%	5	50%	0	0%	3	30%	7	70%
Churches	4	0	0%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%
Missions	14	6	43%	7	50%	5	36%	7	50%	6	43%	6	43%	1	7%	3	21%	8	57%

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Total Number of Churches	Administration		Christian Education		Mission to North America		Mission to the World		Covenant College		Covenant Seminary		Ridge Haven		Other G.A. Causes		G.A. CONTR. SUMMARY		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
South Coast Churches	8	4	50%	2	25%	4	50%	6	75%	4	50%	2	25%	1	13%	4	50%	7	88%
South Coast Missions	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
South Coast Total	9	4	44%	2	22%	4	44%	6	67%	4	44%	2	22%	1	11%	4	44%	7	78%
South Churches	22	9	41%	8	36%	12	55%	14	64%	7	32%	6	27%	2	9%	2	9%	16	73%
South Missions	7	0	0%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	14%
South Total	29	9	31%	8	28%	13	45%	14	48%	7	24%	6	21%	2	7%	2	7%	17	59%
Southwest Churches	33	17	52%	15	45%	22	67%	22	67%	10	30%	11	33%	8	24%	16	48%	24	73%
Southwest Missions	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
Southwest Total	35	17	49%	15	43%	22	63%	23	66%	10	29%	11	31%	8	23%	16	46%	25	71%
Southeast Churches	7	4	57%	4	57%	3	43%	6	86%	2	29%	2	29%	2	29%	5	71%	7	100%
Southeast Missions	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Southeast Total	9	4	44%	4	44%	3	33%	6	67%	2	22%	2	22%	2	22%	5	56%	7	78%
Southern Churches	33	14	42%	8	24%	10	30%	21	64%	9	27%	6	18%	3	9%	15	45%	25	76%
Southern Missions	8	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	13%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	13%
Southern Total	41	14	34%	8	20%	10	24%	22	54%	9	22%	6	15%	3	7%	15	37%	26	63%
Southwest Churches	10	4	40%	3	30%	7	70%	8	80%	4	40%	3	30%	1	10%	5	50%	8	80%
Southwest Missions	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Southwest Total	10	4	40%	3	30%	7	70%	8	80%	4	40%	3	30%	1	10%	5	50%	8	80%
Southwest Florida Churches	24	14	58%	13	54%	15	63%	19	79%	15	63%	13	54%	10	42%	11	46%	21	88%
Southwest Florida Missions	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	1	50%
Southwest Florida Total	26	14	54%	13	50%	15	58%	19	73%	15	58%	13	50%	10	38%	12	46%	22	85%
Susque. Churches	15	8	53%	6	40%	8	53%	13	87%	10	67%	8	53%	2	13%	9	60%	14	93%
Susque. Missions	1	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
Susque. Total	16	9	56%	7	44%	9	56%	14	88%	11	69%	9	56%	3	19%	10	63%	15	94%
Tennessee Churches	28	18	64%	18	64%	19	68%	20	71%	20	71%	16	57%	9	32%	14	50%	23	82%
Tennessee Missions	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Tennessee Total	29	18	62%	18	62%	19	66%	20	69%	20	69%	16	55%	9	31%	14	48%	23	79%
Warrior Churches	29	9	31%	11	38%	12	41%	13	45%	7	24%	9	31%	7	24%	14	48%	18	62%
Warrior Missions	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Warrior Total	29	9	31%	11	38%	12	41%	13	45%	7	24%	9	31%	7	24%	14	48%	18	62%
Western Churches	28	16	57%	16	57%	20	71%	21	75%	13	46%	13	46%	12	43%	15	54%	25	89%
Western Missions	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Western Total	29	16	55%	16	55%	20	69%	21	72%	13	45%	13	45%	12	41%	15	52%	25	86%
West-minister Churches	27	11	41%	12	44%	11	41%	22	81%	6	23%	5	19%	6	22%	16	59%	25	93%
West-minister Missions	3	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
West-minister Total	30	11	37%	12	40%	11	37%	22	73%	6	20%	5	17%	6	20%	16	53%	25	83%
ALL Churches	1163	595	51%	540	46%	647	56%	817	70%	510	44%	471	40%	301	26%	581	50%	942	81%
ALL Missions	175	9	5%	17	10%	21	12%	8	5%	8	5%	8	5%	5	3%	18	10%	40	23%
ALL Total	1338	604	45%	548	41%	664	50%	838	63%	518	39%	479	36%	306	23%	599	45%	982	73%

APPENDICES

APPENDIX B

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Presbyterian Church in America June 18, 1996

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) held a regular meeting on June 18, 1996 at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott North hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The meeting was convened at 2:50 p.m. by the Chairman RE William F. Joseph, Jr. TE Fredric Mau led in prayer.

A quorum was declared present with the following in attendance:

TE Oliver Claassen, MTW	RE Dwight Allen, CC
TE Robert S. Hornick, Gulf Coast	RE Charles F. Bobyack, W. Carolina
TE Thomas G. Kay, Jr., PCAF	RE Howard Q. Davis, Covenant
TE R. Grady Love, North Georgia	RE Edwin Hackenberg, SE Louisiana
TE G. Fredric Mau, Covenant	RE William F. Joseph, Jr., SE Alabama
TE D. Steven Meyerhoff, Westminster	RE William Moore, IV, Potomac
TE Michael Potts, CE&P	RE Ralph S. Paden, IAR
TE Andrew Silman, MNA	RE John E. Spencer, CTS

STAFF:

TE Paul R. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk
RE Ross E. Cook, Business Administrator
Mrs. Laurel De Bert, Administrative Assistant

VISITORS:

RE Tom Stein, IAR Board
TE Bryan Chapell, CTS President
TE Paul Kooistra, MTW Coordinator
RE John B. White, Jr.
RE Chang-Wuk (Oog) Kang
RE Bruce Owens, MTW staff

The minutes of the March 23, 1996 BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting were approved as printed/corrected.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BD-6/96-1 MSP that the 24th GA request the Session of Affirmation Presbyterian Church to refrain from using the PCA® mark in the corporate name and masthead of the PCA News, Inc.

BD-6/96-2 MSP that the 24th General Assembly affirm that the preceding motion, made in the spirit of reconciliation and brotherly love at the request of the Session of the Affirmation Presbyterian Church, in no way indicates that the Board of Directors does not have the authority to act on civil and corporate matters in accordance with powers granted to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) through its charter and corporate Bylaws. However, before legal action is taken against a member of the PCA, ecclesiastical remedy shall be sought in the courts of the Church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by RE John Spencer at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RE William F. Joseph, Jr., Chairman

/s/ TE Paul R. Gilchrist, Secretary

APPENDICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Presbyterian Church in America October 12, 1996

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) held a regular meeting on October 12, 1996, at the Holiday Inn Airport North, Atlanta, GA.

The meeting was convened at 9:55 a.m. by the Chairman RE William F. Joseph, Jr. TE Grady Love led in prayer.

A quorum was declared present with the following in attendance:

TE Tim Diehl, Heartland	RE Dwight Allen, CC
TE William A. Fox, Jr., Fellowship	RE Howard Q. Davis, Covenant
TE William Hughes, MS Valley	RE Edwin Hackenberg, SE Louisiana
TE R. Grady Love, N.Georgia	RE G. Paul Jones, C. Georgia
TE G. Fredric Mau, Covenant	RE William Joseph, Jr., SE Alabama
TE D. Steven Meyerhoff, Westminster	RE John E. Spencer, CTS
TE Michael Potts, CE&P	RE Tom Stein, IAR

STAFF:

TE Paul R. Gilchrist, Secretary-Treasurer
RE Ross Cook, Assistant Treasurer
Mrs. Laurel De Bert, Assistant Treasurer

The minutes of the June 18, 1996, BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting were approved as printed.

BD-10/96-1: MSP that if we have not already approved the registry "PCA" as a service mark, that we ratify the prior action registering the service mark.

BD-10/96-2: MSP that pursuant to the directives of the 24th General Assembly [*M24GA*, 24-53, III, 10, page 240], the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) authorize the officers of the Board of Directors to approve the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Mission to the World, Inc. after consultation with counsel and circulating the documents to all members of the Board along with the opinion of counsel; written response from Board members is required.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be March 15, 1997.

The meeting was closed with prayer by RE Tom Stein at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RE William F. Joseph, Jr., Chairman

/s/ TE Paul R. Gilchrist, Secretary

APPENDICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Presbyterian Church in America
March 14, 1997

The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) held a regular meeting on March 14, 1997, at the Holiday Inn Airport North, Atlanta, GA.

The meeting was convened at 9:21 p.m. by the Chairman RE William F. Joseph, Jr. RE Gerald Sovereign led in prayer.

A quorum was declared present with the following in attendance:

TE Tim Diehl, Heartland	RE Dwight Allen, CC
TE Philip Douglass, MNA	RE Howard Q. Davis, Covenant
TE William A. Fox, Jr., Fellowship	RE Edwin Hackenberg, SE Louisiana
TE George C. Fuller, New Jersey	RE Robert "Neal" Ham, PCAF
TE William Hughes, MS Valley	RE G. Paul Jones, C. Georgia
TE R. Grady Love, N. Georgia	RE William F. Joseph, Jr., SE Alabama
TE G. Fredric Mau, Covenant	RE Ralph Mittendorff, S. Florida
TE D. Steven Meyerhoff, Westminster	RE John E. Spencer, CTS
	RE Gerald Sovereign, MTW
	RE Tom Stein, IAR

STAFF:

TE Paul R. Gilchrist, Secretary-Treasurer
RE Ross Cook, Assistant Treasurer
Mrs. Laurel De Bert, Assistant Treasurer

The minutes of the October 12, 1996, BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting were approved as printed.

BD-3/97-1 MSP that the corporate minutes reflect that the annual corporate filings have been accomplished in a timely manner in all states where the corporation is registered to conduct business. The Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) is currently registered in Delaware, and as a foreign corporation in Georgia, Missouri, and Mississippi.

BD-3/97-2 MSP that the minutes reflect 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.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Michigan Corporation;
Board of Home Ministries
Pennsylvania Corporation:
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be June 10, 1997.

The meeting was closed with prayer by TE Steve Meyerhoff at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ RE William F. Joseph, Jr., Chairman

/s/ TE Paul R. Gilchrist, Secretary

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APPENDIX C

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

“And He Himself gave...some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.”

(Ephesians 4:11-13, NKJV)

There is a real sense in which unity is expressed in our circles by the purpose of the General Assembly. As *BCO* 14-1 describes it, “The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America ...constitutes the bond of union, peace and correspondence among all its congregations and courts.” The eschatological expectation of this gives us a purpose for existence now and not something merely for in the future. It is the basis for service in the present. Paul then describes some of the results of our work in Ephesians, chapter 4:14-15. *“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”*

We want to see the growth of the body of Christ for the edifying of itself in love. The real test of whether we are accomplishing our purpose, be it as the Administrative Committee or as a General Assembly, is whether we no longer are like children, “tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine.” As we have seen in the last few General Assemblies, may it be that we continue to grow into maturity and into the Head who is Christ.

I. MEETINGS BETWEEN THE ASSEMBLY

The Administrative Committee has met three times during the year, including the annual meeting on June 18, 1996, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Then on October 11 and 12, 1996, we had our Stated Fall Meeting and on March 14 and 15, 1997, we had our regular Spring Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The Administrative Committee also met as a Board of Directors at each of those meetings to address civil and corporate matters.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The minutes of the three meetings of the Board of Directors are attached (see pages 331-336). These minutes contain the formal actions regarding the filing of proper documents with the various states where the PCA is incorporated. This also applies to the RPCES corporate filings.

As of the time of this writing there is one legal suit in progress against an Agency of the PCA and the General Assembly. This has been an ongoing legal suit, which has not yet gone to court, in which one of our administrators was involved in a car accident. We are hopeful to be able to settle out of court. It appears that any monetary settlement should be covered within the parameters of the insurance coverage.

III. POLICY REGARDING THE PCA SERVICE MARK

The 24th General Assembly adopted a motion with regard to the questions raised on the PCA registered trademark. The motion is as follows, "The Assembly directed the Board of Directors to prepare a statement describing what is actually trademark protected so that there may be a clear understanding of what is or is not permissible regarding its usage. This statement is to be distributed to all session and ministers of the PCA." (*M24GA* 24-53 III, 26, p. 241)

At the March meeting of the Administrative Committee the following motion was adopted, "That the AC/Board of Directors continue the study of this matter (i.e., the PCA registered trademark) and report to the October 1997 meeting any recommendations. Grounds: since there are still pending questions in the civil sector how this all applies to the internet/cyberspace, we have not addressed this matter completely." It is the hope of the AC to be able to get this more fully answered by the October 1998 meeting of the AC and report back to the 26th General Assembly. In the mean time, AC would remind the churches of the policy that the Board of Directors adopted following a recommendation from Gammon and Grange relating to the PCA registered trademark;

"POLICY FOR MAINTAINING AND PROTECTING THE PCA[®],"

1. Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) grants (either expressly or tacitly) and will continue to grant local churches and presbyteries the right to use its mark **PCA[®]** in connection with the name of the local church for ordinary local church activities (i.e. local advertising of the church's worship services and other activities, ministries in the local church and its community, local church newsletters for its members, etc.).
2. Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) requires that uses of the mark for other than ordinary local church activities be approved in advance by the Administrative Committee at the denominational level. Approval shall not be granted unless the Committee is able to assert sufficient control over the mark's

APPENDICES

use to assure the mark is only utilized in a manner consistent with the doctrinal tenets, existing ministries, and policies of the denominations.

3. Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) required that any incidents of possible trademark infringement be immediately reported to the Administrative Committee at the denominational level. The Committee will determine what appropriate action should be taken to promptly remedy the infringement.

IV. OTHER GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASSIGNMENTS

The 22nd General Assembly instructed the AC to implement a series of addresses on a yearly basis on “Revival and Reformation in the Presbyterian and Reformed Heritage.” (*M22GA* III, 35, p. 275). As we go into the 25th General Assembly and beginning the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the PCA, it is hoped that the Thursday evening meeting under the auspices of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee, will fulfill the obligation of this requirement.

However, the AC is recommending that the 25th General Assembly reconsider the mandate established in 1993. The AC is thoroughly in favor of the concept, but finds itself in a dilemma trying to fulfill all the additional mandates of the General Assembly together with the demands for getting the business of the General Assembly done in the time allotted. For example, already the AC has instructed the General Assembly Arrangements Committee to cut down on the evening inspirational services so that on Thursday night the Assembly may continue its docketed business or schedule a special 25th Anniversary Celebration service. Therefore, we respectfully request the General Assembly to release us from this obligation from here on out.

V. FENCING THE LORD’S TABLE

The 24th General Assembly received a personal resolution regarding fencing the table. The General Assembly responded by the following, “Be it therefore resolved that the Administrative Committee add to the General Assembly Arrangements Committee Manual instructions to prevent this omissions in the future.” We are glad to report that the General Assembly Arrangements Committee Manual has included a statement to the effect that people directing the Lord’s Supper should be careful to follow the guidelines of *BCO* 58 in fencing the Lord’s Supper.

Following last year’s General Assembly, there were concerns expressed that the Psalter was not used in the worship services. We take note of those concerns and we have asked that the General Assembly Arrangements Committee and more specifically, the presbyteries responsible for worship services be sensitive to include Psalms and hymns in their worship services. The AC would also remind the Assembly that except for the opening worship service and the morning worship services sponsored by presbyteries, all other services are clearly identified as inspirational programs rather than “worship services.” The Assembly has delegated to the presbyteries the responsibility for planning the worship services and the AC has no authority over them.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VI. 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Pursuant to action by the 24th General Assembly, a committee was appointed by the Administrative Committee to plan a celebration for the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Presbyterian Church in America. The intent is to have a year-long celebration begin at the 25th Assembly in Colorado Springs, June 1997, and culminate in St. Louis in 1998.

Co-chairmen TE Don Patterson and TE Kennedy Smartt have held three meetings [January, February and April]. Sub-committees have been formed and are working to complete their areas of responsibility.

A slogan has been selected: "Celebrating the Past, Claiming the Future Under God." With the help of professional artists several logos has been submitted to the committee. We want to emphasize what God has done in the past and project a vision for the future, i. e., what we are trusting God to accomplish as we move into a new century.

Among the ideas to be developed as part of the denomination-wide celebration are: camera-ready bulletin inserts and materials for churches, a video, special anniversary edition of the *Messenger*, and special expanded edition of the *Yearbook*, special displays at the 25th and the 26th Assemblies, and special panel discussions and speakers. Churches will be asked to help provide information and financial help to accomplish these projects.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee has asked the AC to recommend to the 25th General Assembly that the 26th General Assembly (1998) in St. Louis, be designed for a time of renewal and celebration and less emphasis given to business matters.

VII. WIC LOVE GIFT FOR 1996

As reported in the Stated Clerk's letter of March, 1997, the WIC Love Gift for 1996 has been received and as of the date of this writing, the amount has totaled over \$90,000. We cannot express how grateful we are to the Women In the Church for their gracious and sacrificial giving for the various projects that this entails not only in the AC specifically, but also for all of our committees in Atlanta since some of those gifts are going to refurbish conference rooms and provide for the Ladies Lounge which has been so desperately needed in the PCA Office Building. We already have replaced some of the old bookcases and file cabinets which were dilapidated. We are also in the process of determining how to replace some antiquated computers in the offices. Once again, we express our sincere appreciation to the thousands of women who have given so generously to the Administrative Committee through the WIC Love Gift for 1996.

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VIII. FINANCIAL

Once again, we are grateful to the Lord's provision for our needs during the past year. We are grateful because for the second year in a row we have been able to conclude the year in the black. This both reflects an increase in the giving from our churches for which we are grateful, in spite of the fact that some churches have cut back on their giving for one reason or another. It also reflects the very careful stewardship and financial management by our Business Office, especially, through the great efforts of Ross Cook, our Business Administrator.

As a matter of fact, the formal financial audit report has been received and it expressed a very glowing report on the way our office has handled the moneys both for the AC as well as for the Building Fund. The Lord has been good to us.

This does not mean in any way that we can slacken down on the support needed from churches and friends. There are quite a few matters that, though part of the budget, are still going to be a strain on the budget for 1997. We also ask you to continue faithfully supporting the ministry of this office on behalf of the General Assembly.

IX. PCA OFFICE BUILDING

Every year we report that the AC has the responsibility for the day-to-day management for the PCA office building as well as the payments on the mortgage. Contributions to the PCA office building for 1996 were \$44,090, a 7% decrease as compared to \$47,023 in 1995. The first quarter contributions in 1997, in the amount of \$6,206, indicate a further drop to a projected amount of \$41,000 for the calendar year.

Rental rates were increased for 1997 which will just about cover the drop in contributions and the inflationary increase in expenses so we continue controlling operating costs. During 1996, the occupancy rate was almost at 100%, with the temporary use of available space by *ArkNet*, an organization seeking to establish an on-line network. Unfortunately, they have had to move out of the building. We continue to look to rent these facilities by a permanent group. The rental rates are comparable to rates in the Atlanta area, in which we are located. We are indeed grateful to the subcommittee to the Building Fund that continues to assist in the oversight of the PCA office building and which also recommends the rental rates for each year.

The mortgage balance as of June 1, 1997, will be \$1,163,568 down from 1,379,825 in June of 1996. At the present rate of payments the mortgage will be paid off by December 2001. If we can keep the building fully rented and churches will continue to contribute \$40,000 a year, we might be able to pay it off before 2001.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

X. PERSONNEL

God has been very gracious to us this past year. Particularly we are grateful for the addition of Chaplain J. Robert Fiol as Assistant to the Stated Clerk. This position has been in the budget for sometime but only this year have we been able to feel free to go ahead and fill that position. The mandates of the General Assembly upon the Office of the Stated Clerk have been exceedingly heavy and the coming of Bob Fiol to assist has been a real addition so far. Many of you know him not only as a Chaplain with the US Navy, completing 30 years of service and retiring as Captain, but also serving the General Assembly, for the last several years, as one of our Recording Clerks. He has already taken up quite a bit of the slack that has been a real burden on the staff of the Office of the Stated Clerk.

The Administrative Committee continues to give thanks to God for the work of the Stated Clerk, Dr. Paul R. Gilchrist. During the past year he has served in a very capable way and we commend him for his excellent service to Christ and His Kingdom. The Committee evaluated him and gave him very high marks. Further, as everyone knows, he is assisted by an outstanding Business Administrator, Mr. Ross E. Cook. He oversees the office staff and keeps the business and financial affairs of the committee in order. During the last audit review, the auditors gave him very high marks for his competency in keeping track of the finances of the General Assembly and specifically, of the Office of the Stated Clerk. We are indeed grateful to have him on our staff and we rejoice in the Lord for his good services.

Mrs. Laurel DeBert continues to serve as Administrative Assistant and has done exceptionally well during the past year in spite of some changes in the office secretarial staff. We are grateful to the Lord for her very capable service to the committee. The staff in Atlanta continues to fulfill its responsibilities assigned to the AC by the General Assembly; maintaining good relations with the presbyteries, keeping good statistical records, including changes in churches and individual records. The office continues to assist pulpit search committees with Ministerial Data Forms provided by those looking for God's call to service. In this connection, we are grateful for our receptionist/ pastor search secretary, Mrs. Sarah Smith, who handles the MDF's and assist the search committees. Mrs. Yoon Hee Park continues to serve us and the General Assembly in her part time capacity as Bi-lingual Secretary (Korean/English). Mrs. Monica Johnston and Miss Sue Campana continue to keep presbytery information and church statistics for the *Yearbook*. Mrs. Stephanie Hauke serves as secretary in the office while Mrs. Mary Bradley Bayne helps keep the financial records in order.

The Administrative Committee also receives the work of the PCA Historical Center. As everyone knows, Mr. Jerry Kornegay is the Director of the PCA Historical Center in St. Louis and we are grateful for his very good services in this capacity. He will be more and more visible as he assists the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee in developing displays and preparing some historical materials for the celebration. We commend him for his excellent work for the PCA this past year.

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XI. INVITATIONS TO FUTURE GA'S

The AC received a couple of invitations for future General Assemblies beyond those already approved. Great Lakes Presbytery has issued an invitation to the General Assembly to meet in Louisville, Kentucky on June 15-18, 1999. Also, the North Texas Presbytery has requested that the 29th General Assembly be held in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in June 2001. The AC is recommending to approve these venues subject to suitable facilities being available.

XII. SOME IMPORTANT ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Approved new exhibitors for General Assembly subject to space availability: Bekins Moving and Storage; Christ for Russia/Ukraine; Medical Marriage and Family Ministries (MMFM); Westminster Institute; Christian Counseling and Education Foundation, (CCFEF); Biblical Foundation International; Christian Classics Foundation; Compak International, Inc.; English Language Institute/China (ELIC); Helping Hand World Crafts; Kingdom Tapes and Electronics; Newell and Associates; Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Company; Presbyterian Investors Fund, Inc.; Quarryville Retirement Community; J. M. Stewart Corporation; Resources Services, Inc.
2. Approved the following dates for Administrative Committee meetings: March 20-21, 1998, October 16 & 17, 1998 and June 29 or 30 in St. Louis, Missouri.
3. Pursuant to the directives of the 24th General Assembly (*M24GA*, 24-53, III, 10, p. 240), the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church in America, A Corporation, approved the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of "PCA Mission to the World, Inc." after consultation with counsel and circulating the documents to all members of the board along with the opinion of counsel.
4. Approved a request of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee for an Inspirational Service at the 25th General Assembly, on Thursday evening, June 12, 1997, at 7:30 p.m.
5. Approved Dr. David Powlison as a seminar speaker at the pre-assembly programs.
6. The Administrative Committee reviewed the budgets of the committees and agencies and is making appropriate recommendations relating to them to the 25th General Assembly.
7. The Administrative Committee also has approved proposed compensation ranges for Coordinators, Presidents and Directors for the budget year, 1999. On recommendation from the sub-committee for the Capital Building Fund, the AC

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

has approved the rental rate increase from \$15.75 to \$16.25 per square foot for the 1998 calendar year.

XIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The 25th General Assembly expressed its gratitude to the Lord for the good spirit of cooperation among the Coordinators, Directors, and Presidents of the committees and agencies.
2. That the Assembly express its deepest appreciation for the AC staff, specifically in Atlanta, for Mr. Ross E. Cook, Business Administrator, Mrs. Laurel DeBert, Administrative Assistant, Chaplain Bob Fiol, Assistant to the Stated Clerk and for Mr. Jerry Kornegay, Director of the PCA Historical Center in St. Louis for his excellent work with the PCA archives.
3. That the Assembly commend the Stated Clerk for his excellent work and that he be elected for another year of service as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.
4. That in response to the exception taken to the AC Minutes, as reported by the Committee of Commissioners for the Administrative Committee at the 24th General Assembly, the AC respectfully disagrees with the exception in that the named college and seminary did not meet the criteria for an approved exhibitor as established by the Administrative Committee several years ago. Further, it needs to be pointed out that no one knows the particular reason a given member votes the way he does. There may be differences of opinion, therefore, no reasons are given when an exhibitor is turned down.
5. That the 25th General Assembly accept the invitation from Great Lakes Presbytery and approve the meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on June 15-18, 1999.
6. That the 25th General Assembly accept the invitation from North Texas Presbytery to meet in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, for the 29th General Assembly in June 2001, subject to suitable facilities being available.
7. That the 25th General Assembly accede to the request of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee that the 26th General Assembly be designed for a time for renewal and celebration.
8. That the 25th General Assembly release the AC from the responsibility to provide yearly addresses based on "Revival and Reformation in the Presbyterian and Reformed Heritage" as mandated by the 22nd General Assembly.

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9. That General Assembly express its gratitude to the Women In the Church for the 1996 WIC Love Gift to the AC and the building fund. We praise God for the generous and sacrificial giving of those who so wonderfully participated.
10. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Administrative Committee of \$1,285,045 and \$945,045 for Partnership Shares.
11. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for the PCA Office Building of \$620,535.
12. That Christian Education and Publications record the WIC Love Gift as \$100,000 and add a Designated Reserve line item expense in the amount of \$70,000; and that the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for and that of \$2,279,383 and \$1,437,383 for Partnership Shares.
13. That the General Assembly approve that the proposed expense budget for Mission to North America of \$5,119,078 and \$5,033,578 for Partnership Shares.
14. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Mission to the World of \$23,588,643 and \$3,877,700 for Partnership Shares
15. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Covenant College of \$15,713,199 and \$1,400,000 for Partnership Shares.
16. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Covenant Theological Seminary of \$5,148,300 and \$1,590,00 for Partnership Shares.
17. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget of Insurance Annuities and Relief of \$759,450.
18. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for PCA Foundation \$458,635.
19. That the General Assembly approve the proposed expense budget for Ridge Haven Conference Center of \$1,042,600 and \$538,300 for Partnership Shares.
20. That General Assembly authorize the AC staff to edit the budget approval motions to include the dollar amount of the expense budgets and of the Partnership Shares budgets.
21. That the General Assembly approve Robins, Eskew and Farmer, PC, as auditors for the Administrative Committee, Christian Education & Publication, and Committee on Mission to North America for the calendar year ending December 31, 1997.

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22. That the General Assembly approve Capin, Crouse & Co. as auditors for the Committee on Mission to the World for the calendar year ending December 31, 1997.
23. That the 25th General Assembly receive the accompanying chart as the acceptable response to the GA requirements for an annual report on the cost of the AC's mandated responsibilities.

AC GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSIBILITIES

DESCRIPTION	1996 TOTAL	PER COMM.
General Assembly	(1) \$162,085	\$132
Standing Judicial Commission	46,736	38
Interchurch Relations	6,729	5
Ad Interim (Jud. Proc)	6,855	6
Committee on Constitutional Business	4,162	3
Nominations	(2) 1,588	1
Review of Presbytery Records	(3) 5,218	(3) 4
Theological Examining Committee		
TOTALS	\$233,373	\$190

NOTES:

- (1) 1229 Registered Commissioners in 1996
- (2) AC's 1/9 share of total
- (3) Already included in GA

24. That the 25th General Assembly set the commissioner registration fee for 1998 at \$140.

Grounds:

The average cost of General Assembly, per commissioner, for the last 3 years is \$133. Costs are higher when GA is held at a convention facility, as opposed to use of a PCA church, due primarily to the rental of the meeting spaces.

Our scheduled meetings through 2001 will all be in convention hotels, or convention facilities. With the current strong economic environment hotels and convention centers have begun pushing their rates up faster than the average inflation rate.

With the 25th GA, we begin a year of celebrating which will culminate in a special celebration of 25 years in St. Louis. While the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee has just begun its planning, it is apparent that there will be special functions and activities which will increase the cost for General Assembly in 1998. [See the chart below.]

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY COSTS

YEAR	COMMISSIONERS	TOTAL COSTS	COST PER COMM.
1994	1293	166,984	129.14
1995	1117	155,411	139.13
1996	1229	162,084	131.88

25. That the General Assembly continue the policy of reduced registration fees for Honorably Retired and Elder Emeritus Commissioners, which would be 1/3 of the approved registration fee.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT 1

REPORT OF THE PCA HISTORICAL CENTER TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Purpose: The purpose of the PCA Historical Center is to fulfill the historical preservation/research needs of the Presbyterian Church in America, its committees and agencies and the churches of the denomination.

Record Processing: The majority of the records housed in the Historical Center are official documents and correspondence of the committees and agencies of the PCA and RPCES. Of these records, two collections remain unprocessed - Christian Education and Publications (PCA) and World Presbyterian Missions (RPCES). Mrs. Florence Graham, a volunteer worker, is currently working with the CE&P records. A small portion of our holdings, the majority of which have been processed, are donated personal papers of denominational leaders and missionaries. In addition to a small backlog of unprocessed written documents, significant processing work remains on our growing inventory of photographs. Photoprocessing is extremely labor intensive. Individual photographs must be identified, if possible, and individually mounted on sheets of acid free paper. Two individuals, Mrs. June Dare and Rev. Robert Thomas, are attempting to identify as many individuals as possible in our Covenant College/Seminary photograph collection. After these photographs are identified, additional volunteers will be sought for the mounting process.

Publications: The Historical Center recently received copies of **the Reverend Nevin Woodside and the Pittsburgh and Ontario Reformed Presbytery, 1883-1910** and **The Chignecto Covenanters** written by Dr. Eldon Hay. Dr. Hay, a resident of Canada, corresponded with the Historical Center for several years and visited the Center in the preparation of these works. Dr. Hay was the third researcher to have used the Historical Center in the preparation of a published work. The other individuals, who used the Historical Center/Archives for their research, are Dr. Frank J. Smith and Mr. Arthur Matthews.

Newsletter: A random survey was mailed out as part of an issue of the Historical Center's newsletter. Based on the survey results, the composition of the newsletter was changed. Most significantly, more space has been devoted to historical articles. Currently, the first page and a half to two pages are dedicated to tracing the origins of the PCA. The newsletter is mailed twice a year to all PCA ministers in the United States and Canada and to local church historians.

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Aiken Taylor Award: The Aiken Taylor Award for American Presbyterian Church History was established by the Historical Center to honor Dr. Taylor and to encourage interest in American Church history. The winner of the 1996 Aiken Taylor Award is Stephen R. Berry of Reformed Theological Seminary for his paper, **The Southern Presbyterian Diaconate, A Thornwellian Principle Elaborated by John Lafayette Girardeau**. This year's award selection committee consists of Dr. Clair Davis, Dr. Greg Singer and Dr. George Hutchinson.

25th Anniversary of the PCA: A special committee was appointed in the fall of 1996 to work with the Historical Center in planning events to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the PCA. Since the denomination was established in December, 1973, special activities, bulletin inserts, publications and displays have been planned for both the 25th and 26th General Assemblies. One of the publications that should be available for the Assemblies is a reprint of "**Presbyterian Church in America: Our Formative Years**" from the June 1993 issue of the *PCA Messenger*.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee consists of:

Rev. Todd W. Allen	Dr. Donald B. Patterson
Dr. William S. Barker	Rev. G. Michael Potts
Dr. Paul T. Kim	Rev. and Mrs. Paul Settle
Mr. Jerry Kornegay	Rev. Kennedy Smartt
Mr. Jim Ostenson	Dr. Morton H. Smith
Mrs. Jane Patete	Mrs. Emalyn Spencer

Dr. Paul R. Gilchrist is an ex officio member of this committee.

Historical Center Subcommittee: The Historical Center Subcommittee provides oversight of the operations of the Center. Members of the Historical Center Subcommittee are:

Dr. David . B. Calhoun	Dr. Donald J. MacNair
Mrs. Shirley Duncan	Dr. G. Fredric Mau
Miss Linnae Graham	Mr. John E. Spencer
Mr. Edward S. Harris	

Dr. Paul R. Gilchrist and Mr. Ross Cook are ex officio members of this subcommittee.

FORTHCOMING:

Publications: At the 1996 General Assembly I had a brief discussion with Mr. Dennis Bennett, then manager of the CE&P Bookstore, on literature needs of the denomination. It was determined from that discussion, that there is no single resource on the history of our denomination written specifically as a resource/text for adult Sunday School classes. The Historical Center is currently working on this project.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Facilities: Covenant Theological Seminary has started a major fund raising campaign for the expansion of the J. Oliver Buswell Library. The PCA Historical Center is located on the lower level of the Buswell library. The Center's current facilities include a locked storage room, an inner and outer office and space devoted to open storage of archival materials. The total space available to the Center is approximately 1,300 square feet. Discussions with the Seminary's architect indicate that under the proposed expansion plan the space dedicated to the Historical Center will expand to approximately 2,200 square feet. Under this plan all archival records would be maintained in a single, locked storage area and our useable space will increase by approximately seventy percent. The greatest expense to the Historical Center, under the expansion plan, will be for additional shelving units and new work tables.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jerry Kornegay, Director

APPENDICES

**APPROVED
1998 PARTNERSHIP SHARE
for the PCA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRIES**

	1997	1998		percent	\$ Per
	PARTNERSHIP SHARE	1998 BUDGETS	PARTNERSHIP SHARES (1) BUDGET		
Administrative Committee (4)	\$ 899,519	1,285,045	\$ 953,045	6.4	\$4.37
Christian Education & Publications	1,342,224	2,279,383	1,437,383	9.7	6.59
Mission to North America	4,118,964	5,119,078	5,033,578	34.0	23.04
Mission to The World (5)	3,553,541	23,588,643	3,877,700	26.2	17.76
Covenant College (3)	1,375,000	15,713,199	1,400,000	9.4	6.41
Covenant Seminary (3)	1,567,300	5,148,300	1,590,000	10.7	7.28
Ridge Haven	492,350	1,042,600	538,300	3.6	2.47
Insurance, Annuities & Relief	-0-	759,450	-0-	-0-	-0-
PCA Foundation (2)	-0-	458,635	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTALS	<u>\$13,348,898</u>	<u>(2)\$55,176,183</u>	<u>\$14,830,006</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$67.94</u>

TOTAL COMMUNICANT MEMBERS (1996 STATISTICS) = 218,276

- (1) **The PARTNERSHIP SHARE is that portion of the approved expense budget which is dependent on contributions from the PCA churches and individuals. When the contributions are less than the amount of the PARTNERSHIP SHARE, the committees, agencies and institutions cannot fulfill the programs and services which the General Assembly approved at the June 1996 meeting.**
- (2) **\$218,150 of the PCA Foundation budget is included in the budgets of the participating committees and agencies as their portion of the Foundation's support. Therefore, that amount is deducted from the Total of the 1998 Expense Budgets.**
- (3) **Institutions are on a July 1 through June 30 Fiscal Year.**
- (4) **The PCA Office building budget is not included in the PARTNERSHIP SHARE. Gifts for the Office Building Fund are over and above the PARTNERSHIP SHARE and benefit all of the committees and agencies in Atlanta.**
- (5) **The Mission to the World PARTNERSHIP SHARE is the MTW consolidated budget, excluding MTW/Impact, identified as Unrestricted or General Fund. It does not include any items which are considered Restricted or "donor designated" funds, including, but not limited to, such items as: missionary support, program ministry and project budgets, etc.**

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET PHILOSOPHY

The budget is built primarily on the job description of the Stated Clerk in the RAO, which determines the services that are to be provided by the Office of the Stated Clerk to the churches, presbyteries, committees and agencies, and to the General Assembly.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Many of the activities and responsibilities of the Administrative Committee are directly affected by the size and growth of the PCA, which in turn are reflected in annual budget increases for many line items. The economic inflation rate also affects most budget items and is applied to most line items, except as noted in the Economic Assumptions shown below.

The budgets are presented in a format to comply with the standards for not-for-profit organizations adopted by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The FASB standards provide a definition of "supporting activities" which we have normally considered administrative costs, but which they call "management and general". Therefore, compensation for the Stated Clerk and his staff is allocated according to the estimated time spent in "program" and fund raising areas, where it was previously considered all administrative.

1998 ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

A. Stated Clerk/Administration

3.0%	PCA growth rate
3.5%	Cost of Living (COL) Index and inflation rate
5.0%	Postal rates
10.0%	Health Insurance premiums
7.0%	Cost for Travel (transportation, food and housing)
5.0%	Workman's Compensation Insurance

The Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees budgeted at the beginning and end of the year will be 10.

B. PCA Office Building

3.2%	Rent increase to \$16.25 per square foot.
3.5%	Inflation rate
5.0%	Insurance premiums

The Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees budgeted at the beginning and end of the year will be 0.5

APPENDICES

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET						
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
SUPPORT & REVENUE						
1 Contributions	\$109,500	\$935,545	\$0	\$0	\$1,045,045	81.32
2 Fees	\$227,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$228,500	17.78
3 Interest	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	0.12
4 Others	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	0.78
TOTAL REV.	\$337,000	\$948,045	\$0	\$0	\$1,285,045	100.00
OPERATING EXP.						
5a Coord. Salary/Hou	\$26,315	\$45,110	\$3,760	\$0	\$75,185	5.85
5b Coord. Benefits	\$6,580	\$11,280	\$940	\$0	\$18,800	1.46
6 Staff Sal./Benefits	\$120,615	\$306,305	\$12,565	\$0	\$439,485	34.20
7 Travel	\$225,410	\$48,750	\$0	\$0	\$274,160	21.33
8 Rent	\$2,000	\$46,315	\$0	\$0	\$48,315	3.76
9 Janitor/Grounds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
10 Mail/Ship	\$30,850	\$28,435	\$1,000	\$0	\$60,285	4.69
11 Office Supplies	\$8,325	\$14,015	\$500	\$0	\$22,840	1.78
12 Telephone	\$11,640	\$10,445	\$250	\$0	\$22,335	1.74
13 Maintenance	\$1,000	\$10,600	\$0	\$0	\$11,600	0.90
14 Leased Equipment	\$38,900	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$40,400	3.14
15 Dues/Subscription	\$11,850	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$14,850	1.16
16 Insurance	\$0	\$8,510	\$0	\$0	\$8,510	0.66
17 Interest	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	0.23
18 Printing	\$77,030	\$19,900	\$2,000	\$0	\$98,930	7.70
19 Staff Train/Develo	\$1,750	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,750	0.53
20 Promotion/Appeals	\$27,250	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$31,250	2.43
21 Foundation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
22 Planning	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	0.23
23 Professional Svces	\$850	\$20,600	\$0	\$0	\$21,450	1.67
24 Taxes	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	0.19
25 Utilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
26 Contingencies	\$16,400	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$46,400	3.61
27 Depreciation	\$500	\$23,000	\$0	\$0	\$23,500	1.83
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$607,265	\$643,265	\$23,015	\$0	\$1,273,545	99.11
28 Op. Surplus/(Def)	(\$270,265)	\$304,780	(\$23,015)	\$0	\$11,500	0.92
29 LESS Depreciation	\$500	\$23,000	\$0	\$0	\$23,500	
NET OPERATING EXP	\$606,765	\$620,265	\$23,015	\$0	\$1,250,045	97.28
OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS:						
31 Capital Expend.	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	1.17
32 Prin. Loan Pymnts	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	1.56
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	2.72
TOTAL NET BUDGET	\$611,765	\$650,265	\$23,015	\$0	\$1,285,045	100.00

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE							
BUDGETS COMPARISONS STATEMENT							
FOR PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET							
DESCRIPTION	(UNAUDITED)			PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998	
	1996 ACTUAL	1996 BUDGET	1997 BUDGET	1998 BUDGET	% OF TOTALS	CHANGE \$	%
SUPPORT & REVENUE							
1 Contribution	\$587,329	\$933,610	\$899,519	\$1,045,045	81.32	\$145,526	16.18
2 Fees	\$190,734	\$181,000	\$183,500	\$228,500	17.78	\$45,000	24.52
3 Investments	\$1,111	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	0.12	(\$500)	(25.52)
4 Others		\$0	\$90,000	\$10,000	0.78	(\$80,000)	(72.71)
TOTAL SUPP. & REVENUE	\$779,174	\$1,117,610	\$1,175,019	\$1,285,045	100.00	\$110,026	9.36
OPERATING EXP.							
5 25th Anniversary				\$100,000	7.78	\$100,000	N/A
6 Historical Center	\$45,202	\$67,410	\$76,731	\$71,460	5.56	(\$5,271)	(6.87)
7 Standing Comm.	\$102,069	\$149,515	\$202,154	\$209,575	16.31	\$7,421	3.67
8 General Assembly	\$162,084	\$212,000	\$180,000	\$226,230	17.60	\$46,230	25.68
9 TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$309,355	\$428,925	\$458,885	\$607,265	47.26	\$148,380	32.33
10 Management & General	\$440,332	\$624,420	\$590,719	\$643,265	50.06	\$52,546	8.90
11 Fund Raisin	\$8,662	\$23,045	\$19,915	\$23,015	1.79	\$3,100	15.57
12 TOTAL MGMT. & FD RAISING	\$448,994	\$647,465	\$610,634	\$666,280	51.85	\$55,646	9.11
TOTAL OP. EXPENSES	\$758,349	\$1,076,390	\$1,069,519	\$1,273,545	99.11	\$204,026	19.08
13 Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$20,825	\$41,220	\$105,500	\$11,500	0.89	(\$94,000)	3.58
14 LESS Dep.	\$14,955	\$23,600	\$24,500	\$23,500	1.83	\$1,000	4.08
NET OP. EXP.	\$743,394	\$1,052,790	\$1,045,019	\$1,250,045	97.28	\$205,026	19.62
OTHER CAP. ITEMS:							
15 Capital Expend.	\$10,432	\$20,000	\$80,000	\$15,000	1.17	(\$65,000)	(81.25)
16 Prin. Loan Payments	\$25,000	\$44,820	\$50,000	\$20,000	1.56	(\$30,000)	(60.00)
17 TOTAL CAP. EXPEND.	\$35,432	\$64,820	\$130,000	\$35,000	2.72	(\$95,000)	(73.08)
TOTAL NET BUDGET	\$778,826	\$1,117,610	\$1,175,019	\$1,285,045	100.00	\$110,026	9.36

APPENDICES

PCA OFFICE BUILDING PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET						
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	GENERAL & ADMIN.	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTAL
SUPPORT & REVENUE						
1 Contributions	\$25,085	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,085	4.04
2 Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
3 Interest	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	0.64
4 Rent	\$0	\$591,450	\$0	\$0	\$591,450	95.32
TOTAL REV	\$25,085	\$595,450	\$0	\$0	\$620,535	100.00
OPERATING EXPENSES						
5 Staff Sal/Ben	\$8,105	\$19,190	\$925	\$0	\$28,220	4.55
6 Travel	\$1,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,800	0.29
7 Rent	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
8 Janitor/Groun	\$0	\$44,300	\$0	\$0	\$44,300	7.14
9 Mail/Ship	\$0	\$75	\$500	\$0	\$575	0.09
10 Office Supp.	\$0	\$200	\$100	\$0	\$300	0.05
11 Telephone	\$500	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,500	1.85
12 Maintenance	\$0	\$34,450	\$0	\$0	\$34,450	5.55
13 Leased Equip.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
14 Dues/Subs.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
15 Insurance	\$0	\$11,770	\$0	\$0	\$11,770	1.90
16 Interest	\$65,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$67,000	10.80
17 Printing	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	0.16
18 Staff Train/De	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
19 Promo/Appeal	\$1,500	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$6,500	1.05
20 Foundation	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	0.08
21 Planning	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
22 Pro. Services	\$0	\$20,950	\$0	\$0	\$20,950	3.38
23 Taxes	\$0	\$45,170	\$0	\$0	\$45,170	7.28
24 Utilities	\$0	\$71,500	\$0	\$0	\$71,500	11.52
25 Contingencies	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	2.42
26 Depreciation	\$105,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	24.17
TOTAL OP. EXPENSES	\$182,405	\$320,605	\$7,525	\$0	\$510,535	82.27
27 Op. Sur/Def	(\$157,320)	\$274,845	(\$7,525)	\$0	\$110,000	17.73
28 LESS Depr.	\$105,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	24.17
NET OP. EXP.	\$77,405	\$275,605	\$7,525	\$0	\$360,535	58.10
OTHER CAP. ITEMS:						
29 Capital Expen	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	3.22
30 Prin. Loan Pa	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$240,000	\$240,000	38.68
TOTAL CAP. EXPEND.	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$240,000	\$260,000	41.90
TOTAL NET BDGT	\$122,405	\$275,605	\$7,525	\$240,000	\$620,535	1.00

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PCA OFFICE BUILDING							
BUDGETS COMPARISONS STATEMENT							
FOR PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET							
DESCRIPTION	(UNAUDITED)	1996 BUDGET	1997 BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998	
	1996 ACTUAL			1998 BUDGET	% OF TOTALS	CHANGE \$	%
SUPPORT & REV.							
1 Contributions	\$44,091	\$50,000	\$73,000	\$25,085	4.04	(47,915)	(65.64)
2 Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0	0.00
3 Investments	\$3,785	\$4,930	\$5,000	\$4,000	0.64	(1,000)	(20.00)
4 Rent	\$564,982	\$566,750	\$573,260	\$591,450	95.31	18,190	3.17
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$612,858	\$621,680	\$651,260	\$620,535	100.0	(\$30,725)	(4.72)
OPERATING EXPENSES							
5 Capital Fund	\$202,450	\$206,270	\$193,437	\$182,405	29.39	(11,032)	(5.70)
6 TOTAL PRGMS	\$202,450	\$206,270	\$193,437	\$182,405	29.39	(11,032)	(5.70)
7 Man. & Gen'l	\$282,733	\$297,940	\$321,229	\$320,605	51.67	(624)	(0.19)
8 Fund Raising	\$0	\$5,100	\$7,928	\$7,525	1.21	(403)	(5.08)
9 TOTAL MGMNT & FUND	\$282,733	\$303,040	\$329,157	\$328,130	52.88	(\$1,027)	(0.31)
TOTAL OPERATING EXP.	\$485,183	\$509,310	\$522,594	\$510,535	82.27	(12,059)	(2.31)
10 Op. Sur/(Def)	\$127,675	\$112,370	\$128,666	\$110,000	17.73	(18,666)	(14.51)
11 LESS Depre.	\$147,065	\$129,000	\$148,000	\$150,000	24.17	2,000	1.35
NET OPERATING EXPENSES	\$338,118	\$380,310	\$374,594	\$360,535	58.10	(\$14,059)	(3.75)
OTHER CAP. ITEMS:							
12 Capital Expend.	\$10,430	\$20,000	\$65,000	\$20,000	3.22	(45,000)	(69.23)
13 Prin. Loan Pmnts	\$205,750	\$231,500	\$250,095	\$240,000	38.68	(10,095)	(4.04)
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$216,180	\$251,500	\$315,095	\$260,000	41.90	(\$55,095)	(17.49)
TOTAL NET BUDGET	\$554,298	\$631,810	\$689,689	\$620,535	100.00	(\$69,154)	(10.03)

APPENDICES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

Philosophy:

CE/P's ministry program is driven by the Strategic Faith Plan. The plan defines CE/P's mission, goals, strategies and programs. The proposed budget is a "program-based" budget and represents the resources needed to adequately fund the planned activities which have been approved and/or directed by the Committee and the General Assembly.

Summary:

The proposed 1998 expense budget represents a \$153,159 increase (7.5%) from the 1997 budget. CE/P's contribution need, likewise increases by \$95,159 (7%). CE/P has attempted and continues to utilize other revenues to make up for the continuous shortfall in church's support of the Partnership Share.

Assumptions:

3.0%	PCA growth rate
3.5%	Consumer Price Index/Inflation Rate
5.0%	Postal rates
10%	Health insurance premiums increase
7.0%	Cost of travel (transportation, food & housing)
5.0%	Workman's Compensation Insurance

The 1998 budget is based on 23.05 Full-Time equivalent employees just as in 1997.

Notes (line numbers refer to Budget Comparisons Statement):

- **Love Gift** (line 2) represents a portion of the 1997 WIC Love Gift that CE/P anticipates recognizing in 1998. These funds are designated for Youth Ministries. Correspondingly, the expense to produce the video and the bulletin inserts will be recognized in 1998.
- **Other Revenues** (line 3) for 1998 are anticipated as follows:

Bookstore Sales	\$500,000
Subscriptions & Advertising	\$62,000
Video Library Memberships	\$45,000
Seminar/Conference Fees	\$51,000
Reimbursements (travel, postage, etc)	\$84,000
- **Training and Consulting** (line 4) is projected to increase due to upgrading the current part-time secretary to full-time. Also, a Music in Worship Conference is planned during the spring of 1998.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- The majority of the increase of **Women in the Church** (line 5) is due to the new format of the annual PresWIC meeting which is now more broadly defined as the WIC Leadership seminar and is open to women who are in ministry positions in PCA churches.
- **Cross Cultural/Korean Ministries** (line 7) CE/P originally hoped to have this department staffed with 2 people (1 full-time and 1 part-time). Due to limited resources it appears that CE/P will only be able to have 2 part-time people.
- The increase in **Youth Ministries** (line 8) is due to the expenses associated with producing the Love Gift, production of materials for youth and two regional youth training meetings.
- **Bookstore** (line 12) The Bookstore continues to serve over 85% of PCA churches. The proposed increase in 1998 is so that the Bookstore can continue to broaden its service to the PCA.
- **Depreciation** (line 19) increases due primarily to the fact that CE/P disposed of a fully-depreciated offset printing press and replaced it with a Risograph. This line item has likewise grown proportionally as CE/P has added staff over the last two years.
- CE/P anticipates the need to increase **Capital Expenditures** (line 24) as the van which the staff used for travel is no longer suitable for that purpose and needs to be replaced.
- **Management and General** (line 17) is anticipated to increase commensurate with the assumptions noted above.
- **Fund Raising** (line 20) expenses are anticipated to increase due primarily to the need for CE/P staff to travel more extensively throughout the PCA to raise awareness of CE/P's ministry.
- The Coordinator, his assistant and related expenses are allocated to the various expense categories as follows: Training 25%, Fund Raising 10%, Administration 10%, Bookstore 15%, WIC 10%, MOC 5%, Youth 5%, Equip for Ministry 20%.

APPENDICES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET						
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	MGMNT/ GENERAL	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
Support & Revenue						
1 Contributions & Support	1,437,383	0	0	0	1,437,383	63.06
2 1997 Love Gift Income	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	4.39
3 Other Revenues	742,000	0	0	0	742,000	32.55
Total Support & Rev.	2,279,383	0	0	0	2,279,383	100.00
Operating Expenses:						
4 Coordinator Salar/Hous.	59,696	7,462	7,462	0	74,620	3.27
5 Coordinator Benefits	12,304	1,538	1,538	0	15,380	0.67
6 Staff Salary/Benefits	656,055	135,276	95,756	0	887,087	38.92
7 Purchases Bookst Inv.	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	13.16
8 Office Supplies	9,960	6,120	620	0	16,700	0.73
9 Telephone	14,770	3,090	590	0	18,450	0.81
10 Computer Expense	9,410	3,120	120	0	12,650	0.55
11 Printing	112,940	3,030	3,030	0	119,000	5.22
12 Postage/Shipping	119,120	5,040	2,040	0	126,200	5.54
13 Miscellaneous	4,595	2,540	290	0	7,425	0.33
14 Dues/Subscriptions	1,985	1,020	120	0	3,125	0.14
15 Equip. Rental/Maint.	5,460	3,020	20	0	8,500	0.37
16 Equip. Purchases	280	2,035	35	0	2,350	0.10
17 Depreciation	0	0	0	35,950	35,950	1.58
18 Office Rent	77,140	10,380	4,730	0	92,250	4.05
19 Warehouse Rent	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	0.18
20 Liability Insurance	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0.44
21 Property Tax	2,500	3,000	0	0	5,500	0.24
22 Prof. Consulting	6,000	9,000	0	0	15,000	0.66
23 Travel	60,400	3,325	20,825	0	84,550	3.71
24 G. A. Expense	1,170	165	15	0	1,350	0.06
25 Book Allowance	910	200	50	0	1,160	0.05
26 Vehicles	4,570	2,390	390	0	7,350	0.32
27 Staff Development	1,030	1,060	60	0	2,150	0.09
28 Graphics/Design	25,650	0	2,000	0	27,650	1.21
29 Advertising	5,200	0	0	0	5,200	0.23
30 Video Purchases	23,000	0	0	0	23,000	1.01
31 GCP Curriculum	20,000	0	0	0	20,000	0.88
32 PCA Foundation	0	0	50,000	0	50,000	2.19
33 GA Shared Expenses	0	4,000	0	0	4,000	0.18
34 Audit Fees	0	7,000	0	0	7,000	0.31
35 Meeting Facility	25,500	0	0	0	25,500	1.12
36 Committee Meetings	35,000	19,000	0	0	54,000	2.37
37 Honorariums	20,750	0	0	0	20,750	0.91
38 Writers/Photos	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0.09
39 Promotion	6,000	0	2,000	0	8,000	0.35
40 Special Events	11,500	300	0	0	11,800	0.52
41 Interest Expense	0	600	0	0	600	0.03
42 1997 Love Gift Prod.	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	0.31
43 Curriculum/Video	25,000	0	0	0	25,000	1.10
44 Account Write-Offs	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0.07
Total Operating Exp.	1,672,395	243,711	191,691	35,950	2,143,747	94.05
Operating Sur/(Def)	606,988	(243,711)	(191,691)	(35,950)	135,636	
Less Depreciation	0	0	0	(35,950)	(35,950)	
Total Cash Outlays	1,672,395	243,711	191,691	0	2,107,797	92.47
Capital Assets:						
45 Principle Loan Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
46 Capital Expend.	0	0	0	56,000	56,000	2.53
47 Designated Reserve	70,000	0	0	0	70,000	3.07
47 Deficit Recovery	45,586	0	0	0	45,586	
Total Net Budget	1,742,395	243,711	191,691	56,000	2,279,383	100.00

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS							
1998 BUDGET COMPARISONS STATEMENT							
DESCRIPTION	(UNAUDITED)	1996 BUDGET	1997 BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998	
	1996 ACTUAL			1998 BUDGET	% OF TOTALS	CHANGE \$	%
SUPPORT & REV.							
1 Contributions/Support	802,548	1,309,403	1,342,224	1,437,383	63.06	95,159	7.09
2 97 Love Gift	0	0	0	100,000	04.39	100,000	
3 Other Revenues	797,971	705,000	714,000	742,000	32.55	28,000	3.92
Support & Rev.	1,600,519	2,014,403	2,056,224	2,279,383	100.00	223,159	10.85
Operations Expenses							
4 Training/ Consulting	189,492	249,888	248,933	281,116	12.33	32,183	12.93
5 Women in the Church	168,747	206,928	213,038	235,952	10.35	22,914	10.76
6 Men of the Covenant	45,572	97,749	92,848	90,106	3.95	(2,742)	(2.95)
7 Cross Culture/Korean	7,934	21,935	56,486	31,893	1.40	(24,593)	(43.54)
8 Youth Ministry	83,930	101,778	108,996	112,140	4.92	3,144	2.88
9 Pastor's Conference	8,815	48,250	26,850	26,850	1.18	0	0.00
10 Prayer Ministry	2,642	30,050	5,000	5,000	0.22	0	0.00
11 Curriculum/Publication	15,922	36,950	46,323	46,323	2.03	0	0.00
12 Bookstore	569,927	599,229	595,057	630,020	27.64	34,963	5.88
13 Video Library	53,353	75,101	75,135	75,135	3.30	0	0.00
14 Messenger	3,919	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
15 Equip	87,434	87,916	101,953	112,066	4.92	10,113	9.92
16 Bulletin Supplement	18,271	23,668	25,710	25,793	1.13	83	0.33
Total Programs	1,255,958	1,579,442	1,596,329	1,672,394	73.37	76,065	4.77
17 Managemnt/General	181,872	255,381	213,534	224,711	9.86	11,177	5.23
18 CE Committee	9,450	22,000	19,000	19,000	0.83	0	0.00
19 Depreciation	32,091	26,000	29,100	35,950	1.58	6,850	23.54
20 Fund Raising	123,105	52,981	131,361	141,691	6.22	10,330	7.86
21 PCA Foundation	43,630	52,600	50,000	50,000	2.19	0	0.00
Total Management/ Fund Raising	390,148	408,962	442,995	471,352	20.68	28,357	6.40
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	1,646,106	1,988,404	2,039,324	2,143,746	94.05	104,422	5.12
Operating Sur/(Def)	(45,587)	25,999	16,900	135,637			
Less Depreciation	(32,091)	(26,000)	(29,100)	(35,950)	1.58	(6,850)	
Total Cash Outlays	1,614,015	1,962,404	2,010,224	2,107,796	92.47	97,572	
CAPITAL ASSETS:							
22 Designated Reserve				70,000	3.07	70,000	
23 Capital Expenditure	55,963	45,000	40,000	56,000	2.46	16,000	40.00
24 Principle Loan Pay	0	7,000	6,000	0	0.00	(6,000)	(100.00)
Total Capital Expend.	55,963	52,000	46,000	126,000	2.46	10,000	(60.00)
Deficit Recovery				45,586	2.00	45,586	
Total Net Budget	1,669,978	2,014,404	2,056,224	2,279,382	96.93	153,158	7.45

APPENDICES

Christian Education and Publications 1998 Budget Worksheet				
	1996 Actual	Approved 1996 Budget	Approved 1997 Budget	Proposed 1998 Budget
Contributions and Support	\$802,548	\$1,309,403	\$1,342,224	\$1,437,383
1997 Love Gift Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Other Revenues	\$797,971	\$705,000	\$714,000	\$742,000
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$1,600,519	\$2,014,403	\$2,056,224	\$2,279,383
Salary and Benefits Coordinator	\$80,705	\$81,421	\$90,000	\$90,000
Salary and Benefits Staff	\$668,547	\$773,620	\$850,740	\$887,087
Purchases-Bookstore Inventory	\$294,372	\$270,000	\$276,000	\$300,000
Office Supplies	\$15,962	\$14,500	\$13,500	\$16,700
Telephone	\$12,736	\$26,700	\$21,100	\$18,450
Computer Expense	\$6,086	\$13,400	\$14,250	\$12,650
Printing	\$72,383	\$101,015	\$110,050	\$119,000
Postage & Shipping Materials	\$102,286	\$120,510	\$128,450	\$126,200
Miscellaneous	\$5,048	\$8,575	\$8,675	\$7,425
Dues and Subscriptions	\$2,470	\$2,850	\$2,400	\$3,125
Equipment Rental/Maint.	\$6,244	\$7,900	\$7,600	\$8,500
Equipment Purchases	\$967	\$2,500	\$2,300	\$2,350
Depreciation	\$32,091	\$26,000	\$29,100	\$35,950
Office Rent	\$87,732	\$87,733	\$90,609	\$92,250
Warehouse Rent	\$3,790	\$2,900	\$3,500	\$4,000
Liability Insurance	\$8,496	\$10,080	\$10,000	\$10,000
Property Tax	\$3,373	\$6,300	\$5,950	\$5,500
Professional Consulting	\$13,829	\$9,800	\$13,000	\$15,000
Travel	\$65,982	\$82,750	\$71,450	\$84,550
General Assembly Expense	\$1,031	\$3,550	\$1,400	\$1,350
Book Allowance	\$560	\$1,300	\$1,650	\$1,160
Vehicles	\$6,022	\$7,700	\$7,500	\$7,350
Staff Development	\$154	\$1,750	\$2,150	\$2,150
Graphics/Design	\$18,919	\$25,800	\$26,450	\$27,650
Advertising	\$78	\$5,550	\$5,250	\$5,200
Video Purchases	\$15,459	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$23,000
GCP Curriculum	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
PCA Foundation	\$43,630	\$52,600	\$50,000	\$50,000
G.A. Shared Expenses	\$2,556	\$4,500	\$4,000	\$4,000
Audit Fees	\$6,200	\$6,750	\$7,000	\$7,000
Meeting Facility	\$6,555	\$41,500	\$24,500	\$25,500
Committee Meetings	\$38,878	\$59,000	\$49,000	\$54,000
Honorariums	\$13,235	\$23,750	\$20,250	\$20,750
Writers and Photography	\$606	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Promotion	\$1,656	\$8,800	\$8,200	\$8,000
Special Events	\$4,107	\$10,800	\$9,300	\$11,800
Interest Expense	\$537	\$500	\$500	\$600
1997 Love Gift Production	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
Curriculum/Video Production	\$2,610	\$36,500	\$25,000	\$25,000
Account Write-offs	\$213	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,646,106	\$1,988,403	\$2,039,324	\$2,143,747
Surplus/(Deficit) from operations	(\$45,586)	\$26,000	\$16,900	\$135,636
LESS DEPRECIATION	(\$32,091)	(\$26,000)	(\$29,100)	(\$35,950)
TOTAL CASH OUTLAYS	\$1,614,015	\$1,962,403	\$2,010,224	\$2,107,797
OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS				
Principle Loan Payments	\$0	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$0
Capital Expenditures	\$55,963	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$56,000
Designated Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
Deficit Recovery				\$45,586
TOTAL NET BUDGET	\$1,669,978	\$2,014,403	\$2,056,224	\$2,279,383
Net Income after Capital Adjustments	(\$69,459)	\$0	\$0	\$0

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COVENANT COLLEGE

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY 97-98 PROPOSED BUDGET

Accounting system:

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 and Institutional Support could be considered "Supporting Activities".

Several major accounting changes were made in 1996-1997 in accordance with changes in standards published by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Included in these are two which will significantly change finances at Covenant College.

First, depreciation is now an operating expense rather than an expense only in the plant fund. Due to this change, tuition will rise 3% more than otherwise would be the case for the next five years. These tuition increases will fund depreciation and allow Covenant to show a net positive bottom line and reduce pressure on future capital campaigns by providing funds for facility and equipment replacement and repair.

Second, unconditional promises to give, including major capital campaign pledges, are included in revenue the year the pledge is made, rather than as the cash is received. This will mean major fluctuations in the net bottom line through campaign years when pledges are received in different fiscal years than the facilities are built and paid for. Covenant is minimizing this effect by working with major donors to recognize that their intent is rarely to convey an unconditional promise to give, but rather to express an intent if future finances allow the gift.

Proposed revenue budget notes:

- 1) Traditional tuition assumes FTE enrollment of 699, a 2.6% increase from the 96-97 actual of 681. Housing is assumed to be over capacity reflecting the intent to have a new residence hall completed for fall 1998. Tuition will rise by 9.5%, room by 5.5% and board by 3%. The combined fee increase will be 8.3%.
- 2) Quest profit of \$216,269 assumes an enrollment of 160, consistent with this year's enrollment. This profit margin is much smaller than previous years due to increased usage of full time faculty. \$16,269 of the projected profit is held as contingency.
- 3) Annual fund budget of \$1,400,000 is increased by \$25,000 over 96-97 budget but is consistent with the 96-97 projected actual.
- 4) Endowment usage increases with earnings from several large gifts of last year becoming available.

APPENDICES

Proposed expense budget notes:

- 1) Student Aid is projected at 29% of tuition for institutional aid. Aid was projected at 28% for 1996-1997 but actually rose to 31% due to higher costs of the Church Partnership Program. The college is restructuring the program in order to better balance the amount spent with the amount of gifts received. Endowed and/or restricted gift aid are being aggressively pursued to help students afford a Covenant education.
- 2) Instructional costs rise as new faculty are added to accommodate increased enrollment.
- 3) Institutional Support rises for general operating purposes with higher enrollment and a major increase in development fund raising costs.
- 4) Room and board continue to be budgeted as break even departments after depreciation funding is considered.
- 5) Contingency is added at 2% of the total Educational and General budget.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COVENANT COLLEGE						
REVENUE BUDGETS STATEMENT						
FOR PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FY 1997-98						
DESCRIPTION	(AUDITED)			PROPOSED	96-97 TO 97-98	
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	CHANGE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
REVENUE						
EDUCATIONAL/ GENERAL						
1 Trad. Tuition/ Fees	5,975,507	6,277,416	7,215,595	8,693,814	1,478,219	20.50
2 Quest Tuition/ Fees	1,335,137	1,717,139	1,644,125	1,644,125	0	0.00
3 M Ed Tuition/ Fees	80,064	98,028	97,781	99,835	2,054	2.10
4 Exec. Educ.	129,139	38,449	0	0	0	N/A
5 Gifts-Unres.	1,313,536	1,509,734	1,375,000	1,474,000	99,000	7.20
6 Gifts - Rest.	89,761	165,605		0	0	N/A
7 Endow. Gen.	87,538	76,058	54,000	123,000	69,000	127.80
8 Government Appro.	219,817	204,738	186,500	186,500	0	0.00
9 Student Aid Government	446,645	152,308	142,000	142,000	0	0.00
10 Student Aid Other Sources	349,898	418,049	325,000	375,000	50,000	15.40
11 Others	158,947	326,607	195,000	177,000	(18,000)	(9.20)
SUBTOTAL	10,185,989	10,984,131	11,235,001	12,915,274	1,680,273	2.30
AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES						
12 Residence Halls	842,726	801,888	905,230	995,305	90,075	10.00
13 Board Plans	908,641	849,532	929,782	1,026,120	96,338	10.40
14 Lookout Inn	132,015	143,232	130,000	130,000	0	0.00
15 Conferences	625,277	731,602	610,000	635,000	25,000	4.10
16 Other	10,690	10,590	11,500	11,500	0	0.00
AUXILIARY	2,519,349	2,536,844	2,586,512	2,797,925	211,413	2.00
TOTAL REVENUES	12,705,338	13,520,975	13,821,513	15,713,199	1,891,686	2.20

APPENDICES

COVENANT COLLEGE							
EXPENSE BUDGET STATEMENT							
FOR PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FY 1997-98							
DESCRIPTION	(AUDITED)	1995-96 ACTUAL	1996-97 BUDGET	1997-98 BUDGET	96-97 TO 97-98 CHANGE		
	1994-95 ACTUAL				\$	%	
EXPENSES							
EDUCATION & GENERAL							
1 Trad. Instru.	2,363,901	2,314,029	2,335,732	2,605,379	269,647	11.5	
2 Quest	933,423	1,263,318	1,383,587	1,427,856	44,269	3.2	
3 M. Ed.	127,580	132,186	126,781	128,735	1,954	1.5	
4 Exec. Educ.	131,812	50,051	0	0	0	N/A	
5 Academic Supp.	458,138	561,768	337,177	353,585	16,408	4.9	
6 Library	251,188	261,951	294,965	291,989	(2,976)	(1.0)	
7 Student Svcs	981,990	1,410,144	1,286,624	1,423,980	137,356	10.7	
8 Public Service	83,555	29,102	20,510	20,510	0	0.0	
9 Main of Plant	855,761	878,963	1,045,058	1,075,064	30,006	2.9	
10 Inst. Support	1,739,500	1,580,669	1,781,454	2,026,491	245,037	13.8	
11 Pres. Salary	85,187	85,187	90,298	94,587	4,289	4.7	
12 Pres. Benefits	16,956	17,115	16,460	16,902	442	2.7	
13 Student Aid	2,522,813	2,337,343	2,436,342	2,998,950	562,608	23.1	
14 Depreciation	0	0	0	165,000	165,000	N/A	
SUBTOTAL	10,551,804	10,921,826	11,154,988	12,629,028	1,474,040	13.2	
AUXILLIARY ENTERPRISES							
15 Resid. Halls	783,832	953,553	859,968	971,066	111,098	12.9	
16 Board Plans	809,677	738,875	858,293	871,359	13,066	1.5	
17 Admin	44,772	48,796	65,475	67,442	1,967	3.0	
18 Lookout Inn	132,158	136,345	130,000	130,000	0	0.0	
19 Summer Conf.	505,570	533,981	510,000	510,000	0	0.0	
20 Renewal Reserv	116,352	89,652	91,751	154,000	62,249	67.8	
21 Other	9,428	7,858	11,500	11,500	0	0.0	
SUBTOTAL	2,401,789	2,509,060	2,526,987	2,715,367	188,380	7.5	
CONTINGENCY	0	0	60,538	289,804	229,266	378.7	
CAPITAL RES.	0	0	0	0	0		
TRANSFERS	(266,814)	75,967	79,000	79,000	0	0.0	
TOTAL EXP. & TRANSFERS	12,686,779	13,506,853	13,821,513	15,713,199	1,891,686	13.7	
NET REVENUES	18,559	14,122	0	0			

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COVENANT COLLEGE				
BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS STATEMENT				
FOR PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FY 1997-98				
DESCRIPTION	1995 - 96 ACTUAL	1996 - 97 BUDGET	PROPOSED 1997-1998 BUDGET	1997-1998 CHANGE %
FALL				
ENROLLMENT				
1 New Students	197	255	260	
2 Trad. FTE	602	681	699	
3 Quest FTE	148	165	165	
4 MEd FTE	45	52	50	
RESIDENCE				
HALLS				
5 On Campus	458	518	533	
6 Apartments (FE)	22	39	40	
Board Plan				
Participants	505	531	535	
FEES:				
7 Tuition	5,300	5,725	6,275	9.61
8 Avg. Room	870	875	923	5.49
9 Avg. Board	971	990	1,020	3.03
TOTAL FEES	7,141	7,590	8,218	8.27
TUITION				
DISCOUNT RATIO	28.60	31.00	29.00	
Annual Fund	1,509,734	1,375,000	1,400,000	
Salary Scale	3.50	3.00	3.00	
% increase				
TOTAL AVG.				
SALARY INC.	\$650	\$1,270	\$1,800	
Student/FAC Ratio	13.40	14.00	13.60	
Student/Staff Ratio	8.50	8.70	8.60	

APPENDICES

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

I. Revenue:

A. Tuition and Fees:

1. Tuition in most programs will increase from \$208 per credit hour to \$220. This 5.77% increase is about 1.00% less than projected last year in our Long Range Plan documents. The increase is necessary to cover the cost of a Lecturer mid-year and various new staff positions to continue to address work loads that are too heavy. This rate remains competitive and is below the average seminary in the Association of Theological Schools. Tuition pays only about 49% of the cost to educate a seminarian. We were able to reduce the tuition increase because of more students than expected in our Spring campus programs and because of a smaller graduating class than last year. Our day program enrollment is expected to increase to 394 this coming Fall from 377 last Fall.
2. The cost per credit hour for the Doctor of Ministry program is increased from \$214 to \$226, again, about 1.00% less than previously projected.
3. Enrollment for credit is expected to increase in the Fall of 1997 to 705 from 658 in the Fall of 1996. We expect the full-time equivalent enrollment to increase from 343 to 363. In addition we expect 139 students in the Fall to be auditing classes and taking Continuing Education courses across the country.

B. Endowment: Earnings used after management expenses will be 5.9%. This is up from 5.7% currently being used. We are doing this because we have not budgeted for new gifts which will come in during the course of the new budget year as a result of the Capital Campaign. Ultimately, therefore, we will use even less than 5.7% of earnings from funds which will actually be in hand. The budget is based on added Endowment gifts committed to be received in the remainder of the current budget year. The Capital Campaign will have a significant positive impact on the new budget. Endowment income in all areas (unrestricted, apartments, and student aid) to the operating budget will increase by \$113,700.

C. Gifts & Grants: The Gifts & Grants goal (PCA Partnership Share) will increase from \$1,567,300 to 1,590,000. This is a very modest increase of only 1.45%. This gifts & grants goal is an increasingly smaller percentage of the total operating budget compared to other typical seminaries. The increase is \$50,000 less than projected last year in our Long Range Plans. The reduced increase is possible because of the unexpected increase in Tuition and Fee revenue. The modest increase is necessary because we are adding staff to reduce workloads and spending more money in fund-raising costs to continue to broaden our giving base. We are concerned about even this modest increase; but, we will expect to raise less in Restricted Gifts next year (\$117,900 current year, \$55,600 new budget year). Overall, then, we are expecting to raise (\$50,200) less than in total Unrestricted and Restricted Gifts in the new budget year.

D. Student Aid: This source of income will increase only to \$151,000 from \$149,600. These funds come from Endowment earnings.

E. Other Income: We expect this source of income to increase to \$78,500 in the new year from \$75,100 in the current year.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- F. **Auxiliary Enterprises:** Rents for the apartments and other campus housing will be increasing about 3% or the expected rate of inflation.

II. Expenditures:

A. **General:**

1. The budget assumes overall salary increases of 4%. The increases will be a mixture of cost of living (3.0% in most cases) and merit where appropriate. We had originally worked on the basis of 5% increases but had to cut back from that goal by 1% to keep Gifts & Grants lower and in order to balance the budget.
2. Medical Insurance premiums will not change until February 1, 1998. We budgeted a 10% increase then. We were able to keep the increase on February 1, 1997 to 6%.
3. General expenses (where appropriate) were increased by 3.0% based on inflation projections by the Kiplinger Letter.

B. **Educational & General:**

1. **President & Trustees:** Nothing unusual to report here.
2. **Instruction - General Budget:** A lecturer is provided for beginning in the middle of the new budget year. Provision is made to move the lecturer to St. Louis. A new professor was not added to the budget because the search is requiring more time than originally expected. Extra provision is made in travel, special functions and membership dues to pay for the accreditation visit scheduled to occur during this new budget year.
3. **Instruction - Doctor of Ministry:** Some student labor time is added to concentrate more time on student retention efforts. Provision is made so that two pastor's seminars can be conducted.
4. **Instruction - Master of Theology:** Some money is added in mailing for student recruiting and counseling expenses.
5. **Instruction - Evening Program:** No changes
6. **Instruction - Extension Program:** With expected continuing growth in this program a student worker is added for admissions purposes and money is added for the payments to professors who are graders. Money is also added for honorarium for increased site visits by professors.
7. **Instruction - Francis Schaeffer Institute:** Inflationary increases. Provision is made to increase advertising for summer courses. Provision is made to cover an appropriate portion of computer system upgrade cost. Less restricted funds are expected to be raised to cover the cost of this program.
8. **Instruction - Church Planting:** Only inflationary increases.
9. **Registrar's Office:** Provision is made for expected staff turnover overlap and one personnel upgrade.
10. **Library:** Some added staff cost and more student worker hours to handle increased use of Library resources. More is spent on Book and Periodical purchases. Our expenditures in this department will need to continue to increase since our accrediting agencies watch our expenditures here very carefully.
11. **Student Services:** Only inflationary increases.
12. **Family Nurture:** Only inflationary increases.
13. **Student Aid:**
 - a. With a reallocation of labor and changes in personnel the salary and benefit portion of this budget reduces.
 - b. With new administrative personnel in this department more money is spent for professional development, especially for government programs.
 - c. Student Aid use is calculated as a percentage of tuition. In the budget the aid is calculated as 30.0% of tuition which reflects current use and is up from 29.0% in the current year.

APPENDICES

14. **Development:** For better cost center control and understanding, this budget has been broken into four categories (up from three in the current year): Development, Public Relations, Gift & Estate Planning, and Tape of the Month Club. Appropriate personnel time and departmental costs have been allocated to these categories. The Development line decreased because of the creation of a Public Relations category. Overall, all Development Departments increased in the new budget only by a total of 3.1% or at about the rate of inflation. This small increase will allow them to continue the work of broadening the giving base of the seminary. There are also elements of the separate campaign budget which are also designed to broaden the giving base.
15. **Public Relations:** The purpose of this special designation is to separate the cost of keeping the Seminary constituency generally informed from the cost and efforts specifically directed toward fundraising. This budget represents personnel cost, and printing and mailing cost to send out the "In Covenant" newsletter.
16. **Gift & Estate Planning:** Now that we have had some experience with this as a separate department an appropriate amount of support staff time has been allocated to this budget.
17. **Admissions:** Administration and staff cost has gone down in this budget with changes in personnel and the replacement of one staff position with student labor. All replacement student labor has been charged to Admissions, whereas the former staff position was partially charged to Student Aid. There is an increased provision for Advertising (only \$1,000). Provision is made for the professional development of the new Admissions Director. The allocation for computer systems upgrades increases. Increased cost of the computer software maintenance contract cost is budgeted.
18. **Electronic Media Production:** There is a shifting in personnel away from staff labor to more student labor. Other changes are primarily inflationary.
19. **Business Office:** Provision is made for a Director of Finance and Human Resources. This position begins in the current year, but is budgeted for a full year in the new budget. An appropriate portion of my time is allocated to the Capital Campaign. This new position is to work to develop new sources of revenue which beginning in fiscal year 1998-99, if realized, will more than pay for the position. Other changes are primarily inflationary.
20. **Physical Plant:** Allows for the addition of another half a person to create a full time Supervisor of Housekeeping so that the quality of Housekeeping can improve. This addition is mostly compensated for by reducing one student position. We are also adding a full time Maintenance Worker by reducing student and staff labor. We have reached a point in the campus development when we require more consistent help on a day to day basis in order to maintain the campus properly. There is also provision for the increased equipment cost as we deal with ergonomic needs to reduce the incidence of carpal tunnel syndrome. Utility cost is increased with the addition of the new Archaeology building and the completed classroom in the basement under the Edwards Lecture Halls. Other changes are inflationary.

C. **Auxiliary Enterprises:**

1. **Operations:** Utilities are more accurately budgeted for campus homes used by single students. Provision is made to do needed work to correct drainage problems behind the Jones Home. Other increases are inflationary.
2. **Student Apartments:** Inflationary increases for the most part. Some provision is made for merit increases for the Supervisor of Maintenance & Operations and the Supervisor of Grounds & Equipment as a small recognition for the significant savings they provide the Seminary each year by doing project work in-house with very professional results.
3. **Tape of the Month Club:** There will be a new thrust toward churches to get more PCA church members involved in this program which helps to educate our constituency about the value of the Seminary by allowing participants to hear our

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

professors and special speakers on tape each month. Also, since we are discontinuing the Timeless Insights program we will be enfolded some former Timeless insights patrons into this program. A student position is added to help this growing program.

4. **Timeless Insights:** As stated immediately above, we are discontinuing this program. It has serviced the Seminary for many years, but with the addition of publications more fitting to the theological position of the Seminary the time for this program is passed. Individual participants will be carefully contacted to determine how best to continue to serve them (either through Tape of the Month or through some other way for them to stay with Timeless Insights using other than Seminary services).

D. Transfers:

1. Educational & General:

- a. Some costs of the utility control system are being paid back to the Plant fund over a 2 to 3 year period. Some costs reflect expansion of our new system to computer control other campus areas. This is the second of three payments.
- b. Annually money is transferred to the Plant Fund so that we can replace the President's auto every four years. His used vehicle (a mini van) is then used by the Seminary transportation department for a few more years to provide for regular vehicle rotations.
- c. \$2,700 is provided to replace the retaining wall on a parking lot below and to the north of the two bedroom apartment building. The rotting railroad tie wall will be replaced with a more permanent masonry wall.

2. Auxiliary Enterprises:

- a. \$40,800 - is set aside as reserves for future apartment repairs.
- b. \$2,300 - is set aside for the replacement of gutters and the repair of gutter boards on the 32 Balcon Estate home. The roof is being replaced in the current budget year.
- c. \$3,000 - is the first of six payments (the remaining payments will be \$4,000) to pay back the purchase of a four wheel drive vehicle equipped for snow removal. This will allow us to do our own snow removal each year saving annual contract cost. Outside contractors have proven to be unreliable causing our Supervisor of Grounds & Equipment to stay all night in a recent storm removing snow with our tractor which is not designed for such a big job. We will sell our 1 ton flat bed truck. The new four wheel drive vehicle will be far more versatile for our overall campus grounds' needs. This vehicle should provide many more years of service than the six year pay back period.

- E. **Contingency:** There is no provision for a contingency.

APPENDICES

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY						
REVENUE BUDGETS STATEMENT						
FOR PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FY 1997-98						
DESCRIPTION	(AUDITED)			PROPOSED	96-97 TO 97-98	
	1995-96 ACTUAL	1995-96 BUDGET	1996-97 BUDGET	1997-98 BUDGET	CHANGE	
					\$	%
REVENUE						
EDUCATIONAL/ GENERAL						
Tuition						
1 General	1,485,579	1,467,800	1,618,600	1,837,100	218,500	13.50
2 Doctor of Ministry	88,324	125,900	92,800	102,200	9,400	10.13
3 Master of Theology	26,883	39,300	36,000	29,300	(6,700)	(18.61)
4 Evening Program	166,272	117,100	172,200	177,400	5,200	3.02
5 Extension Programs	71,234	79,000	89,000	114,800	25,800	28.99
6 Auditors	73,775	47,600	79,400	70,500	(8,900)	(11.21)
7 Fees	60,851	50,000	64,000	67,800	3,800	5.94
Tuition/Fee Sub.	1,972,919	1,926,700	2,152,000	2,399,100	247,100	11.48
8 Endow. Gen.	316,500	316,500	354,300	470,700	116,400	32.85
9 Gifts.- Grants - PARTNERSHIP SHIP	1,508,379	1,500,000	1,567,300	1,590,000	22,700	1.45
10 Restricted Gifts	191,675	58,000	117,900	55,600	(62,300)	(52.84)
11 Student Aid	161,119	152,900	149,600	151,000	1,400	0.94
12 Others	72,829	61,900	75,100	78,500	3,400	4.53
Total Edu./Gen.	4,223,421	4,016,000	4,416,200	4,744,900	328,700	7.44
AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES						
13 General	61,962	59,000	62,600	68,800	6,200	9.90
14 Student Apts.	315,453	311,300	324,500	334,600	10,100	3.11
15 Timeless Insights	4,481	4,200	4,500	0	(4,500)	(100.00)
Total Auxiliary	381,896	374,500	391,600	403,400	11,800	3.01
TOTAL REVENUES	4,605,316	4,390,500	4,807,800	5,148,300	340,500	7.08

* Actual PARTNERSHIP SHARE outcome:

- 94-95: Of the per capita PARTNERSHIP SHARE of \$7.62 only \$2.71 was received from churches.

- 95-96: Of the per capita PARTNERSHIP SHARE of \$7.31 only \$2.82 was received from churches.

Enrollment:

Head Count, Fall	790	723	792	844	6.57
Full Time Equiv.	345	341	343	363	5.83

Personnel:

FTE Faculty	18.30	18.00	18.00	18.50	2.78
FTE Administration	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	0.00
FTE Staff (incl. student workers)	40.25	39.25	43.38	44.88	3.46
TOTAL FTE	66.80	65.50	69.63	71.63	2.87
PERSONNEL					

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY						
EXPENSE BUDGET STATEMENT						
FOR PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FY 1997-98						
DESCRIPTION	1995-96	1995-96	1996-97	PROPOSED	96-97 TO 97-98	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	1997-98	CHANGE	
				BUDGET	\$	%
EXPENSES						
ED./GENERAL						
1 Pres./Trustee Exp.	90,961	73,290	92,825	94,590	1,765	1.90
2 President Salary	70,000	70,000	76,000	83,240	7,240	9.53
3 President Benefit	12,791	12,791	13,692	14,524	832	6.08
PRES./TRUSTEE	173,752	156,081	182,517	192,354	9,837	5.39
Instruction:	862,415	890,519	978,517	1,046,245	67,728	6.92
4 Instruction-D.Min	93,341	91,172	98,213	104,145	5,932	6.04
5 Instruction-Th.M.	8,900	9,750	9,600	9,720	120	1.25
6 Instruction-Even.	21,247	28,150	31,500	31,500	0	0.00
7 Instruction-Ext.	106,743	116,765	119,129	132,795	13,666	11.47
8 Instr.-Schaeffer	141,800	132,585	138,121	151,942	13,821	10.01
9 Instruc.-Ch. Pltg.	52,439	52,857	57,845	59,643	1,798	3.11
INSTRUCTION	1,286,885	1,321,798	1,432,925	1,535,990	103,065	7.19
10 Registrar's Off.	107,821	101,417	121,963	131,109	9,146	7.50
11 Library	203,252	175,922	201,547	215,627	14,080	6.99
12 Student Svcs	155,027	145,129	157,346	161,671	4,325	2.75
13 Family Nurture	19,296	20,522	28,129	28,561	432	1.54
14 Student Aid	668,741	608,954	700,805	784,928	84,123	12.00
15 Development	677,365	629,217	487,041	352,233	(134,808)	(27.68)
16 Public Relations	0	0	0	136,508	136,508	100.00
17 Gift & Estate Plan	0	0	155,472	169,340	13,868	8.92
18 Admissions	263,451	277,550	302,922	333,931	31,009	10.24
19 Elec. Media Prod.	65,791	63,525	78,917	79,884	967	1.23
20 Business Office	315,170	298,944	328,723	365,147	36,424	11.08
21 Physical Plant	360,580	324,328	344,705	368,554	23,849	6.92
TOTAL ED./GEN	4,297,131	4,123,387	4,523,012	4,855,837	332,825	7.36
AUX. ENTERPRISES:						
22 Operations	48,336	40,944	37,710	41,797	4,087	10.84
23 Student Apts.	132,537	137,144	140,765	146,146	5,381	3.82
24 Tape of the Month	11,530		28,193	47,020	18,827	66.78
22 Timeless Ins.	11,352	10,725	11,620	0	(11,620)	(100.00)
TOTAL AUXILIARY	203,755	188,813	218,288	234,963	16,675	7.64
TRANSFERS	104,055	71,300	66,500	57,500	(9,000)	(13.53)
CONTINGENCY	0	7,000	0	0	0	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,604,941	4,390,500	4,807,800	5,148,300	340,500	7.08
Net Rev./(Exp.)	374	0	0	0		
Cum. Fund Balance	12,409	12,409	12,409	12,409		

APPENDICES

INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Board of Trustees of the Insurance, Annuity and Relief Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America is to glorify God through serving His servants who minister in the Church by providing for the health and welfare, retirement and relief needs of the denomination's ministers, missionaries, lay church workers and their families.

- This budget reflects the costs incurred to administer the trust funds for Insurance, Retirement, and Relief. This budget does not reflect the financial activity in those trust funds. (Complete financial activity in the trust funds may be found in the IAR Annual Report, which includes audited financial statements.)
- The 1998 budget reflects an overall increase of 10.14% over the 1997 budget. 1996 actuals are unaudited.
- The increase in the Retirement portion of Support and Revenue is a more accurate representation of the allocation of expenses between supporting activities.
- The total number of staff budgeted for in 1998 is nine FTE. Currently, seven and one-half of these positions are filled.
- An overall net increase of 12.43% in salaries and benefits is assumed in 1998 due to the addition of one FTE. Budgeted positions include a 4% cost of living increase and 10% health insurance increase.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND RELIEF
PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET**

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
Support & Revenue						
1 Insurance	0	394,850	0	7,150	402,000	52.93
2 Retirement	0	277,850	0	7,150	285,000	37.53
3 Relief	54,750	0	17,000	700	72,450	9.54
Total Support & Rev	54,750	672,700	17,000	15,000	759,450	100.00
Operating Expenses:						
Salary / Benefits						
4 Director's Salary	1,542	75,558	0	0	77,100	10.15
5 Director's Benefit	350	16,500	0	0	16,850	2.22
6 Staff Salaries	35,709	258,091	0	0	293,800	38.69
7 Staff Benefits	8,444	62,256	0	0	70,700	9.31
G & A						
8 Computer Expens	200	6,800	0	0	7,000	0.92
9 Equipment Expen	200	4,800	0	0	5,000	0.66
10 Insurance	0	29,000	0	0	29,000	3.82
11 Marketing/Advert	0	22,800	0	0	22,800	3.00
12 Office	200	9,800	0	0	10,000	1.32
13 Postage	250	9,750	0	0	10,000	1.32
14 Printing	200	5,800	0	0	6,000	0.79
15 Professional Srves	1,000	75,200	0	0	76,200	10.03
16 Rent	4,955	29,045	0	0	34,000	4.48
17 Telephone	500	8,500	0	0	9,000	1.19
18 Training	200	1,800	0	0	2,000	0.26
19 Travel	1,000	31,000	0	0	32,000	4.21
Subtotal	54,750	646,700	0	0	701,450	92.36
20 Board Meetings	0	23,000	0	0	23,000	3.03
21 Min. Relief Offer.	0	0	17,000	0	17,000	2.24
22 G. A. Expense	0	3,000	0	0	3,000	0.40
Total Operating Expenses	54,750	672,700	17,000	0	744,450	98.02
23 Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	1.98
Capital Assets:						
24 Capital Expend.	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	1.98
25 Depreciation	0	24,000	0	0	24,000	
26 Less Depreciation	0	(24,000)	0	0	(24,000)	
Total Cap. Assets:	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	1.98
Total Operating & Capital	54,750	672,700	17,000	15,000	759,450	100.00

APPENDICES

**INSURANCE, ANNUITIES, AND RELIEF
BUDGET COMPARISONS STATEMENT
FOR PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET**

DESCRIPTION	1996	1996	1997	PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	1998	% OF	\$	%
				BUDGET	TOTALS		
Support & Revenue							
1 Insurance	372,000	372,000	380,000	402,000	52.93	22,000	5.79
2 Retirement	212,240	212,240	237,950	285,000	37.53	47,050	19.77
3 Relief	69,760	69,760	71,600	72,450	9.54	850	1.19
4 Other Income	11,020	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Support & Revenue	665,020	654,000	689,550	759,450	100.00	69,900	10.14
Operating Expenses:							
- Programs:							
5 Ministerial Relief	50,728	51,760	53,600	54,750	7.21	1,150	2.15
Total Programs	50,728	51,760	53,600	54,750	7.21	1,150	2.15
Supporting Activities:							
6 Administration	511,468	547,240	580,950	646,700	85.15	65,750	11.32
7 Board Meetings	19,701	23,000	23,000	23,000	3.03	0	0.00
8 Fund Raising	13,293	17,000	17,000	17,000	2.24	0	0.00
9 G. A. Expenses	2,755	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.40	0	0.00
# PCA Foundation	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total Supporting Activities:	547,217	590,240	623,950	689,700	90.82	65,750	10.54
Total Operating Expenses:	597,945	642,000	677,550	744,450	98.02	66,900	9.87
# Depreciation/ Disposals	14,287						
# Sur/(Def.) after Depreciation	52,788						
Capital Assets:							
# Capital Expend.	**	12,000	12,000	15,000	1.98	3,000	25.00
Total Operations & Capital:	612,232	654,000	689,550	759,450	100	69,900	10.14
Net Revenue over Expense including depreciation	52,788	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00

* Administrative Costs reflected in this budget are incurred to administer the trust funds for Insurance, Retirement and Relief. This budget does not reflect the financial activity in those trust funds.

** Capital Additions for 1996 were \$61,938. Most of this amount represents replacement of computer equipment due to theft.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

The MNA Mission:

In obedience to and in dependence upon our sovereign God, the purpose of MNA is to enable PCA churches and presbyteries to start and develop healthy, reproducing churches in North America by providing vision communication, resource development, strategic planning, training, support services, and special ministries, so that a movement of multiplying reformed churches is initiated and sustained.

- This budget reflects our continuing emphasis on regionalization -- assisting and working with presbyteries to develop church planting in local areas.
- There is an overall increase of 21.8% compared to the 1997 budget. We anticipate that expenditures will increase significantly in church planting.
- An overall net increase of 5% in salaries and benefits is assumed. That is an aggregate of cost of living, merit increases and health insurance costs.
- The total number of multicultural and campus (international) missionaries budgeted for is 10. Between 59 and 77 projects are budgeted to receive direct support in church planting, multicultural church planting and urban and mercy ministries.
- The total number of staff budgeted for in 1997 budget was 22. In 1998 it is 27. Twenty-two of these positions are currently filled.
- The cost being charged by the Administrative Committee for office space is expected to increase from \$15.75/square foot in 1997 to \$16.25/square foot in 1998.
- The complete 1998 budget for Reformed University Ministries (MNA Campus Ministries and the affiliated presbytery campus committees) is provided for information as an attachment of MNA's 1997 GA report.

APPENDICES

Mission to North America
Proposed 1998 Budget

SUPPORT AND REVENUE		Total Program	Total Admin & General	Total Fund Raising	TOTAL	% of Total
1	Contributions	4,405,118	367,355	261,105	5,033,578	98.3%
2	Investment		30,000		30,000	0.6%
3	Conference Revenues	55,500			55,500	1.1%
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES		4,460,618	397,355	261,105	5,119,078	1
EXPENSES						
4	Coordinator Salary & Housing	25,661	17,107	42,768	85,536	1.7%
5	Coordinator Benefits	4,264	2,843	7,107	14,214	0.3%
6	Salaries	1,222,922	73,473	81,609	1,378,004	26.9%
7	Benefits	253,079	18,764	11,733	283,576	5.5%
8	Projects/Direct Support	2,128,500	0	0	2,128,500	41.6%
9	Travel	123,166	30,000	20,000	173,166	3.4%
10	Telephone	40,933	11,000	5,000	56,933	1.1%
11	Postage	26,867	19,000	0	45,867	0.9%
12	Materials/Supplies	52,583	31,000	21,000	104,583	2.0%
13	Office Space	86,151	11,268	15,258	112,677	2.2%
14	Scholarship/Training	102,995	0	4,000	106,995	2.1%
15	Missionary Ministry Programming	81,061	0	0	81,061	1.6%
16	Missionary Communication	19,335	0	0	19,335	0.4%
17	Theological Education	25,000	0	0	25,000	0.5%
18	Ministry Development	23,800	0	0	23,800	0.5%
19	Ministry Publications	174,000	0	0	174,000	3.4%
20	Conferences/Meetings	68,500	0	0	68,500	1.3%
21	Insurance	0	8,000	0	8,000	0.2%
22	Taxes	0	1,800	0	1,800	0.0%
23	Equipment & Maintenance	0	25,000	5,000	30,000	0.6%
24	Consultants	0	62,000	4,000	66,000	1.3%
25	NAE Dues	1,800	2,200	0	4,000	0.1%
26	Audit	0	7,900	0	7,900	0.2%
27	General Assembly	0	8,000	0	8,000	0.2%
28	Committee Meeting	0	38,000	0	38,000	0.7%
29	Foundation	0	0	43,630	43,630	0.9%
30	Capital Expenditures	0	30,000	0	30,000	0.6%
31	Depreciation	0	24,000	0	24,000	0.5%
32	Depreciation	0	(24,000)	0	(24,000)	-0.5%
TOTAL EXPENSES		4,460,618	397,355	261,105	5,119,078	100%
33	Net of Revenue over Expenses	0	0	0	0	

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA
BUDGET COMPARISONS STATEMENT
FOR PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET

Support & Revenue	1996	1996	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	% of Total	Change in Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Growth	Budget	Growth	Budget	Growth			
									in \$	
									in %	
1 Individuals	1,370,489	980,000		964,964		1,533,578		30.0%	568,614	58.9%
2 Churches	2,553,089	2,983,937		2,904,000		3,200,000		62.5%	296,000	10.2%
3 Cooperation/Foundation	124,020	290,000		250,000		300,000		5.9%	50,000	20.0%
4 Investment	29,482	50,000		30,000		30,000		0.6%	0	0.0%
5 Conference Revenues		55,500		55,500		55,500		1.1%	0	0.0%
6 TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES	4,077,080	4,359,437	1,165,000	4,204,464	1,387,433	5,119,078	1,798,048	1	914,614	21.8%
Expenses										
	1996	1996	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	% of Total	Change in Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Growth	Budget	Growth	Budget	Growth		in \$	
									in %	
PROGRAM										
7 Church Planting	1,634,206	1,332,500	702,500	1,380,999	767,500	2,062,981	1,329,500	40.3%	681,982	49.4%
8 Multicultural Church Planting	662,352	957,600	142,500	901,602	247,500	923,993	247,500	18.0%	22,391	2.5%
9 Campus Ministries	644,052	903,450	230,000	727,774	147,433	859,383	131,048	16.8%	131,609	18.1%
10 Revitalization & Evangelism	92,667	181,300	0	190,381	0	192,083	0	3.8%	1,702	0.9%
11 Chaplain Ministries	99,957	106,000	0	106,000	20,000	125,583	0	2.5%	19,583	18.5%
12 Urban & Mercy Ministries	86,874	59,000	90,000	59,000	90,000	67,656	90,000	1.3%	8,656	14.7%
13 Five Million Fund	13,394	20,000	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0.4%	0	0.0%
14 Ministry to Constituency	166,367	162,158	0	180,460	0	208,939	0	4.1%	28,479	15.8%
15 TOTAL PROGRAM	3,399,869	3,722,008	1,165,000	3,566,216	1,272,433	4,460,618	1,798,048	87.1%	894,402	25.1%
SUPPORT SERVICES										
16 Administrative & General	265,269	372,344		365,403		321,355		6.3%	(44,048)	-12.1%
17 General Assembly	7,755	5,000		5,000		8,000		0.2%	3,000	60.0%
18 Committee Meetings	35,288	25,000		25,000		38,000		0.7%	13,000	52.0%
19 Fund Raising	212,878	170,085		169,216	115,000	217,475		4.2%	48,259	28.5%
20 PCA Foundation	43,630	45,000		43,630		43,630		0.9%	0	0.0%
21 TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	564,819	617,429		608,249		628,460		12.3%	20,211	3.3%
22 Capital Expenditures		20,000		30,000		30,000		0.6%	0	0.0%
23 Depreciation Expense	23,870	20,000		20,000		24,000		0.5%	4,000	20.0%
24 Depreciation Expense		(20,000)		(20,000)		(24,000)				
25 Endowment Expense		0		0		0		0.0%		
26 TOTAL EXPENSE	3,988,558	4,359,437	1,165,000	4,204,464	1,387,433	5,119,078	1,798,048	1	914,614	21.8%
27 Net Revenue Less Expense	88,522	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Additional Information:	1996	1996	1997	1998	Change in Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	
					in \$
					in %
Coordinator Salary	76,844	77,484	85,537	8,061	10%
Coordinator Benefits	14,500	14,516	17,524	(3,311)	-19%
	91,344	92,000	99,750	4,750	5%

APPENDICES

MISSION TO THE WORLD
1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

MTW DOCKET MEMO

TO: Finance Subcommittee
FROM: Roger R. Kooistra
DATE: August 12, 1997
SUBJECT: Mission to the World Proposed Budget for Year 1998**

On the following pages is the proposed Mission to the World Operational Cost Budget for the calendar year 1998. The proposed budget is consolidated to reflect Mission to the World, MTW *IMPACT*, CoMission, the Medical Insurance Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

The Presbyterian Church in America Administrative Committee has scheduled the review of budgets to take place March 14, 1997.

RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed Mission to the World Operational Cost Budget, including MTWIMPACT, CoMission, the Medical Insurance Fund, and the Endowment Fund be approved for the calendar year 1998 in the amount of \$24,775,000 and the MTW Capital Budget be approved for the calendar year 1998 in the amount of \$70,000 for presentation to the PCA Administrative Committee.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MTW DOCKET MEMO

TO: Finance Subcommittee
FROM: Roger R. Kooistra
DATE: August 12, 1997
SUBJECT: Analysis of the Mission to the World Proposed Budget for 1998

I. Methodology and Background:

The 1998 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 reviewed the results of 1996 and extended these indicators into 1997 and 1998.

The year 1996 saw a strong US dollar grow even stronger. For mission work this can sometimes be helpful. Our overseas program expenses in US dollars ended the year at approximately ninety percent of budget without any major change to program content. We also saw a consistent and growing US economy with a very strong growth in the value of the stock market. The economic environment was positive and reflected in consistent growth in contributions from churches and individuals to our missionaries and programs. We also received our first gifts and trusts coming into the endowment fund. The final income for the year was just over one hundred percent of budget.

The career missionary staff in 1996 totaled 512 and was slightly above budget. This helped contribute to the increased income for both program and the general fund. During 1996, the home office saw periods of time when certain staff positions were vacant which kept costs below budget.

The solid US economy, a strong dollar, a growing base of home churches, and an expanding force of missionaries all contributed to a very positive year for Mission to the World.

II. Future Directions for 1998:

There are several major goals coming from the New Horizon Project that will be part of the 1998 program. The church-planting center should be in full operation for the later part of the year. The goal of the center is to actively support our missionaries by advising and training them in proven methods and the best practices in church planting.

APPENDICES

The program for National Worker's Training, which has received initial funding in 1996-97 will be fully operating in 1998. The expanded involvement of national workers in church planting is a major part of the future vision developed by the New Horizon Project.

The goal to open a new field in 1998 has been established. The planning and selection of potential fields will occur in 1997 and the selection and recruitment of missionaries in 1998.

Major improvements and expanded staffing are planned for our people-centered efforts in the home office. Plans to strengthen recruiting and ongoing support of the missionary staff are necessary in a world that is undergoing so much rapid change.

Plans for information technology in 1998 focus mainly on better utilization of global communications (the Internet), the newly-installed donor services system and the human resource information system planned for 1997.

Major fund-raising efforts will continue to focus on raising endowment funds. The endowment income will go to reduce the administrative assessment and to fund major new programs like the church-planting center. Our partner relations teams has also set goals to continue to strengthen relationships with churches who are the major revenue source for MTW.

III. Projection Base for 1998:

The following series of charts show the projections that we have made regarding the number of missionaries, home office staff, annual income and annual expenses. In making these projections, the following assumptions have been used:

We anticipate that renewed efforts to recruit missionaries in 1997 will begin to show results by end of 1998. We will have limited home office staff increases in 1998 for the new church-planting center. (See charts I - V.)

We have anticipated that the US dollar will continue to be strong, but will not make similar gains as in 1996. We expect other global economic factors to be unstable in many areas with higher inflation than here in the US. Chart VI shows the 1995 and 1996 inflation rate and conversion rate to the US dollar of some representative countries.

Chart VII shows actual income and expenses for the years 1984 to 1996. Income projections have assumed a continuing strong support for missionaries from churches and individuals in a reasonably stable US economy and in a gradually growing PCA denomination. We have projected the support requirements of missionaries adjusted for inflation as a basis future income. Chart VIII shows the continuing drop in missionary deficit support accounts indicating the strong support of MTW's ministry partners. The

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

combined effect of inflation, growth and currency value, using historic trends, indicates an increase of 4 to 5 percent for 1997 and 8 to 9 percent for 1998.

Chart IX shows the growth in partnership share giving for the home office for the last three years. We have assumed that good church relations and increased services to churches will allow this increase to continue.

Project and field income is calculated as a part of the support requirements of missionaries and follows the same trends as mentioned above.

Investment income projections assume that interest rates will remain stable near their current levels. Some temporarily restricted funds have been reclassified to a permanently restricted endowment resulting in less interest income available for allocation.

The proposed budget for IMPACT was prepared based primarily from actual figures for 1996 with a 3 percent per year inflation factor. Program participation levels were adjusted accordingly. The following major factors form the basis for projecting the income and expenses for IMPACT:

- A. Office Staff--Reflects a 3 percent salary increase plus several administrative adjustments to align IMPACT's salaries to standard MTW's salaries.
- B. MTW Services—The increase over 1995 figures reflect the continue decision for IMPACT to cover its share of services provided by MTW. This is responsible for much of IMPACT's current deficit.
- C. CoMission—We have been without a Recruitment Director since May 1996, and since CoMission I was coming to an end, very little recruitment has taken place. Thus our numbers are substantially down. Because our missionaries have asked and CoMission II has started, we decided to participate in the program for another four years. We have a new CoMission Director starting this April with primary responsibility for recruitment for this program. We anticipate being budget neutral by 1998. Our current reserves will maintain the program until that time.

The medical insurance fund (MIF) had a low expense year in 1996. While medical expense increases have come in the past year, we expect that costs will increase faster than inflation. The operating capital reserve is healthy and will keep investment income up in 1998.

With controlled costs in the home office, a slight increase in missionaries and increases in partnership share giving, we project that the administrative assessment average will drop slightly to twelve and one half percent of total missionary income.

APPENDICES

Major programs that will influence expenses in 1998 are the national-worker's training, the church-planting center, the expansion of personnel services with emphasis on recruiting and training, and a reactivation of the CoMission program.

The final four tables show the consolidated income and expenses for 1998. The first table shows a historical perspective showing 1996 and 1997 information. The second shows a functional breakdown between program, administration and fund raising. The third table shows changes in budget from 1997 to 1998, while the fourth shows the 1998 proposed capital expense budget.

In addition to our income and expense budget, we present our capital expense budget in the amount of \$70,000. It assumes no major facility improvement expenses. We anticipate that the Coordinator's vehicle will need to be replaced causing the increase from the 1997 budget. The remaining budget for 1998 is planned to purchase items related to information technology and improved telecommunication.

/jm

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MISSION TO THE WORLD
(including MTW, IMPACT, CoMission & Insurance Fund)
PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAMS	MGMNT/ GENERAL	FUND RAISING	DESIG. PROGRAM	TOTALS	% OF TOTALS
Support & Revenue						
1 Contributions	20,344,068	1,502,785	0	65,000	21,911,853	88.44%
2 Project & Field Income	1,390,260	208,635	0	360,000	1,958,895	07.91%
3 Legacies & Bequests	0	0	0	0	0	00.00%
4 Investment Income	0	220,270	0	140,550	360,820	01.46%
5 Endowment Income	0	0	0	550,000	550,000	02.22%
6 Other Income	1,330	9,210	0	3,810	14,350	00.06%
Total Income	21,735,658	1,940,900	0	1,119,360	24,795,918	
Transfers						
7 Admin Assess MS Proj	(2,538,620)	1,697,040	841,135	0	(445)	00.00%
8 Inter-Depart Transfer	(460,820)	460,730	0	0	(90)	00.00%
9 Transf Med Ins.	(1,231,531)	(189,511)	(42,425)	1,443,467	(20,000)	(0.08%)
Total Transfers	(4,230,971)	1,968,259	798,710	1,443,467	(20,535)	
Total Support & Rev.	17,504,687	3,909,159	798,710	2,562,827	24,775,383	100.00
Operating Expenses:						
10 Staff Salary & Bonus	98,179	1,988,625	492,130	0	2,578,934	10.93%
11 Office mat. & expens.	79,480	176,809	26,417	2,000	284,706	01.21%
12 Postage & shipping	51,824	94,902	22,180	200	169,106	00.72%
13 Project & field expenses	3,038,840	0	0	0	3,038,840	12.88%
14 Personnel, recruit/assess	1,008	164,868	6,366	0	172,242	00.73%
15 Occupancy	0	228,961	368	0	229,329	00.97%
16 Telecomm. services	3,954	71,623	9,336	0	84,913	00.36%
17 Partner Relations/prom.	5,510	172,654	77,066	0	255,230	01.08%
18 Professional expenses	1,360	110,717	53,253	0	165,330	00.70%
19 Insurance	10,000	56,656	0	0	66,656	00.28%
20 Travel	301,090	133,323	109,019	0	543,432	02.30%
21 Committes/conferences	28,598	186,507	2,576	0	217,681	00.92%
22 Miscellaneous/other	(29,790)	132,635	0	0	102,845	00.44%
23 Missionary sal & bene	12,350,860	0	0	0	12,350,860	52.36%
24 Missionary travel/prep.	1,183,810	0	0	0	1,183,810	05.02%
25 Missionary assoc. costs	701,220	0	0	0	701,220	02.97%
26 MIF expenses	0	0	0	1,443,510	1,443,510	06.12%
Total Operating Exp.	17,825,943	3,518,280	798,711	1,445,710	23,588,644	
Operating Sur./(Def.)	(321,256)	390,879	(1)	1,117,117	1,186,739	
Depreciation Expense	0	93,150	0	0	93,150	
Sur/(Def) after Deprec.	(321,256)	297,729	(1)	1,117,117	1,093,589	
Capital Assets:						
27 Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	70,000	70,000	
28 Adjust. to Capital	0	0	0	0	0	
Sur/(Def) after Capital	(321,256)	297,729	(1)	1,047,117	1,023,589	0.00
Total Cap. Expenditures	0	70,000	0	0	70,000	0.20
Total Oper. & Capital	17,825,943	3,611,430	798,711	0	22,236,084	0.20
Total Net Budget	(321,256)	297,729	(1)	2,562,827	2,539,299	

APPENDICES

MISSION TO THE WORLD							
(including MTW, IMPACT, CoMission & Medical Insurance Fund)							
BUDGETS COMPARISONS STATEMENT							
FOR PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET							
DESCRIPTION	1996	1996	1997	PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	1998	% OF	\$	%
				BUDGET	TOTALS		
SUPPORT & REV.							
1 Contrib & Support	21,002,470	20,794,140	21,498,982	21,911,853	88.44	412,871	1.92
2 Project/Field Contri.	1,907,378	1,784,450	1,844,939	1,958,895	7.91	113,956	6.18
3 Legacies & Bequests	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
4 Investment Income	235,180	227,500	235,214	360,820	1.46	125,606	53.40
5 Endowment Income	568,025	0	0	550,000	2.22	550,000	0.00
6 Other Income	13,553	18,860	19,500	14,350	0.06	(5,150)	(26.41)
7 Transfers	65,958	106,820	(56,010)	(20,535)	(0.08)	35,475	(63.34)
Total Support/Revenue	23,792,564	22,931,770	23,542,625	24,775,383	100.01	1,232,758	5.24
EXPENSES							
8 Staff salary/benefits	2,200,192	2,318,930	2,381,849	2,578,934	10.89	197,085	8.27
9 Office expenses	278,883	350,670	360,187	284,706	1.20	(75,481)	(20.96)
10 Postage & shipping	160,341	174,920	179,664	169,106	0.71	(10,558)	(5.88)
11 Project/field exp.	2,834,422	3,435,310	3,528,510	3,038,840	12.83	(489,670)	(13.88)
12 Personnel, recruiting	143,855	155,180	159,389	172,242	0.73	12,853	8.06
13 Occupancy	214,328	230,140	236,381	229,328	0.97	(7,053)	(2.98)
14 Telecomm. services	52,958	68,300	70,149	84,913	0.36	14,764	21.05
15 Partner relations/pro	126,542	139,760	143,553	255,230	1.08	111,677	77.80
16 Professional expense	159,955	175,090	179,837	165,330	0.70	(14,507)	(8.07)
17 Insurance	57,264	51,070	52,459	66,656	0.28	14,197	27.06
18 Travel	454,271	564,170	579,472	543,432	2.29	(36,040)	(6.22)
19 Comm./conferences	144,207	172,900	177,595	217,681	0.92	40,086	22.57
20 Miscellaneous	(53,369)	(22,020)	(22,620)	102,845	2.29	125,465	(554.66)
21 Missionary sal/bene.	10,728,025	11,442,640	11,753,096	12,350,860	52.15	597,764	5.09
22 Miss. travel/prep.	1,076,965	1,158,570	1,190,003	1,183,810	5.00	(6,193)	(0.52)
23 Miss. assoc. costs	654,754	621,670	638,532	701,220	2.96	62,688	9.82
24 MIF expenses	1,126,563	1,388,320	1,425,987	1,443,510	6.10	17,523	1.23
Operating Expenses	20,360,156	22,425,620	23,034,043	23,588,643	99.61	554,600	2.41
Operations Sur/Deficit	3,432,408	506,150	508,582	1,186,740			
Depreciation	106,800	170,000	132,300	93,150	0.39	(39,150)	(29.59)
Total Operating Exp.	20,466,956	22,595,620	23,166,343	23,681,793	100.00	515,450	2.23
Sur/(Def) after Deprec.	3,325,608	336,150	376,282	1,093,590			
CAPITAL ASSETS:							
25 Capital Expend.	60,000	50,000	50,000	70,000		20,000	40.00
26 Adjustment to Cap.	0	0	0	0	0.	0	
TOTAL CAPITAL							
EXPENDITURES	60,000	50,000	50,000	70,000		20,000	
TOTAL NET BUDGET	20,313,356	22,305,620	22,951,743	23,565,493		613,750	

Additional Information:

Coor. Salary	87,645	86,000	87,720	91,825		4,105	4.68
Coor. Benefits	11,502	20,670	13,545	15,122		1,577	11.65
Total:	99,147	106,670	101,265	106,947		5,682	5.61

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PCA FOUNDATION, INC.

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

GENERAL COMMENTS:

In preparing the PCA Foundation Proposed 1998 Budget, we tried to keep increases to a minimum where possible. We have decreased our overall budget from the 1997 Budget by approximately 5.78%. Assets under management are up 8%.

ASSUMPTIONS:

In preparing our 1998 Proposed Budget we compared the actual expenditures in each category for 1996 with the Foundation's Marketing Plan. We made an effort to increase the budget only where absolutely necessary. The following economic assumptions were taken into consideration when preparing our 1998 proposed budget. The Foundation employs 2 full time employees and 2 part time employees

3.0%	PCA Growth Rate
3.5%	Inflation/Consumer Price Index
5.0%	Postal Rate
7.0%	Travel Costs
10.0%	Health Insurance
5.0%	Other Insurance

NOTES TO NATURAL EXPENSE STATEMENT

Support & Revenue

1. UNDESIGNATED EARNINGS -- These are earnings on funds held by the PCA Foundation mainly from Advise & Consult Funds which are used to reduce our budget needs so as to reduce the actual cost to the committees and agencies.
2. C&A SUPPORT -- 5 committees and agencies (Christian Education & Publications, Covenant College, Covenant Theological Seminary, Mission to North America and Mission to the World) pay support to the Foundation in the amount of \$218,150 or \$43,630 each.
3. FEES -- Administrative fees charged on funds held for long term administration such as Charitable Remainder Trusts, Endowments, Annuities, etc. This is an approximate 3% increase over 1996 actual and a 26% increase over 1997 budget. We feel that this is warranted due to the fact that we should be increasing the number of donors.
4. PRODUCTION REVENUES NL -- This figure is only slightly over the 1996 actual due to changes in our church stewardship program.
5. PRODUCTION REVENUES RI/BI -- This figure is only slightly over the 1996 actual due to changes in our Stewardship Program.
6. CONTRIBUTIONS -- Gifts made to help underwrite the Foundation Operating Budget. Will need less due to an increase in income from fees and Advise & Consult.
7. INTEREST INCOME -- Interest on checking account.
8. MISC. -- This is at zero due to fact there are changes being contemplated which could generate some income.

APPENDICES

9. PRESIDENT'S SALARY -- Is a 3.5% increase over 1997 budget.
10. PRESIDENT'S BENEFITS -- Computed according to salary increase with a 10% increase assumed for health insurance. There is a decrease in this expense due to the fact that the health insurance expense decreased by approximately \$243 per month beginning in August of 1996 when we went to a choice of HMO or POS coverage. 1997 Budget was calculated with the assumption that the insurance would increase over the 1995 cost which was around \$600 a month.
11. STAFF WAGES & BENEFITS -- Increased approximately 3.5% for management and 5% on others. The insurance would figure into the one full time employee who is provided single coverage.
12. TRAVEL EXPENSE -- Overall expense is a considerable increase over the 1996 actual due to the fact that the job description for the president calls for the major portion of his time to be spent in travel. Actually this may be a little low.
13. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES -- Decrease from 1996 actual since we will not be using the services of consultants as often for travel and follow-up.
14. PROMOTION -- Increase is approximately 3.4% over 1996 actual and 10% over 1997 budget. This is due largely to increase in expenses relating to mailing of newsletter and inclusion of expense for internet web site.
15. OFFICE EXPENSE -- Increase of 10% over 1996 actual but decrease from 1997 budget of 7%.
16. POSTAGE/UPS/FED EX -- 5% over 1996 actual.
17. TAXES & LICENSES -- Increase over 1997 projected of 10%.
18. RENT -- \$16.25 per square foot for 1,416 feet (includes common area).
19. TELEPHONE -- Will leave the same as 1997 budget due to expected increased use by President.
20. DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS -- Increase 1997 projected by 5%.
21. TRAINING -- Decrease from 1997 budget since new President should have training in 1997. Increase over 1996 actual for continued training of new President.
22. BOARD EXPENSE -- Decrease from 1996 actual. There were extra committee meetings in 1996 not projected for 1998. Budgeted for an increase of 7% over actual regular board meeting expenses for 1996.
23. SEARCH COMMITTEE -- This committee was set up to search for a new President. He should be in place by GA. So, there would not be a need for this committee.
24. SABBATICAL EXPENSE -- This was a one time expense for Jack Hudson.
25. OFFICE INSURANCE -- Increase of 5% over 1997 premiums.
26. GA EXPENSE -- Did not increase of 7% over the 1997 budget. Meeting will be in St. Louis.
27. GA NOMINATING COMMITTEE -- 7% increase over 1996 actual.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28. MISCELLANEOUS -- Just a guess.
29. SPECIAL RESERVE-RH -- Did not budget for this. Hopefully will not have again.
30. DEPRECIATION --
31. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES -- Based on our best guess of needed equipment.
32. LESS DEPRECIATION --

APPENDICES

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.
PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET**

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROGRAM	GENERAL & ADMIN.	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTAL
Support & Revenue						
1 Undesignated earnings	0	115,000	0	0	115,000	25.07
2 C&A Support	0	109,075	109,075	0	218,150	47.57
3 Fees	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	10.90
4 Product Revenues NL	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	1.09
5 Product Revenues RI/BI	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0.65
6 Contributions	0	0	65,485	0	65,485	14.28
7 Interest Income	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	0.44
8 Misc.	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Total Support & Revenue	0	276,075	182,560	0	458,635	100.00
Operations Expenses:						
9 President's Salary (Inc. \$4,701 payroll taxes)	0	16,538	49,614	0	66,152	14.42
10 President's Benefits	0	3,448	10,345	0	13,793	3.01
11 Staff Wages & Benefits	0	63,805	10,321	0	74,126	16.16
12 Travel Expense	0	2,253	30,747	0	33,000	7.20
13 Professional Services	0	83,420	32,000	0	115,420	25.17
14 Promotion	0	0	65,394	0	65,394	14.26
15 Office Expense	0	13,340	0	0	13,340	2.91
16 Postage/UPS/Fed Ex	0	1,500	4,500	0	6,000	1.31
17 Taxes & Licenses	0	1,100	0	0	1,100	0.24
18 Rent	0	23,010	0	0	23,010	5.02
19 Telephone	0	1,375	4,125	0	5,500	1.20
20 Dues & Subscriptions	0	1,900	0	0	1,900	0.41
21 Training	0	1,150	2,400	0	3,550	0.77
22 Board Expense	0	12,800	0	0	12,800	2.79
23 Search Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
24 Sabbatical Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
25 Office Insurance	0	13,000	0	0	13,000	2.83
26 GA Expense	0	3,750	0	0	3,750	0.82
27 GA Nominating	0	1,800	0	0	1,800	0.39
28 Miscellaneous	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0.22
29 Special Reserve - RH	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
30 Depreciation	0	6,000	2,000	0	8,000	1.74
Total Operations Expenses	0	251,189	211,446	0	462,635	100.87
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	0	24,886	(28,886)	0	(4,000)	(0.87)
Capital Assets:	0					
31 Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	4,000	4,000	0.87
32 Less Depreciation	0	0	0	(8,000)	(8,000)	(1.74)
Total Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	(4,000)	(4,000)	(0.87)
Total Operations & Capital	0	251,189	211,446	(4,000)	458,635	100.00
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	0	24,886	(28,886)	4,000	0	0

PCAF THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF INCOME, EXPENSE, SURPLUS(DEFICIT)

	1994	1995	1996	Avg 1994-96
BUDGET	420,000	428,742	447,620	432,121
INCOME	379,384	427,688	414,181	407,084
EXPENSE	400,228	411,251	439,136	416,871
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(20,844)	16,437	(24,955)	(9,787)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.							
1998 BUDGET COMPARISONS STATEMENT							
DESCRIPTION	1996 ACTUAL	1996 BUDGET	1997 BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998 CHANGE	
				1998 BUDGET	% OF TOTALS	\$	%
Support & Revenue							
1 Undes. Earning	87,141	100,000	100,000	115,000	25.07	15,000	15.00
2 C&A Support	218,150	218,150	218,150	218,150	47.57	0	0.00
3 Fees	48,489	37,907	39,802	50,000	10.90	10,198	25.62
4 Product Rev. NL	4,554	0	7,715	5,000	1.09	(2,715)	(35.19)
5 Product Revenues RI/BI	2,771	0	4,133	3,000	0.65	(1,133)	(27.41)
6 Contributions	50,987	92,063	116,990	65,485	14.28	(51,505)	(44.03)
7 Interest Income	2,089	0	0	2,000	0.44	2,000	---
8 Misc.	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total Supp. / Rev.	414,181	448,120	486,790	458,635	100.00	(28,155)	(5.78)
Operations Expenses Programs							
9 None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Support Services:							
10 General & Admi	253,262	209,949	230,824	251,189	54.77	20,365	8.82
11 Fund Raising	185,874	237,671	255,466	211,446	46.10	(44,020)	(17.23)
Total Supp. Svcs	439,136	447,620	486,290	462,635	100.87	(23,655)	(4.86)
TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSES:	439,136	447,620	486,290	462,635	100.87	(23,655)	(4.86)
Operation Surplus/(Deficit)	(24,955)	500	500	(4,000)	(0.87)	(4,500)	--
CAPITAL ASSETS:							
12 Capital Expend	4,545	3,500	3,500	4,000	0.87	500	14.29
13 (Less Depre.)	(8,008)	(3,000)	(3,000)	(8,000)	(1.74)	(5,000)	1.67
Total Capital Exp	(3,463)	500	500	(4,000)	(0.87)	(4,500)	
Total Operations & Capital:	435,673	448,120	486,790	458,635	100.00	(28,155)	(5.78)
Net Sur/(Def)	(21,492)	0	0	0	0.00	0	0

APPENDICES

RIDGE HAVEN CONFERENCE CENTER

1998 PROPOSED BUDGET

- Line 5 Residence Leases -- This category includes income from lot leases, lot lease interest, lot lease maintenance fees (the administrative amount we charge for keeping all lot information on file and current), water hookups, water usage fees, and road maintenance fees.
- Line 5 1998 Budget figure -- The reason for the low budget figure as compared to the actuals is that we have no expectation of selling/leasing more lots and/or receiving water hookup fees which are the two main items that give rise to the larger figures. The figure presented represents the actual projected amount to be charged for water usage and road maintenance fees for 1998.
- Line 6 Other Contributions -- This category includes contributions from WIC groups, other groups, and individuals toward the daily operations of Ridge Haven.
- Line 7 Non-medical Reimbursements -- This category includes amounts paid to Ridge Haven by individuals or groups for the use of Ridge Haven postage, office copier, vehicle parts, and fuel.
- Line 17 1998 Budget -- The large amount reflected here, just as last year allows for the hiring of additional needed staff including a Director of Development or Fund Raiser. (As long as Ridge Haven continues to receive such a low percentage of its Partnership Share, we will be unable to add what is needed.) The amount also reflects a cost-of-living adjustment of 3% above the 1997 budgeted figure and one third of the amount necessary to begin to bring our employees to the average remuneration for employees in comparable positions in other area camps and conference ministries.
- Line 20 1998 Budget -- Since we have begun using our new computer system and new bookkeeping system, we have made several discoveries about the actual cost for providing speakers, leaders, and musicians for our camps and conferences. As our "Actual" figures for 1996 indicate we were considerably off in our estimations of what this was costing us. In addition we have continued to move toward increasing the amount of honorariums that will bring us more in line with current practices by all of the other agencies and institutions of the PCA.
- Line 21 1988 Budget -- The drop in the amount for this category is due to the changeover of our House Keeping staff from contract labor to Ridge Haven employment which was suggested to us by our auditor. We do anticipate however the need for contract labor to do some projects that may not fit into other categories.
- Line 24 Other Fees -- This category includes North Carolina Fees (usually a small amount); Miscellaneous fees (also usually a small amount); On-site fees (what it costs us to have/pay climbing guides, etc.); Off-sites fees (a very large amount for rafting, etc.); Solid Waste fees; and Pool Fees (the amounts we pay for county inspection at the beginning of each season).
- Line 24 1996 Actual -- The amount of the 1996 actual is due to the inclusion of off-site rafting and other fees into this category which prior to 1996 had been included elsewhere.
- Line 26 1996 Actual -- The amount of this figure reflects the change in our recategorizing of information with the new bookkeeping and computer system.

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- Line 26 1998 Budget -- The figure reflects our need to remain competitive in our pursuit and search for quality counselors, the cost of planning and putting in place new co-sponsored conferences, continually updating our printed literature, improving existing promotions, and creating new ones including the use of the internet with the PCA.
- Line 32 1996 Actual -- Just as with the actual cost for Camps & Conference speakers, leaders, and musicians, our computer and bookkeeping systems have given us the ability specifically to track individual costs. The actual cost for facilities maintenance is much higher than we had thought.
- Line 35 1998 Budget -- We continue to need additional equipment and furnishings for several of our buildings. These items are purchased as the monies come available.
- Line 36 1998 Budget -- We have several erosion and landscaping projects we are seeking to implement. The amount indicated will allow us to do these as the money comes in.
- Line 46 Facility Renovations -- In last year's report this was called Facilities Maintenance which may have confused readers with other maintenance categories. With the identification change to "renovations", which is what this category refers to, the confusion should be removed. Ridge Haven has several buildings that need major renovations. The budgeted figures are based on the actual need and projected cost to accomplish such renovations.
- Line 47 Water Systems -- This is a new category. It has been inserted since there was such a large amount expended in 1996 in this specific category. Our anticipation is that it will continue to be an increasing expense. It was previously included under facilities. As we have continued to add new residents to our water systems, we have also reached a new level which will require us to do major modifications to bring us in line with code standards for larger systems.

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RIDGE HAVEN CONFERENCE CENTER 1998 PROPOSED BUDGET						
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROG'M	GEN. & ADMIN.	FUND RAISING	CAPITAL ASSETS	TOTALS	% OF TOTAL
SUPPORT/REVENUE						
1. C&C Registrations	92,100	0	0	0	92,100	8.83
2. C&C Facilities	43,100	0	0	0	43,100	4.13
3. Non-C&C Facilities	0	105,600	0	0	105,600	10.13
4. Partnership Share	179,433	358,867	0	0	538,300	51.63
5. Resident Leases*	0	7,000	0	0	7,000	0.67
6. Other Contributions*	0	67,300	0	0	67,300	6.46
7. Non-medical Reimbr*	0	2,400	0	0	2,400	0.23
8. Vending	3,350	3,350	0	0	6,700	0.64
9. Cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
10. Meals	88,816	56,784	0	0	145,600	13.97
11. Bookstore	19,533	9,767	0	0	29,300	2.81
12. Medical Reimburse	1,700	0	0	0	1,700	0.16
13. NC Tax Refunds	0	2,500	0	0	2,500	0.24
14. Interest	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0.10
SUPPT/REV TOTAL	428,032	614,568	0	0	1,042,600	100.00
OPERATING EXPEN						
15. Admin Salary/Bene	32,400	47,600	0	0	80,000	7.67
16. Admin Promo/Edu	1,625	1,625	3,250	0	6,500	0.62
17. Other Salary/Benefits	48,265	161,735	0	0	210,000	20.14
18. Temp Employees	0	20,000	0	0	20,000	1.92
19. Coun & Suppt staff	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	4.80
20. C/C Spkrs, Dirs, Mus	37,000	0	0	0	37,000	3.55
21. Contract Personnel	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0.96
22. Workers Comp	1,840	6,160	0	0	8,000	0.77
23. Payroll Taxes	3,450	11,550	0	0	15,000	1.44
24. Other Fees*	15,300	2,700	0	0	18,000	1.73
25. Telephone	3,500	6,500	0	0	10,000	0.96
26. Plngg/Promo/Recrtn	45,000	0	0	0	45,000	4.32
27. C/C Supplies	6,000	0	0	0	6,000	0.58
28. Board Meeting	4,250	4,250	0	0	8,500	0.82
29. Office Expense	5,667	10,333	0	0	16,000	1.53
30. Audit	1,867	3,733	0	0	5,600	0.54
31. Cafe Service/Repair	3,333	1,667	0	0	5,000	0.48
32. Facilities	10,666	21,334	0	0	32,000	3.07
33. GA Nominations	0	2,500	0	0	2,500	0.24
34. Legal Fees	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	0.19
35. Equip/Furnishings	0	25,000	0	0	25,000	2.40
36. Grounds	0	12,000	0	0	12,000	1.15
37. Utilities	17,333	34,667	0	0	52,000	4.99
38. Property Taxes	0	12,500	0	0	12,500	1.20
39. Maint & Tools	0	3,000	0	0	3,000	0.29
40. Vending	2,333	4,667	0	0	7,000	0.67
41. Vehicles	6,666	13,334	0	0	20,000	1.92
42. Meals	70,931	55,069	0	0	126,000	12.09
43. Med Providers	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	0.67
44. Bookstore	22,667	11,333	0	0	34,000	3.25
45. Miscellaneous	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	0.19
46. Facilit Renovations*	0	100,000	0	0	100,000	9.58
47. Water Systems*	0	55,000	0	0	55,000	5.27
OPER. EXP. TOTALS	397,093	642,257	3,250	0	1,042,600	100.00

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RIDGE HAVEN CONFERENCE CENTER 1998 BUDGET COMPARISON STATEMENT							
DESCRIPTION	1996 ACTUAL	1996 BUDGET	1997 BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		1997 TO 1998	
				1998 BUDGET	% OF TOTALS	Change in Budget IN \$	IN %
SUPPORT/REVENUE							
1. C&C Registrations	92,109		82,000	92,100	8.83	10,100	12.32
2. C&C Facilities	43,115	122,000	51,000	43,100	4.13	(7,900)	(15.49)
3. Non-C&C Facilities	105,647		82,500	105,600	10.13	23,100	28.00
4. Partnership Share	142,853	511,900	492,350	538,300	51.63	45,950	9.33
5. Resident Leases*	23,588		4,000	7,000*	0.67	3,000	75.00
6. Other Contributions*	67,325		40,000	67,300	6.46	27,300	68.25
7. Non-medical Reimbr*	2,418		400	2,400	0.23	2,000	500.00
8. Vending	6,741		6,200	6,700	0.64	500	8.06
9. Cemetery	0		0	0	0.00	0	0.00
10. Meals	145,643		120,000	145,600	13.97	25,600	21.33
11. Bookstore	29,323		30,000	29,300	2.81	(700)	(2.33)
12. Medical Reimburse	1,736		500	1,700	0.16	1,200	240.00
13. NC Tax Refunds	2,471		1,300	2,500	0.25	1,200	92.30
14. Interest	2,641		850	1,000	0.09	150	17.64
SUPPT/REV TOTAL	665,610	633,900	911,100	1,042,600	100.00	131,500	14.43
OPERATING EXPEN							
15. Admin. Salary/Bene	56,227	76,000	76,000	80,000	7.67	4,000	5.26
16. Admin. Promo/Edu	5,171	0	2,000	6,500	0.62	4,500	225.00
17. Other Salary/Benefits	123,708	165,000	210,000	210,000*	20.14	0	0.00
18. Temp. Employees	29,600	65,500	30,000	20,000	1.92	(10,000)	(33.33)
19. Coun & Suppt staff	35,791	0	45,000	50,000	4.80	5,000	11.11
20. C/C Spkrs, Dirs, Mus	29,931	0	9,000	37,000*	3.55	28,000	311.11
21. Contract Personnel	0	0	20,000	10,000*	0.96	(10,000)	(50.00)
22. Workers Comp	4,630	0	8,000	8,000	0.77	0	0.00
23. Payroll Taxes	11,743	15,000	15,000	15,000	1.44	0	0.00
24. Other Fees*	15,917*	0	1,000	18,000	1.73	17,000	170.00
25. Telephone	7,913	7,500	9,000	10,000	0.96	1,000	11.11
26. Plnng/Promo/Recrtn	18,867*	85,000	45,000	45,000*	4.32	0	0.00
27. C/C Supplies	1,753	0	6,000	6,000	0.58	0	0.00
28. Board Meeting	5,312	8,500	8,500	8,500	0.82	0	0.00
29. Office Expense	13,321	14,600	14,000	16,000	1.53	2,000	14.28
30. Audit	4,000	5,600	5,600	5,600	0.54	0	0.00
31. Cafe Service/Repair	4,203	0	3,000	5,000	0.48	2,000	66.67
32. Facilities	28,210*	0	10,000	32,000	3.07	22,000	66.67
33. GA Nominations	1,630	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.24	0	0.00
34. Legal Fees	35	1,500	2,000	2,000	0.19	0	0.00
35. Equip/Furnishings	8,706	43,200	25,000	25,000*	2.40	0	0.00
36. Grounds	6,181	0	2,000	12,000*	1.15	10,000	500.00
37. Utilities	43,304	52,000	52,000	52,000	4.99	0	0.00
38. Property Taxes	6,651	7,500	7,500	12,500	1.20	5,000	66.67
39. Maint & Tools	2,225*	18,000	12,000	3,000	0.29	(9,000)	(75.00)
40. Vending	6,057	0	6,000	7,000	0.67	1,000	16.67
41. Vehicles	16,449	34,000	34,000	20,000	1.92	(14,000)	41.18
42. Meals	122,915	0	118,000	126,000	12.09	8,000	6.78
43. Med Providers	5,707	0	1,000	7,000	0.67	6,000	600.00
44. Bookstore	27,251	0	30,000	34,000	3.25	4,000	13.33
45. Miscellaneous	0	1,000	2,000	2,000	0.19	0	0.00
46. Facilit Renovations*	0	0	100,000	100,000	9.58	0	0.00
47. Water Systems*	4,722	0	0	55,000*	5.27	55,000	55,000.00
OPER. EXP. TOTALS	648,130	633,900	911,100	1,042,600	100.00	131,500	14.43

APPENDIX D

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS
TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Introduction

Few things are more important in ministry than teaching. It is central to the Great Commission. It is not an option. It is an imperative. The church that ceases to educate ceases to exist.

The mandate of the General Assembly's permanent committee for Christian Education and Publications is to educate. We believe that a church's philosophy of ministry must develop OUT OF their Reformed theology and must be inseparably LINKED TO that theology. In terms of our denomination-wide efforts in Christian Education, your CE & P Committee believes that its task is to assist churches of the PCA to develop an approach to ministry that is biblically and pedagogically sound, guided by the insights of a Reformed system of doctrine and relevant to the task of educating people for spiritual growth. It is a challenge we take seriously.

To that end, C E & P published an expanded pamphlet that has been widely circulated throughout the PCA. It expresses CE & P's reason for existence - what it is that sets this ministry apart from more generally evangelical ministries of Christian Education. The title of the pamphlet asks a simple question: "Why Should It Matter That Christians Have A Reformed World View?" Four answers are given to that question - answers that express the rationale for all that we seek to do throughout the year.

1. It matters because Christ has called us to engage the world, not run from it.
2. It matters because the Bible's principles apply not just to the church, but to the whole world.
3. It matters because the Reformation is not just our heritage, but the world's hope.
4. It matters because if we are not equipped to shape the world, the world will shape us.

That is the purpose of CE & P. - That is our prime motivation. That is the hinge on which this ministry turns. It is clear cut and concise. Our desire is to help the people of the PCA to integrate their Reformed theology to all of life. We seek to accomplish this objective through a great number of ministries.

Training Ministry

In terms of C E & P's training ministry, we believe that those who teach God's Word have a need to discern the nature of their call to teach and also a need to develop

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their gifts of teaching as a part of their spiritual call. These teachers must have continuing opportunities to be further equipped in fulfilling their mission as teachers of God's Word.

Responding to this need, the Christian Education & Publications Committee has eight regional trainers located strategically around the country. This past year these men and women were in over 30 PCA churches and 12 presbyteries, holding seminars and serving as Christian education consultants.

In addition to the ministry of the regional trainers, C E & P has conducted ten Equip Conferences this past year - all day Saturday training sessions aimed at pastors, teachers, church officers, women and youth leaders. Following one such recent conference a pastor wrote: ". . .the teaching in the various seminars was valuable and greatly appreciated. I've heard nothing but positive comments from the folks who attended. I know that it is a sacrificial service to travel around and to speak at so many of these conferences and I want you to know that it is a service which is beneficial and received with our gratitude."

C E & P also has begun an Institute For Church Ministries - an institute which offers continuing education for volunteer teachers. Six courses make up the curriculum, all of which are completed by correspondence. In addition, the Institute also offers professional training through an internship in youth ministries.

Children's Ministry

Today's children grow up in a different world from that experienced by most of their parents. They are touched by divorce, depression, increased mobility of families, lack of contact with extended family, abuse and neglect, non-Christian values, drugs, delinquency and pressure to grow up too quickly.

C E & P is making a particular effort to address the biblical foundations for ministry to God's covenant children to emphasize the role of parents and the role of the church in the teaching of these children.

In particular, Celebrate the Child is a campaign to heighten the emphasis on children's ministry in 1997/98. It is an effort focusing on the evangelization and nurture of covenant children. To help facilitate this ministry C E & P has a resource packet available to assist PCA churches in planning what they might do.

Youth Ministry

Youth are at a crossroads. People who are in touch with teens today have an ominous sense of an accelerating and compounding crisis. Something must be done. Those who feel this urgency are a giant step ahead of those who assign it a low priority.

Will LaRose, CE & P's Director of Youth Ministries, has a deep desire to teach the youth of the PCA in such a way as to witness their Christian walk become a lifestyle. He wants to see them increasing in their knowledge of God's Word, increasing in their ability to apply the doctrines of God's sovereign grace to all of life and increasing in their joy and confidence as they share Christ with others. It's an exciting and challenging responsibility!

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Presently, there are eleven PCA churches involved in training youth interns. In the next few months it is anticipated that there will be an additional five churches involved in mentoring youth interns.

Mr. LaRose is busy establishing 20 regional youth advisors in 1997 to work with those PCA churches throughout the country that do not have the financial resources to hire a youth pastor.

In January of 1997 the first PCA denomination-wide youth missions conference was held at Ridge Haven. Three hundred ninety-two teens were in attendance.

And there's more! In August of 1997 C E & P expects to publish a Bible study on the book of Romans, a study written at the high school level that can be used for small group Bible study or Sunday school. We also are working on a teenage version of the doctrines of the faith which can be used for church membership, doctrine classes or by covenant parents in the home.

Men's Ministry

Teaching men today is quite different from what it was twenty years ago. Few churches have understood that difference and fewer still have responded to it effectively.

As defined by C E & P's Men's Ministry Advisory Sub-Committee, the following is the purpose statement for men's ministry in the PCA: "The mission of PCA's Men's Ministry is to foster, encourage and assist the development of significant ministries to,

by, for and among PCA men to help them become perfect (complete) in Christ."

In terms of men's ministries one of the issues that the program staff of CE & P has wrestled with is the simple fact that there are no easy solutions to implementing the purpose statement developed by the Men's Advisory Sub-Committee. We also know that easy answers often do not last.

Some of the objectives that already have been accomplished or will soon be accomplished are as follows:

- 1) C E & P has sponsored training seminars for men's ministry in Montgomery, Alabama and Atlanta. Two more such seminars are scheduled for Maryland and either North or South Carolina.
- 2) C E & P has published a twelve week Bible study for men entitled: "*They Walked And Talked With Jesus.*" This study can be purchased through the bookstore. Plans are on the drawing board for a second PCA Bible study on prayer.
- 3) Five experienced P C A specialists in men's ministry have been invited to Atlanta on May 13 to brainstorm a multi-faceted approach to developing a growing and effective men's ministry within the PCA.
- 4) General Assembly's Christian Education Committee also is working with Presbytery CE Chairmen to get representatives in each presbytery to develop a network to promote materials, events and projects for men.
- 5) Following up on an assignment in response to overture 11 *M23GA* regarding special focus on "Christian Family Emphasis Week" in

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connection with Father's Day, the committee reports to the 25th General Assembly that it has carried out that assignment with the bulletin insert containing resources and ideas plus an article in *Equip for Ministry* for the family emphasis week.

Women's Ministry

Since the beginning of the PCA almost 25 years ago, the WIC philosophy of ministry has been a work in process. As the philosophy has developed, so have the resources to equip women to facilitate the philosophy. How exciting it has been to witness God's providential grace at work over these years!

The following is a listing of four specific goals presently being pursued by C E & P's women's ministry:

- 1) The '97 WIC Leadership Training Seminar, April 10-12. This by-invitation event is designed to train, network and encourage those women who have particular responsibilities for women's ministries within the PCA.
- 2) The WIC Resource Letter/The WICK. Published five times per year, this is a training piece designed for local WIC presidents, PresWIC presidents and pastor's wives.
- 3) The Helpers By Design Conference, August 22-24, 1997. This conference is for wives of ruling and teaching elders and wives of other ministry staff. The Women's Advisory Sub-Committee is praying for an attendance of 500.
- 4) Publication of the fourth book in the WIC core curriculum: *The True Woman*.

Stewardship Ministry

Looking ahead to 1997, CE & P plans to carry out the following objectives:

- 1) Continue to produce the P C A stewardship materials.
- 2) Refine the materials and format for future seminars on the "Role and Responsibilities In Stewardship" and produce a brochure to promote this seminar to P C A churches.
- 3) Provide articles on stewardship for Equip Magazine.
- 4) Add video materials to CE&P's Video Library and tracts in the Bookstore.

Bookstore

The Bookstore continues to be a resourceful ministry, providing biblical resources for individual and group study. Along with distributing official PCA publications, the Bookstore also provides current printed materials covering the latest thinking in both reformed and general evangelical circles. In the future we hope to continue to witness an increase in sales, offering quality materials at discounted prices.

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Video Library

With over 600 Christian videos representing 26 categories, the Video Library continues to provide quality service and the best in video resources. Even though over 400 PCA congregations are presently serviced by the Video Library, we continue to be somewhat surprised at the number of churches who remain unaware of this great resource.

Bulletin Supplement

The Bulletin Supplement started publication in 1987 with 110 churches and about a 13,000 circulation. In 1997 the Supplement is read by about 36,000 in 300 PCA congregations. This self-supporting publication has made a greatly valued contribution to our churches, sharing ministries, programs and activities throughout the United States and Canada.

Equip for Ministry Magazine

Equip for Ministry is our bi-monthly magazine designed for the local church leadership-elders, deacons, and other key leaders. It is intended to be informative in dealing with relevant issues facing the church and its leaders. It is also intended as a follow-up for CE/P's consulting, teaching, and training events. We are currently printing and distributing 10,000 copies. It is mailed in bulk to churches upon request and to individuals who subscribe.

Great Commission Publications

Great Commission Publications continues to serve our church well in Sunday school curriculum. We are anticipating increased growth in that ministry during the years ahead.

The increased sales are enabling GCP to consider new ideas and avenues of servicing our churches with their curriculum needs.

This 20 year old joint venture with the Orthodox Presbytery Church allows us to presently distribute over 40,000 pieces of biblical reformed curriculum each week. The PCA continues to be a major user of GCP. The GCP staff and the CE/P staff partner in several areas of Christian education, worship and music, and training events.

Other Ministries

C E & P continues to be involved in cross-cultural ministries (primarily Korean) for pastors and church leaders, providing seminars and consulting services. Leadership training and consulting are also offered to PCA congregations through seminars, church evaluation, consultation and videos.

Finally, through a partnering ministry with Great Commission Publications, C E & P makes a significant contribution providing quality biblical and reformed Sunday school and teacher training materials.

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Current Financial Picture

1996 was an exciting year in ministry but a bit frustrating in the financial support area. The demand for CE/P's services and ministries always seem to outpace our funding capabilities and 1996 was no exception. It was the busiest year for the CE/P staff to date. While we receive some revenues which help, we are basically dependent on churches and individuals for support. Our concern is that church giving to CE/P has not grown with the church. For the past several years, contributions have been flat; however, we ended 1996 with a slight deficit which concerns us, especially if we are unable to show a reversal of that pattern in 1997. Contributions from local churches were down \$2,500 from the previous year. Contributions to the general fund from individuals were up about \$19,000. We are grateful for the support of some of our larger churches and certain individuals which enable us to minister to smaller or less populated areas. We ask for the prayers of the assembly that sufficient support will be in place to carry out CE/Ps mission.

Summary

CE/P is committed to the concept of networking resources that God has given to our church. We believe one of our roles is to bring people together for training and equipping using the best resources available. The future plans will accelerate that concept. The growth of the church, the cost of travel, the time involved are pointing to this necessity more and more. We believe it to be a biblical principle of ministering to one another. We rededicated ourselves as a committee and staff to making the best resources, training, and consulting available to our churches. It is also our joy and delight to serve the Lord as we participate in training and equipping saints for their work of ministry. Our commitment is to doing what we can to enable our local churches to be vibrant, growing, and biblical focused churches, working out the salt and light principle of Kingdom of God people.

The CE/P Committee respectfully submits the following recommendations to the 25th General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That in response to *M24GA*, p. 235, that the exceptions listed have been corrected in the minutes.
2. That the 1997 Women in Ministry Conference for wives of teaching and ruling elders to be held in Atlanta August 22-24, 1997, be approved and that prayer for God's blessings be included in the closing of this report.
3. That appreciation be expressed to the Women in the Church and participating churches for the contribution of over \$87,000 to the Administration Committee.
4. That the 1998 Spring Holy Land Tour sponsored by CE&P-WIC be approved.

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5. That in regards to Recommendation 6, *M24GA*, p. 236, that due to the late date of the 1998 General Assembly that the conference for pastors and their families be postponed with a later date to be announced.
6. That the local churches be encouraged to participate in the “Celebrate the Child” campaign sponsored by CE&P.
7. That the General Assembly approve the following recommendation both in this report and the Administration Committee report:
That the General Assembly transfer the oversight of the PCA News Office/Information Center from under CE/P to that of the Administration Committee for the purpose of cultivating information relations with news media and that CE&P be relieved of the responsibility of a PCA News Office.
8. That CE&P enter into partnership with Presbyterian Youth of America, a group of PCA pastors, in youth ministry and that prayer for God’s blessings be included in the closing of this report.
9. That following our annual evaluation, we unanimously recommend TE Charles Dunahoo be elected as coordinator of Christian Education & Publications for the coming year.
10. That CE&P be allowed to use the term “certification” with the following definition and understanding:
The word “certification” used in its training program simply indicates that those participating at all levels of CE&P’s training seminars and other programs receive a certificate of completion of the particular training course. Note: This has no relation to approval relating to local churches, but only to say that this training has been completed with a certificate of completion. (See Recommendation 13, *M24GA*, p. 237)
11. That the proposed CE&P budget for 1998 be approved.
12. That the 1996 audit be found in order and approved.
13. That appreciation be expressed to the following members rotating off the Great Commission Publication Board: RE Ralph Mittendorff and RE Jack Sullivan.
That appreciation be expressed to the following members rotating off the CE&P Committee: RE George Harris, TE Donald Musin, and TE Michael Potts.

APPENDIX E

Covenant College

Institutional Effectiveness
Report

1995-1996

Prepared by the Office of Planning
January 1997

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Introduction

Although there are many ways to measure the effectiveness of a college, this report will utilize four major evidences of quality:

1. the input and outcome actions and profiles of students,
2. the findings of quality as determined by the regional accrediting association; the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
3. the financial health of the institution,
4. the effectiveness of Covenant in accomplishing goals as detailed in the Five Year Plan 1995-2000.

The first method of measurement includes an examination of the types of students who select Covenant, the success of the College in retaining and graduating those students, learning outcomes, student participation in college activities, and a longitudinal comparative survey.

The second source of evidence is a summary of the findings of the Commission on Colleges' visiting team. Covenant recently completed a multi-year self examination aimed toward the reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The final activity of that process was the visit of a team of twelve educators to evaluate the College against the accepted criteria of the Association. This report presents an unofficial summary of those findings.

The financial health of a college can be measured in several ways. This report presents comments on the recent audits, the financial aid program, revenue sources, and the giving trends at the College.

The final means of evaluation is a report on the progress of the College toward the completion of the Five Year Plan 1995-2000. The plan goal and objectives are compared with the activities of the college during the 1995-96 year.

This report is presented to demonstrate the educational effectiveness of the college to both internal and external constituencies. It provides faculty and administrators with important information to assist in determining areas that need attention. It also serves as a report on the health and progress of the college to those who care to examine such matters.

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Part One: Student Profile & Assessment

Institutions of higher education have traditionally demonstrated educational effectiveness by measuring the process at the front end. Therefore, educational credentials of the faculty and academic competence of the incoming students have often been two major measures of academic effectiveness. Recent trends to measure quality have sometimes gone too far, to the point of ignoring the importance of inputs. This section of the report will present evidence of quality at both the input and outcome ends of the process along with other evidence obtained during a student's educational experience at Covenant.

Student Profile

The SAT scores of entering first time freshmen give a good picture of the academic level of students who are attracted to Covenant. The assumption is that better students look for a better college. Following are the SAT scores of entering first time freshmen over the last three years. All scores are re-centered to provide accurate trending.

Score	SAT	Fall 1994	Fall 1995	Fall 1996
Covenant		1140	1160	1162
National		1010	1020	1013

The SAT scores of new first time freshmen at Covenant over this two- year period have increased by 2% as compared to the national average increase of only .3%. Covenant incoming freshmen scores have increased at a rate 6.5 times faster than the national average. (All scores are re-centered)

If those students who are admitted on limited load were excluded from these averages, there would be a greater improvement of scores this year over last. Inclusion of the scores of limited load students reduced the score average by only ten points in 1995 but by thirty points this fall.

As the College of the PCA, Covenant continues to attract students from our denomination. This fall, PCA students represent an all time high of 72% of the student body.

The conversion ratings (matriculation) of students who apply and attend can provide some level of help in understanding a student's perception of the value of a given

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college. This is only true when the college does not have a waiting list and can provide room for any student who wants to attend and meets the admissions requirements. Covenant was fortunate to see an increase in matriculation in a period when colleges are becoming more and more competitive in their attempts to attract students. Last year, 185 of the 463 students (40%) who applied came to the college. This year not only was there a 25% increase in applications, but 43% of those who applied matriculated. To increase both the number of applications and the matriculation of those applying seems to indicate an attitude of increased acceptance of the value of a Covenant education.

	1995	1996	Increase
Total Applications	463	577	24.6%
Total Matriculates	185	250	35%
Conversion Rate	40%	43%	7.5%

Student Retention

Another means of measuring how effectively we are performing is to study the students who choose to return to Covenant. Parents and students tend to select a particular college based on whether they believe that college can fulfill its claims and meet the needs of its students. When they see that happening, the students return. Therefore, an examination of retention trends over the last few years should demonstrate the perceived effectiveness of the college.

The following table shows the percentage of students by class in the falls of 1993 through 1995 who returned to the college as students the following fall.

(It should be noted that the Fall 96 figures are based on a name to name study. Previous retention studies were modeled more after transition studies of returning students.)

Previous Year's	Returned Fall 94	Returned Fall 95	Returned Fall 96
Freshmen	83%	74%	84%
Sophomores	77%	74%	76%
Juniors	89%	95%	90%
College-wide	82%	80%	83%

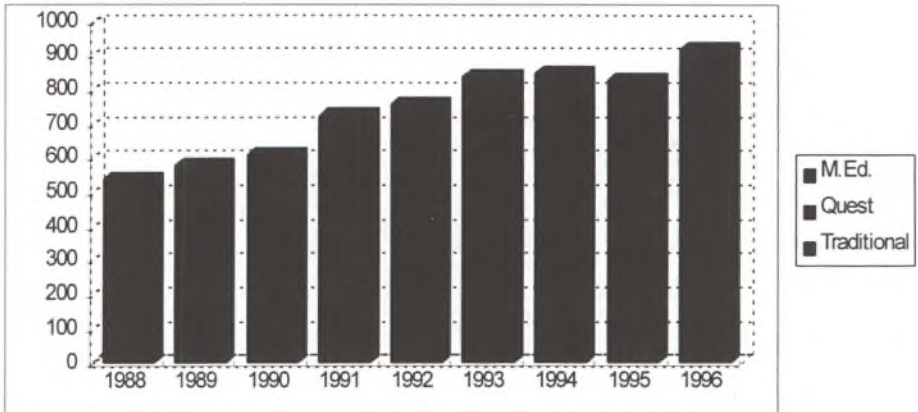
Student Enrollment

Viewing total enrollment at the college gives a summary perspective of the results of more students being attracted to Covenant and the increasing satisfaction level of our existing students reflected in the retention trends listed above. Covenant has grown from a traditional student body of 482 students in 1988 to 711 in the Fall of 1996. Over the same period, Quest has also grown from 58 students to 162, while the Master in

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Education program which started in 1991, has grown from 20 students to 50 this past summer term. The college has grown 71 percent in just eight years.

Student Head Count History



Graduation Rate

Students sometimes drop out of college and never return to graduate, but there is also a strong trend to stop out for a period of time and return later to finish the program. Because of this, completion rates or graduation rates are now calculated using 150% of the planned period of study as an acceptable period for graduation. Since Covenant offers baccalaureate degrees based on a four-year stay, the graduation rate is based on a six-year period. Students who came to Covenant as freshmen in the fall of 1990 must have graduated from Covenant by May of 1996 to be considered in the graduation rate.

	87-93	88-94	89-95	90-96
Entering Freshmen	119	160	174	157
Graduates from that class	44	69	70	76
Graduation Rate	37%	43%	40%	48%

It is difficult to compare graduation rates with other colleges for two reasons. Firstly, since leaving to complete a major not offered at a smaller school causes the completion rate to drop, comparisons should be made with colleges of similar size major offerings. Larger colleges and universities which have a broad selection of majors will be less likely to lose students through transfer to another institution because of increased options for areas of study.

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Secondly, it takes six years to see any changes in the graduation rate. Program improvements in 1990 that might have positive affect on completion will not be seen until next year's report. Covenant has undergone many important improvements in the 90's and it will take a few years to see the positive impact of those changes on completion statistics.

The September 1996 issue of *Money* included a college guide with college rankings using graduation rate as one of the criteria. *Money* reports the national average six year graduation rate at 55%. Following is the 1989 entering freshman class six year graduation rate of the colleges that are often used as a point of comparison in our market analysis.

College	Six Year Graduation Rate
Berry	59%
Covenant	40%
Davidson	91%
East. Mennonite	60%
Emory and Henry	71%
Furman	77%
Grove City	75%
King	44%
Lyon	44%
Mary Baldwin	62%
Roanoke	58%
Samford	60%
Washington & Lee	91%
Wheaton	82%

Faith and Learning Outcomes

The Senior Integration Project (SIP) is the capstone course for Covenant students. This project gives students an opportunity to demonstrate the abilities of mastery of a topic within the discipline, integration of biblical thought with the discipline, and written and oral skills. Faculty were asked to evaluate all SIPs this past spring with these points of effectiveness in mind. Unfortunately, only twenty-two students were evaluated. Nine professors turned in reports representing three majors and one minor. Although this provides too small a database to accomplish any college-wide determination of skills, the results are included in the following table. Scores are based on an eight point system, with one being the lowest possible score and eight being the highest score.

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Observed Area	Score
Writing skills	6.19
Oral skills	6.16
Integration of faith and topic	6.04
Discipline content	6.56

In the spring of 1997 this method of assessment of effectiveness will be completed by a larger portion of the faculty to ensure a more useable database.

Each spring, graduating seniors participate in the Major Field Achievement Tests (MFATS). These are standardized tests which allow us to compare the scores of our students with those of other students through the determination of a percentile ranking. The table that follows uses the median score of the students who took any given test and assigns a percentile ranking of that score. This ranking is not an institutional ranking but rather an individual ranking based on a median score.

Major Fields Achievement - Tests Spring 1996

Following are the median scores with percentile ranking.

Test Title	n=	Median Score	Percentile Ranking	1995 n=	1995 Percentile
Music	3	163	83	2	78
Business	11	169	80	7	93
Literature in English	8	168	78	11	80
Biology II	10	161	69	6	*
Sociology	13	156	65	9	67
History	6	152	63	8	99
Psychology II	3	160	58	9	*
Computer Science	8	147	46	2	54
Chemistry	1	136	19	1	16

* This is a new examination and no comparative data is available to set percentile rankings.

Departments are encouraged to use this information and the subscores that identify specific areas of strength or weakness for evaluation and improvement of the program. The business department has documented use of the scores in this manner and has made some curriculum changes to include international business as a part of the business curriculum.

Other departmental assessment instruments were planned for use but only the education department has reported any findings and the use of those findings.

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Student Participation

Intercollegiate athletics is an important activity at any college, and Covenant is no exception. In recent years much attention has been given to intercollegiate athletic programs, and much can be learned about a school by observing its athletic program.

The intercollegiate program at Covenant is committed to a continued evaluation of the program in many areas. For some, a winning season is the major means of evaluating the intercollegiate program. However, Covenant is committed to a higher calling of improving the athletic program based upon the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ in all things. Other criteria that play a heavy role in measuring effectiveness include Christian commitment and leadership, the relationship between winning and academics, and academic progress.

Covenant now fields four women's sports and three men's sports. They are women's basketball, cross country, soccer and volleyball and men's basketball, cross country and soccer. The women's athletic teams posted a .568 winning percentage last year while the men posted a .662 record. Women's and men's soccer led all teams with a .750 winning percentage.

Within the last few years team GPA has become a point of contest between the various intercollegiate teams. This past year men's cross country, women's basketball, women's soccer and women's volleyball led the academic contest with a 3.49, 3.4, 3.35, and 3.33 team average GPA respectively. The average GPA for all athletes was 3.04.

The following table, while combining only two (winning percentage and GPA) of the effectiveness criteria together, offers some picture of the scholar/athlete effectiveness of Covenant's intercollegiate program.

Sport	Index
Women's Soccer	2.51
Men's Soccer	2.35
Men's Cross Country	2.24
Women's Cross Country	1.89
Women's Volleyball	1.84
Men's Basketball	1.45
Women's Basketball	1.21
Intercollegiate Team Average	2.15

Covenant desires to see intercollegiate athletes equal or exceed the standards expected of the rest of the student body. The average college-wide cumulative GPA is 3.04 as is the intercollegiate cumulative GPA. The college-wide retention for fall 1995 to fall

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1996 was 83% while the retention of intercollegiate athletes for that same period of time was 92%.

Intramural athletics has always been a very big part of college life at Covenant and this past year was no exception. During the 1995-96 school year, 215 men out of a total head count of 283 participated in the intramural athletic program, yielding a 76% participation rate. Of the 354 enrolled women, 183 participated in intramural sports for a 52% participation rate. This equals a 62% total participation rate. When inquiry was made of other colleges to determine a benchmark of comparison, only one of the schools that responded had a better participation rate and that of 63%

Longitudinal Comparative Survey

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) provides some longitudinal comparative data between our students and students in similar institutions. This study may be one of our best tools to compare our incoming freshmen with those of other four year Protestant colleges. It also gives us the opportunity to see how their opinions and actions have changed after three years in comparison with their peers. Some of the Christian colleges that participated in the study include Anderson, Bethel, Calvin, Cedarville, Dordt, Eastern Mennonite, Geneva, Houghton, Lee, Messiah, Spring Arbor, Sterling, Tabor, and Trinity. The Covenant responses are mostly from our students who came as freshmen in 1993 and who were surveyed again in their junior year (Spring 1996).

	Covenant		Protestant	
	Fresh. Jr.		Fresh. Jr.	
	1993	1996	1993	1996
Agree strongly or somewhat: individuals can do little to change society	11%	27%	28%	23%

Our students have become more negative about the possibility that they might change society than have their peers at other Protestant colleges. That conviction should be strengthened while attending Covenant. Given the importance of this issue in our mission, this response should give us cause for concern and the need to investigate.

Our students gave a mixed review regarding some of their experiences since coming to Covenant. While our students rated services higher than their peers, facilities were rated lower.

	Covenant		Protestant	
	1996		1996	
Experiences noted Very Satisfactory or Satisfactory				
relevance of coursework to life	85%		73%	
overall quality of instruction	93%		88%	
academic advising	77%		68%	
contact with faculty	90%		85%	
career counseling	76%		54%	

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financial aid services	69%	59%
leadership opportunities	73%	67%
overall college experience	97%	87%
lab facilities	47%	56%
library facilities	34%	50%
computer facilities	48%	65%

Another topic that might be interpreted as evidence for the rigor of academics is the amount of time spent studying. This question included time spent studying in high school and college for two of the three possible answers.

	Covenant		Protestant	
	Fresh 1993	Jr 1996	Fresh 1993	Jr 1996
Studying/Homework				
0 to 5 hours	N/A	13%	N/A	27%
6-15 hours	48%	46%	43%	47%
16 or more	12%	41%	7%	26%

There is an interesting dichotomy made by our students as they responded to questions concerning services provided by faculty. They viewed the faculty as stimulating and helpful in academic advising, but compared to their peers at other colleges, rated faculty lower in areas that pertain to their development - both personal and professional.

	Covenant		Protestant	
	1996		1996	
Professors Frequently Provided				
encouragement for grad/prof school	23%		34%	
letter of recommendation	10%		33%	
emotional support/development	31%		40%	
honest feedback about abilities	38%		45%	
advice about educational program	44%		40%	
intellectual challenge/stimulation	66%		58%	

A rating that shows the student's overall view of their experiences at Covenant comes in the following question.

	Covenant		Protestant	
	1996		1996	
Re-enroll at this college?				
definitely or probably yes	94%		80%	

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Part Two: Accreditation Assessment

During the last several years, higher education has seen the maturing of an era of accountability. Parents, students, potential students, donors and many others want to know how effectively higher education is achieving its goal of preparing students to live in and contribute to society. Covenant College wants to be so examined and welcomes the opportunity to give a realistic report of our effectiveness as an institution.

One means of measuring the effectiveness of the College is through the scrutiny of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools during the process of our reaffirmation of accreditation. The college completed a self-study during the 1994-95 academic year. Seven committees of faculty, alumni, students, staff, board members and friends of the college offered a variety of recommendations and suggestions for improvement. Following an attempt to implement many of these improvements, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools sent a twelve member team to visit the campus for several days of close examination based on the set Criteria adopted by the membership of the Commission on Colleges of that regional accrediting body.

The Commission on Colleges assembled a visiting team from peer colleges to conduct an examination of the College based on approximately 460 required criteria. Following is an interpretive summary of their findings.

Criteria Section	# of Criteria	# of recommenda tions	% of total in section
I Principles and Philosophy of Accreditation	54	2	4%
II Institutional Purpose	7	0	
III Institutional Effectiveness	17	2	12%
IV Educational Program	228	29	13%
V Library, Institutional Support, Information Technology	43	5	12%
V Student Development	36	3	8%
VI Administrative Processes	75	8	11%
TOTAL	460	49	11%

Many of the recommendations made by the visiting team dealt with the need to provide better documentation, evaluate a process, or publish a policy. While these recommendations may help the effectiveness of the college in an indirect way, they do not have the same importance as the criteria which mandate certain levels of academic preparation, quality of curriculum, etc. Following is a table demonstrating the quantity of such recommendations by criteria section. (The following table was compiled by the Office of Planning at Covenant and is not a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools approved summary.)

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Criteria Section	# of Criteria	# of direct corrective recommenda tions	% of total in section
I Principles and Philosophy of Accreditation	54	0	
II Institutional Purpose	7	0	
III Institutional Effectiveness	17	1	6%
IV Educational Program	228	8	4%
V Library, Institutional Support, Information Technology	43	2	5%
V Student Development	36	1	3%
VI Administrative Processes	75	2	3%
TOTAL	460	14	3%

While this is only an interpretation of the committee's findings, it does provide a complete overview of how the regional accrediting association evaluated Covenant College. The action of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools provides a public declaration of the impact of that visit and the college's corrective actions. In the December meeting of the Commission of Colleges, Covenant was granted reaffirmation. While a one year follow-up report was requested to address eight continuing areas needing improvement, this action continues the accreditation of the college.

Covenant should be able to address and correct all eight issues by the October 1 deadline.

Part Three: Financial Indicators

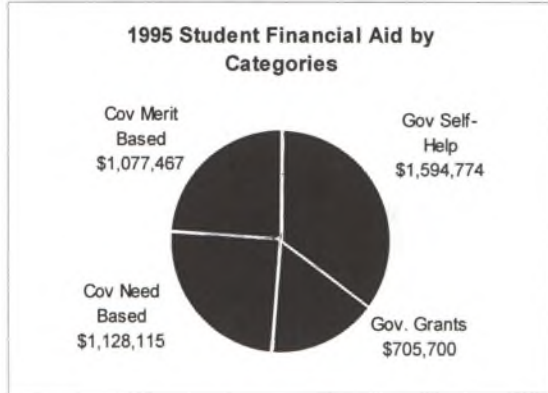
The financial health of an institution provides good evidence regarding the long term effectiveness of an institution. An outstanding faculty and curriculum can only be effective if the financial resources are available to support the program.

Financial Aid

Financial aid plays a major role at the College. Not only can financial aid help a student attend Covenant but it also enables the College to attract well-rounded students. The 95-96 goal was to discount tuition by 28%, which would allow the College to spend 28% of the tuition revenue for student financial assistance. This process is complicated by several variables including: the planned over-expenditure of the budget with the assumption of a certain percentage of cancellations and meeting all guaranteed programs that commit aid based on various merit formulas such as the Church

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Partnership Program. Several of these assumptions did not prove accurate this year and the tuition revenues were actually discounted at 31%. The College gave \$ 2,205,582 to students in the form of institutional non-payback grants. The type of aid delivered breaks down as follows:



Budget Performance

The manner in which educational institutions report expenses has changed drastically for the fiscal year 1995-1996. The Financial Accounting Standards Board now requires educational institutions to expense depreciation in the operating statement. In the past, Covenant expensed depreciation only in the plant fund. This new regulation would generally cause a negative impact on the unrestricted statement of activities. The President's Council has made a five year commitment to bring depreciation expenses into the budget in order to avoid this negative effect, which will have a budget impact of \$165,000 each year for the next five years. Depreciation of residence halls will continue to be funded through room and board charges.

Despite these changes, the cashflow at the college continues to remain sound. Long term debt continues to decline and now represents only 1.5% of the book value of fixed assets. The following table gives a brief summary of the financial picture at the college for the 1995-96 fiscal year.

	Dollars	Percentage
Revenue Sources:		
Tuition	\$ 5,846,884	47%
Auxiliary Services	\$ 2,519,648	20%
Church Giving	\$ 572,020	5%
Other giving	\$ 2,321,490	19%
Government Aid	\$ 357,048	3%
Other	\$ 213,061	2%

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Investment Income		\$ 648,013	5%
Total Revenue		\$12,478,164	
Total Expenses		\$11,818701	

The college has often discussed the development of additional sources of revenue to reduce dependence on tuition revenue. This year the profit from the conference season and Lookout Inn reached an all time high of \$ 205,000. However, the conference clientele continues to grow in the youth market and remains fairly stagnant in the adult market. Long term impact on the facilities must be studied to determine if facility damage associated with youth conferences might contribute more negative budgetary impact than is now assumed.

Discussion continues concerning the development of other sources of revenue. To date no additional profit services have been developed, though the development of donor bases continues to grow.

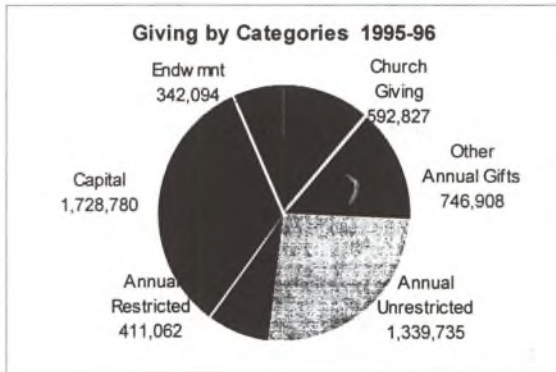
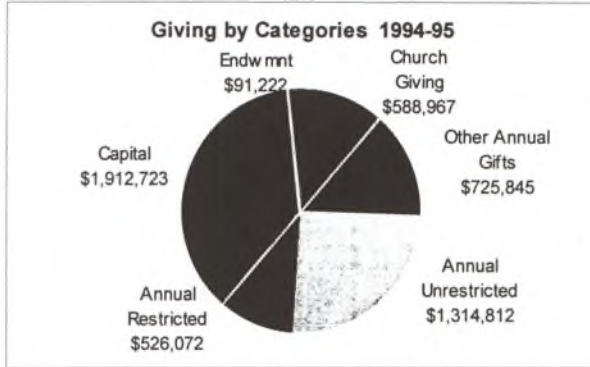
Giving

In past years the annual fund was very dependent on a few major gifts to complete the drive. In recent years, donors of major annual fund gifts have been encouraged to designate their gifts for the capital fund, with the result being that gifts that often were needed to complete the annual fund were no longer available for that purpose. Even with this change in the designation of gifts, the 1995-96 annual fund reached a record \$1,339,734, yielding a \$50,000 surplus over the planned goal. This indicates that the donor base for annual giving continues to grow and that churches, individuals, and corporations are finding Covenant to be a good investment in the future of our youth. The number of churches participating in the Church Partnership Program has grown by 20% over the previous year and church giving reached \$572,020 for the first time in the school's history.

Major donor development has shown an increase of gifts at all annual fund levels with a small decrease of large gifts above \$ 5,000.

Gifts	\$100-999	\$1,000-4,999	Total	Major (\$5,000+)
1993-94	1235	120	1355	38
1994-95	1370	214	1584	76
1995-96	1509	243	1752	72

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Part Four: 1995-2000 Five Year Plan Update

Following is an update of 1995-96 actions taken on the 1995-2000 Five Year Plan. The plan goal is to:

INCREASE OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN PREPARING GRADUATES FOR SERVICE AS REFORMING INFLUENCERS ON SOCIETY

STRATEGY I: *Provide the academic, leadership and personal opportunities that develop the whole person, with a special emphasis on God's call to be a reforming influencer.*

OBJECTIVE 1: *Strengthen the educational program.*

1. **Faculty development** tactics have been assigned to the Faculty Status Committee for changes, additions and implementation.

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The restructuring of the academic administration has met with cooperation and a measure of success. Dr. Kaufmann has focused his efforts on both the pedagogical and the perspectival development of the faculty. Dr. MacDougall has spent most of his administrative time on program development. Dennis Miller has provided needed oversight in the administrative support areas of academic computing, audio-visual, experiential and extended studies, library, and records.

Drs. Kaufmann, Voskuil, and Graham conducted a May workshop for fourteen faculty members on the further development of the Reformed educational philosophy.

2. ***Curricular improvement*** tactics have been assigned to the faculty Curriculum Committee for changes, additions and implementation. They have also accepted the responsibility of reviewing the curriculum of each department over the next five years. Four departments will be reviewed this year with results available for the 1996-97 Institutional Effectiveness Report.
3. The effectiveness of ***co-curricular improvements*** have been discussed in a previous section of this report.
4. ***Study how technology should be utilized at the college to improve or redesign educational processes.***

An advisory group and extended studies review committee met this summer to analyze and report on how effectively hardware and software resources are being utilized, what new applications and/or resources are needed to support current educational processes, the opportunities that may be available to us through the utilization of new multi-media approaches to explore new distance learning programs, and how technology might be utilized to enhance the delivery of such programs.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase awareness of, and ability to live and work with, people of a wide variety of cultures.

The college continues to make small steps of progress in the tactics developed thus far.

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OBJECTIVE 3: In recognition that limited space and resources may require Covenant to become more selective in admissions, improve the college's ability to recruit and admit those students most likely to benefit from a Covenant education and provide benefit to the college community.

Areas of success in this objective have been presented in the first part of this report.

STRATEGY II: Increase involvement to effect reformation in the dominant structures of our society.

OBJECTIVE 1: Since Covenant graduates must be prepared to enter a culture that is openly hostile to Christianity, usually measuring success on individual desires, often at the cost of others, the college will equip students and enable faculty to engage in dialogue with the dominant secular culture.

While we continue to sharpen existing programs that address this objective, very few new activities have been implemented this year.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase the cooperative involvement with the Church.

The main activity this year has centered around an attempt by the college to gain greater cooperation with the other PCA committees and agencies in the area of computer resources and data sharing.

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**Report of
Covenant Theological Seminary
to the
25th General Assembly
of the
Presbyterian Church in America**

June 1997

At the conclusion of our **40th Anniversary Year**, we praise God for his faithfulness to Covenant Theological Seminary in providing trustees, faculty and staff that have remained steadfast to his purposes so that we may continue to serve the Presbyterian Church in America by preparing leaders faithful to Biblical inerrancy, the Reformed faith, and Gospel ministry. Just as God commits our Church to missions across geographical expanses for other cultures, He also gives us a mission across generational time for our children. Covenant Seminary represents our Church's faithfulness to both of these mission commitments. Thus, we give thanks for the accountability and support of the Presbyterian Church in America that enables Covenant Seminary to prepare the biblically qualified leaders our world and our children require. In the light of that accountability and support we are pleased to offer this annual report of the Lord's work at Covenant Seminary.

Students. For the eighth year in a row the Lord has brought us a record number of students. The fall enrollment for the '96-'97 academic year was officially recorded as 792 when we reported to our accreditors (additional students enrolled after this reporting date). Counting all students in all terms at all sites, we now educate nearly 1200 students each year ("unduplicated headcount" is the new term our accreditors are using for this number). Many of these are lay and part-time students who will not be training for the pastorate (since we have seven different degree programs). Still pastoral preparation remains our focus with approximately 80 percent of our full-time students in the M.Div. program — which is our largest degree program.

We enrolled the largest-ever Spring semester entering class of M.Div. students in January 1997, and we anticipate a strong Fall enrollment for the 1997-98 academic year. New applications for next year are arriving at unprecedented levels, and we have had a significant (20%) increase in prospective students coming to visit the campus. New Admissions Director Kevin Vanden Brink has continued the tradition of

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excellence in personal care that students tell us distinguishes Covenant Seminary's admissions efforts.

We praise God for his continued hand of blessing evident in the large numbers of students coming to Covenant Seminary. We recognize that increasingly the Church and prospective students are aware of the blessings that the Lord has brought this institution as we have focused on excellence in pastoral training and equipping with the message of God's grace. For these reasons we have not made limitless growth a goal nor placed a premium on bigness, rather we are establishing goals and limits for each degree program and class to optimize our size and maintain quality.

The confidence of the Presbyterian Church in America in Covenant Seminary is evident not only in the increased number of students attending, but also in the high caliber of students enrolling. Quality pastoral and church references are increasingly enabling us to assess prospective students' aptitude for ministry. Such assessments along with the reception of more applications than we have student openings (particularly in the M. Div. program) have enabled greater selectivity among applicants where needed, and better degree and career advising for all students. We are adding additional components (including local church consultations) to make more comprehensive our assessment program that helps advise students regarding their personal growth and ministry skills while they are in seminary. We have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm our churches have shown for this program.

Placement. Over the past seven years, 96.2% of graduates seeking ministerial placement with the Seminary's recommendation have been placed. In 1996, 97.8% of such graduates found ministerial positions. The following categories show how these graduates were placed: Solo pastorates (18%); Associate or Assistant pastorates (22%); Church planting and Mission ministries (11%); Youth and Campus ministries (29%); Advanced religious studies (7%); Other ministries (13%). In 1996, 78% of the pastoral (M.Div.) graduates went into PCA service (past averages range from 60-70%). We are thankful for the placement efforts of our Dean of Students Jim Hatch whose office has worked tirelessly to help students discover and develop ministry opportunities.

As churches across the PCA grow in size and number, the number of assistant/associate pastor and youth ministry positions has increased dramatically. As a consequence we have added new course offerings in Youth Ministry and Christian Education. Future courses in areas of specialized ministries such as music ministry and women's ministries are also being planned.

Faculty. Through the diligent work of Dean of Faculty (and new Vice-president for Academics) Daniel Doriani, we continue to add new faculty for the increased number of students the Lord is bringing to Covenant Seminary. This academic year we added Dr. Michael Williams to the Systematics Department. Dr. Williams has earned degrees from Calvin College, Harvard University, Cornerstone Seminary, and the University of Toronto. He has previously taught Reformed theology at Dordt College

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in Sioux Center, Iowa where his work in systematics and church history has made him a highly sought Reformed commentator on and in various publications.

We are also pleased to announce the return of Dr. David Calhoun to the classroom this year, after two years of health leave. Dr. Calhoun's present cancer treatments are not as debilitating as previous therapies, and his renewed vigor combined with dramatic reduction in the cancer for which he is being treated have allowed him to return to the classroom. We are deeply grateful to God for Dr. Calhoun's long-awaited, and much-anticipated return. This gentle scholar's godly demeanor and scholastic excellence represent much of what is best about Covenant Seminary. Students have delighted in his renewed teaching of history from his deep understanding of our Reformed heritage.

We continue to search for New Testament and Missions professors who meet our criteria of possessing both doctoral credentials and pastoral (or mission) experience. As of the writing of this report, we are engaged in serious discussions with potential mission faculty well respected in the PCA and able bring to Covenant broad mission background, vision and vigor.

We will bring a recent graduate who is completing his New Testament Ph.D. back to the campus for an interim teaching role next year. This man is dearly loved by his peers and the Covenant faculty, and he has excellent academic credentials. He will help us bridge to the time that another full-time New Testament professor is added to the faculty. We also have additional Homiletics, Exegetical Theology, and Historical/Systematics Theology professors in our long-range plans. As always we place priority on finding those men who help us fulfill our goal of making "pastors training pastors" a distinguishing characteristic of the Covenant Seminary experience.

We continue to enjoy the blessing of remarkable unity and stability in our faculty. Only one full-time professor has left the school in the past seven years, and that one continues to teach here in a regular adjunct relationship. We praise God for the great gift of serving in a place where he is honored by the character and commitments of those who teach here. Our commitment to having "pastors training pastors" remains a priority that we believe God is honoring at many levels of our community life as well as student training.

Trustees, Accreditation, and Administration. Our Board of Trustees will manage two major efforts during the coming year — involving finances and accreditation.

To serve the enlarged student body that the Lord has brought, the Board will embark upon the public phases of a major stewardship campaign that has a three-pronged focus: increasing faculty, facilities, and student scholarships. This campaign is the culmination of a three-year study (financed by the Lilly Endowment) of our most pressing needs and our future goals. That study resulted in a Long-range Plan that was presented to, and commended by, the 23rd General Assembly. Now we are acting upon that plan by seeking the Lord's provision for its goals.

At the same time that the Board is launching the largest financial campaign (\$14-million) in Covenant Seminary's history, we are preparing for our scheduled 10-

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year review for our accreditation renewal. Covenant Theological Seminary is accredited both by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (NCA) and by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). These are the accrediting bodies nationally and internationally recognized for establishing academic standards for graduate education and peer institution standards for theological education.

As was reported last year, Covenant is one of only eight seminaries chosen from across the U.S. and Canada to take the lead in establishing new models of quality and effectiveness for all accredited seminaries. We learned this year that we are the only evangelical seminary among the eight. For this leadership role we thank God, and ask you to pray that He would give us the opportunities, initiative and integrity we need to represent Him well in this important role.

We are especially grateful for Dean of Academic Administration Jim Meek whose expertise in academic standards has helped give our accreditors confidence that we can assume this leadership role for other seminaries. At the same time, the increased responsibility has placed large work burdens on our faculty, staff, and especially our administrators at the very time that our increased enrollment and new financial campaign are already seriously taxing our energies. Please pray that God would provide the energy, time, personnel, and funds needed to meet these greatly increased demands especially as they press on the administrative staff this year.

We are thankful for the initiation of a mail-in registration system that greatly reduced registration waiting lines for students this year. We have a tremendous gift in Registrar Diane Preston whose expertise in student advising regularly brings accolades to the institution through students appreciative of her highly individualized and personal care.

Facilities. Through the generosity of supporters of the Seminary and the grace of God, this past summer we completed construction of a new classroom attached to the Francis Schaeffer Institute. We have also largely completed a new bookstore. The bookstore is already operating in new quarters that will be further expanded when archaeological materials in the facility next to the store are moved to new quarters. The Archaeology Building is well underway, and is due to be completed this Fall.

As of the writing of this report we are only weeks away from beginning renovations on Edwards Hall that will provide a new Student Center for the campus. Since our growth has made the completion of new classrooms a first priority, students have not had a first rate student gathering place for some time. Now all are eagerly anticipating the completion of this facility in the next year. More extensive renovations of Edwards Hall will need to be completed in the future.

Last year the Seminary completed construction of lecture halls attached to Edwards Hall. Each of these classrooms contains advanced technological resources for instruction of classes ranging in size from 50 to 120 students. Through the generosity of the donor who provided these state-of-the-art facilities, we will complete another large classroom (seating as many as 80 students) in the lower level of the new lecture hall building. As with the previous lecture halls, this lower level classroom will also allow for computer projection and other advanced audio/visual teaching.

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Further site development of the campus will occur this year as a new roadway system will link all campus buildings. A new water drainage system will also be installed with the cooperation of the city with whom the Lord has given us a very harmonious relationship after some previous difficulty.

Due to pressure upon campus facilities, our faculty has been without a regular faculty gathering place for five years. A new faculty conference room will be completed on the upper level of the Administration Building this year to serve our long-faithful instructors.

Each construction project puts extra work on our very capable and devoted Vice President for Business and Finance Floyd Simmons and our Physical Plant Director Will Pierson. We thank the Lord for the gifts and energy He has provided these men in these years of dramatic expansion of the Seminary, and we pray for the strengthening of them and their staffs as God gives this important work to perform.

Plans continue for the expansion of computer facilities and offerings. This will be a major aspect of educational planning and development for the institution for several years to come. We praise God that at each level of our computer development, He has brought just the right personnel with just the right backgrounds to work at the Seminary with our Computer Systems Manager Bill Lloyd. Just when we were needing to plan our internet participation and future, the Lord brought student Teri Wilson whose previous career had been in internet planning and development. We have witnessed these providential appointments over and over.

Although our Library has finished computerizing our holdings, we will continue to increase our linkages to other resources and centers of learning. Plans are also well underway for significant expansion of our Library. We remain very thankful for the expertise of Library Director Jim Pakala and our Technical Services Librarian Denise Pakala. Large responsibilities fall upon them in this era of technological change and student growth. They respond with great diligence to their tasks and attention to students' needs.

Extension. Covenant Seminary now offers accredited extension courses in 12 cities, with additional plans reaching into two Caribbean communities in cooperation with MTW missionaries and Covenant College. Students may also study individually by extension in a variety of audio/visual mediums.

A year of credit applicable toward the M.Div. as well as a Graduate Certificate can be completed through Covenant Seminary's extension program. In a new pilot program a Master of Arts degree may also be earned entirely by extension. Demand for such course offerings has increased dramatically and resulted in the expansion of our Seminary Extension Training (SET) office.

We are committed to making a residential seminary experience integral to earning the Master of Divinity degree. Community interaction with peers preparing for ministry, discipling relationships with pastor/scholars, and ministry involvement — all are important for pastoral training. Distance learning technologies will serve an increasingly important role for training lay persons, but we also recognize the limitations of these technologies if they do not allow for the relational interaction and

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development that students training for ministry require. While we will continue to innovate our instruction with modern technologies, we do not want to isolate ministerial training from necessary spiritual and relational dynamics the seminary experience provides.

Finances. Through our Lord's generous provision Covenant Seminary remains without debt. We again finished our latest budget year in the black, and have been able to reduce the rate of increase in tuition from previous years. We thank the churches of the PCA and the stewardship of the many donors who enable us to serve the Lord by training the next generation of leaders committed to the truth of Scripture, the Reformed faith, and the claiming of the lost for Christ.

Since we have grown quickly, our financial needs have multiplied and we have seen the Lord wonderfully provide. Financial concerns are intensified by the fact that although our student population has grown rapidly, donors who will consistently give to such a seminary understandably want a period of time to get to know us. Thus, there is typically a time lag between growth and giving. Despite these typical dynamics, we have been sustained by markedly increased giving from our faithful donors and churches. Still, we need to build resources that reduce pressure on annual gifts and revenues that place much of the growth burdens on the tuition and fees that students pay. Vice President for Development Ben Homan has skillfully overseen this process of rapidly expanding our annual fund efforts during this time of intense institutional growth. He has also quickly and capably organized the Development Office to secure more long-term support through endowment resources and estate planning.

The Lord has provided Covenant Seminary with highly sophisticated expertise in estate planning through the services of Mr. Marvin Fornwalt, a career financial planner who has now given himself to the ministry of helping Christians steward their estates into provision for the Lord's work without neglecting their family priorities.

The number of PCA churches giving to the Seminary continues to grow. We continue to desire contact with the leadership ruling elders and deacons who have asked to receive regular information on the Seminary. Our Church's growing willingness to think and act in concert adds strength to all of our labors to extend Christ's message.

Accountability to the church and witness to the world. Consistent with the Biblical and Presbyterian principles we teach, the people of Covenant Seminary remain thankful that we are accountable to the Presbyterian Church in America. Through our Church's election of Covenant Seminary's trustees the PCA assumes responsibility not only for the theological training of its leaders, but also safeguards the orthodoxy of the Gospel witness that will be carried to our children.

Already the Lord is using Covenant Seminary in leadership roles we could not have anticipated only a few years ago. Books authored by Covenant Seminary faculty are standard texts in at least 15 other North American seminaries. This past year decisions were also made to translate various faculty works into Korean, Arabic, and German. Covenant Seminary professors have been called upon to interact in various secular university settings on issues as diverse as the reality of hell, the Biblical view of the role of women, and a Biblical response to evolution. Covenant Seminary faculty

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and staff in the last year alone have served in the following countries: Uganda, Ukraine, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Haiti, Brazil, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Holland, Switzerland, England, China, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and India.

We encourage you to rejoice with us that God is using Covenant Seminary's faculty in extraordinary ways not only in the lives of students, but also in expanding and extending God's gracious rule.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Bryan Chapell, President

Covenant Theological Seminary
12330 Conway Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141

Actions Requested of the 25th General Assembly:

1. That the proposed 1997-8 Fiscal Year Budget for Covenant Theological Seminary be approved.
2. That the financial audit for Covenant Theological Seminary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996 by Humes and Barrington, CPA's be adopted.
3. That the minutes of the Covenant Theological Seminary Board of Trustee meetings be approved for September 27-28, 1996; January 31-February 1, 1996; and, May 16-17, 1997; and, that the minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees be approved for December 6, 1996 and March 7, 1997.
4. That the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America be urged to support the work and progress of Covenant Theological Seminary through their giving, prayer, and recommendations, so that the future leadership of Christ's Church is advanced and safeguarded through a united effort that further strengthens and secures the Biblical purposes of the entire denomination.
5. That prayer be offered for the ministry of Covenant Theological Seminary thanking God for its historic preservation, recent growth and ministry opportunities; and, petitioning that God would sustain its defense of Biblical orthodoxy, its ministry training mission, and its love for Christ and his people.
6. That the revisions to the Seminary's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws required by statute changes in the State of Missouri be approved.

ATTACHMENT 1

Articles of Incorporation

Article I

[Attorney's Commentaries]:

The Seminary is now considered a "public benefit corporation." In the new act, not-for-profit corporations are either public benefit corporations or mutual benefit corporations. There is little legal significance to these designations and they reflect no change in the Seminary's status as a non-profit corporation. However, if the articles of incorporation are amended in the future, they will need to contain a statement that the Seminary is a public benefit corporation.

The annual reports that need to be filed with the Secretary of State will have a new question, regarding the classification of the Seminary. Again, the question should be answered by stating that the Seminary is a public benefit corporation.

Article I is therefore amended to read as follows: "The corporation is a public benefit corporation, and the name of the corporation shall be COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY."

Article VIII

[Attorney's Commentaries]:

Paragraph 3(c) of the amended Articles of Incorporation as they presently exist should be changed. The new Missouri act emphasizes creditor protection. That is, it states in several places that, when a public benefit corporation is dissolved and liquidated, creditors must be paid first, before the assets are distributed to another tax-exempt entity. Paragraph 3(c) of the Seminary's Articles as currently worded does not provide for distribution to creditors first. Although the current wording does not invalidate or endanger the Seminary's non-profit status with the IRS, a phrase authorizing distribution first to creditors should be included when the Articles are amended.

Paragraph 3(c) should also be amended to require that the Attorney General of the State of Missouri be notified when the Seminary is to be dissolved and its assets distributed; when the Seminary plans to merge with another public benefit corporation; or when the Seminary intends to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets. Various sections of the new act require that the Attorney General be given notice of these actions.

Article VIII is therefore amended to read as follows: "In liquidation or dissolution, creditors of the corporation shall first be paid, and the remaining assets of this corporation shall be distributed to such organizations as shall be designated by the trustees of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation),

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and as approved by the General Assembly, and which are operated exclusively for the purposes set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and shall not inure to the benefit of any private member or individual. In the case of dissolution of the corporation and distribution of its assets, or merger with another public benefit corporation, or if the corporation shall intend to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets, the corporation shall give notice of such act or intended act to the Secretary of State of Missouri.”

ATTACHMENT 2

Bylaws

Article I

Name and Location

The name of this corporation is Covenant Theological Seminary, as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation, an institution serving as an agency of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation). The office of the corporation shall be at the Seminary, 12330 Conway Road, Creve Coeur, St. Louis County, Missouri, or at such place as may be designated by the Board of Trustees. The corporation is incorporated under the General Not-for-Profit Laws of Missouri as a public benefit corporation and is tax exempt.

Article II

Purpose

Covenant Theological Seminary is a graduate and professional school of higher learning having as its principal purpose the education and preparation of qualified candidates for the gospel ministry in the United States and other countries.

Article III

Doctrinal Standards

The doctrinal standards of this corporation are the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms as set forth in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) subordinate to the Word of God. The Seminary is committed to the defense of the historic Christian faith and to the scriptural doctrine of the purity of the visible church.

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Article IV

Powers and Responsibilities of Trustees

Section 1. Powers. The Board of Trustees shall be the Board of Directors and shall have and exercise those corporate powers prescribed by law. Its ultimate authority is affirmed through its general, academic and financial policy-making functions and its responsibility for the corporation's financial health and welfare. The Board of Trustees shall exercise ultimate institutional authority as set forth in these Bylaws and in such other policy documents the Trustees deem to be appropriate. The Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and other Board policy statements shall take precedence over all other institutional statements, documents, and policies.

Section 2. Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees shall have the duty and authority to carry out all lawful functions which are permitted by these Bylaws or by the Articles of Incorporation. This duty and authority exercised as a collective body in consultation with the President shall include, but shall not be limited to, these illustrative functions:

1. Purpose and Mission. The Board of Trustees shall determine and periodically review the purposes and the mission of the Seminary.
2. President. The Board of Trustees shall select the President of the Seminary and set appropriate conditions of employment, including compensation. It shall support the President. It shall assess his performance and the progress of the Seminary annually. It evaluates his compensation annually. At all times there is to be a clear differentiation between the policy-making functions of the Board of Trustees and the delegation to the President of the Seminary the responsibility for administering these policies approved by the Board.
3. Planning. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that there is a sound Seminary planning process led by the President. This process should produce a written Long Range Plan which is reviewed annually and updated as needed. Trustees are to understand the role of the Board as a policy-making body and avoid participation in administration of policy. They are to learn and consistently use designated Seminary channels when conducting Board business.
4. Educational Programs. The Board of Trustees shall recommend, review and approve changes in the educational programs of the Seminary, consistent with its mission.
5. The Faculty. The Board of Trustees shall oversee the establishment of policies and procedures regarding salary schedules, appointment, promotion, tenure and dismissal of the faculty:

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(a) Appointment: Additions to the faculty shall be nominated by the President of the Seminary after full consultation with the current faculty and appointed after their applications have been approved by the Board. In addition to being academically qualified for faculty positions, all of the faculty must be in hearty agreement with the special and distinctive standards and testimony of the Seminary and shall subscribe to them annually in writing.

(b) Rank and Compensation. There shall be four ranks of the regular faculty: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Instructor. Terms of faculty contracts (including rank and compensation) are approved by the Board upon the recommendation by the President in keeping with the general terms outlined in the Board approved Faculty Manual.

6. Degrees and Honors. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to grant and confer degrees and other academic and literary honors of the corporation. Earned degrees as well as honorary degrees and other honors shall be granted and conferred only in accordance with the regulations and requirements established by the Board after consultation with the faculty of the Seminary.
7. Budget. The Board of Trustees shall oversee and approve the budget of the Seminary and establish policy guidelines for the endowment and for all investments and major fund raising efforts.
8. Tuition and fees. The Board of Trustees shall authorize any changes in tuition and fees within the institution.
9. Purchase and sale of major capital. The Board of Trustees may authorize the purchase, management and sale of all land, buildings or major equipment for use by the Seminary. The Board may acquire, buy, sell, lease, mortgage, hypothecate, hold and otherwise deal in real and personal property, wheresoever situated, either by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise, as may be necessary, convenient or useful, in carrying out any and all of the objects and purposes of this organization.
10. Construction and renovations. The Board of Trustees may authorize the construction of new buildings and major renovations of existing buildings.
11. Incurring debt. The Board of Trustees has full power and authority to borrow money on behalf of the corporation and to incur indebtedness on behalf of the corporation. The Board may cause to be executed on the part of the corporation written evidence of any such indebtedness with the stipulated obligation to pay interest thereon at a specified rate and may pledge security for such debt. Great care shall be taken at all times to make it clear to all concerned that the financial obligations which the Board incurs

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do not become financial obligations of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation), but are the responsibility of this corporation.

12. Contracts. The Board of Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Seminary, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Seminary. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
13. Checks, Drafts, etc. All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Seminary shall be signed by one officer of the Seminary subject to limitations which shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees. In the absence of such determination by the Board, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer or an assistant treasurer and countersigned by the President or a vice-president of the Seminary.
14. Deposits. All funds of the Seminary shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Seminary in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Trustees may select.
15. Due process. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that adequate due process policies and procedures exist. It may serve as a court of final appeal in matters of dispute regarding termination of Faculty and Seminary Officers; not other employees.
16. Publishing. The Board of Trustees may publish and distribute publications and literature in connection with its purposes.
17. Gifts and bequests. The Board of Trustees shall authorize officers or agents of the institution to accept gifts or bequests on behalf of the Seminary subject to Board policy guidelines.
18. Independence. The Board of Trustees shall preserve the Seminary's integrity and freedom from unwarranted harassment or inappropriate external and internal pressures and destructive interference or restraints.
19. Self-evaluation. The Board of Trustees shall periodically undertake or authorize assessments of the Board's performance. At the December Executive Committee Meeting the President is to evaluate the performance of the Board for the Executive Committee's report to the Board at its January meeting. At least every five years it is advisable for the Board to engage a consultant to help answer questions regarding the performance of the Board.

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20. Financial Audit. The auditing firm used each year is to be approved by the General Assembly based upon recommendation by the Board of Trustees of the Seminary.

The duties of individual Trustees shall include, but shall not be limited to these illustrative functions:

1. Financial support. Trustees should contribute financially to the Seminary's fund raising goals individually in accordance with one's means, and participate actively in strategies to secure sources of support.
2. Seminary Advocates. Trustees should serve actively as advocates for the Seminary in appropriate matters in consultation with the President and other responsible parties. They should help interpret the community to the campus.
3. Preparation. Trustees should carefully prepare for, regularly attend, and actively participate in Board meetings and committee assignments.
4. Professional development. Trustees should devote time to learn how the Seminary functions - its uniqueness, strengths, and needs - its place in graduate education.
5. Confidentiality. Trustees should maintain the confidential nature of Board deliberations.

Article V

Composition of the Board of Trustees

Section 1. Election. The powers of this corporation shall be vested in a Board of Trustees which will consist normally of not fewer than twelve and not more than thirty-two Trustees. It shall be composed of four equal classes, the term of each class being four years, Trustees being chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation). Vacancies which occur between General Assemblies shall be filled by the next succeeding annual Assembly. Each Trustee shall be an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) except that up to two Trustees from each class, limited to a maximum of 20% of the full Board, may be elders of denominations with which the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) is in ecclesiastical fellowship.

Each Trustee shall each year, no later than the first meeting after the General Assembly, subscribe by signature without any mental reservations to the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation), to the Bylaws of this corporation, and to the Conflict of Interest policy stated in Article XV of these Bylaws.

Section 2. Quorum. A majority of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum at regular meetings.

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Section 3. Relationship to Church. The Trustees of Covenant Theological Seminary shall be a continuing and permanent Board of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation). All of the affairs of this corporation shall be controlled by the Board of Trustees who will in turn be responsible to report annually to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation).

Section 4. Number and Tenure. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) will, when duly assembled, and subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, increase or decrease the number of the Trustees, having due regard for the tenure of office of those presently holding the office of Trustees, and may elect additional Trustees, as limited by these Bylaws, and fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees as same occur.

Limitations of Service: (a) Trustees shall not serve more than two full terms consecutively. (b) Service shall be limited to one board or permanent committee of the denomination at a time. (c) Trustees not from the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) shall subscribe to the doctrinal standards for elders of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation). (d) Upon their election Trustees shall hold office for four years, except when an individual Trustee is elected specifically to fill an unexpired term of another Trustee.

Section 5. Trustee Removal. Grounds on which Trustees may be removed by the Board include doctrinal deviation, moral failure, or neglect of duty including non-attendance at three successive regular Board Meetings. Should it become necessary, such action by the Board would be undertaken to preserve the honor of Christ and protect the reputation, witness and progress of the Seminary. It is not and should not be regarded as church discipline. There may be circumstances in which removal by the Board would be permissible even in the absence of discipline by an appropriate church court.

1. In every case, the principles of Matthew 18 must be followed; specifically, an attempt should first be made to deal with matters privately, and only involve others or the entire Board if private efforts do not bring about a satisfactory result.
2. Subject to the previous paragraph, the Chairman shall have the right to express the consensus of the Board by requesting the resignation of a Trustee.
3. Should the Board be satisfied that action on such grounds as are noted above be appropriate, the Board may issue a formal reprimand to the Trustee and/or may request the Trustee's resignation.
4. In the event that a Trustee should not resign when requested, he may be suspended from active service on the Board by a three-quarters vote of the

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Trustees present. Such suspension shall remain in effect until the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation). If that General Assembly does not take action to overturn the suspension, then the Trustee shall be judged to have been removed from office and a replacement will be elected by the Assembly, just as though the Trustee had resigned.

Article VI

Officers of the Board of Trustees

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Board of Trustees and of the corporation shall consist of a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be Trustees.

Section 2. Election. Unless a vacancy in an office occurs at another time, all officers shall be elected at the spring meeting of the Board of Trustees by a two-thirds vote of the Trustees present. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve for terms of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless removed earlier by the Board. It is advisable that the Chairman shall serve for at least three consecutive one year terms but he shall not serve more than five consecutive years.

Section 3. Compensation. The Board of Trustees and its officers designated above in this article shall not receive compensation for their service as such. However, in case any Trustee or any officer is authorized to perform duties involving devotion of unusual time and effort, he shall then have such remuneration as the Board shall prescribe.

Section 4. Assistants. The Board of Trustees may appoint from time to time, as the business of the corporation may require, assistants to the above-named officers designated in this Article, and fix the tenure of office and allow suitable compensation for such assistants. Assistants are not required to be Trustees.

Section 5. Removal. All officers of the Board of Trustees shall serve at the discretion of the Board and shall be subject to removal by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Trustees present at a meeting of the Board.

Section 6. Vacancies. A vacancy in any of the offices of the Board of Trustees may be filled at any meeting of the Board.

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Article VII

Officers of the Seminary

Section 1. The President. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a President of the Seminary who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Seminary. He shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. He shall be an elder in good standing of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation). He must be examined and approved by the General Assembly's Theological Examining Committee, in accordance with the Book of Church Order, prior to appointment. A two-thirds vote of the Trustees present at a regularly constituted meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary to appoint or remove the President. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall appoint an acting President and shall appoint a special Search Committee to submit nominations for candidates for the office.

Section 2. Executive Vice President. Upon selection and recommendation by the President, the Board of Trustees may approve the appointment of an Executive Vice President to assume such administrative and other duties as may be assigned by the President. In the absence or disability of the President, the Executive Vice President shall assume the duties of the President.

Section 3. Vice President. Upon selection and recommendation by the President, the Board of Trustees may approve the appointment of one or more Vice Presidents of the Seminary who shall assist in carrying out particular functions and responsibilities of the Seminary.

Article VIII

Duties of the Officers of the Board of Trustees

Section 1. The Chairman. The Chairman has all of the responsibilities of other Trustees. He shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee and appoint all committees and their chairmen, except those elected by the Board. The Chairman is responsible to prepare each Board Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting agenda, ordinarily in consultation with the President. The Chairman shall serve ex-officio on all standing committees. He shall perform all duties incident to such office. He shall have such additional powers and duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

Section 2. Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall in the absence or disability of the Chairman perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chairman. He shall otherwise perform such duties as shall be assigned by the Chairman or the Board of Trustees.

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Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to have kept, a record of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees and have charge of the files and documents pertaining to the affairs of the corporation. Minutes shall be kept according to guidelines set down in the Rules of Assembly Operations. He also is to review Board minutes to compile a running compendium of Board policies. The Secretary shall serve all notices required by law, or by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation), or by the Bylaws of the corporation. In case of his absence, inability or neglect to do so, such notices may be served by the Assistant Secretary or by any person directed thereunto by resolution of the Board. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as pertain to his office and as may be prescribed by the Board or by the Bylaws. He shall be the custodian of the corporate seal. The Secretary shall ensure that the Board is acting in accordance with these Bylaws and that Bylaw amendments are promptly made as necessary. The Secretary may be assisted in all duties by a staff person assigned by the President.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be chairman of the Finance Committee and otherwise serve as the Board's key leader on all financial management policy matters. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the funds of the corporation and shall supervise the handling of these funds according to principles established by the Board of Trustees. He shall receive reports from the chief financial officer of the Seminary and shall be responsible to initiate an annual audit of the books of the Seminary. The Treasurer shall also serve as the Assistant Secretary.

Article IX

Duties of the President

The President, as Chief Executive Officer, shall be the chief educational and administrative officer of the Seminary. He shall exercise general responsibility for the overall affairs of the Seminary and shall bring those matters to the attention of the Board of Trustees that are appropriate and necessary to keep it fully informed and to enable it to meet its policy-making responsibilities. He shall be responsible to the Board to operate the Seminary in conformity with the basic policies developed by the Board. He shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a program of instruction, research and service, which will be consistent with the high aims of the Seminary and needs of the students admitted. The President shall serve ex-officio on all Board Committees except when the Finance Committee is functioning as the Audit Committee.

The President is responsible for the Long Range Plan of the Seminary. The President shall be responsible for the effective organization of the Faculty, shall be regarded as part of the Faculty with vote, and shall represent the Faculty and other employees of the Seminary in meetings of the Board and its committees. At the direction of, and in cooperation with the Board, he shall be responsible for overseeing financial support programs for the objectives and programs of the Seminary and for representing the Seminary or causing it to be represented, as may be necessary and

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appropriate. He shall further see that the Seminary's plant and properties are properly managed, maintained and supervised.

The President shall be responsible for developing and maintaining the spiritual welfare of the entire Seminary family, and for promoting the spiritual and academic interests of the Seminary.

A report on the spiritual, academic and material conditions of the Seminary and the progress achieved therein shall be made by the President at each regular meeting of the Board. He shall also report annually for the Board to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation).

The President shall be responsible for administrative staff appointments. He shall report all such appointments to the Board. With faculty consultation he shall make nominations for additions to the faculty. He shall report all such nominations to the Board for its approval. He shall select adjunct faculty in keeping with provisions of the Faculty Manual.

Article X

Meetings of the Board of Trustees

Section 1. Regular Meetings. Three regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held each year on the Seminary campus as follows:

1. Spring meeting on the Friday and Saturday before Commencement.
2. Fall meeting on the fourth Friday of September and the succeeding Saturday.
3. Winter meeting on the last Friday of January and the succeeding Saturday.

The time and place of the regular meetings may be changed by the Chairman only if special notice is mailed at least twenty days before the original or rescheduled meeting date whichever comes first. If a regular meeting should fall on a holiday, the Chairman in consultation with the President shall determine a more suitable time and notify each Trustee with a notice mailed at least twenty days before the earlier of the two dates.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Written notice of any special meeting shall be mailed to each Trustee at least twenty days before the meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Board, or if he is absent, or unable to act, by the Vice-Chairman, or any five Trustees; or, if the Chairman refuses to act, by any five Trustees. A quorum for a special meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be 50 percent of the Board of Trustees. The call for each special meeting of the Board shall state the purpose of such a meeting, and no business shall be transacted at a special meeting except as stated in the call.

Section 3. Quorum Qualifications. If a quorum of the Board of Trustees is not present at a meeting, such meeting may be adjourned by the Trustees in attendance until such time as another meeting is regularly constituted. Except as otherwise provided in these

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Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation, a majority vote of those Trustees present with a proper quorum shall constitute proper action.

Article XI

Committees of the Board of Trustees

Section 1. Organization. The Board of Trustees shall establish such standing and ad hoc committees as it deems appropriate to the discharge of its responsibilities. Each shall have a written statement of purpose, role and scope as approved by the Board, and such rules of procedure or policy guidelines that it or the Board, as appropriate, shall approve. Such statements shall be reviewed annually by each committee at the Fall Board Meeting. Committees may not take action without a meeting and the committee Trustees may not waive notice of a meeting.

Section 2. Appointment. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall have the responsibility of recommending to the Board for appointment the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, and Trustees to serve on all Board committees including the Trustee at large on the Executive Committee. Their appointment is to be established by majority vote of a quorum of the Trustees. All committee Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, and the majority of each committee shall be Trustees.

Section 3. Liaison, meetings, minutes. Each committee shall have a clearly designated officer of the Seminary or individual from the administrative staff as determined by the President to assist it with its work. Each standing committee, other than the Executive Committee, shall meet at least as often and in conjunction with regular Board Meetings, and regularly report on its work and recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Except for the Executive Committee, which is required to keep minutes, other committees shall decide whether written minutes are necessary or desirable and how they should be distributed to the Trustees.

Section 4. Functions. In addition to its deliberations as a whole body the Board of Trustees is divided into organizational and functional committees.

Section 5. Organizational Committees. The Board of Trustees has the following organizational committees:

1. Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees shall have an Executive Committee composed of the elected officers of the Board, functional committee chairmen, and one Trustee at large. The Board may delegate to the Executive Committee any of the powers and authority of the Board in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation. The Executive Committee shall assist the Chairman and the President in their joint responsibility to help the Board to function effectively and efficiently by suggesting Board Meeting agenda items and periodically assessing the

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

quality of Committee work. The Chairman of the Board shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee. In his absence the Vice-Chairman shall serve as Chairman. In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman another Trustee on the committee may be selected to act as Chairman for that meeting. For the transaction of business 50 percent of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Its transactions shall be reported regularly to the Board. The actions of the Executive Committee are subject to ratification by the Board.

Ordinarily there shall be at least two regular meetings of the Executive Committee on the Seminary campus each year as follows:

- (a) The first Friday in March
- (b) The first Friday in December.

The time and place of regular meetings may be changed by the Chairman only if special notice is mailed to each Trustee on the Executive Committee at least twenty days before the original or rescheduled meeting date whichever is earlier.

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairman or Vice Chairman, if special notice is mailed at least twenty days in advance. A quorum for a special meeting shall be 50 percent of the Executive Committee. The call for each special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no business shall be transacted at a special meeting except as stated in the call.

2. Trustee Development Committee. The Trustee Development Committee is responsible to :
 - (a) Receive nominations for Trustees, screen and make recommendations.
 - (b) Develop and maintain a strategy for obtaining qualified nominees for the Board.
 - (c) Plan orientation and training of Trustees.
 - (d) Coordinate evaluation of Trustees.
 - (e) Recommend initiatives by which the Board of Trustees shall assess its performance.

5. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Board. The committee is to nominate the Board Officers and one Trustee at large for the Executive Committee to be presented to the Board of Trustees for election at the May Board Meeting.

Section 6. Functional Committees. Functional committees are to help establish policies for the Board of Trustees. However, these Board policies should never be administered by the Board; they should be carried out by the President and his staff.

1. The Academic Committee. The Academic Committee has the responsibility for establishing a program of review and recommending to the Board broad policies in the following areas:

APPENDICES

- (a) Curriculum of the Seminary.
- (b) Additions to the faculty.
- (c) Faculty teaching methods.
- (d) Items pertaining to faculty welfare, such as salary schedules, rank, tenure, retirement, faculty load, faculty-student ratio and sabbatical approval.
- (e) Development and use of the library.
- (f) Faculty research and writing.
- (g) Evaluation of short and long-range academic planning.
- (h) Student admissions programs that will attract to the Seminary a sufficient number of the type of students that the Seminary can best serve.
- (i) Other related matters.

This committee will not only encourage academic excellence on the part of the students, but it will be a channel of access through the Dean of the Faculty for faculty communication to the Board.

2. The Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has the responsibility for establishing a program of review and recommending to the Board of Trustees broad policies in the following areas:
- (a) Long-term financial planning.
 - (b) Financial audit.
 - (c) Budget.
 - (d) Investments.
 - (e) Legal matters.
 - (f) Business records and systems.
 - (g) Insurance, including liability and surety bonds and insurance on Seminary property.
 - (h) Annuity program.
 - (i) Non-academic personnel.
 - (j) Other related matters.

Since this committee has general supervision of all financial policies of the Seminary, it will work closely with the administration, especially the chief financial officer and will develop with the administration a definitive plan for meeting the financial needs of the institution.

The Finance Committee is also responsible for the following areas:

- (a) Defining duties of the chief financial officer insofar as they relate to properties so that the degree of independent authority exercised by this position may be clearly understood.
- (b) Supervision and construction of new buildings.
- (c) Maintenance and improvement of Seminary buildings and grounds.
- (d) Supervision of all Seminary real estate.
- (e) Supervision of auxiliary enterprises.

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- (f) Tentative approval of all major purchases or sales of property before the proposal is brought to the Board.
- (g) Evaluation of campus master planning.

Subcommittee on Investments:

There shall be a Subcommittee on Investments, and such other subcommittees as the Finance Committee may wish to create, subject to the approval of the Board. These subcommittees are responsible to the Finance Committee. The Subcommittee on Investments shall consist of four persons, two of whom must be Trustees, and shall be chaired by a Trustee who is on the Finance Committee.

This Subcommittee shall have powers to act within the guidelines prescribed by the Board as policy concerning investments, including the purchase and sale of investment securities. It shall be the duty of the Subcommittee to supervise all of the investments of the permanent and special funds of the institution and to act upon all changes in or additions to the investment portfolio.

The Subcommittee shall seek such financial counsel as in its judgment will make possible the wisest investment of the funds of the institution, but which will also be sensitive to the types of investments that are appropriate for a theological school. The Subcommittee shall furthermore establish general operating guidelines for, and monitor closely the performance of, an investment manager or managers.

The Subcommittee shall report its actions through the Finance Committee to the Board. Other subcommittees of the Finance Committee shall be chaired by Trustees who are on the Finance Committee, but may also include non-Trustees.

3. The Development Committee. The Development Committee has responsibility for establishing a program of review and recommending policies in the following areas:
- (a) Working out with the administration a definition of the image of the Seminary and the means of presenting this image in a dignified fashion to the church and to the general public.
 - (b) Publicity, publications, public relations and special events that will enhance the prestige of the Seminary.
 - (c) A program of development for the Seminary to be executed by the administration.
 - (d) Institution in cooperation with the administration of a good program of representation of the Seminary by students and faculty.
 - (e) Fund-raising programs among alumni, firms and corporations, the local community, foundations, parents of students, students, the church constituency, agents of wealth (lawyers, trust officers,

APPENDICES

accountants) and individuals with the purpose of obtaining the following type of gifts:

- 1) Gifts for current purposes.
 - 2) Gifts for capital purposes.
 - 3) Deferred gifts, such as wills, bequests, living trusts.
- (f) Other related matters.
4. The Student Services Committee. The Student Services Committee is concerned with the welfare of the students and all matters which affect it. It should establish a program of review and recommend to the Board of Trustees broad policies in the following areas:
- (a) Student spiritual development, community life, campus morale, and family nurture.
 - (b) Liaison between students and faculty, students and administration, students and the Board of Trustees.
 - (c) Student activities - cultural, social, and religious.
 - (d) Serious student financial distress, disciplinary action, or the need of special counseling.
 - (e) Student housing.
 - (f) Student financial aid.
 - (g) Other related matters.

Article XII

Advisors to the Board of Trustees

Section 1. Composition. The Board of Trustees may appoint a Board of Advisors consisting of such a number and serving for such terms as the Trustees may determine. Men and/or women appointed as Advisors must be communicants of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) or denominations with which the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) is in ecclesiastical fellowship. They must have the same qualifications as Trustees, with the exception that ordination as a ruling or teaching elder is not required. Advisors are to have expertise, skills and/or resources that can help the ministry of the Seminary.

Section 2. Responsibilities. Advisors may attend all Board Meetings and, with the consent of the Trustees present, participate in all discussions. Advisors are assigned to a committee and/or subcommittee of the Board and are encouraged to participate in its discussions. Advisors participate in executive sessions only if invited by the Board. Advisors do not vote in Committees or plenary sessions of the Board. Advisors are to promote the work of the Seminary.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 3. Election. Men and women may be nominated and elected by the Board of Trustees to serve as Advisors. Advisors serve terms which are at the pleasure of the Board.

Article XIII

Guidelines for a working relationship and due process between Covenant Theological Seminary and the Courts of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation).

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

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Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation) guilty of moral or theological deviation the Seminary would ordinarily either (a) terminate the employee's relationship with the Seminary; or, (b) suspend the employee pending the outcome of any appeal to a higher court.

8. If a recommendation came from the General Assembly to terminate an employee for moral or theological reasons, the Seminary would have no alternative but to follow that directive.

Article XIV

Indemnification of Officers and Trustees

Each Director, Trustee, or former Trustee or Officer of the Corporation and his legal representative shall be indemnified by the Corporation against liabilities, expenses, counsel fees and costs reasonably incurred by him or his estate in connection with, or arising out of, any action, suit, proceeding or claim in which he is made a part by reason of his being, or having been, such Trustee or Officer; provided that in no case shall the Corporation indemnify such Trustee or Officer with respect to any matters as to which he shall be finally adjudged in any such action, suit or proceeding to have been liable for malfeasance in the performance of his duties as such Trustee or Officer. The indemnification herein provided for, however, shall apply also in respect of any amount paid in compromise of any action, suit, proceeding or claim asserted against such Trustee or Officer (including the expenses, counsel fees and costs reasonably incurred in connection therewith), provided the Board of Trustees shall have first approved such proposed compromise settlement and determined that the Trustee or Officer involved was not guilty of malfeasance; but, in taking such action, any Trustee involved shall not be qualified to vote thereon. In determining whether or not a Trustee or Officer was guilty of malfeasance in relation to any such matters, the Board of Trustees may rely conclusively upon an opinion of independent legal counsel selected by the Board. The right to indemnification herein provided shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which such Trustee or Officer may be lawfully entitled. The corporation, by vote of the Board of Trustees, may provide additional indemnification to any person as provided by the Missouri General Not For Profit Corporation Act.

Article XV

Conflict of Interest Statement

A conflict of interest exists when a person having official responsibilities for the Seminary has been empowered to make decisions on behalf of the Seminary and who, as a result of that power, can potentially benefit personally, directly or indirectly, from an entity or person conducting business with the Seminary. Examples of conflicts of interests include, but are not limited to:

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. A Seminary representative's personal business provides goods or services to the Seminary for consideration.
2. A friend or relative of a Seminary representative provides goods or services to the Seminary for consideration.
3. A vendor or business acquaintance with whom a representative has an outside business relationship provides goods or services to the Seminary for consideration.
4. A Seminary representative receives a referral fee or preferential discount, gift, or other valuable consideration from a vendor, paid promoter, fund-raising event sponsor, or any other outside party, for referring the Seminary business to such party.

All potential conflicts of interests, no matter how small or insignificant, are to be reported to the Board of Trustees prior to engaging in a conflict of interest action. The Board will then make a decision by majority vote of a quorum as to whether the relationship is an appropriate one for the Seminary. The representation set forth below is to be signed annually by each Board member and administrative personnel:

I understand the concept of a conflict of interest as defined in the Seminary Bylaws and represent that I have not been party to a conflict of interest action that has not been previously disclosed to the Board of Trustees. I also agree to report any potential future conflict of interest to the Board of Trustees or through the Executive Committee to the Board of Trustees prior to engaging in any conflict of interest action.

Article XVI

Policy of Nondiscrimination

Covenant Theological Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, or physical handicap in its educational programs or activities, including admission and employment. Covenant Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities it operates, including admission and employment, except where required by the ordination policies of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation).

Article XVII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Seminary shall be July 1 through June 30.

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Article XVIII

The Seal

The corporation shall have a common seal, consisting of a circle, in which there will be written the words: COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, St. Louis, Missouri, and the year of incorporation.

Article XIX

Amendments

Section 1. Process. These Bylaws may be amended or new Bylaws adopted by two-thirds vote of those Trustees present at any meeting of the Board of Trustees duly assembled, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting and forwarded to any absent Trustee, and provided that such amendments do not conflict with the Book of Church Order, Rules of Assembly Operations, or Corporate Bylaws of the Presbyterian Church in America (A Corporation).

Section 2. Changes in Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Any changes in the Articles of Incorporation and changes with respect to the Statement of Purpose and the composition of the Board of Trustees in the Bylaws shall be approved in writing by the General Assembly. Responsibility to initiate all actions necessary to carry out the approved Statement of Purpose, however, shall normally belong to the Board of Trustees rather than the General Assembly.

Section 3. Regular review. The Bylaws will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at least every three years. Any suggested revisions will be recommended to the Board of Trustees using the Process in Section 1.

Section 4. Suspension of the Bylaws. Any section of these Bylaws except Article II, Article III and Article XIX may be temporarily suspended at any meeting of the Board of Trustees by a unanimous vote.

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APPENDIX G

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
INSURANCE, ANNUITY AND RELIEF FUNDS
TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Board of Trustees of the Insurance, Annuity and Relief Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America is to glorify God through serving His servants who minister in the Church by providing for the health and welfare, retirement and relief needs of the denomination's ministers, missionaries, lay church workers and their families.

Summary

Participants in the PCA retirement plans benefited from a second year of rising stock prices. The S&P 500 Index rose 23%, following a 37.6% rise the previous year. The bond market, however, did not enjoy the same upward movement, and rose only 2.9% (Lehman Brothers Government/Corporate Index).

In addition to the increasing numbers of pastors and church lay employees joining the PCA retirement plan, several PCA related Christian schools have recently enrolled.

Continued good claims experience for the Long-Term Disability Plan brought a reduction in premiums for 1997. Favorable claims experience in the life insurance plans resulted in no increase in premiums for 1997. The Health Plan stabilized with claims somewhat lower in 1996, resulting in unchanged premiums for 1997.

Total net assets held in trust by your Board increased 20.8%, from \$79,640,102 to \$96,218,594. We reached a milestone on February 14, 1997 when total assets surpassed \$100 million for the first time.

Refer to Appendix One -- Program Summary for a comparison of statistical information for the past three years.

Significant federal legislation affecting church benefit plans was passed and signed into law during 1996.

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With the concurrence of legal counsel the Board adopted procedures for permitting PCA related organizations to participate in the PCA benefit plans.

Insurance Plans

Health Plan. Following plan design changes in 1996 and moderate premium increases, the health plan was able to hold the line on premiums in 1997. Only those participants who reached ages 46 and 56 during 1996 saw increases in their premiums.

At the direction of the General Assembly, IAR established a pilot HMO (Health Maintenance Organization)/POS (Point of Service) Plan beginning in August 1996. We decided to establish the pilot program in Atlanta, for several reasons. There is a sizable number of plan participants in Atlanta; we received a very competitive bid from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Georgia; and we felt it would be easier to monitor a plan close to the IAR office. While the plan has been operational for several months, a minimum of a full year will be required to properly evaluate and determine whether additional HMO/POS plans should be considered. We must take care not to undermine our current indemnity/PPO plan with PM Group in any expansion of managed care options.

Long-Term Disability Plan. LTD premiums decreased in 1997, for the fifth year in row. The rate for those covered by Social Security is now 0.75% of compensation, reduced from 0.80%. For those not covered by Social Security, the rate is 1.00%, reduced from 1.05%. A couple of larger organizations joined the plan during the year, increasing our enrollment significantly. Every minister in the PCA has a compelling reason for joining the PCA LTD plan. Ministers who become disabled under the plan receive a tax-free housing allowance during any benefit period. In addition to the 66 2/3% income replacement, an additional 9% is contributed to the PCA retirement plan during any disability benefit period. The annual cost-of-living increase for those receiving benefits is 3%. Partial as well as total disability counts towards the 90-day elimination period before benefits begin. We would encourage any minister or lay employee not covered by the plan to seriously consider joining.

Life Insurance Plans

John Hancock continues to underwrite all the PCA life insurance plans.

Basic Life (BLI). This coverage is tied to participation in the PCA Health Plan. Coverage amount is \$10,000 for those under age 65; \$7,000 for those active employees ages 65-69; and \$3,000 for those age 70 or above or retired.

Term Life (TLI). The premium continues at \$23 per month per participant for 1997. Coverage begins at \$250,000 for those under age 35 and decreases each five years thereafter.

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Optional Life (OLI). Any minister, missionary or lay employee in the PCA is eligible for coverage under this plan, subject to underwriting after the eligibility period and for amounts above \$50,000 during the eligibility period. Coverages can range from \$20,000 to \$250,000 for the participant and from \$5,000 to the lesser of \$50,000 or one-half the participant's amount for the spouse. Children's coverages are available in \$1,000 increments up to \$10,000. One advantage of this plan is that it is portable. This means that if a minister or lay employee leaves the PCA or retires, coverage can continue by paying premiums directly to John Hancock. This benefit is available in most states.

Retirement Plans

Approximately 200 new participants joined the PCA retirement plan in 1996. Total membership, including retirees receiving benefits, now exceeds 2,800.

Retirement plan net assets grew from \$77.2 million in 1995 to \$93.3 million by the end of 1996, a 20.8% increase. Net returns after all fees for the retirement funds were as follows:

	1995	1996
PCA Equity Fund	22.2%	18.0%
PCA Balanced Fund	24.8%	11.7%
PCA Income Fund	7.6%	5.8%
PCA Money Market Fund	5.3%	4.7%
INVESCO Industrial Income Fund	27.0%	18.3%
Fidelity Balanced Fund	14.4%	10.0%
AIM Constellation Fund	¹ 35.5%	15.7%
Fidelity Advisor Growth Opportunities Fund	¹ 33.0%	17.3%
Mutual Shares Fund	¹ 29.1%	19.7%
Templeton Foreign Fund	¹ 11.2%	17.4%

¹ From Morning Star

Because we now have ten investment options, the Board decided to change from specific mutual fund names to category designations for each of the mutual funds beginning in 1997. We believe this approach will assist our participants in having a better understanding of the underlying investment objectives for the mutual funds, which should help in the asset allocation process. For 1997 we terminated the Fidelity Balanced Fund and the INVESCO Industrial Income Fund as options. We added the Vanguard 500 Index Fund and the FPA New Income Fund. These two new funds will allow participants to do passive investing in the stock market and to have a pure bond fund.

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We revised the audio tape entitled "Choosing Your Investment Options" and the accompanying asset allocation worksheet to reflect the changes in mutual fund designations and the addition of the new mutual funds.

Ministers Tax Guide

In an effort to assist the ministers of the PCA with their income taxes, we again provided free of charge to all active ministers a copy of the *1997 Ministers Tax Guide for 1996 Returns*. In the center of each tax guide is a pull-out section designed for church treasurers, business managers and administrators entitled *Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches*. We solicited ads from ten of our outside vendors, which helped underwrite the major costs of this project.

Ministerial Relief

During 1996, 20 ministers, 2 missionaries, 5 dependents and 3 widows died. Ann Llewelyn, our Relief Representative, has an increasing number of retirees and widows to encourage and assist.

The Relief ministry is funded primarily through the annual Christmas Offering. The Christmas Offering comes through the generous giving of churches, individuals and WICs. Through March 7, 1997, the 1996 offering was \$291,072. Thanks to all who participated.

Trustees

The 1996 General Assembly elected three new Trustees to the IAR Board. We are grateful for the contributions these new Trustees have made during their first year of service.

Gary Campbell is a ruling elder in the Covenant Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and Senior Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Commerce Bank's Investment Management Group. Gary brings years of experience in the investment business and is serving on the Investment, Annuity, and Strategic Planning and Marketing Committees.

Glenn Fogle is a ruling elder in the West Hills Community Church in Shawnee, Kansas. He is the lead portfolio manager for four of the mutual funds in the Twentieth Century Fund family in Kansas City. Glenn's active portfolio management enables him to serve effectively on our Investment Committee. He is also a member of the Administrative and Strategic Planning and Marketing Committees.

Darryl Treadway is a deacon in the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Darryl's many years of experience in the insurance industry have well suited him for service on the PCA Insurance Committee. His involvement in mercy

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ministries in his church and presbytery have also afforded him the experience to be an effective member of our Relief Committee.

The Trustees and Staff offer our thanks to the General Assembly for electing these outstanding men to the Board.

Important Legislative Changes

Ministers, missionaries and lay church workers who participate in the PCA insurance and retirement plans were benefited by several pieces of federal legislation passed during 1996.

The **Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996**, attached to the Minimum Wage Bill and signed into law on August 20, 1996, included several provisions which had been introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives earlier, as the Church Retirement Benefits Simplification Act, and were supported by many denominational pension boards.

Among the issues of particular interest to PCA plan participants are the following:

- **SECA Tax on Housing Allowance of Retired Ministers**

The Act provides retroactive relief for any open tax years from the IRS's efforts to impose SECA (self employment) tax on pension benefits taken as housing allowance by retired ministers. It clarifies that such housing benefits are exempt from SECA taxes.

- **Special Rule for Chaplains and Self-Employed Ministers**

The Act allows self-employed ministers and chaplains to participate in their denomination's retirement plans. While the bill did not specify whether military chaplains are included, technical corrections legislation being introduced in Congress in 1997 will hopefully clarify this issue. Chaplains for hospitals and other institutions and organizations who are ordained in the PCA can now participate in the PCA retirement plan. Self-employed ministers, of whom there are few in the PCA, may also participate in their denomination's retirement plan.

- **Special Foreign Missionary Rule**

The Act provided a special foreign missionary exemption, allowing employer contributions to create "tax-basis" if the amount would have been excluded under Internal Revenue Code section 911 (foreign-earned income) if paid directly to the missionary. This provision will have particular importance to PCA missionaries, in that the contributions made during times when they were serving overseas under this provision beginning in 1997, may be withdrawn during retirement without being taxed.

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IAR Trustees amended the PCA Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan document to allow nondeductible contributions by any participant. (See Appendix Two.) This provision will particularly benefit missionaries serving overseas, in that, instead of salary reduction contributions which are made on a before-tax basis, they can now make these contributions on what amounts to an after-tax basis. Other plan participants can make nondeductible contributions, but in most cases the benefits are not as significant.

- **Salary Reduction Rules Changed**

Under prior rules participants in 403(b) retirement plans could execute only one Salary Reduction Agreement during any calendar year. The Act changed that restriction and now allows a participant to execute more than one such agreement. This is a particular benefit to anyone whose financial situation changes during the year so that it would be desirable to change the amount of future salary reduction contributions.

- **Modified Definition of Compensation for Section 415 Purposes**

Salary reduction contributions to both tax-sheltered annuities and cafeteria plans are currently excluded from the definition of “compensation” for computing permissible contributions to tax-sheltered annuities. The act modifies the definition of compensation to include any elective pre-tax employee contributions to Code section 403(b) and Section 125 (cafeteria) plans. This provision takes effect in 1998. It will increase the amount that most ministers and lay church workers may contribute to tax-sheltered annuities.

The **National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996** included provisions favorable to denominational church retirement boards. The Act clarifies that 403(b) church retirement plans are not subject to federal and state securities laws. Prior to the enactment of this provision, there was a lack of clarity on whether church plans were subject to securities laws regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and state “blue sky” laws.

The Act also requires that plan participants be given notice of such exemption and that they are therefore “not afforded the protections of these provisions.” Church plans are, however, still subject to the restrictions and regulations of the Internal Revenue Code and the IRS.

The **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996** was signed into law by the President on August 21. The main provisions of this legislation, which governs health plans (including church plans), relate to (1) limits on pre-existing conditions, (2) special enrollment periods for individuals who lose coverage and others who become dependents as a result of marriage, birth or adoption and (3) eligibility rules which prohibit health plans from basing eligibility or individual premiums on

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health status, medical condition, claims experience, receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability or disability.

Provisions of some the legislation passed in 1996 will no doubt be clarified through technical corrections legislation in 1997 and possibly by regulations drawn up by the various federal agencies responsible for implementation.

Conclusion

The IAR Board of Trustees and the Staff acknowledge with grateful appreciation the privilege of serving our Lord through His Church. We trust God's continued blessing upon the work of our hands on behalf of ordained and lay PCA church workers, missionaries, retirees and widows whom we serve, for the remainder of 1997 and in the years to come.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Minutes of Board meetings of August 16, 1996, November 8, 1996 and February 28, 1997 be approved.
2. That the audit report dated December 31, 1996 by Arthur Andersen & Company be received.
3. That the General Assembly approve the use of Arthur Andersen & Company to conduct the 1997 audit.
4. That the 1998 budget be received with the understanding that it is a spending plan and that adjustments will be made during the year, if necessary, by the Trustees.
5. That the General Assembly urge our member churches to participate in the annual Christmas Offering or budget regular benevolence giving to support relief activities through the Ministerial Relief Fund.
6. That the General Assembly approve the 15th Amendment to the Presbyterian Church in America Voluntary Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan (see Appendix Two) and that the resolution related to this amendment be adopted and included in the Minutes of the General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board of Trustees

/s/ Thomas J. Stein, Chairman

/s/ James L. Hughes, Director

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Participation in your programs for the last three years was as shown below:

<u>Program</u>	<u>12-31-94</u>	<u>12-31-95</u>	<u>12-31-96</u>
Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan			
Employer Contribution	2,315	2,484	2,540
Salary Reduction Contribution	921	1,019	1,180
Total Active Retirement Participants	1,882	2,045	2,218
Frozen Retirement Accounts	483	473	465
Health Insurance	1,038	971	894
Supplemental Life Insurance*	339	N/A	N/A
Optional Life Insurance**	N/A	492	488
Term Life Insurance	1,043	1,038	1,049
Long-Term Disability Plan	1,285	1,378	1,538
Disabled Participants Receiving Benefits	5	8	8
Retirees/Surviving Spouses			
Receiving Retirement Plan Benefits	152	171	173
Relief***	42	38	38

* *Plan terminated 12/31/94.*

** *Plan began 1/1/95.*

*** *Family units receiving direct financial assistance on a regular basis. Other assistance is given on a case-by-case basis as special needs arise.*

Retirements, Disabilities and Deaths

During 1996 the following participants began receiving retirement benefits: Reverend John B. Bartlett, Reverend Elwood C. Cooley, Reverend John R. Dodd, Mr. Donald F. Edwards, Mrs. Nancy Frankenfield, Reverend Calvin F. Frett, Mr. Warren E. Ihlenfield, Miss Agnes J. Lappin, Dr. John D. Love, Reverend Dewey D. Murphy, Reverend Virgil Pino, Reverend Gordon K. Reed and Reverend George W. Smith.

The following disability plan participants began receiving benefits: Mrs. Liane Day and Reverend Bruce Howes.

During 1996 the following plan participants or dependents died: Matthew Alexander, Dr. Robert Allyn, Reverend Tom Dake, Reverend Ron Davis, Jake Dunahoo, Reverend Joseph Farlow, Dr. G. Allen Fleece, Mrs. Emily Gray, Mrs. Amy Hartman, Reverend Harold Kuhn, Mrs. Stephen Leonard, Reverend Charles McNutt, Mrs. Stuart Perrin, Zachary Singenstreu, Reverend Frank Smick, Jr., Dr. Richard Strom, Reverend William Swets and Reverend Robert S. Williamson. Total PCA life insurance benefits paid to their beneficiaries amounted to \$226,000.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APPENDIX TWO

FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT
TO THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
VOLUNTARY TAX-SHELTERED ANNUITY PLAN

THIS AMENDMENT to the Presbyterian Church in America Voluntary Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan"), made this 28th day of February, 1997, by the Board of Trustees of the Insurance, Annuity and Relief Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America (hereinafter referred to as the "Trustees"), to be effective as noted below;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Church in America sponsors and maintains the Plan as a retirement income account under Section 403(b)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Section 11.01 of the Plan reserves to the Trustees the right to alter or amend the Plan subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Trustees to permit participants in the Plan to make after-tax contributions to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Trustees to amend the Plan to comply with certain provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Trustees to amend the language in Section 5.02(c)(1) of the Plan to conform this language to the manner in which the Plan has been administered since the Plan's inception;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Plan be amended in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A effective as of the date set forth in such Exhibit; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of the Insurance, Annuity and Relief Funds of the Presbyterian Church in America is hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary and desirable to carry out this and the foregoing resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Trustees have caused this Fifteenth Amendment to be executed on the day and year first above written.

TRUSTEES:
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
INSURANCE, ANNUITY AND RELIEF
FUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____
By: _____

APPENDICES

EXHIBIT A

The Plan is hereby amended effective as of January 1, 1997, as follows, except that the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 shall be effective as of November 8, 1996:

1. Subsection 1.01(a)(4) shall be amended to read as follows:

(4) The amount contributed by an Employee as a Nondeductible Employee Contribution beginning on or after January 1, 1997; and

2. Section 1.02 shall be amended to read as follows:

1.02 The term "Annuity Contract" shall mean the right to benefits under this Plan created by a Participant's execution of a Salary Reduction Agreement with an Employer which is approved by the Trustees, or created by a contribution made at the initiative of a participating Employer which is received and accepted by the Trustees, or created by a Nondeductible Employee Contribution made at the initiative of an Employee which is received and accepted by the Trustees.

3. The last sentence of Section 1.17 shall be amended to read as follows:

The Employer shall withhold from the Participant's pay and contribute to the Plan the Salary Reduction Percentage of Compensation currently available to the Participant on or after the Salary Reduction Commencement Date.

4. Subsection 2.01(a) shall be amended to read as follows:

(a) Participation Under Salary Reduction Agreement. Any Employee shall be eligible to enter into a Salary Reduction Agreement. An eligible Employee shall become a Participant as of the Salary Reduction Commencement Date designated in the Participant's Salary Reduction Agreement with his or her Employer. The Employer shall withhold from wages and remit amounts withheld to the Trustees on behalf of Participant in accordance with the terms of the Salary Reduction Agreement executed by the Participant.

A Salary Reduction Agreement shall apply only with respect to Compensation for services rendered to the Employer by the Participant which is not currently available prior to the Salary Reduction Commencement Date. Subject to the limitations in the preceding sentence, a Participant may enter into more than one Salary Reduction Agreement each year. A Salary Reduction Agreement may be terminated at any time with respect to future Compensation not currently available.

5. Section 4.02 shall be amended to read as follows:

4.02 Nondeductible Employee Contributions

(a) Annual Amount of Nondeductible Employee Contributions. Subject to the limitations on contributions in Article V, Subsection 5.01(c), each Participant shall be entitled to contribute Nondeductible Employee Contributions to the Trust Fund.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(b) Election to Withdraw Nondeductible Employee Contributions. A Participant may, upon prior written notice to the Trustees, elect to receive all or any portion of the balance in the Participant's Nondeductible Employee Contributions Account. A Participant may not make more than one election under this Subsection (b) in any calendar year unless the Trustees adopt a rule under which more frequent withdrawals are permitted.

6. Subsection 5.01(c)(1) shall be amended to read as follows:

(1) 25% of the Participant's Compensation (excluding any amount excludable from income under Code section 107) in such calendar year, or

7. The following sentence shall be added to the end of the Subsection 5.01(d) of the Plan:

To the extent that the contribution limitation under Code Section 402(g) is violated, such violation will only affect the individual participant with respect to whom the excess contribution is made and shall affect no other Plan participant.

8. The first sentence of Subsection 6.07(a) shall be amended to read as follows:

(a) Demand Withdrawals. Following any Plan valuation, a Participant may elect to receive a distribution of all or any portion of his Account, excluding the portion of his Account consisting of Salary Reduction Contributions and earnings thereon, and, in the case of a Participant who is a foreign missionary within the meaning of Section 403(b)(2)(D)(iii) of the Code, also excluding any portion of his Account consisting of Employer contributions that are excluded from the foreign missionary's gross income under Code Section 911.

9. Subsection 6.07(3)(C) shall be amended to read as follows:

(C) After receiving the hardship distribution, the Participant shall be prohibited from making Salary Reduction Contributions and Nondeductible Employee Contributions under this Plan, and elective contributions and employee contributions under any other plan of his or her Employer (including all qualified and nonqualified deferred compensation, stock option and stock purchases plans maintained by such Employer, but not including health or welfare benefit plans or the mandatory employee contributions portion of any defined benefit plan) for at least 12 months following receipt of the hardship distributions; and

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**EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in America Insurance, Annuities and Relief Funds has approved adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Presbyterian Church in America Voluntary Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan, subject to approval by the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has determined that the amendment recommended by the Trustees should be approved;

RESOLVED, that adoption of the amendment is hereby ratified by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America.

STATED CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America hereby certifies that attached hereto is a true and correct Excerpt from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Assembly, duly called, convened and held on the ____ day of _____, 1997, and that such Resolution therein contained is still in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my signature this ____ day of _____, 1997.

Stated Clerk

APPENDIX H

**REPORT OF THE INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TO THE
TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Presbyterian Church in America**

I. MEMBERSHIP

TE Robert L. Reymond	S. Florida	1999
RE Thomas Sanford	MS Valley	1999
TE Henry Lewis Smith	SE Alabama	1998
RE R. Meade Guy	SE Alabama	1998
TE William Edgar, III	Philadelphia	1997
RE Robert Ashlock	TN Valley	1997
RE James D. Walters, Jr.	Calvary	Alt
TE Paul Gilchrist	TN Valley	ex officio - Stated Clerk
TE Donald Gahagen	N. Georgia	ex officio - MTW

[NOTE: TE George M. McGuire, alternate, from Evangel Presbytery resigned in 1996 having transferred to the CRC.]

II. MEETINGS

September 24, 1996	Telephone Conference Call
April 3, 1997	Met in Atlanta

III. ITEMS DISCUSSED AND ACTIONS TAKEN

A. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) held its 52nd national conference in Orlando, Florida, March 3-6, 1997. Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk of the PCA, IRC Chairman Bob Ashlock and Rick Perrin represented the PCA among several others from our denomination.

The NAE consists of 43,000 churches from 47 different member denominations. It is the one opportunity that the PCA has of being in contact with other evangelical denominations in our country. It is a prime opportunity to network, exchange ideas and viewpoints, and to generally understand what is going on across the evangelical church in North America. The NAE is the one organization in the United States capable of representing evangelical Christians to the government before the culture and in the media. The NAE provides an opportunity, especially through World Relief, for evangelicals to work together in meeting the needs of suffering Christians and others around the world. The NAE also allows for coordinating strategy for evangelism and responding to the trends and challenges of our society.

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The NAE adopted several resolutions; for example, declaring in “Does God Speak to Our Time?”,

Whatever our culture, race, language, heritage, or time in history, as evangelical Christians we joyfully bow to the complete authority of the Scriptures as embodied in the 66 canonical books of the Old and New Testaments. We affirm the Scriptures’ truthfulness, acknowledging that, while our knowing is culturally influenced, we may know the mind and thought of Him who inhabits eternity, by this written revelation He has graciously provided. Therefore, we are under His mandate to herald this good news to everyone.”

In a resolution on physician assisted suicide, the NAE declared,

“We believe that life is a gift from God, and that human life has absolute -- not relative -- value.”

It expressed solid opposition to euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. The NAE adopted a resolution calling for the church to minister to the “church behind the walls,” referring to prisoners who have become Christians. In a resolution on “Heeding the Call of the Poor: Let the Church be the Church,” the NAE called for Christians to be sensitive to the needs of those who are in poverty and stated “we call on every Christian employer to hire and train persons who have been trapped in poverty. And we call on the Christian community to commit itself to renewed efforts to remove racism, prejudice, and other barriers to employment in the community and society.”

In a fifth resolution, the NAE called partial-birth abortion a “horrific medical procedure that takes the life of an unborn child in a way scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages. Indeed, it is a practice totally unworthy of a civilized nation.” They then went on to appeal for the President to support a ban on partial-birth abortion and declared that Americans must “heal this national wound, lest this moral disgrace continue unabated.”

The NAE is joining with the World Evangelical Fellowship in supporting a 52-day period of prayer for persecuted Christians around the world beginning September 28. It will culminate November 12-14 with the NAE sponsored “days of fasting and prayer” that NAE affiliated churches nationwide will observe. There is growing concern over the rising tide of worldwide persecution and of the growing anti-Christian sentiment in our own country. It is therefore important that Christians pray for our brothers who suffer and that God will pour out His Spirit in a way that will lead to repentance and revival in our own country. At its April meeting the Committee voted to recommend to the General Assembly that the PCA encourage its congregations to eagerly participate in the planned days of fasting and prayer for the persecuted church.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Archie Parish of MNA is our contact person for materials available relating to the days of fasting and prayer.

On another note, the PCA received the "Helping Hands" award from the World Relief corporation for its significant contributions to the relief of world wide suffering.

Finally, the 24th General Assembly "Directed the IRC to report back to the 25th General Assembly any changes that may have occurred to the NAE Statement of Faith or on any movement toward granting women the privilege of the pulpit." There are no changes to the NAE Statement of Faith that have been adopted or even considered. There were structural changes and consequent Bylaws changes in 1995-96. The NAE at its national convention does from time to time have women speakers at various luncheons or breakfasts and occasionally in plenary sessions. The NAE does not grant women the "privilege of the pulpit" in any way that corresponds with PCA categories. Further, this should be seen as the equivalent of any of our congregations who might invite a woman to address a particular meeting or a missionary to bring a report on a work overseas.

B. WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF REFORMED CHURCHES

The World Fellowship of Reformed Churches (WFRC) continues to make progress in building a network of Presbyterian and Reformed denominations across the world. The purpose of the World Fellowship is to create a fellowship among Presbyterian and Reformed Christians that will enable them to work with one another in missions and other projects. The aim is to put those who have ministry resources in touch with those who have vision but few resources. In that way, various congregations and denominational ministries may enable others to more effectively reach their cities and countries with the gospel.

In September 1996, the Executive Committee of the World Fellowship met in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to lay plans for the coming year. They consulted with three Presbyterian denominations including the Presbyterian Church of Brazil which has been a leader in the formation of the World Fellowship.

WFRC formed a Latin American Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship, the Confraternidad de Latinoamericano de Iglesias Reformada (CLIR), in October 1995. Eighteen Latin American Presbyterian and Reformed denominations are members or in the process of joining, including the Presbyterian Church of Brazil and the one-million member National Presbyterian Church of Mexico.

In October 1996, the Executive Committee of CLIR and CLIR's Theological Commission, met at Knox Theological Seminary in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, to plan particular projects for Latin America. CLIR built on the foundation laid during the trip in November 1995 when WFRC and CLIR leaders traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, to intercede on behalf of persecuted evangelicals. They met with masked Zapatista rebels,

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government negotiators, the Roman Catholic Bishop and the Governor of the State of Chiapas. Since then, CLIR has sponsored a number of seminars in Chiapas working with the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Mexico in equipping Presbyterian pastors in church planting, discipleship and evangelism. In Ft. Lauderdale, CLIR leaders worked on a position paper defining what evangelical Presbyterians believed and how the Reformed church may respond to the pressing Latin American problems of poverty, liberation theology and the influence of post-modern culture. CLIR has planned additional seminars for 1997 in Guatemala, Puerto Rico and Brazil. In addition, WFRC has been in the position of helping to encourage and moderate denominational struggles taking place in Chile.

In May 1997, WFRC leaders met in conjunction with the General Assembly of the World Evangelical Fellowship in Vancouver, British Columbia. At that time they presented the opportunity of networking through WFRC with a number of Presbyterian leaders from across the world. WFRC hopes that from this beginning, they may develop regional fellowships in other parts of the world, based on the model of CLIR.

PCA teaching elders Dr. Rick Perrin, Dr. Paul Gilchrist, and Dr. Cecilio Lajara, are members of the WFRC Executive Committee. Other leaders in WFRC or CLIR include men from the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the Christian Reformed Church of Puerto Rico.

C. FRATERNAL DELEGATES

The following men have been appointed as Fraternal Delegates to the denominational assemblies listed below:

ARPC, Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC, June 9-11, 1997
RE James D. Walters, Jr.

CRC, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, June 14-21, 1997
TE K. Eric Perrin

KAPC, San Mateo, CA, June 17-19, 1997
TE Don Treick

OPC, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, June 4-11, 1997
TE Nick E. Protos

RPCNA, William Jewell College, Liberty, MO, July 12-18, 1997
TE Daniel E. Dermeyer

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And Fraternal Correspondents to:

RCUS, Covenant RCUS, Sacramento, CA, May 19-22, 1997
TE Alan B. Waldecker

EPC, Central EPC, St. Louis, MO, June 19-21, 1997
TE Donald J. MacNair

D. RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

On behalf of the Interchurch Relations Committee, TE Steve Smallman attended a Washington, D. C. summit on the Religious Alliance Against Pornography. His report is available on request from the Office of the Stated Clerk.

E. AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

On December 3-4, 1996, Dr. Paul Gilchrist attended the National Advisory Council meeting of the ABS. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to enhance collaboration between ABS and churches committed to sharing God's Word, to provide counsel and feedback for ABS projects, programs and products, to help denominations regarding the primacy of Scripture use and distribution in denominational programs, etc. For example, through their leadership with the United Bible Societies, they have distributed millions of Bibles and portions of Scriptures throughout the world. Specifically, in 1995:

in Africa	2,839,572 Bibles
in the Americas	6,171,748 Bibles
in Asia Pacific:	6,330,144 Bibles
in Europe and Middle East:	2,409,518 Bibles

When one adds New Testaments or portions the grand total is 74,156,297 pieces distributed throughout the world.

The ABS is a national leader in Bible research, translation and distribution. Their Vision 2000 also seeks to provide the Scriptures in a "relevant and compelling manner and in appropriate media forms" including the wide world of cyberspace.

The meeting in December 1996 focused on grappling with some key issues and problems we are all facing in urban America.

Dr. Eugene Habecker has served as President of the ABS for just a few years. He had been president of Taylor University prior to his position at ABS. He and his staff are vitally interested in the concerns of the evangelical and reformed community. We are grateful for the opportunity afforded PCA to assist the ABS in their programs and service for the extension of the Gospel witness in the USA and throughout the world.

F. CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

In July 1996 the following letter sent to the PCA, addressed to Dr. Paul Gilchrist as Stated Clerk was received from Dr. David Engelhard, General Secretary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

June 28, 1996

Dear Dr. Gilchrist:

We greet you in the name of the risen and ascended Lord.

Your letter of September 15, 1996, addressed to the Christian Reformed Church in North America, officially conveying the communication adopted by the 23rd General Assembly, meeting in Dallas, Texas, on June 19-23, 1995, was received by the office of the general secretary. Following review and recommendation by the Interchurch Relations Committee, Synod 1996 of the Christian Reformed Church in North America provides you with the following reply.

We appreciate the expressed desire of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to continue in full fellowship with the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). We are grateful that you value the relationship we have through the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC).

The CRCNA does not take lightly its relationship with churches in ecclesiastical fellowship. Our denominations have enjoyed this ecclesial relationship since 1975. In that light we consider seriously your grief and distress over the action of Synod 1995 of the CRCNA to permit women to hold the offices of minister and elder. We also take note of your statements that "the action of the Christian Reformed Church is in contradiction to the clear teaching of Scripture and the historic Presbyterian and Reformed confessions of faith."

As you know, for many years the CRCNA has prayerfully and carefully debated the issue of admitting women to ecclesiastical office. Although synodical decisions in recent years have not always followed a consistent pattern, it must be maintained that in every substantive decision made, the CRCNA put forth a sincere effort to be obedient to the infallible Word of God and to the church's confessional standards. Synod 1995 did not declare that one approach to the matter was right and the other wrong. With respect to the issue of whether women are to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, it allowed that careful Reformed scholarship and obedient discipleship could bring individuals, local churches, and classes to differing perspectives and convictions, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God. Therefore, in the interest of both fidelity to the Scriptures and the unity of the body of Christ, Synod 1995 decided that its classes, responding to local needs and circumstances, may authorize the churches under their jurisdiction to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist (cf. *Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 733).

The CRCNA respectfully disagrees with the PCA call for us to "repent and rescind." We acknowledge that our denomination has struggled as it has

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

tried to discern the faithful contemporary application of Word and confession in the employment of women's gifts in the body of Christ. Has this process reached a sinful conclusion? We think not. If some of our classes conclude that it is appropriate to ordain women to the specified offices, a practice followed in various ways by other denominations, the CRCNA questions the consistency of your calling our denomination to repentance while you tolerate such diversity in other denominations with which you have ecumenical relationships.

Furthermore, we believe that a church in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRCNA should not instruct its Interchurch Relations Committee to "use all due process afforded them in NAPARC to remove the CRCNA from membership in NAPARC." The implications of such an act would likely lead to the termination of our formal ecclesiastical fellowship.

The CRCNA would humbly submit that there are not only a "sizable number in [our] midst who are working hard to see the CRC remain faithful to Scripture on this issue" but that this description characterizes the whole CRCNA.

Rather than straining or breaking relationships, let us strive together to understand one another, noting our differences, and let us "exercise . . . mutual concern and admonition with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity" (Provisions of Ecclesiastical Fellowship, *Acts of Synod 1974*, p. 57).

For the Christian Reformed Church in North America

/s/ David H. Engelhard, General Secretary

The Committee did not respond to this letter. At their meeting in September 1996, the letter from Dr. Engelhard was viewed as the response of the CRC to the action of the 23rd General Assembly; the letter did not seem to need a reply.

Later, it became clear that Dr. Engelhard expected a response; and at the next meeting of the Committee in April 1997, the following letter was approved by the Committee to provide further explanation of the Action of the PCA, and as our response to Dr. Engelhard's letter:

April 7, 1997

Dr. David H. Engelhard, General Secretary
The Christian Reformed Church in North America
2850 Kalamazoo Avenue, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560-0500

Dear Dr. Engelhard:

We are grateful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the fellowship we have shared with the Christian Reformed Church since 1975. The CRC was a

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great encouragement to us in the formative years of our denomination, and we have appreciated your commitment to the gospel and to the Reformed faith. We continue to pray God's grace upon you.

We received the communication of Synod 1996 to the Presbyterian Church in America dated June 28, 1996. Please forgive our long delay in responding. We acknowledge that the CRC has prayed and debated the issue of women's ordination to the offices of minister and elder, and that you have been unable to agree on the matter. Indeed, we understand that as a result you have found yourselves in a very difficult position.

You state that Synod 1995 did not declare that "one approach to the matter was right and the other wrong." You consequently took the expedient approach of allowing your church government to be suspended in respect to "local needs and circumstances." This is the very point that disturbs us.

It must be manifest that God is not divided on the matter. If women's ordination is forbidden by Scripture, then to allow it is wrong. Conversely, if women's ordination is permitted by Scripture, then to forbid it cannot be right. You say both sides "honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God," and you are not saying both positions can be true; yet the practical effect of allowing both positions to be held is to convey the impression Scripture is ambiguous. Whether or not you agree, in our opinion this is the implication, and it goes back to a dubious view of infallibility. It would have been better, where the church cannot decide which view is right, to stay with tradition, rather than opening the door to such ambiguity. Thus, Scripture no longer guides the Christian Reformed Church in any practical way in the matter of women's ordination. Neither does your form of government.

Do you not see that by crossing this line you have rendered yourselves defenseless against other issues? For example, will you be able to maintain a biblical position on homosexuality should the pressure mount to negate the sinfulness of such behavior? Can you hold to belief in an infallible Bible if sufficient numbers among you abandon the conviction of inerrancy of the Scriptures? Brothers, we do not accuse you of this but we fear for you. Other denominations have faltered at this point.

In our view, this is the most dangerous position in which the Church of Christ can find itself. If you had declared that the Bible teaches the ordination of women, we would believe you had grievously erred in your understanding of Scripture, but we could at least maintain a common standard, though we disagree. Now, *defacto*, we have no common point of reference from which to disagree.

The General Assembly of 1995 called upon you to "repent and rescind" and by this, in a manner of speaking, we meant to urge you to draw back from the ordination of women but more important, to return to a position of being yielded to the authority of Scripture, in submission to the historic confessional position of your church. We are afraid for you out of our great love for you. That is why we spoke as bluntly as we did.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We do not wish to lose you from NAPARC or from ecclesiastical fellowship with the PCA. To the contrary, we desire to stand side by side with you in the fellowship of Christ, and to share in the cause of the gospel.

Nevertheless, the General Assembly instructed the Interchurch Relations Committee to seek to remove the CRC from membership in NAPARC should our remonstrance fail. We feel it has failed. We feel strongly that the action of Synod 1995, for the reasons given above, namely your fundamental position in regard to Scripture and the Reformed Confessions of the Church, have significantly shifted the CRC away from the consensus that forms the basis of NAPARC.

We fervently pray that you will return to your faithful practice of and commitment to the Word of God as evidenced in your long held position on this matter.

In the love of Christ, for the Interchurch Relations Committee,

/s/ Robert B. Ashlock, Chairman
Interchurch Relations Committee
Presbyterian Church in America

Proposal re. Future Relations With CRC:

At the April meeting of the Committee there were many expressions of concern to communicate to the CRC that their real problem is their view of the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. Two actions were taken as a result of this concern. The Committee passed a motion to recommend that the General Assembly of the PCA change our relationship with the CRC from "fraternal relations" to "fraternal correspondence," and instruct the Stated Clerk to communicate this action to the CRC. Also, the Committee agreed that representatives of the PCA needed to meet personally with representatives of the CRC to explain the possible action of the PCA. A committee of four was appointed by the chair. Ruling Elders James Walters, Jr., and Robert Ashlock together with teaching elders Paul Gilchrist and Rick Perrin will meet with the representatives of the CRC in Grand Rapids on May 28, 1997.

In order to understand the recommendation, it will be well to remind the commissioners of the three levels of relationships with other bodies as approved in 1991. The 19th GA adopted a report defining the nature of relations with other churches which included the following:

1. **Churches in Ecclesiastical Fellowship.** These relationships are established with Reformed churches in North America by an act of the General Assembly. With these churches the PCA will exchange Fraternal Delegates. The PCA can receive as Fraternal Delegates from these churches men who subscribe to the

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classic Reformed confessions and whose office in their communion is on a parity with the offices of Ruling and Teaching Elder in the PCA. This means:

- a. Exchange of fraternal delegates at major assemblies;
- b. Occasional pulpit fellowship;
- c. Intercommunion (i.e., fellowship at the Table of the Lord);
- d. Joint action in areas of common responsibility;
- e. Communication on major issues of joint concern;
- f. Exercise of mutual concern and admonition with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity.

2. **Churches in Fraternal Correspondence.** The PCA will establish relationship with churches across the world who, through their national Associations, are members of the World Evangelical Fellowship. (The PCA is a member of the WEF by its membership in the National Association of Evangelicals and an Associate Member of the WEF through Mission to the World.)

The relationship with these bodies will be conducted by:

- a. Exchanges of correspondence;
- b. Fellowship meeting in conjunction with the General Assembly of the WEF held every six years, and
- c. Exchange of delegates at church courts if agreeable to those courts.

A PCA delegate would be authorized by the Interchurch Relations Committee if he happened to be in the area when another church's court was meeting. He would attend at no expense to the PCA or its agencies.

Similar delegates to the PCA General Assembly would present written greetings of three hundred words to be distributed to the assembly and would be introduced by the Interchurch Relations Committee Chairman.

3. **Churches in Ecclesiastical Correspondence.** The Interchurch Relations Committee will be authorized to exchange greetings and letters of encouragement with other evangelical churches in North America with whom we have not entered into Fraternal Relations, for the purpose of wishing them well in the Lord.

G. THREE FORMS OF UNITY

At its September 1996 meeting, the Committee asked its chairman (TE Henry Lewis Smith) to appoint an *ad hoc* committee to study the "Three Forms of Unity" in view of a possible proposal to add them to the Westminster Standards as the PCA's confessional documents; specifically, The Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dordt. This was done because individuals and congregations are coming into the PCA from other reformed denominations, and the relation of other confessional standards to the Westminster standards is sometimes an issue.

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Individuals who served on the Subcommittee on the Three Forms of Unity were TE William Edgar (Convener), TE D. Clair Davis, and RE Steven Vanderhill (from the OPC). They met at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in December 1996.

The Subcommittee found a number of factors that suggest we look into an appropriate way to commend the Three Forms of Union to the PCA, including an increasing awareness of the unity of spirit and purposes in the Churches of Reformed and Evangelical character, NAPARC identity (which includes families from the Presbyterian and Continental Reformed traditions), and the existence of several worldwide Reformed Fellowships.

The Subcommittee's report also focused on challenges which need to be considered carefully, including the importance of confessional distinctives, differences in tone and emphasis among the documents, and the possibility of giving the impression that none of the documents are taken seriously.

The Subcommittee proposed that the church first study the Three Forms of Union. At its meeting in April 1997, the Committee voted to recommend urging the PCA to study the Three Forms of Union, comparing them to the Westminster Standards. The principal place for such study would be at the Presbytery level. Churches and individuals would also be encouraged to do likewise.

H. NAPARC

Delegates representing the PCA at the NAPARC meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 19-20, 1996, were Dr. William Edgar, Dr. Paul Gilchrist, and Dr. Larry Roff. Rev. Henry L. Smith, Chairman of the Committee, was not able to be present for personal reasons.

The Interim Committee of NAPARC (Executive Committee) was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. David Engelhard, where Dr. Gilchrist was the PCA representative on the Interim Committee at the request of Henry L. Smith, Chairman. The main work of the Interim Committee was to follow up on a Committee to Draft Standing Rules for NAPARC and its Interim Committee. Some amendments and changes were made to the standing rules as recommended by the Interim Committee and they were to be acted on by the full NAPARC Council.

There are seven member churches of NAPARC, and each sent three or four voting delegates to the meeting in Pittsburgh. Observer Churches represented included, among others: Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Reformed Church, and the Protestant Reformed Churches. Officers for the coming year elected by NAPARC, are: Rev. Jack C. Whytock (ARPC), Chairman; Gordon J. Keddie (RPCNA), Vice Chairman; Donald J. Duff (OPC), Secretary; and Robert A. Henning (RPCNA), Treasurer.

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Reports were heard from each of the Member Churches. Rev. Ross Graham (OPC) reported on the Home Missions Consultation held on November 18-19, 1996; and Robert Henning (RPCNA) reported on the Foreign Missions Consultation held on the same dates.

Following the report of the Committee to Recommend Changes to the NAPARC Bylaws, Article 5, Section 3, was amended to read as follows:

“Admission to, suspension from, restoration to (after suspension) and termination of membership shall be proposed by the Council to the Member Churches by two-thirds of the ballots cast; this proposal must then be approved within three years by two-thirds of the major Assemblies of the Member Churches. A proposal to suspend or terminate the membership of a Member Church may be initiated only by a major Assembly of a Member Church. A suspended church may send delegates to meetings of the Council but they shall not vote nor may that church be represented on the Interim Committee.”

Five of the seven denominations reported that they had approved the amendment. The RPCNA did not meet this year and therefore, could not vote. The CRC Synod voted not to approve the amendment.

The treasurer reported total funds in the treasury amounted to: \$13,484.81. This included a balance of \$3,869.98 from the Westminster Assembly Commemoration Conference Fund. The following motion was adopted, “that consideration be made by each denomination through its Interchurch Relations Committee, as to how the Westminster Assembly Commemoration Conference Fund is to be used and report suggestions to the Council at the annual meeting in 1997.” In further action the membership dues were set at \$150 per Member Church for 1997.

At the banquet, held at the Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel, Dr. Jonathan M. Watt, pastor of the College Hill Reformed Presbyterian Church, spoke on the subject, “The Challenge of Post-Modernist Culture to Preaching.”

The following day, the matter of membership of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was discussed. Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk of the EPC, responded on the progress that EPC had made with regard to the questions raised several years ago by NAPARC concerning their Standards and the relationship of membership in NAPARC. A motion was made to approve the application of EPC for membership and that constitutional procedures be followed. However, there were 4 no votes and 3 yes votes. Therefore the motion failed because it required two-thirds vote of those present and voting. The PCA delegation voted yes in this connection because the delegation felt the EPC is seeking to be true to the Word of God and the Westminster Standards and is seeking to bring more of their churches into greater compliance with the Confessional Standards.

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Later on in the Assembly, under new business, the PCA delegation raised the question with regard to the CRC. The following motion was submitted:

“It is with deep regret and heartfelt concern, that the PCA delegation presents the following motion to NAPARC.

Whereas, the 23rd General Assembly of the PCA in June 1995 instructed the IRC ‘to use all due process afforded to them to remove the CRC from membership in NAPARC, if the CRC does not repent of and rescind the action of the 1995 Synod at its 1996 Synod.’

Whereas, this action was reported to the 21st Meeting of NAPARC on November 28-29, 1995 together with a copy of a letter sent to the CRCNA Synod;

Whereas, the CRCNA, through its Stated Clerk, has reported (ACTS of Synod, 1996, pp. 524 f.) that the denomination has no reason to ‘repent and rescind’ the actions in question,

Whereas, the Constitution of NAPARC has been amended to suspend, restore and terminate membership in NAPARC, which action may be ‘initiated only by a major assembly of a member church;’

Therefore, Be it Resolved that NAPARC initiate the process to suspend the CRCNA from its membership.”

The matter was put to a vote as to whether the matter was properly before the Council since the Bylaws had just been amended to permit suspension before termination. Five delegations voted yes and two delegations voted no. Then a further motion was made that the above motion “be referred to the Interim Committee with a view of its consideration at next year’s Council meeting.” The PCA delegation felt very clearly that we were under mandate from the 1995 General Assembly to begin the process to remove CRC from NAPARC. It also took cognizance of the fact that the Bylaws had just been amended to take the first step which would be suspension from NAPARC. When the NAPARC Bylaws were amended it was clearly the intent of those voting for the amendment to include suspension as a step in the process leading to termination, much as suspension precedes excommunication in our own PCA Rules of Discipline.

When asked why the PCA delegation voted to initiate the process of removing the CRC from NAPARC by suspension, as in contrast to the EPC which still has women in office, the answer given by representatives of the PCA was simply that in contrast to the EPC, which is seeking to bring more of their churches into greater compliance with the Westminster Standards, the CRC is moving away from the authority and inerrancy of Scriptures and its commitments to the doctrinal standards of the church. Needless to say, the CRC delegation was very upset with the PCA delegation for making this motion as well as for making it in the way that we did. They would have wanted the PCA Interchurch Relations Committee to continue discussions with their Interchurch Relations Committee before going on to present such a motion.

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However, our delegation felt that they were under mandate by action of the 23rd General Assembly. At the next Interchurch Relations Committee meeting, the Committee endorsed the action of its delegates at NAPARC in carrying out the mandate of the 23rd General Assembly quoted above. The 23rd General Assembly action was:

That the 23rd General Assembly of the PCA instruct the Stated Clerk to send the following communication to the CRC:

"We value the relationship we have with the CRC through NAPARC. It is our desire to continue in full fellowship with you. However we are grieved and distressed over the action of the 1995 Synod of the Christian Reformed Church to permit women to hold the offices of minister and elder. The action of the Christian Reformed Church is in contradiction to the clear teaching of Scripture and the historic presbyterian and reformed confessions of faith. Furthermore, we have instructed our Interchurch Relations Committee to use all due process afforded them in NAPARC to remove the Christian Reformed Church from membership in NAPARC, if the Christian Reformed Church does not repent of and rescind the action at the Synod. We commend the sizable number in your midst who are working hard to see the CRC remain faithful to Scripture on this issue and pray for God to use this group to prevail at the 1996 Synod." (Emphasis added)

[M23GA, p. 168, 23-32, III, 12.]

NAPARC has recommended that the PCA host the next meeting of NAPARC in Atlanta, Georgia on November 18-19, 1997, and to arrange for a key-note speaker for the dinner. The RCUS will host the NAPARC meeting for 1998.

I. RESPONSE TO OVERTURES TO INVESTIGATE IRC

An account of the IRC's actions at the NAPARC meeting of November 1996 is reported above, but some additional information regarding the committee's dealing with matters concerning the Christian Reformed Church will prove helpful to the General Assembly.

Let us begin with some history. General Assemblies in this decade have at times been sharply divided over how to deal with the CRC. We must remember that the CRC has been a valued sister denomination and was an encouragement to the PCA when we formed in 1973. Yet by the early 1990s trends in the CRC were raising significant concern within the PCA.

In 1992 the 20th General Assembly instructed the IRC to prepare documentation regarding the CRC's actions in such areas as "the view of Scripture, the toleration of beliefs in evolution and homosexuality, and the treatment of brethren who have stood against these modernist trends" (M20GA, 20-22, III,12, p.68). This was a far greater task than perhaps the GA understood when it ordered the report and consequently the IRC was unable to bring its report to the 21st General Assembly. This occasioned

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frustration on the part of many in the PCA and several overtures were sent to GA detailing alleged deviations in the CRC and mandating the PCA to call the CRC to repentance. By a motion from the floor one of these overtures was answered in the affirmative (*M21GA*, I, 63-64) occasioning a protest by some 300 commissioners (*M21GA*, I, 169-171).

The effect of this action sent the IRC in a search to verify the alleged deviations listed in the overture. When the IRC brought its lengthy report to the 22nd GA in 1993, it stated that while it was evident that the CRC had problems to which the PCA ought to be alert, the scope of such an investigation was beyond the ability of a committee of GA for several reasons. First, upon investigation, several of the allegations proved to be false or else were too difficult to pin down; second, the CRC was in process, i.e., many of these alleged deviations had been dealt with by the lower courts and had not made their way to the Synod level; third, it was the feeling of the IRC that it is improper for the PCA General Assembly to deal with or investigate another denomination except for those matters where it has spoken as a denomination. The experience was frustrating to all involved: to the GA and to the IRC as well.

Those most frustrated brought overtures demanding that the entire IRC be replaced and a new report on the CRC, written by commissioners, was proposed. The GA decisively voted to defeat these motions and decided not even to print the related reports in the minutes (*M22GA*, 22-40, IV, 4-6, p. 195).

It further stated, "That except for examining official acts and pronouncements of the CRC, the General Assembly now terminate all its efforts at an investigation of the CRC, for which there is questionable warrant, and is beyond the scope and competency of a committee of the PCA" (p. 195).

At Synod 1993 the CRC voted to begin the process of permitting women's ordination. In 1994 the CRC Synod voted to reverse its decision and negate the process toward granting women's ordination. In Synod 1995 they reversed direction again and voted to permit women to hold the offices of minister and elder. Information concerning the CRC action arrived while the 23rd GA was meeting. In response, the permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations and the Committee of Commissioners collaborated on a motion they together brought to the General Assembly, informing the CRC that "We have instructed our Interchurch Relations Committee to use all due process afforded them in NAPARC to remove the Christian Reformed Church from membership in NAPARC, if the Christian Reformed Church does not repent of and rescind the action of the Synod" (*M23GA*, II, 12, p. 168). The permanent Committee was in full accord with that action. It was subsequently communicated to the CRC by the Stated Clerk. At the meeting of NAPARC the following November (1995), the PCA delegation announced the Assembly's action and the provisional intention of the PCA to bring such a proposal to the 1996 meeting. The following June, the CRC Synod of 1996 reaffirmed its action of the previous year regarding women in office.

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At the November 1996 meeting of NAPARC an amendment to the Bylaws took effect permitting a denomination to be suspended from NAPARC. Accordingly, the PCA delegation brought a motion to suspend the CRC and thus began the process toward eventual expulsion of the CRC. There were several reasons why the IRC chose this route. First, while suspension is not necessary for removal of a denomination, it was widely assumed that this was the place to begin. Our own processes of discipline in the PCA anticipate a progression of judgments which might lead to repentance on the part of the accused. So here it seemed logical to take the "due process" in a series of steps. Second, the CRC is due to revisit the issue in the year 2000. In point of fact, no one expects the CRC to return to its earlier position forbidding women in office. Women officers are a fact in the CRC, like it or not. But, a motion to remove (skipping suspension) would run into strong arguments that in fairness to the CRC, their own review process must be honored before the women in office decision can be considered irrevocable. Third, the IRC felt that a "grand gesture" of a motion to remove the CRC from NAPARC would almost certainly fail, as at the moment the OPC and the CRC are in the process of discussing the issue. Thus it was felt that a motion to suspend could in fact gather enough support to pass. Then, when practical, certainly no later than the 2000 meeting, the process could be completed with a vote to remove the CRC.

Thus the IRC did initiate "due process" in carrying out in what it felt was the wisest manner, the directive of the 23rd General Assembly. "Process" takes time. To expect that the action of removing the CRC could be accomplished in one meeting of NAPARC indicates an unfamiliarity with the way NAPARC, and indeed the way interchurch relations, of necessity works. That is why the General Assembly has created a committee for that purpose. General Assembly must be cautious not to micro manage the work of IRC.

In the meantime the IRC has continued to look into developments in the CRC, directing its study not at the symptoms of the CRC's problems, as in the mandated report of 1994, but at what the IRC considers to be the root of the matter, namely the CRC's view of Scripture, which has been heavily influenced by Professor Berkouwer. This is reflected in Report 44 adopted by the Synod of 1972. While superficially orthodox, the report contains the flaws which have opened the way for the CRC to abandon its historic position on Women in office and leaves it vulnerable to departure from Biblical truth in other areas.

Specific Response to Overtures 2, 4 and 12:

Overtures 2, 4 and 12 reflect the same spirit of suspicion and distrust that characterized some of the earlier criticisms of the IRC, particularly those at the 22nd GA in 1994. The IRC does not think this is helpful and therefore feels it necessary to respond point for point to the series of "whereases" attached to Overture 4. We begin with the third "whereas" which states that the IRC did not make a motion to remove the CRC from NAPARC. This allegation is misleading. For technical reasons the motion was not on the docket so the delegation brought it up under new business. A debate followed as to whether it was legitimately on the floor and NAPARC decided it was.

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The PCA delegation asked for the suspension of the CRC in accordance with the new Bylaws of NAPARC.

The fourth "whereas" alleges that the PCA delegation did not properly process the question of CRC membership so that the "whole matter almost did not make it onto the agenda." The IRC admits that it did not do everything right. Members of the delegation assumed that the matter was "live" as old business. Ideally the matter should have been communicated to NAPARC as an agenda request four weeks before the meeting. It was also understood that the OPC was bringing a similar motion. At the critical moment when planning ought to have been done, the committee chairman was forced to resign his chairmanship due to personal and family needs and was himself unable to attend the meeting. This placed the committee in a temporary state of confusion and some matters were not carried out as well as they might have been. However, to say it "almost did not make it" is not only false, but gives the terrible impression the IRC was somehow trying to avoid the GA mandate, which it certainly was not, and in fact approved of wholeheartedly.

The fifth "whereas" states that the motion brought by the PCA was "illegal." What is meant by "illegal?" The IRC did carry out the mandate "to use all due process afforded to them." Why is suspension not considered precisely to be such due process? It is the best kind of process and was the most likely to get a hearing.

The sixth "whereas" states that "there is no necessity that the step of suspension first be taken." That is correct according to NAPARC rules. However the IRC is confident for the reasons discussed above, that if the GA knew of the various options, it would have approved the IRC's taking the course that it did.

The seventh "whereas" changes the subject and criticizes the IRC for voting in favor of the admittance of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church into NAPARC, citing that the GA has given "clear indication on several occasions" that the "PCA does not want close fraternal relations with the EPC." This is a distortion of the picture on several counts. The "several" occasions refer to two actions of past General Assemblies. The 17th General Assembly did decline to "seek a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship" with the EPC in 1989, because of the EPC's position allowing women elders and ministers (*M17GA*, II, 3, p. 59). The other reference cited concerned an item in the IRC minutes that the 22nd GA chose not to accept. The criticism was based on a misunderstanding and the 24th GA approved the committee's explanation (*M24GA*, II, 10, p. 211).

The IRC believes the PCA should be cautious regarding the EPC. Yet we note that there are many congregations within the EPC who champion the Reformed faith and with whom the PCA at a local or even a national level might work hand in hand for the sake of the Gospel, and that in fact the PCA has an informal "friendship" with the EPC. Nevertheless the IRC has not proposed fraternal relations with the EPC, nor does it intend to do so.

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However, the matter of EPC membership in NAPARC needed to be decided by that body, where the application had been languishing since about 1988. Accordingly, NAPARC in 1995 heard a report from the EPC on how the EPC was dealing with the issues which have concerned the NAPARC churches. (See the report of the IRC to the 24th GA: *M24GA*, III B, p. 463). It was the conclusion of the IRC that based on the progress the EPC is making in solving some of its problems and becoming more consistently Reformed, there would be benefit in allowing them a closer fellowship with the NAPARC churches. The EPC has no other place to connect with evangelical Presbyterians and would prosper from the encouragement of those who could urge them to greater fidelity and consistency. The IRC felt that to turn them away would discourage the very things we have wished to encourage. This was the PCA's stance regarding the admission of the ARP to NAPARC some years ago. If NAPARC had voted to accept the EPC's membership, the matter would still have to come to the PCA GA for a vote. That would be the point for the IRC to make the case for the EPC if it seemed advisable, and for the GA to decide the matter. Beyond this it must be said that membership in NAPARC does not guarantee fraternal relations with the PCA. For example, RCUS is a member of NAPARC now but does not have formal fraternal relationship with the PCA. It would not change the status of the PCA's relationship with the EPC in any substantive way.

The eighth "whereas" charges the IRC with ignoring a directive of the 21st General Assembly, but unfortunately has given a wrong reference. In any case, this is a slanderous allegation for the IRC has never ignored a directive of the GA and no General Assembly has ever said that it has.

The ninth "whereas" cites "several" presbytery overtures to the 23rd GA calling for an investigation of the IRC. Unfortunately, once again the reference is incorrect, for there were no overtures to the 23rd GA calling for such a thing. Indeed only one such overture calling for an investigation of the IRC has ever been sent to the General Assembly, Overture 24 to the tumultuous 22nd GA. The 23rd GA by a decisive majority determined to take no action (*M23GA*, II, 22, p. 216).

The IRC frankly is offended by these overtures to the 25th GA. Not only do they contain factual errors but also what could be construed as deliberate distortions of the truth. Misunderstandings can be usually cleared up by the simple expedient of conversations. To our knowledge no such conversations have taken place, no questions have been asked of members of the IRC. The IRC has been charged with serious wrongs by the presbyteries who have sent these overtures. We maintain that Christian charity, the command of love to "believe all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7), a concern for the effects of false accusations, for "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity . . . and it is set on fire by hell (James 3:6), a recognition that the works of the flesh include "contentions, . . . dissensions, factions" (Galatians 5:20), and a reminder of the admonition to "avoid foolish disputes, . . . contentions, . . . for they are unprofitable and useless," (Titus 3:9) ought to have tempered our brothers' actions.

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The IRC has spent many hours in relationships with the CRC attempting to balance charity with truth. That is the task we are charged to fulfill not only with the CRC but with many denominations. We stand ready to thoroughly and faithfully carry out the will of the General Assembly on any matter. However, the Assembly must consider that the very nature of interchurch relations requires flexibility and on-the-spot judgments about the most effective way of accomplishing the goals of the PCA. Relationships between denominations are often delicate and progress in relationships inevitably moves very slowly. Time is measured in years, not in days or weeks, because official communications often are exchanged only once every twelve months.

An inflexible instruction or a communication hastily drawn up on the spur of the moment by the General Assembly often runs the risk of producing more mischief than positive results, no matter how good the intentions. We call upon the Assembly to work with your committee in accomplishing the results in interchurch relations which will most glorify our Lord and Savior.

J ROTATION OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES

The 24th General Assembly recommitted to the IRC the recommendation that the PCA approve the rotation of Fraternal Delegates speaking at our General Assembly and conversely the sending of delegates to sister denominations. This was recommitted to allow the IRC to interact with other NAPARC churches.

The PCA delegation to NAPARC raised the question informally as to what practice or preference the NAPARC denominations had regarding Rotation of Visits of Fraternal Delegates to other bodies. The consensus was that this is the way we should be going. Several churches already limit sending delegates once every 2 years. The KAPC and the ARPC are already putting into practice this model. Other churches said they were seriously considering doing so. Only the OPC delegations expressed their desire to send Fraternal Delegates every year to every Assembly or Synod.

Several reasons might be given. First, it would give our visiting fraternal delegates more time to speak rather than the very brief five minutes generally allowed. Second, it would give a greater opportunity for more fraternal observers from our overseas sister churches to bring greetings to our denomination. Third, there is an economic savings all the way around. For example, our smaller sister churches (RCUS, for one) really are economically constrained.

Therefore, the IRC is once again recommending that GA approve this practice without binding the GA should it be important to hear from some churches more often.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Fraternal Delegates and other distinguished guests be welcomed and invited to address the Assembly.

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2. That the General Assembly of the PCA change our relationship with the CRC from “fraternal relations” to “fraternal correspondence,” and instruct the Stated Clerk to communicate this action to the CRC.
3. That the Assembly pause to pray for the Christian Reformed Church.
4. That the Assembly respond to Overtures 4, 2 and 12 by affirming the actions of the IRC and denying the allegations of impropriety or insubordination.
5. That the General Assembly approve the rotation of Fraternal Delegates speaking at the General Assembly so that we may send and receive fraternal greetings every other year.
6. That the General Assembly urge the church to study and compare the Three Forms of Union: specifically The Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dordt with the Westminster Standards. The principal place for such study is to be at the Presbytery level, but churches and individuals are also encouraged to do likewise.
7. That the Assembly pause to pray for God’s continued blessing on the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches.
8. That the PCA encourage its congregations to eagerly participate in the International Day of Prayer for The Persecuted Church planned by the World Evangelical Fellowship and to be coordinated by MTW on September 28, or some other appropriate day before November 16, 1997.
9. That the Assembly pause to pray for persecuted believers throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert B. Ashlock, Chairman
Interchurch Relations Committee

APPENDIX I

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA
TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

I. INTRODUCTION

Pressing Toward the Mark — 2000 by 2000 — The Opportunities Before Us

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:4-6

Teaching Elder Pete Anderson went to Hawaii in 1977 to establish the first PCA congregation there. That was 20 years ago, but now the work of the Lord through the PCA in Hawaii is beginning to see real momentum growing. Kailua's Trinity Church Windward, the church Pete led in establishing, with 120 in Sunday worship, is now pastored by Todd Capin. Two years ago, Pete Anderson left this church to establish the first daughter church, Mililani's Trinity Church Leeward, which he now pastors. Soon after that, John Kinyon arrived to begin Second City Fellowship in Kāpolai. Later in 1997, Andy Lee will begin a new work in Honolulu proper, near the University of Hawaii. The Lord began a good work, and now He carries it on to completion.

Travel nearly as far away from Hawaii as you can in the United States, and you will find Dony St. Germain at work among the Haitian people of Miami. In 1993, he began his first church planting project. Today, this work has become a growing movement, with additional congregations in Ft. Lauderdale and Winter Haven, Florida, and with plans to reach the major Haitian populations in New York City and Chicago. As he labors among the Haitian people, Dony emphasizes the *partnership* of Philippians 1:4-6. The Lord is gracious; His Spirit is working in great ways. This work is not done alone, but in partnership among the Lord's people. Of all the churches in the PCA, these Haitian congregations have seen more people come to Christ than any other churches.

We emphasize the stories of these churches because they represent the interest that we all have in planting churches among all peoples and in counting as successful those who are faithful over time, even when the numbers do not grow rapidly. In Hawaii, the growth of the first congregation was much slower than is the case in many communities. Yet the Lord is faithful, and a great work, whose value would only become evident in

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time, was growing into a base that the Lord now uses to bring substantially more people into His Kingdom.

We begin the Mission to North America Report to the 25th General Assembly with these accounts because they reflect the priorities and challenges of church planting in North America. We continue to *press toward the mark*. What is required still to reach that goal of 2000 by 2000?

Prayer: only the Lord can send forth the **laborers** into the harvest fields.

Church Planters: The goal of 2000 requires that the number of men currently going forth be doubled, from 75 in 1996 to 150 per year. The Armed Forces are calling for additional chaplains. New campus ministry opportunities abound.

Financial support: presbyteries, churches and individual members of the PCA continue to give increasingly to all the ministries of MNA. However, each also faces significant financial challenges—opportunities for the advancement of the Gospel which could be seized if resources were available.

1996 was a year of great blessing: while church planting is the ministry of MNA to which the greatest resources are committed, church planting is not the only ministry of MNA. During 1996, the Lord blessed Mission to North America with opportunity for a greater impact than ever before in all areas of ministry. We summarize here the highlights of each ministry, and the challenges that still lie before us.

Church Planting: **Thank the Lord** that more church planters were sent out in 1996 than in any previous year. **Pray** for additional men to respond to this call. Many cities await a church planter, some even having some financial support committed.

Multicultural Church Planting: **Thank the Lord** for emerging church planting movements among several ethnic groups in North America, with very high numbers responding to the Gospel. **Pray** for additional movement leaders and church planters.

Campus Ministries: **Thank the Lord** for the opportunity to open on four new campuses in 1996, and even more than that in the planning stages for 1997. **Pray** for financial support for new campus ministries in areas where presbyteries lack major resources.

Urban and Mercy Ministries: **Thank the Lord** for growing numbers of PCA churches with outreach ministries in their communities. **Pray** for the provision of skilled leaders for these ministries, especially leaders from among the many ethnic groups that comprise our cities.

Revitalization and Evangelism: **Thank the Lord** for a growing recognition of the need for renewal in ministry among PCA churches. **Pray** that Revitalization leadership can be multiplied, so that more churches may have their vision renewed by the Spirit.

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Chaplain Ministries: **Thank the Lord** for the great tax-supported worldwide missionary force represented by our chaplains. **Pray** for additional chaplains to fill the positions now open to the PCA.

We present here once again the MNA Vision Statement, slightly revised from that which was presented to the 24th General Assembly. The wording has been changed to focus MNA's primary ministry on establishing *reproducing churches and presbyteries* who in turn have the characteristics described in the paragraphs which follow:

PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK—2000 BY 2000

Joyfully depending on our sovereign God, the persistent prayers of God's people, a practice of biblical stewardship of time, talent and treasure, we will work in cooperation with other denominational committees and agencies to fill the United States and Canada with
reproducing churches and presbyteries.

- * These will be churches that are Christ-centered, spiritually healthy, worshipping, evangelizing, theologically sound, culturally relevant, Presbyterian churches of all sizes—small, medium and large.
- * These will be churches and presbyteries that are faithful messengers, dependent on the Holy Spirit to bring the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those living in rural, suburban and urban areas, transforming every arena of life and culture through preaching grace, doing justice and showing mercy.
- * These will be churches and presbyteries that incorporate the varied ethnic, cultural, socio-economic and language groups throughout the region by cultivating reconciliation and planting churches.
- * These will be churches and presbyteries that serve the whole church of Jesus Christ through propagation of campus ministries, chaplain ministries, and mercy ministries, preaching the Gospel and spreading rich biblical teaching throughout North America.

Response to MNA Askings/Partnership Share: In 1996, the MNA Askings budget was \$4,253,937. Income was \$4,077,080. At first glance, it appears that the budget was nearly met. However, the Assembly should understand that only \$1,057,067 was received from churches and individuals as undesignated income. This supplies only about 75% of the Ministry Support Fund, or General Fund, out of which MNA must support its administration, program leadership and communications. The result is that even with the application of fees for service from the projects, MNA ended 1996 with a Ministry Support Fund shortfall of \$80,000. This shortfall cannot be covered by applying designated income to it. *While we rejoice in the great generosity of churches and individuals*

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in supporting projects, MNA encourages the churches to give special consideration to the Askings/Partnership Share for MNA and for all other General Assembly Committees and Agencies, so that projects may move ahead with adequate leadership and administrative support.

Our concluding challenge is that of the partnership of which Paul speaks in Philippians 1. The Lord has begun His work. He will complete that work. He will complete it as we pray for the laborers and as we join together in the ministry of the Gospel, extending His Kingdom by reaching the unreached with the Good News that Christ died for their sins.

II. MINISTRIES

A. Church Planting

PCA Church Planting has experienced a rapid expansion over the past five years in every area. PCA church planting starts have doubled from 30 to 60. Church Planters on MNA support have more than doubled from 13 to 36. We now have nine regional coordinators across North America. Church Planting revenues have increased two-fold from \$1.5 million to \$3 million (these figures are the total support budgets of all church plants that were sponsored by MNA in 1991 and 1995, respectively).

We have accomplished much with the blessing of God, but we have much to do. Reaching Vision 2000 in the PCA will require faith stretching in recruiting new church planters (our most precious resource!), coaching planters on the field, and “revolving” funding through the church plants themselves. Reaching Vision 2000 will require sending out twice as many church planters per year as we are currently sending out across the PCA. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send His laborers into the ripening mission fields of North America.

In 1995, 61 church planters were sent out across the PCA. We estimate that 80 were placed in 1996, and we pray for 100 to go out in 1997.

We are planning to expand our support services to the PCA to accomplish Vision 2000 by bringing on an Associate Coordinator of Church Planting. This will enable MNA Church Planting (led by Coordinator of Church Planting, TE John Smed) to:

- launch into an expanded recruiting system
- initiate a real coaching system, using church planters themselves
- oversee the church planting “revolving fund” promotion and repayment
- develop new core groups in key cities
- generate more funding for church planting for the PCA

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Recruitment of church planters remains our greatest challenge, but is beginning to show progress. Over 20 couples are in progress for 25 strategic sites (core groups and some committed funding). Church planters were recently selected for the following sites:

Andy Lee - Honolulu, HI
Tommy Allen - Seattle, WA
John Thomas - Atlanta (Perimeter Center), GA
Mo Leverett - New Orleans (Desire Street area), LA

Please pray for church planters for the strategic sites of Cleveland, Ohio, and Tampa, Florida. We have searched for some time for church planters of core groups who are awaiting church planting leadership in these two cities.

The church planter "revolving fund" has continued to grow from \$20,000 per year in 1994, to \$40,000 in 1995 and \$60,000 in 1996. Twenty more church planters have committed to give toward their revolving fund. We are hopeful that \$80,000 - \$100,000 can be given toward this fund in 1997.

Our vision continues with mobilizing regional church planting by enabling regional coordinators. In addition to serving busy pastorates and presbytery responsibilities, these men are coordinating church planting efforts in their regions. TE Ted Powers has taken over the Midwest regional responsibilities, TE Mike Malone has responsibility for Florida, and TE Jim Bland for Texas. Regional meetings and conferences are now being held throughout North America. Regional Coordinators are in place for Western Canada (TE Evan Bottomley), Eastern Canada (TE Steve Christian), the West (TE Lewis Ruff), the Southeast (TE Gary Cox), the Mid-South (TE Andy Silman), the Northeast (TE Ken Smith).

Most of our presbyteries continue to use the assessment services provided by MNA through the Church Planting Center. The Church Planting Center has served GA MNA with helpful excellence. In 1996, 40 PCA couples were assessed (5 non-PCA). Thirty-one PCA couples were qualified or provisionally qualified for church planting, with an additional four pre-assessed couples attending Church Planter Orientation. Seventeen couples attended our February 1997, Assessment Center and Church Planter Orientation.

GA MNA also offers training services to any church planter, including guided learning contracts that are geared to enhance the church planter's skills in areas in which he feels the greatest need. The 1997 church planting training conferences will be held regionally in the West, Northeast, Southeast (including Mid-South) and Midwest.

MULTIPLY, *Advance*, MNA INTERCESSOR, and MNA UPDATE have fueled church multiplication very effectively. Our Regional Coordinators have worked hard to stimulate local communication of the Great Commission. The GA MNA Committee has always taken the servant-leader role in helping MNA Staff. None of the progress would be

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possible, however, were it not for each called and gifted church planter who has heard and obeyed the voice of HARVEST LORD.

Church planters supported by MNA during 1996 will be found as **Attachment A**. The Assembly is asked to note that this list does not include the large number of church planters fielded by local churches or presbyteries with no GA MNA financial assistance. Because presbyteries and churches are increasingly active in starting new churches, the actual PCA church planting force in North America is substantially larger than this list.

B. Multicultural Church Planting

MNA's Multicultural Church Planting continues to pursue its purpose: to encourage, facilitate, and initiate the reformed movement among major cultural/ethnic groups to more accurately reflect the multicultural face of North America. The focus of these efforts is to saturate these groups with vital congregations that mirror an indigenous expression of the reformed faith.

Our primary efforts are directed toward major cultural/ethnic groups including African Americans, Brazilians, Hispanics, and Koreans. Less extensive efforts are focused on the French in Quebec. In addition to these groups, MNA has begun church planting initiatives among Filipinos, Haitians, Japanese, Russian Jews, and West Indians.

MNA considers a *major* ethnic group one large enough to accommodate many new church plants and the beginning of a church multiplication movement. Factors in determining which people group MNA will enter include: size of population, receptivity to the Gospel, spiritual and felt needs we can meet, a qualified church planter from the same people group with an inner constraint and burden for his people, and partner churches.

During the past year we rejoice in God's good hand upon our efforts:

1. Qualified church planting leaders from various ethnic groups continue to be evaluated and placed. Since the last General Assembly, MNA has been able to place the following church planters: Robinson Monteiro, in a Brazilian church plant in Orlando, FL; and Danny Arciaga in a Filipino church plant in Chicago, IL.

2. In August 1996, over a dozen African American PCA teaching and ruling elders met in Atlanta to evaluate their ministries and build greater interdependence among themselves for the planting of new churches and the extension of God's kingdom. Subsequently, a task force named by these leaders identified four primary categories under which African American ministry in the PCA falls. These are not exclusive categories since overlap of ministry occurs. All of these models, except the newly arrived non-English speaking immigrants, are intentionally multi-ethnic in composition. As a

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

tool useful in strategy formulation, the African American leaders thought it helpful to clarify these categories as follows:

- a) Community Development Ministries (Urban/Mercy): usually an inner-city or center-city ministry where the community has lack of civic, health, and educational services and has a trend toward high crime. The community church is focused on socio-economic development and addressing the needs of the inner city.
- b) Multi-ethnic Ministries: the primary focus is to overcome ethnic and cultural barriers, helping the church to reflect the unity of the Body of Christ within diversity.
- c) New Immigrant Ministries: first-generation, non-English speaking ethnic people groups serving as a bridge toward assimilation into the host culture. The expectation of ministry is to establish a string of first-generation churches that could become a multiplication movement and bridge to second-generation, English-speaking churches.
- d) Strategic African American Ministries: the focus of ministry is to develop African American churches that become leadership churches for penetrating the growing African American communities.

3. As a result of our understanding of the Gospel as God's power to break down barriers that separate people (Eph. 2,4; Acts 1-13), the churches founded by MNA among ethnic groups are increasingly multi-ethnic in composition. The Gospel challenges cultural idols of each race and class, and it points to the restoration of love and the healing of injustice. Multicultural and multi-ethnic churches are now emerging in areas such as Miami, Coral Springs (FL), Orlando, Atlanta, Chattanooga, St. Louis, New York, Chicago, Boston and Toronto.

4. Multicultural church planters are increasingly called upon to express the reformed faith in indigenous terms. In relating the Gospel to a specific multicultural community, a church planter follows two guidelines:

- a) He must avoid all unnecessary cultural offense. Where the Bible has not spoken, and has left the conscience free, he must not elevate relative human cultural norms to make them absolutes. For example, he should not insist that rhythmic music is less pleasing to God than melodic music and must be excluded from worship. He must not absolutize styles of dress, worship, communication, leadership, education, and outreach where the Bible leaves us free.
- b) On the other hand, he must not eliminate the offense of the Gospel. The cross is an offense, a *skandalon*. What the Bible has clearly and absolutely taught, he cannot soft pedal or discard. If he does, he has not adapted to the culture, he has capitulated. For example, if he has a congregation of rich people, and he never speaks of social justice, he eliminates a Biblical *skandalon*.

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5. Since the 24th General Assembly, MNA Coordinator Cortez Cooper has met several times with Korean teaching elders in an effort to move forward with the naming of a Korean Ministries Coordinator. The process continues, and we ask for prayer that the right pastor will be appointed in the Lord's timing.

6. The list of MNA multicultural missionaries and church planters is **Attachment B** of this report.

C. Thanksgiving Ministries — Urban and Mercy

In Micah 6:8, the Holy Spirit indicates what is good and what the Lord requires of us; loving mercy, along with acting justly and walking humbly with our God is presented as a necessity. It is a joy to see the PCA's love of mercy grow, as evidenced by the many growing expressions of mercy ministry among our presbyteries and churches. Since the 24th General Assembly, MNA Urban and Mercy Ministries has continued to concentrate efforts in three primary areas:

1. Building the network of communication and resources: Each year, MNA sponsors a gathering of PCA members at the annual Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) conference; the purpose of the MNA meeting is to bring PCA members together for encouragement and to discover increasing opportunities for developing urban and mercy ministries in the PCA. In 1996, at least 120 PCA members attended the CCDA conference.

2. Increasing the visibility of urban and mercy ministries in the PCA:

- MNA sponsors a dinner during the General Assembly, at which time reports are given by some of the urban and mercy ministries of the PCA. The dinner is open, by advance reservation and until the limit of the facilities is reached, to any commissioners and guests of the Assembly who wish to attend.
- A directory of PCA urban and mercy ministries is available on request. This directory is a valuable resource for any PCA church who is involved in urban and mercy ministries, or who wishes to begin such ministries in their community. PCA churches and presbyteries are encouraged to avail themselves of the great wealth of experience that already exists in the PCA in urban and mercy ministries as they seek to develop or increase ministry in their own communities.

3. Leadership development: The Thanksgiving Offering continues to be a highly effective means of encouraging the development of urban and mercy leadership in the PCA. During 1995 and 1996, funds from this offering were used to assist 17 ministries in leadership training. Primarily, the funds are used to sponsor internships for new staff members, seminary students or college students working in urban and mercy ministries. The great value of this offering is that it enables local churches to increase their ability to train leaders, thus strengthening the local ministry. By the end of January 1997, the

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offering of \$43,500 had equaled the previous year's total offering, with additional contributions expected after January.

In keeping with the statement of concern issued by the 24th General Assembly on churches whose buildings have been destroyed by fire, MNA invited donations to assist these churches. The total given in response was \$28,500. These funds have been used in two ways. First, to enable work crews to assist in the rebuilding of two of the churches. Second, to furnish mini-libraries of biblical reference books to the pastors of affected churches. These libraries were distributed to pastors with whom a PCA pastor had direct contact. To date six pastors have received these mini-libraries. There is ongoing effort to continue to provide these to more pastors as long as funds are available.

Beginning with the 11th General Assembly in 1983, Bethany Christian Services has been endorsed by the PCA, upon MNA's annual review and recommendation. We note with gratitude the services of Bethany to thousands of Christian families throughout its 53 years of service, and commend Bethany to the PCA for continued involvement and support. Their report is found as **Attachment C**.

D. Revitalization and Evangelism

The purpose for the Revitalization and Evangelism ministry is to . . .

encourage, facilitate and initiate the vital church movement among local church leaders, especially those that are numerically plateaued or declining PCA congregations. A vital church is grace-driven by faith to watch for revival while it works through energizing prayer to make fruitful disciples that cause their church to grow by conversion and multiply by planting new churches.

Encourage, facilitate and initiate the vital church movement.

The vital church movement is fueled by a vision for a region. One or more of the churches in the region must be growing with the dynamics of spiritual life to inspire less vital churches to seek to grow more vital. In the beginning, this movement needs a network of partner churches within strategic regions to help gain momentum. In each church revitalization, we attempt to link an established, vital PCA church as a partner with the less vital church. Clusters of prayer partners in the partner church provide focused intercession on the leaders of the less vital church.

Among local church leaders, especially those that are numerically plateaued or declining congregations.

Leaders in more vital churches are best suited to help minister to leaders in less vital congregations. The leaders of Revitalization and Evangelism events are godly, gifted, fruitful examples of what they train others to do. Usually events are held in the church where this leader ministers and among people who are the fruit of the leader's ministry.

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The church is like a great desert with much bareness and a few oases. MNA seeks to link leaders in desert-need churches to leaders in oasis-resource churches. Sometimes MNA helps a resource church develop its ministry into a conference or workshop so it can help groups of leaders in training events.

Basic to all other Revitalization and Evangelism training events is the annual *Embers to a Flame Conference* at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, Matthews, NC. The *Embers* conference provides basic biblical principles of vitality that are of value to all church leaders.

All other Revitalization and Evangelism training events focus on increasing personal spirituality through local church leaders' proper use of spiritual disciplines, or increasing corporate spirituality through proper use of the means of grace, spiritual gifts or ministry skills.

In 1996, in the ministry of Revitalization and Evangelism, we saw the following results:

- Armorbearer's School of Prayer concept introduced to **127** individual congregations
- **650** people attended **24** Armorbearer's Schools of Prayer
- **2,950** people committed to pray for their pastors
- **250** Key Covenant Teams of 4 to 12 men each discussed *Do It Again, Lord!* (led by pastors)
- **5,000** copies of *Hidden Life of Prayer* provided for pastors leading a Day of Prayer and Fasting

E. Campus Ministries

Reformed University Ministries is a means to an end, not an end in itself. The object of Reformed University Ministries is the building and strengthening of the church. Reformed University Ministries is an arm of the church, a missiological outreach to a true frontier within our midst. The staff of Reformed University Ministries leads in establishing a beachhead on the alien and secular world of college campuses through student-led ministries which reach out to other students.

The twin goals of Reformed University Ministries are reaching students for Christ and equipping students for service to the Lord. Reformed University Ministries serves the covenant children of our church on many campuses. In addition to serving covenant children, Reformed University Ministries is a means for reaching unchurched and "de-churched" students with the Gospel of grace. This reaching and equipping ministry aims not only to equip students for campus life, but also, beyond that, to prepare for life in the church and society.

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As Wilson Benton, pastor of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, said,

What a joy to have students with an RUF background participate in the life of the Kirk! They bring a love of God's Word, a comprehensive understanding of God's truth, a commitment to God's church, and heart for God's people—send me all you can!

These goals are carried out by the church, in the context of the church, the living organism commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ to build His kingdom on earth. As students are taught growth in grace, evangelism and missions, fellowship and service, and the biblical world-and-life view, Reformed University Ministries is strengthening the church by ministering to Covenant children and by evangelizing the lost on campuses.

Bill Hughes of First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi, observed that he was:

seeing a number of Reformed University Fellowship students emerging into key leadership positions at First Church. They express to me the vital role that RUF played in preparing them for these leadership positions, which range from Sunday school teachers to deacons, elders, and committee members.

In 1996, new ministries were opened at Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Tennessee Technological University, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, and the Savannah College of Art and Design. This brings the total of Reformed University Fellowships (RUF) to thirty-two in fifteen states. Additionally, thirteen new campus interns joined these ministries. Plans are being laid to add several more RUFs in 1997.

Each local RUF is led by an ordained PCA minister and works to accomplish its goals utilizing various means. Use of ordained staff is a hallmark of our work. Reformed University Ministries sends ordained PCA ministers — theologically trained men who are especially gifted and prepared for the vigorous exchange of ideas in the hurly-burly of the “Athens marketplace” of *our* times — to the campus.

Reformed University Ministries' staff demonstrates the ministry's commitment to the church through their involvement in local PCA churches. This modeling and teaching is observed and imitated by students involved in the campus fellowship groups.

Not only is Reformed University Ministries heavily involved in teaching and training, but each RUF places a high priority on evangelism by the staff, but preeminently by the students themselves. Campus Minister David Sinclair estimates that of the 300 students involved in RUF at Clemson University, 100 were converted “at” RUF.

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Attendance at RUFs is at an all-time high, both in the aggregate and at individual campuses. Second semester 1997 has begun on a strong note.

LifeVIEW '97 represents a return of our annual world-and-life conference. Jerram Barrs, professor at Covenant Theological Seminary, was the featured speaker. Other lectures, seminars, and workshops underscore the *LifeVIEW* theme of "All of Life Under the Lord of All." People from all walks of life teach and train the students in the implications of the Biblical world-and-life view to their own particular callings. A *LifeVIEW* student told us that *LifeVIEW* had given him:

a motivation to learn more about how Christianity affects and can be applied to what I once considered to be everyday life. Now I see that Christianity IS everyday life and to divert from what God's Word says about issues is to distort the one and only true life view.

In the late Twentieth Century, the world has come to our doorstep. Reaching out to the ends of the earth may be as close as the campus nearest you. Some 800,000 international students have come to North America to pursue college degrees. The PCA's attempt to reach and equip these students is called International Students Christian Fellowship (ISCF). With five ISCF missionaries, we are reaching, by extension, thousands and thousands of "internationals" who never come to North America. As ISCF missionaries reach and equip the students who have come to us, they train those students to reach their relatives and friends "back home." This is truly a ministry with enormous "leveraging" potential.

RUFs and ISCFs offer fall and spring regional conferences which provide opportunities for students to disengage from the busyness of campus life, and to be taught from God's Word. One of the highlights of the year is the annual Summer Conference held each year near Panama City, Florida. Summer Conference is a week-long informal setting for 500-600 students for further teaching, discussion, and fun.

Refer to **Attachment D** for: listing of presbyteries and their affiliated committees, campus staff and location of ministries; and the complete 1998 budget for Reformed University Ministries (MNA Campus Ministries and the affiliated presbytery campus committees) provided for information.

F. Chaplain Ministries

In II Timothy 4:2-5, the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy to:

Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers, and they will turn

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their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (NKJ)

The encouragement and instruction that Paul gave to Timothy is very relevant for those called to be chaplains. Like many ministries, the chaplaincy continuously provides opportunities to minister and preach the Gospel to people from all walks of life, in what seems to be all circumstances, to the friendly and hostile, and under conditions that one could not imagine prior to being called to be a chaplain.

During 1996, we began to see the benefit of a full-time Coordinator of Chaplain Ministries, in addition to a part-time Associate Coordinator. On-site visits were made in the northeast, northwest, southeast and midwest regions of the United States, and in Europe.

The number of PCA endorsed chaplains and, thus, the ministry of chaplains, continues to expand. The roster (**Attachment E**) reflects the ever increasing number of men called to chaplain ministry. In spite of the downsizing, the Army, Air Force and Navy have requested additional active duty and reserve chaplains from the PCA. Teaching elders with two years of ministry experience are eligible for active or reserve duty, subject to meeting the physical and age requirements. The VA has eliminated many full-time positions. However, these full-time positions are sometimes replaced with contract and part-time clergy which may give opportunity for PCA teaching elders to serve, depending on location. The Chief of Chaplains of the Federal Prison system has also requested additional chaplains from the PCA.

God's grace, mercy, and blessing is very evident in chaplain ministries and in the lives of PCA chaplains. Opportunities for ministry are limitless. The work is tremendously challenging, but extremely rewarding. The greatest need is twofold: (1) to build a prayer support base; and, (2) to increase denominational involvement in the life and support of our chaplains. With that in mind we are happy to report that:

- The first quarterly chaplain prayer calendar, *THE GUARDIAN*, was published in January 1997. The goal is to enlist teams of 120 church members to pray for each chaplain.
- *THE CHAPLAIN GUARDIAN CORPS* has been organized, and those interested in chaplain ministries are invited to become members. An annual membership gift of \$100 is suggested. The membership goal is 2,000 by the end of 1998.

We thank God for every one of our chaplains, for their commitment, faithfulness and willingness to go wherever they are sent. The inspired words of II Thessalonians 3:1-5 provide a model as we pray for chaplains, their families and their ministries:

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Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we commend you. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. (NKJ)

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the General Assembly commend and thank TE Cortez A. Cooper, Jr. for his leadership as MNA Coordinator, and re-elect him for another year.
2. That the General Assembly express its gratitude to God for the staff of Mission to North America and for their faithful and effective work.

TE Cortez A. Cooper, Jr.	Coordinator
TE Frederick T. Marsh	Coordinator of Church Relations
TE John P. F. Smed	Coordinator of Church Planting
TE J. Allen Thompson	Coordinator of Multicultural Church Planting
TE E. Marvin Padgett	Coordinator of Campus Ministries
TE Archie B. Parrish	Coordinator of Revitalization and Evangelism
TE David P. Peterson	Coordinator of Chaplain Ministries
TE William B. Leonard	Associate Director of PRJC (Chaplain Ministries)

Support Staff

Alice Blackwelder	Part-Time Secretary
Annette Carter	Administrative Assistant, Campus Ministries
Shirley Crowder	Assistant to the Coordinator of Campus Ministries
Lynn Eldridge	Administrative Assistant, Church Planting
Bekki Gowens	Development Assistant, Campus Ministries
Nancy Gray	Development Assistant for MNA
Barbara Green	Assistant to the Coordinator of MNA
Janet Haynes	Part-Time Secretary, Church Planting
Van Hoyt	Bookkeeper, Campus Ministries
Sheryl Toph	Assistant to the Coordinator of Church Planting
Sheila Wortham	Development Support Services
Sharon Worthy	Communications Secretary

3. That the General Assembly reaffirm its commitment to establishing 2000 churches and missions by the year 2000, and thank God for the increased church planting that is occurring under local church and presbytery sponsorship and for all PCA church planters, multicultural church planters and missionaries, chaplains, Reformed University Ministries staff and interns, and International Students Christian Fellowship

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missionaries.

4. That PCA churches be encouraged to give high priority consideration to MNA and all other PCA Committee and Agency Askings/Partnership Shares, so that each Committee and Agency may be adequately funded to lead in the work to which the Assembly has called them.
5. That the General Assembly express its gratitude to the Lord for a Thanksgiving Offering of more than \$43,000, and commend to the churches of the PCA the opportunity to support Urban and Mercy Ministries, preferably through an offering taken during the Thanksgiving season; and further, that churches consider how they may directly participate in greater measure in Urban and Mercy Ministries.
6. 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, encourage continued support by churches and presbyteries, and invite the Bethany representative to speak to the Assembly for five minutes at this, or a more opportune, time.
7. That the General Assembly commend to the churches these resources and opportunities for ministry available through MNA:
 - The opportunity to seek the Lord's leading in church planting, campus ministry or the chaplaincy.
 - The opportunity to support church planting (Anglo and Multicultural), campus ministries, revitalization, chaplain ministries (especially through THE CHAPLAIN GUARDIAN CORPS), financially (in addition to Partnership Share/Askings participation) and in prayer.
 - The opportunity to build relationships of fellowship and ministry with Korean churches and other ethnic groups within the PCA, as well as with other true believers in our local communities.
 - Utilize the resources of Revitalization and Evangelism materials and consultation services.
 - Recommend to church members that they subscribe (at no cost) to MNA INTERCESSOR, MULTIPLY, and MNA UPDATE.
8. That **Overture 3** from Northeast Presbytery requesting formation of a New York City Metro Presbytery be approved. [see p. 24 of *Commissioners' Handbook*]
9. That **Overture 7** from New Jersey Presbytery requesting formation of a New York City Metro Presbytery be approved. [see p. 27 of *Commissioners' Handbook*]
10. That **Overture 5** from Covenant Presbytery requesting a change in the boundaries of Covenant and Louisiana Presbyteries be approved, pending approval by Louisiana Presbytery. [see p. 27 of *Commissioners' Handbook*]

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11. That **Overture 6** from New Jersey Presbytery concerning women leaders in MNA seminars be answered in the negative. [see p. 28 of *Commissioners' Handbook*] Grounds: Part III of *The Book of Church Order* gives sufficient direction for the ordering of public worship. Seminars led by women most often are presented with women as the intended primary audience. The Scriptures and the subordinate standards are clear that only men are to be appointed as elders. The subordinate standards are clear that the preaching of the Word in the public worship on the Lord's Day is to be conducted by teaching elders, under the oversight of the session. However, the Scriptures and the subordinate standards are not equally clear that the more informal teaching of conferences and seminars is of such a nature that it must be led by a teaching or ruling elder.
12. That the 25th General Assembly delay its answer to **Overtures 17, 18 and 33** (see *M24GA*, 24-31, III, 7, p. 196) until the 26th GA, and that the work of the Campus Study Committee, appointed by the GA MNA Committee March 1996, (3-96-37) to study the implications of constituting Reformed University Ministries as a new Permanent Committee, be continued until that time.
13. That the General Assembly note that the entire 1998 budget of MNA Campus Ministries, as well as that of the affiliated campus ministries, is provided to the General Assembly for its information; and further, that the Assembly note with thanksgiving the opportunities and challenges represented by the entire 1998 budget.
14. That the General Assembly adopt the 1998 MNA budget and commend such to the churches for their support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Committee on Mission to North America

**SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA
TO THE
25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PCA**

The Committee on Mission to North America submits the following recommendations as a Supplement to the Report of the Committee on MNA to the 25th General Assembly:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

15. **Substitute for Recommendation 9 -**

That Overture 7 from New Jersey Presbytery (see p.24 of Commissioners Handbook) requesting formation of New York City Metro Presbytery be approved, with the following adjustments in the boundaries within New Jersey as requested in Communication 5 from the Presbytery of New Jersey:

1. Include in the NYC Metro Presbytery all of the counties north of the southern boundaries of Middlesex and Mercer Counties (New Jersey).
2. Include Monmouth County (New Jersey) in the continuing Presbytery of New Jersey.

16. **Substitute for Recommendation 8 -**

That Overture 3 from Northeast Presbytery (see p.24 of Commissioners Handbook) requesting formation of New York City Metro Presbytery be approved with boundary adjustments as proposed by New Jersey Presbytery in Communication 5 (see Communication 4 from Northeast Presbytery).

17. That the 25th GA take note that the Tennessee Valley Presbytery by its action April 19, 1997, (Attachment 1) concurs with **Overture 4 to the 24th GA**, "Extend Boundaries to Include Eastern and Central Kentucky" (see 24th GA Minutes p.193, #5.).
18. That the GA take note that Louisiana Presbytery concurs with **Overture 5** from Covenant Presbytery, "Redraw Boundaries of Covenant and Louisiana Presbyteries", (see Recommendation 10 of the MNA Report to the 25th GA). (See Attachment 2 for Louisiana Presbytery action.)
19. That **Overture 11** from Covenant Presbytery, "Discharge MNA's Responsibility for RUM and Establish RUM as a Separate Committee of GA," be answered in the negative because the Study Committee has not completed its work; but that the concerns expressed in the Overture be communicated to the RUM/MNA Study Committee (see Recommendation 12 of the MNA Report to the 25th GA). (see p.32 of Commissioners Handbook for Overture 11)

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20. That **Overture 17** from Grace Presbytery, "Establish RUM as a Permanent Committee of GA", (received too late to be considered by the 24th GA) be answered by referring to Recommendation 7 of the MNA Report to the 24th GA (24th GA Minutes p.196, #7.) and Recommendation 12 of the MNA Report to the 25th GA.

ATTACHMENT 1

Tennessee Valley Presbytery
8451 E. Brainerd road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

April 29, 1997

TO: Dr. Paul R.. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk of General Assembly
FROM: J. Render Caines, Stated clerk of TVP

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO OVERTURE 4, 24th GA

At its Spring Stated Meeting (April 19, 1997) the Tennessee Valley Presbytery took the following action:

MSC in response to communication from the Stated Clerk of the GA, TE Paul Gilchrist, that the TVP yields oversight of all Eastern and Central Kentucky to the Great Lakes Presbytery, in keeping with the decision of the 24th GA in adopting Overture 4 from the Great Lakes Presbytery to "Extend Boundaries to Include Eastern and Central Kentucky."

For the King,

/s/ J. Render Caines, Stated Clerk

cc: TE David Dively, Stated Clerk of Great Lakes Presbytery

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ATTACHMENT 2

55th Stated Meeting of Louisiana Presbytery, April 19, 1997, page 4

Presbytery Reconvened

The Presbytery reconvened at 1:08 p.m. with the call to Order by the Moderator and prayer by TE Bill Manning.

Proposal to change the bounds of Presbytery

TE Cleve Chandler reported that Covenant Presbytery had approved the overture of First Presbyterian Church, Stamps Arkansas dated January 26, 1997, to redraw the bounds of LA Presbytery to add four counties in Arkansas which is currently in Covenant Presbytery. (Attachment D)

A motion was made, seconded and passed that LA Presbytery concur with the overture of Covenant Presbytery regarding this request to change Presbytery boundaries to include the four Arkansas counties of Miller, Lafayette, Columbia and Union in Louisiana Presbytery.

55th Stated Meeting of Louisiana Presbytery, April 19, 1997, Attachment D

March 9, 1997

Dear Fathers and Brethren:

In reference to the overture from First Presbyterian Church, Stamps, Arkansas, dated January 26, 1997, to Covenant Presbytery, we request that Louisiana Presbytery concur with Covenant Presbytery's approval. If it be the will of the Lord that General Assembly approve Covenant Presbytery's action, then Louisiana Presbytery boundary lines would include Miller, Lafayette, Columbia, and Union Counties of Southwest Arkansas. Presently the only PCA church is in Stamps, Arkansas, named First Presbyterian Church.

Your servant in Christ,

/s/ Larry H. Therisson, Clerk of Session

/s/ Henry Cleve Chandler, Moderator

APPENDICES

MNA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Class of 2000

TE Philip D. Douglass
TE David A. George

RE Collie W. Lehn
RE Mark Thompson

Class of 1999

TE W. Wilson Benton, Jr.
TE P. Thomas Wood

RE Sang W. Song

Class of 1998

TE Frank E. Hamilton
TE J. Al LaCour

RE John High
RE Michael A. Russell

Class of 1997

TE P. David Nicholas

RE Edmund Johnston
RE Larry M. Smith

Alternates

TE William T. Iverson

RE John R. Laws

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT A

CHURCH PLANTERS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 1996

Stephen Baldwin (w-Karen)
Canyon Pines Presbyterian Church
Castle Rock, CO

Al Barth (w-Rene)
North Shore Christian Fellowship
Cold Spring Harbour, NY

John Bash (w-Yvonne)
Sand Canyon Church
Irvine, CA

Stephen Beck (w-Susan)
Grace Toronto Church
Toronto, ON, Canada

Bill Bivans (w-Peta)
Christ Community Church
Sanford, NC

Scott Bridges (w-Julie)
Christ Presbyterian Church
Santa Barbara, CA

John Browne (w-Betsy)
Grace Covenant Mission
Elon College, NC

Keith Chapman (w-Evelyn)
Intern, Mountainview Comm. Church
Agassiz, BC, Canada

Allan Collister (w-Jo-Anne)
New Church Berkeley (PCA)
Berkeley, CA

Doug Domin (w-Linda)
First Presbyterian Church
Concord, NH
Glenn Durham (w-Helen)

Harvest Community Church
Omaha, NE

Hal Farnsworth (w-Mary Beth)
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Athens, GA

Chuck Frost (w-Lou April)
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Jacksonville, FL

Bert Gibson (w-Carole)
Crossroads Presbyterian Mission
Statesville, NC

Steve Gonzales (w-Brenda)
Faith Presbyterian Church
Clifton Park, NY

Terry Gyger (w-Dorothy)
Christ the King Presbyterian Church
Boston, MA

Fred Harrell (w-Terely)
The City Church of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Mike Hayes (w-Cathe)
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Santa Rosa, CA

Bill Heard (w-Sydney)
Norman Harbor Presbyterian Church
Mooresville, NC

Chris Hodge (w-Karen)
Treasure Coast Presbyterian Church
Palm City, FL

APPENDICES

CHURCH PLANTERS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 1996 - continued

Chuck Holliday (w-Debra)
River of Life Presbyterian Church
Orlando, FL

Andy Homeyer (w-Dana)
Valley Springs Presbyterian Church
Kelowna, BC, Canada

Michael Howard (w-Shannon)
Intern, Park City Presbyterian Church
Park City, UT

John Kinyon (w-Claire)
Second City Fellowship
Kailua, Oahu, HI

Dane Lewis (w-Jo)
London church plant
London, ON, Canada

Rick Lints (w-Ann)
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Concord, MA

Sheldon MacGillivray (w-Alissa)
Intern, Grace Toronto Church
Toronto, ON, Canada

Steve Magee (w-Candy)
Exeter Presbyterian Church
Exeter, NH

Bruce Marcey (w-Nann)
Soaring Oaks Presbyterian Church
Sacramento, CA

Bob Marsh (w-Sally)
Springfield Presbyterian Church
Springfield, IL

Alan Mills (w-Dana)
Intern, Grace Toronto Church
Toronto, ON, Canada

Tim Posey (w-Pam)
Three Rivers Presbyterian Church
Mandeville, LA

Jim Powell (w-Lisa)
Harvest Presbyterian Church
Lincolnton, NC

Bill Radford (w-Tracy)
River Oaks Presbyterian Church
Greenwood, IN

Mike Rasmussen (w-Renatta)
Ivy Creek Church
Lawrenceville, GA

Steve Reese (w-Julie)
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Parker, CO

Steve Resch (w-Tammy)
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
Gahanna, OH

Don Riley (w-Susan)
Rocky Mount Presbyterian
Rocky Mount, NC

Paul Schuler (w-Cindi)
Cross Sound Presbyterian Church
Bainbridge Island, WA

Bill Senyard (w-Eunice)
Christ the King Presbyterian Church
Surrey, BC, Canada

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CHURCH PLANTERS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 1996 - continued

Scot Sherman (w-Catherine)
The Village Church
New York, NY

Bruce Sinclair (w-Pam)
New Song Church
Pace, FL

Brian Sleeth (w-Stacy)
Harvest Fellowship
Lusby, MD

Wade Smith (w-Kathy)
New Song Church
Salt Lake City, UT

Jay Stoms
Intern, Cross Sound Presbyterian
Bainbridge Island, WA

Terry Traylor (w-Susan)
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Raleigh, NC

David Wilcher (w-Vicky)
Grace Presbyterian Church
The Woodlands, TX

APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT B

**Multicultural Missionaries and Church Planters
Supported in 1996**

Howard Brown
Summer Intern, Canyon Creek
Presbyterian Church
San Ramon, CA

Alex Castaño (w-Angela)
Sun Lakes Church
Miami Lakes, FL

Nelio DaSilva (w-Tereza)
Brazilian Movement Leader
Orlando, FL

Joe Emmanuel (w-Fay)
Lighthouse Gospel Assembly
Coral Springs, FL

Rubens Ferraz (w-Dalva)
Brazilian Pres. Church of Kendall
Miami, FL

Osni Ferreira (w-Vanda)
Brazilian Pres. Church of Cambridge
Boston, MA

Walter Moura (w-Leides)
Danbury's Presbyterian Comm. Church
Danbury, CT

Demetrio Rodriguez (w-Dolly)
Hispanic Movement Leader
New York, NY

Claude and Pat Sharpe
Bible Translators
Sea Islands, SC

Valdeci Silva (w-Izabel)
Brazilian Pres. Church
of Ft. Lauderdale
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Tsuneyoshi Takeda (w-Makimi)
Westminster Japanese Church
Roswell, GA

Isaias Uc (w-Ruth)
Dios Con Nosotros
McAllen, TX

Samuel Vieira (w-Sara)
Christ the King Presbyterian Church
Boston, MA

Louis Wilson (w-Ella)
Redemption Fellowship
Fayetteville, GA

Seesun Yoo (w-Renee)
Bethel Christian Church
Chicago, IL

Aaron Zapata (w-Leticia)
Hillside Hispanic Presbyterian Mission
El Paso, TX

Garnet Zoellner (w-Daryl)
La Communaute Chretienne
St. Lambert, Quebec, Canada

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT C

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES Annual Report to the PCA

I Corinthians 1 speaks about the interdependence of the body of Christ.

That interdependence is a beautiful word picture of the relationship between Bethany and the Presbyterian Church in America. You endorsed Bethany's ministry at your General Assembly in 1983. Since the forging of that partnership, healing restoration and witness to Jesus' love has been given to thousands of children, young people and families, all of whom came to Bethany because their lives were in turmoil.

The body includes those who are doers, those who encourage, those who offer wisdom and guidance, those who pray and those who give; the arms, the legs, the heart and the mind. Those who are professionally employed at Bethany could be envisioned as the arms and the legs — the doers. Equally important as doers, however, are members of the PCA who serve as foster parents, shepherding homes, adoptive parents and volunteers. Others of your membership provide wisdom as board and committee members. Together we pray, we encourage and we give of our financial resources to support this extension of Christ's healing ministry. Each responsibility, each person, bears fruit as we work together as a complete body.

What a fruitful year the Lord has allowed!

- 860 children joined their adoptive families because of Bethany's ministry. Over 300 were children who came to us with very special placement needs (older children, physically and mentally challenged children, sibling groups, and children of color).
- 23,863 young people and their families living with unplanned pregnancies received Christian counseling.
- 845 children were cared for by Christian foster parents while they awaited adoption or return to their biological parents.

This ministry occurred from our 58 offices nationwide and the 10 countries within which Bethany provides ministry.

When Scripture speaks about Jesus' ministry, it is rather remarkable to observe the amount of time He dedicated to healing the physical and emotional cares of people. In fact, His "Word ministry" often followed His response to the physical needs of those He touched. Some were blind, some were hungry, others were desperately ill, still others were distraught. Bethany's first contact with those we minister to is often dictated by their physical or emotional needs. But every aspect of our ministry also provides oppor-

APPENDICES

tunity to give verbal witness to Jesus' saving grace and His love — an opportunity we are eager to capture.

Thank you for your commitment and for your partnership which makes this ministry possible. Thank you for continued prayers raised on our behalf. Time after time, we see seemingly hopeless situations and circumstances transformed through the power of prayer.

You offer regular words of encouragement. What a blessing it is for our staff to receive those words of encouragement in the midst of trying to resolve horribly difficult and challenging situations.

You give of your financial resources to support our ministry. In 1996, slightly in excess of \$6,700,000 in gift revenue was received to support Bethany's work. Congregations and individuals within the PCA contributed approximately \$1,100,000. Your gifts were used to:

- Assist Christian families with the cost of expanding their family through adoption.
- Support the cost of providing counseling to young people living with unintended pregnancies — counseling which urges each young person to give their child the gift of life.
- Underwrite the cost of placing children with special placement challenges into Christian families.

In the year ahead, we will focus on several key goals:

1. Continuing service diversification at our branch offices.
2. Evaluating the feasibility of establishing branch offices in Florida and Texas.
3. Expanding Bethany's international ministries in Russia, South America and China, and studying the feasibility of establishing service centers in countries that will support Bethany's ministry provision in these countries.
4. Working in partnership with Bethany branch offices to extend the Bethany Children's Fund Campaign into additional states.

We often speak of Bethany's master plan and the direction it provides for our ministry. This plan is in place and is refined on an annual basis. In the same breath, however, we also recognize that our master plan may not be the Master's plan for Bethany. As we anticipate the year ahead, we know that it will be punctuated by familiarity and by surprises; by joy and disappointments; by the expected and the unanticipated. Through it all, we are reassured by our Lord's promise of His presence and by His faithfulness. We look forward to serving with you and as your ambassadors within that reassurance.

/s/ Glenn DeMots, Executive Director

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT D

REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES

The Committee on Mission to North America provides support services through Reformed University Ministries–MNA to presbyteries whose campus ministries are affiliated with Reformed University Ministries–MNA. 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 for such ministries. Reformed University Ministries–MNA receives and disburses funds only as directed by the presbyteries and their affiliated committees.

From January 1996 to December 31, 1996, Reformed University Ministries–MNA received \$2,232,370 and disbursed \$2,128,522 as directed by presbyteries and their affiliated committees. The funds are received for particular ministries, which are the responsibility of a presbytery as noted below. The responsible body receives an audit report of its funds. The following list gives the presbyteries and their affiliated committees, campus staff, and location of ministries receiving support services—accounting through Reformed University Ministries–MNA, and other ministries and staff affiliated with Reformed University Ministries–MNA.

PRESBYTERIES

Alabama Joint Committee on
Campus Work
(Evangel, Southeast Alabama, and Warrior)

Arizona/New Mexico

Calvary Committee on Campus Work

Central Georgia Committee on
Campus Work

CAMPUS AND STAFF

Auburn University
Rev. Steve Malone
University of Alabama
Rev. Billy Joseph

New Mexico State University
Rev. Mike Biggs

Clemson University
Rev. David Sinclair
Miss Jerdone Davis

Winthrop University
Rev. Sam Joyner

Georgia Southern University
Rev. David Wilson

Mercer University
Rev. Henry Morris (through 5/96)
Rev. Paul Bankson (beginning 6/96)

APPENDICES

Savannah College of Art and Design

Florida Joint Committee on Campus Work
(Central Florida, Gulf Coast, South Florida,
and Southwest Florida)

Florida State University
Mr. Keith Berger (through 5/96)
Rev. Henry Morris (beginning 6/96)
University of Central Florida
Mr. Laurence Windham
University of Florida
Rev. Clif Wilcox
Florida Southern
Rev. Tim Rice (through 6/96)

Great Lakes Presbytery

Ohio State University
Rev. Chris Harper (beginning 6/96)

Mississippi Joint Committee on Campus
Work (Covenant, Grace and Mississippi
Valley Presbyteries)

Mississippi/W. Tennessee Area
Mr. James "Bebo" Elkin
Mrs. Sheryl Froehlich-Office Administrator
Belhaven College
Rev. John Stone (through 6/96)
Mr. Corey Pelton (beginning 6/96)
Delta State University
Rev. Ricky Jones
Mississippi State University
Rev. Brian Habig
University of Memphis
Rev. Les Newsom
University of Mississippi
Rev. Jeffrey Lancaster
University of So. Mississippi
Mr. Stephen Speaks (through 5/96)
Rev. Jeremy Jones (beginning 6/96)
University of Tennessee-Martin
Mr. Berry Hudson (beginning 6/96)

Missouri Committee on Campus Work

University of Missouri
Rev. Billy Dempsey

Northeast Area

Northeast Area Coordinator
Rev. Carl Derk

Palmetto Committee on Campus Work

University of South Carolina

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Potomac Presbytery

Towson State University

Mr. Eric Molicki

Susquehanna Valley Presbytery

Pennsylvania State University

Rev. Carl Derk - part time

Tennessee Joint Committee on
Campus Work
(Nashville and Tennessee Valley)

Tennessee Technological University

Rev. Kevin Teasley

University of Tennessee

Rev. Fred Harrell (through 5/96)

Rev. John Stone (beginning 5/96)

University of Tennessee—Chattanooga

Rev. Jed Johnston (beginning 6/96)

Vanderbilt University

Rev. Hal Farnsworth (through 5/96)

Rev. Stuart Latimer (beginning 6/96)

Miss Paige Benton

Texas Joint Committee on Campus Work
(North and South Texas)

Texas A&M University

Rev. Chris Yates

Southern Methodist University

Rev. Leo Schuster

Miss Bowie Frazer

University of Texas—Austin

Rev. Bill Boyd

APPENDICES

CAMPUS INTERNS/STAFF

Missy Barton	University of Florida
Keith Berger	Belhaven College
Merrill Bourland	Auburn University
Karin Christiansen	Clemson University
Michael Cox	Auburn University
Eleanor Danner	University of Mississippi
Chrishon Ducker	University of Tennessee–Martin
Dustyn Eudaly	Southern Methodist University
Roger Fakes	Mississippi College
Bowie Frazer	Southern Methodist University
Tom Gibbs	Maryville University
Mike Going	Winthrop University
Rich Good	Webster University
Michael Gordon	University of Alabama
Harris Green	University of Tennessee
Ewan Kennedy	Washington University
Julie Langford	University of Texas–Austin
Matt Lucas	Clemson University
Clark Mackey	University of Missouri
Daryl Madi	Washington University
Eric Molicki	Towson State University
Jamie Murphy	Mississippi State University
Scott Phillips	Clemson University
Nicole Riegenbach	University of Missouri
Melanie Rogers	University of Mississippi
Pam Rogers	Mercer University
Richard Schwartz	Maryville University
Curtis Stapleton	Webster University
Jennifer West-Storck	University of Tennessee
Amy Stork	Auburn University
Christie Webster	Belhaven College
Laurence Windham	University of Central Florida
Paige Vann	University of Memphis
Richard Vise	University of Texas–Austin

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Clemson University

Emory University

University of Florida

Mississippi State University

Philadelphia Area

Rev. Rick Brawner

Miss Jean Lappin (retired 3/96)

Rev. Brian DeJong

Miss Julie McLean

Rev. Bruce McDowell

Drexel University

Hahnemann University

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and
Science

St. Joseph's University

Temple University

University of Pennsylvania

University of the Arts

Southern Illinois University

University of North Carolina—Charlotte

Rev. Derick McDonald

Rev. Will Faires

GA MNA OFFICE

Coordinator of Campus Ministries

Rev. Marvin Padgett

Assistant to the Coordinator

Miss Shirley Crowder

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Annette Carter (beginning 9/96)

Secretary

Mrs. Bekki Gowens (through 8/96)

Bookkeeper

Mr. Van Hoyt

Development Assistant

Mrs. Sheila Wortham (through 8/96)

Mrs. Bekki Gowens

Part-Time Development Assistant

Mrs. Jessica Wilson

APPENDICES

REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES

FOR INFORMATION — 1998 BUDGET

INCOME	1996		1997		1998	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Reforecast	Budget	
Contributions - Ministries	1,971,000	1,726,543	2,009,919	2,211,721	3,279,303	
Contributions - MS	410,000	503,024	450,000	441,500	468,000	
Contributions - General	153,350	26,530	96,553	58,372	141,206	
Revenue						
Conferences & Projects	249,000	85,890	200,000	197,830	202,000	
Mission to North America	70,000	100,000	100,000	108,000	110,000	
Interest	7,000	8,877	12,000	8,000	9,000	
Transfers						
from Campus Ministries	291,600	289,691	265,950	298,900	343,200	
Subtotal	3,151,950	2,740,555	3,134,422	3,324,323	4,552,709	
EXPENSES						
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Reforecast	Budget	Growth
Overall Ministry						
*Salaries	386,950	283,936	336,550	296,100	321,596	79,399
*Development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	116,156	21,649
*Travel/Conference/Telephone	45,000	38,785	46,203	39,400	45,100	8,150
*Printing/Postage/Materials	25,000	37,891	25,000	69,450	29,600	25,000
*Direct Office Space	25,000	27,969	28,740	32,922	42,254	4,000
Subtotal	481,950	388,581	436,493	437,872	554,706	138,198
Ministry-at-Large						
ISCF Christmas Conference	14,000	0	-----	-----	-----	-----
Summer Conference	80,000	72,644	80,000	83,000	85,000	7,000
LifeVIEW Conference	60,000	0	60,000	69,830	57,000	10,000
Missions Projects	95,000	4,000	60,000	45,000	60,000	60,000
*Training	20,000	17,337	24,360	26,850	37,900	2,000
*New Work Development	20,000	4,434	13,650	8,550	10,800	5,000
Subtotal	289,000	98,415	238,010	233,230	250,700	84,000
Campus Ministries						
*International Student						
Christian Fellowship	375,000	233,700	253,271	215,215	255,976	30,000
Interns/Staff	550,000	423,015	414,618	488,551	688,202	125,000
Affiliated Committees	1,046,000	1,056,645	1,342,030	1,507,955	2,335,125	277,670
MS Affiliated Committee	410,000	431,024	450,000	441,500	468,000	10,000
Subtotal	2,381,000	2,144,384	2,459,919	2,653,221	3,747,303	442,670
Total	3,151,950	2,631,380	3,134,422	3,324,323	4,552,709	664,868

* These line items are included in the GA MNA Campus Ministries Budget.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT E

CHAPLAIN ROSTER - 1996

ACTIVE DUTY - ARMY

CPT Henry H. Beaulieu
CPT Peter M. Brzezinski
CPT Kenneth W. Bush
CPT Michael E. Cannon
MAJ Fred S. Carr
CPT James R. Carter
CPT Eric R. Dye
CPT Thomas A. Eddy
CPT Mark E. Fairbrother
2LT Timothy E. Fary
CPT Michael F. Frazier
CPT John W. Griessel
LTC-S James R. Griffith
MAJ L. Michael Hardeman
CPT Scott R. Huber
CPT Harry C. Huey, Jr.
LTC Douglas E. Lee
COL Stephen W. Leonard
CPT L. Lemuel Locke III
CPT Steven E. Logan
MAJ Thomas A. MacGregor
LTC Charles H. Morrison III
MAJ-S Robert S. Mortenson, Jr.
CPT Robert Nay
CPT Daniel S. Oh
CPT Charles R. Owen III
LTC W. Ingram Philips III
MAJ Charles M. Rector
LTC David F. Roberts
CPT John A. Routzahn, Jr.
MAJ-S Gary K. Sexton
CPT Peter R. Sniffin
LTC Robert A. Wildeman, Jr.

ACTIVE DUTY - AIR FORCE

CPT James G. Chizek
LTC Robert W. Gardner
LT Glen H. Gresham
CPT Frederick S. McFarland
1LT Shannon K. Philio

ACTIVE DUTY - NAVY

CDR Christopher P. Bennett
LT Robert A. Callison
LT Sung Hee Choi
LT Ken Counts
CDR Michael R. Craig
CAPT J. Robert Fiol
LT Dwight Horn
LT Bruce A. Hougesen
LT Steven T. Orren
LCDR Joseph C. Paul
LCDR George Ridgeway
LT Douglas E. Rosander

LCDR John C. Smith
LCDR James L. Spiritosanto
CDR Ronald L. Swafford, Sr.
LT William E. Tilley
LT David A. Tubley
LCDR Michael A. Uhall
LT Jan P. Werson
LCDR Paul R. Wrigley

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The Rev. Mr. Richard Anderson
The Rev. Mr. John O. Butler
The Rev. Mr. Gary R. Cox
The Rev. Mr. Lamar Davis
The Rev. Mr. David Gilleran
The Rev. Mr. Malcolm M. Griffith
The Rev. Mr. Wesley N. Horne, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. Steven A. Jakes
The Rev. Mr. Donald K. Malin
The Rev. Mr. William J. Manning
The Rev. Mr. James C. Pakala
The Rev. Mr. M. Craig Pipkin
The Rev. Mr. Kenneth E. Ribelin
The Rev. Mr. Daniel J. Ricketts
The Rev. Mr. Richard H. Rosser
The Rev. Mr. Paul S. Sagan
The Rev. Mr. Thomas E. Troxell
The Rev. Mr. Andrew S. Zeller

RESERVES - ARMY

The Rev. Mr. Hubert R. Baker
The Rev. Mr. J. Martin Fields
The Rev. Mr. D. Charles Frost, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. George Gatis
The Rev. Mr. William Gleason
The Rev. Mr. Gary J. Griffith
The Rev. Mr. Stevan Horning
The Rev. Mr. Douglas Hudson
The Rev. Mr. Edward L. James
The Rev. Mr. John E. Johnston
The Rev. Mr. John K. Maas
The Rev. Mr. Robert C. Marsh
The Rev. Mr. Douglas B. McCullough
The Rev. Mr. Douglas P. Mendis
The Rev. Mr. Michael Milton
The Rev. Mr. A. Randy Nabors
The Rev. Mr. Donald H. Post, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. G. Dewey Roberts
The Rev. Mr. Don Sampson
The Rev. Mr. James E. Singleton
The Rev. Mr. David Upchurch

APPENDICES

RESERVES - NAVY

The Rev. Mr. Alan Cochet
The Rev. Mr. David A. Crum
The Rev. Mr. Daniel E. Deaton
The Rev. Mr. Arnold C. Johnson
The Rev. Mr. Coy B. Newton III
The Rev. Mr. Stephen L. Parker
The Rev. Mr. Lawrence S. Ruddell
The Rev. Mr. Jeffrey R. Weir
The Rev. Mr. Fred L. Zoeller, Jr.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Rev. Mr. Kenneth R. Elliott

RESERVES - AIR FORCE

The Rev. Mr. George C. Crenshaw
The Rev. Mr. Robert L. Jarrett
The Rev. Mr. John C. Ropp, Jr.

PRISON

The Rev. Mr. Hubert L. Foshee

CIVIL AIR PATROL

The Rev. Mr. Daniel Fannon
The Rev. Mr. Paul O. Honomichl
The Rev. Mr. Edward S. S. Huntington
The Rev. Mr. Albert F. Moginot, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. Roy S. Parker
The Rev. Mr. Martin D. Payne
The Rev. Mr. Henry Thigpen

VA HOSPITAL - FULL-TIME

The Rev. Mr. Phillip B. Binnie
The Rev. Mr. Robert D. Byrne

VA HOSPITAL - PART-TIME

The Rev. Mr. David Dively
The Rev. Mr. Lyle R. Graff
The Rev. Mr. Robert E. Hobson, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. Ron Morrell
The Rev. Mr. Charles E. Turner

RETIREMENT HOME AND HOSPITAL

The Rev. Mr. Allan M. Baldwin
The Rev. Mr. O. George Billings
The Rev. Mr. John Buswell
The Rev. Mr. Drennon B. Cottingham
The Rev. Mr. F. Seth Dyrness
The Rev. Mr. Delbert L. Farris
The Rev. Mr. Leon Pannkuk
The Rev. Mr. W. Kent Seldal
The Rev. Mr. J. Mark Tedford
The Rev. Mr. James B. Von Drehle
The Rev. Mr. Paul Walker
The Rev. Mr. L. Paul Woodard

AIDS HOSPICE

The Rev. Mr. Kenneth C. Larter

The Rev. Mr. Keith H. Knauf

POLICE

The Rev. Mr. Charles H. Cobb, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. Gary C. Englestad
The Rev. Mr. Strother Gross
The Rev. Mr. Cameron Kirker
The Rev. Mr. John Kuebler

MERCHANT MARINE PORT

The Rev. Mr. James Ransom
The Rev. Mr. Curtis Singleton

STATE CHAPLAIN FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Rev. Mr. James Wagner

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Rev. Mr. James A. Jones, Jr.

CAMPGROUND

The Rev. Mr. Ted Ragsdale

RETIRED

The Rev. Mr. A. Kenneth Austin
The Rev. Mr. Donald W. Aven
The Rev. Mr. Beverly J. Barnett
The Rev. Mr. Harry F. Barnett
The Rev. Mr. Stanley J. Beach
The Rev. Mr. R. L. Brinkley, Sr.
The Rev. Mr. Samuel S. Cappel
The Rev. Mr. J. Philip Clark
The Rev. Mr. Don K. Clements
The Rev. Mr. David E. Crocker
The Rev. Mr. Howard T. Cross
The Rev. Mr. David L. Dare
The Rev. Mr. R. Wayne Good
The Rev. Mr. Bill C. Greenwalt
The Rev. Mr. Albert C. Hitchcock
The Rev. Mr. Beryl T. Hubbard
The Rev. Mr. James M. Hutchens
The Rev. Mr. Peter Jensen
The Rev. Mr. Edward A. Jussely
The Rev. Mr. Philip H. Lancaster
The Rev. Mr. Samuel H. Larsen
The Rev. Mr. William B. Leonard, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. John M. MacGregor
The Rev. Mr. Nelson K. Malkus
The Rev. Mr. Duane D. Mallow
The Rev. Mr. James S. Martin
The Rev. Mr. David P. Peterson
The Rev. Mr. Timothy D. Rott
The Rev. Mr. Thomas E. Sidebotham
The Rev. Mr. George C. Soltau
The Rev. Mr. Frederic D. Thompson, Jr.
The Rev. Mr. E. Lee Trinkle III
The Rev. Mr. Leon F. Wardell
The Rev. Mr. Lawrence H. Withington

APPENDIX J

**REPORT FROM
THE COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD
TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

June 1997

Mission to the World, as an arm of the Presbyterian Church in America, a confessional church, does Reformed and covenantal missions around the world. The Reformed faith, in its simplest definition, is God-centered faith. God alone is the source of all that exists and everything that exists does so for the glory of Him alone.

At the heart of what it means to be Reformed are the doctrines of grace. Central to these doctrines is the utter helplessness of man and God's faithfulness to his gospel promises. We should not forget that the doctrines of grace produce the virtues of the Christian life—love, humility, understanding and compassion. By emphasizing these Christian virtues as an important aspect of what it means to be Reformed, we can develop a posture of being Reformed in a warm and winsome way.

The great doctrines of sovereign grace, the truth that God saves men, are foundational to a theological understanding of missions. Neglect of this truth, which is found in the Scriptures and summarized in our confessional standards, cripples missions and reduces it to a human enterprise, seeking to help God. Missions is a divine enterprise, wherein God commands and graciously accepts the obedience of man. When people respond to the gospel, it is neither because of their responsiveness nor the obedience of the missionary that God finds them; it is because God found them that they are responsive. The truth that God chooses His people, some believe, discourages missions. On the contrary, this truth is the only real ground for missions.

The Reformed faith also teaches the finitude and sinfulness of our estate. It underlines our absolute dependence on the Spirit of God to bring regeneration to those we long to see embrace Christ. Nothing is more exciting than to see someone come to faith, but when God is pleased to use us as His instruments to bring about new life in His people, we are well aware of the fact that it is God's Spirit alone that can bring regeneration, repentance and faith to anyone.

We believe that man is totally depraved, that is, that he cannot produce any spiritual life that would move him toward God. We shall, therefore, marvel, first of all, far more in our own salvation which is without explanation and which is fully a gracious act from a loving God. We shall also understand in a deeper way that disobedience characterizes every part of a culture: politics, art and social life as well as religious life. Total depravity underlines the importance of understanding a culture and all of its parts in

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order to bring the gospel to the people of that culture. We shall not, however, put our faith in our strategic plans but shall be open to what God will do with us and through us as His ambassadors.

We believe in unconditional election. We shall, therefore, look more to Christ and His gospel message for our mission activity and far less to our gifts which He has given us or to the environment in which we work.

We believe in limited atonement. We shall, therefore, have a far greater sense of belonging to God and believing that the One who created the universe also created us and saved us to be His kingdom instruments in this world. Rather than limiting our efforts to bring the gospel to others, acceptance of this truth will compel us to scatter the seed wherever we can, believing that God has chosen His people in every tongue, tribe and nation for whom He specifically came and died.

We believe in irresistible grace. We shall not, therefore, run from those places where missionary activity seems very difficult. God calls some to plow in concrete and others to turn fertile soil that was prepared in the past by others. Reliance on His Spirit's guidance is an antidote to our fleshly desire only to concentrate our efforts where it is easy to plant churches and where we see a large response to the gospel.

We believe in the perseverance of the saints. Our activities, therefore, will have a great measure of the joy of eternity and the everlasting fellowship we share with God. We shall entrust those whom God has brought to faith far more into His hands and less into our programs. We shall not see the church as a fortress in which to hide, but rather a training school to send those whom God has brought to faith out into the world to continue His great redemptive plan.

Our commitment to Reformed Theology is based on its truthfulness. It is drawn from the heart of God to us, and without it there can be no *lasting* blessing from God. When we speak of the Reformed faith, we are talking about those truths of God and man, sin and grace, love and judgment, which find their basis in Scripture and which we as a denomination embrace in our *Westminster Confession of Faith* and its *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*.

The effects of sin are pervasive and men and women are not only harmed by sin, they are dead in it. Many will not embrace the biblical doctrines of election, calling and regeneration, but the evidence for the complete lostness of mankind, and therefore, the absolute necessity of these doctrines is everywhere. Today our culture is in danger of falling into the same pit of false hope in human goodness and human potential that other cultures have fallen into in the past.

Our emphasis, rather, will be one of full conviction that the doctrines of the Reformed faith are the truest expression of true biblical faith and what the world needs to hear.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We shall stress a faith that grips all of life, and we shall encourage all stations in life as a sacred calling.

We will admit that there have been times when the Reformed faith has been held in an unloving and critical fashion. If we are going to build a Reformed church in the world, there must be within that movement a tolerance for diversity. We want to resist going beyond Scripture and creeds and imposing our own definitions on what it means to be Reformed. We want to avoid believing that we have the final word on every issue.

Finally, we would argue that the way our theology is applied and expressed is a measure of the biblicalness of its content. We want to be able to hold firmly to our positions while embracing other godly men and women who disagree with us. Simply put, if the Reformed faith is biblical faith, then any theology which is not expressed in love is not truly Reformed!

To emphasize Covenant theology is to emphasize the grace-conceived, grace-established and grace-perfected reality of the Church and the churches' mission activity.

When God chose Israel, and therefore the Church, He did so for no reason that was conditional in or inherent in His people (Deuteronomy 7:7). The covenant established with Abraham in Genesis 15 was in all of its outward manifestations an ancient, Mideastern contract, but in fact it was not a typical transaction of that day. Only God passed through the aisle between the animals. In other words, God was saying, "I alone am and can make this covenant with my people." If we can drink deeply from the truth of Covenant theology, we shall be able to reorganize our priorities, so that the glory of God becomes the single most important passion in the life and work of the Church. The driving force of our ministry will not be a market-driven strategic plan, but rather the vision that God may be glorified among the people of all nations (Romans 1:5).

Seen from a covenant perspective, the doctrines of grace—especially election—are not viewed as a privileged position of safety from those who are lost, but rather a grace-centered relationship which empowers God's people to engage in mission service to the world. The arena of God's saving work is all of His creation. God has called His people by His covenant into a special relationship with Him in order to bring all of creation back from its broken state to its right relationship with God.

Mission to the World focuses on church planting because the Church is the corporate body that God has brought into being by His covenant. The saving work of God cannot be reduced to only a personalized salvation between God and individuals. It is within the covenant community of the church that we experience one of the most dynamic living realities of the power of Christ. As Lord of the Church, He lives within the corporate body as Prophet, Priest and King. He is the God-revealer, God-savior and God-ruler over His people.

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Mission activity cannot end with conversion. Our goal is always the establishment of a vibrant, worshipping community, the church – a body of believers that is able to reproduce itself through mission activity of its own, and one that is able to make a life-changing impact within the lost and fallen culture in which God has placed it.

The covenant God has made with His people always has a two-fold purpose. God has called His people for worship, but that worship must motivate the Church for ministry. We must avoid the temptation to focus internally only on nurture at the expense of ministry or vice versa. The life of the covenant community must always be balanced with the Church's responsibility for the needs of the world.

Who belongs to the covenant community of God? There is great debate on this matter within evangelical Christianity. We believe, however, that the teaching of Scripture on this matter is very clear. All who believe by faith alone on Christ for salvation and their children are participants in the covenant promises. We do not believe in baptismal regeneration or in presumptive regeneration. That is, we do not believe because a child has been baptized or because his parents are believers in Christ that the child is automatically a member of the elect of God. On the other hand, the covenant promises have always been for those who have believed and their children. This is true in the Old Testament (Genesis 17:7), and what is true in the Old Testament, we believe must be true in the New Testament. At no time does God say that He has changed the extent of the covenant although He does tell us that He has changed the sign. To remove the covenant promises from the children of believers would be to reduce the covenant in the New Testament when in fact the New Testament is the fullness or fulfillment of that which was first promised to Abraham.

The Covenant Commission of the Old Testament was that the people of God were to teach faithfully the commandments of God to their children at all times and in all experiences of life (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). The Covenant Commission of the New Testament is just as you would expect, an expansion or a fulfillment of the Commission in the Old Testament. The people of God are to reach out to the peoples of all nations, baptizing them into the church and teaching them to apply the commandments of God to all of life (Matthew 28:19-20).

We continue to field questions concerning our church plant in Madrid, Spain. We have faithfully worked through three presbyteries concerning this matter. MTW has been acting in a Presbyterian manner. We have received countless assurances from the team leader that his intentions are to build a Reformed church in Madrid, and a second missionary in Madrid also assures us this is the case. We have made three on-site inspections of the situation, have heard the testimonies of these two missionaries, and have corroborated the testimonies. We have then acted to protect them and their ministry. Our protection of them is also part of the Presbyterian system—which exists to protect the truth, to protect the will of the majority, and *also* to protect the rights of individuals. We disapprove of the letters and rumors which have been passed around,

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put on the Internet, and published in news reports. We believe that we have handled this matter in a responsible manner.

As in 1995, we had three major goals for 1996. The first was to analyze each part of MTW's ministry and ask whether or not we could do any part better. We identified important areas of change such as receipting, health care, and short-term missions.

A second goal was to complete building an administrative team. This was also a goal in 1995, but we experienced some setbacks in the process. God graciously sent three key people to flesh out MTW's senior staff.

The third goal was to reduce the deficits in restricted missionary accounts to \$50,000. This figure stood at \$350,205 in 1994 and \$321,856 in 1995. While we fell short of our goal, these deficits have been reduced to \$171,115.

God continues to bless the work of MTW through the very special missionaries he has called to serve around the world. In 1996, there were 512 career missionaries, 94 two-year MTW*Impact* missionaries, 23 one-year CoMission missionaries, and 2,062 short-term summer missionaries. The breakdown of the career missionaries is as follows:

	Individuals	Units*
Church-planting Urban Ministry	171	93
Church-planting Urban Multi-National	31	16
Church-planting Hinterland Ministry	13	7
Church-planting Partnerships	44	24
Church-planting Nurture	<u>31</u>	<u>18</u>
Subtotals	290	158
Technical and Support Cooperative Agreements	172	100
Theological Education	<u>50</u>	<u>26</u>
Subtotals	<u>222</u>	<u>126</u>
Totals	512	284

The figures below show changes in our missionary force during the past four years:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Missionaries</u>	<u>Change</u>
12/31/93	500	+4.6%
12/31/94	485	-3.0%
12/31/95	484	-.02%
12/31/96	512	+5.8%

* A unit represents one couple or single person.

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In 1996 MTW had 49 employees in Atlanta supporting 606 missionaries in 61 countries, a ratio of 1 employee to 12 missionaries. In addition to these 606 missionaries, 2,000 men, women and youth 12 years old and older spent from one week to two months on missions projects planned by *MTWImpact*.

Comparisons with other missions agencies (ratio of missionaries to support staff):

Missionary agency #1	1 to 9.5
Missionary agency #2	1 to 8
Missionary agency #3	1 to 4.8
Missionary agency #4	1 to 5
World's largest mission agency	1 to 5.5
Largest denominational agency	1 to 7.5
Missionary agency #5	1 to 3.5
Denominational agency #1	1 to 11.6
MTW	1 to 12 + 2000 <i>MTWImpact</i>

The norm for administrative assessment in missionary agencies is 15%. MTW's assessment reached 14.24% in 1994. We have controlled it in the following manner:
1994 — 14.24% 1995 — 13.71% 1996 — 12.55%

The 1997 Partnership Share (Askings) for MTW is \$3,553,541 or \$16.81 per communicant member. This represents a 3% increase in funding over 1996 and an unchanged cost per member. If this figure was met, the administrative assessment to missionaries would be reduced to zero.

Following are brief reports of the activities of the MTW ministries in 1996.

ASIA/EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS

Australia

We have begun an experiment in which one of our missionaries will pastor an Australian church and will work with MTW 10% of the time. The church will cover 90% of his costs and MTW will cover 10%. We've never tried this and are not sure of the outcome but we are excited about the possibility. It opens the door to further strengthening the Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC), while continuing to give coverage to missionaries in the region by a regional director. It may allow opportunities for the WPC and the PCA to work together in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Australians have better contacts than we, but we have more resources than they, so it could be a very positive partnership.

The college outreach ministry in Brisbane has produced some results beyond what we had initially anticipated. Twenty of the university students have entered the theological hall and five are under care of presbytery, moving toward being teaching elders. The

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lack of teaching elders has been a crying need and it is great to see some hope for the future.

Germany

It should be noted that on the 450th Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his thesis to the Wittenberg door, one state church declared itself to be independent. There has been a cutback in taxes, resulting in loss of support to state churches, and the cutback seems to be centered toward evangelical churches. As a result of this move, and other work that has been going on for awhile, there may be a confessional church formed separate from the state church.

In the eastern part of the country, our team has begun work in earnest on one church-planting site and is looking at a second site. Meanwhile, the group they are working with is asking them to get more and more involved in the training of the leadership of the whole denomination.

Japan

We still see very positive, steady growth and the Japanese Presbyterian Church continues to be one of the fastest growing churches in Japan. In recent meetings they have moved from separate team strategies to a country-wide strategy in an effort to reach one of the least evangelized countries in the unrestricted world.

Philippines

They have just moved toward their 24th church-planting site. We continue to be excited about the growth. They now realize it will take more than three years for the average church to become financially independent, but that does not take away from the fact that the overall strategy seems to be working quite well.

Italy

With the purchase and opening of the Vanguard Center, there has been a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm. The center is being used almost constantly. At the same time, this new interest has brought new persecution as the Catholic church reacts to this perceived threat.

Ukraine

With the team fully on board, there are now four church-planting sites in various stages. In addition, training has begun for growing the leadership of these churches. There has been interaction with several U.S. seminaries in being part of this training. Ukraine is a clear example of how CoMission has plowed and fertilized the ground thoroughly for follow-up church planting.

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Cooperative Agreements

Though it is impossible to summarize all the work going on under our cooperative agreements, it is safe to say that they are a positive addition to Mission to the World's overall strategy. When it comes to unreached people groups, MTW has missionaries involved in these harder to reach areas through such works as Wycliffe Bible Translators, Frontiers, Arab World Ministries, etc. It is also exciting to see these cooperative agreements and partnerships work both ways. For instance, in some of the areas where we do church planting, evangelistic outreach with groups like OM and Campus Crusade for Christ are encouraging their contacts toward our church plants. In other places, our training is supplemented by help from other organizations.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

South Africa

As the result of investigations into the ministry opportunities, South Africa has become a major focus of MTW. Partnership opportunities are good for leadership and missionary training with Reformed entities, and we are proceeding with several. The CMTW approved the position of Director for Southern Africa and T.E. Oliver Claassen agreed to serve part time in this role until a full time person can be named.

Kenya

Tom Austin was appointed team leader for a new Theological and Development Team that will work from Kenya into surrounding East Africa countries. Recent events have demonstrated the shallowness of the Evangelical church in their understanding of Biblical norms for the Christian life and character. This group will link up with the training ministries developing in South Africa.

Cote d'Ivoire

A major problem over the funding of national leadership in the Muslim church plants was averted after a number of difficult meetings over a period of several months. In an answer to much prayer, the demands of the nationals were lessened considerably, allowing for an amicable settlement with no loss of members or leaders.

Muslim ministries

People continue to come to Christ in most of the countries where our missionaries are working. Progress is slow to be sure, but new converts are being disciplined individually and in groups wherever possible.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil

Our first missionaries have been assigned to Brazil. They will be involved in training for church planting and Christian Education. The first meeting of the Joint Project

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Committee outlined the type of projects in which MTW will be involved such as assessment for church planters and missionary training.

Mexico

Thirty-one PCA churches attended promotional meetings for setting up church planting partnerships in target areas of Mexico. Most of these churches are now directly involved with a specific church plant with a Mexican church planter. The process of assessment and training has been carried out throughout the year. Two experienced MTW church planters have been placed in Guadalajara who, working with Mexican church planters, will establish two new middle class churches.

Chile

The second church started in Santiago has been organized with fifty members and about 120 in attendance. A third church plant has also been started. The congregation in Vina del Mar has divided resulting in two church plants rather than one. Property has been purchased for the Renaca group and construction will begin in the summer of 1997.

Peru

The Surco church has been able to purchase a large house on a main street. With some renovation it will be adequate for the 140 who are in attendance. The national church planter has moved on to a new church plant in the La Molina area of Lima and a pastor is needed by the Surco church. A new church is being planted in Cusco among the Quechua people. Their building is almost complete and attendance has risen to over fifty due to having the church building available. A partnership agreement with Radio Amauta has been reached which allows for utilization of their technology and materials to be available for all MTW's hinterland church planting among the Quechua people of Peru and Ecuador.

Ecuador

The young presbytery in Quito has gone through some difficult struggles as they assume full responsibility for administrating their own church affairs. They have asked MTW to provide them with a missionary to do theological training and that will be done in 1997. Progress in Guayaquil with the San Andres church plant is encouraging. The university ministry is producing good results among Guayaquil's college age group. Two experienced couples are moving into the hinterland ministry in Ecuador and this will facilitate greatly the Quichua training program.

Colombia

Progress continues with both church plants growing in Bogota. Space is the major problem for both ministries. One ruling elder has been ordained and another teaching elder will soon be ordained. Bogota remains a tense place to live and work. The move of all the Wycliffe personnel from their jungle base to Bogota has created a new dynamic for the missionary community. MTW's team continues to function well in the midst of the pressure and uncertainty.

APPENDICES

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MISSIONARIES

Tribute to Mr. Joseph N. Farlow 1918-1996

On October 14, 1996 at the age of 78, the Lord received Joseph N. Farlow into his heavenly home after nearly thirty years of missionary service together with his faithful wife, Beth, in Taiwan from 1958-1986.

Joe served with Dr. James Graham as the Vice President of Christ's College in Taipei while Beth was the head of the English department at the college. Joe's talents were many and varied. Not only did he discharge the spiritual duties of a missionary, but after no builder would take the responsibility for building the chapel at Christ's College—they said it couldn't be done—Joe designed it and oversaw its construction. Joe was responsible for much of the physical development of the Christ's College campus and also worked closely with the students. His legacy lives in the lives of the graduates of Christ's College who continue to serve the Lord faithfully. From 1980-1986, Joe served as the pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church in Taipei.

To Joe's wife, Beth Farlow, and to his children and their families, the Committee on Mission to the World expresses its sorrow to you in your loss, but also our rejoicing with you in the value of Joe's life for eternity and his entrance into eternal life, for to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord, II Corinthians 5:8.

We will pray for you that the Lord may minister His comfort to you according to His perfect knowledge of your need.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Mission to the World makes the following recommendations to the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America:

1. That May 7, 1998 be set as the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization and Revival as part of the National Day of Prayer and that the General Assembly unite in prayer that God would send many more laborers to His harvest field.
2. That the General Assembly urge the churches to set aside a portion of their giving for the suffering peoples of the world and that, to that end, it be recommended that a special offering for relief and mercy needs around the world be taken during the Easter season of 1998.
3. The Committee on Mission to the World has reviewed the performance of the Coordinator and his staff. With thanksgiving to God, the Committee on Mission to the World recommends that the General Assembly express its gratitude to teaching elder Paul D. Kooistra for his excellent service as Coordinator of Mission to the World and that he be re-elected to the office of Coordinator.
4. That the proposed budget of MTW, as presented through the Administrative Committee, be approved.
5. That the cooperative agreement with Action International Ministries be approved. (Attachment A)
6. That the cooperative agreement with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America be approved. (Attachment B)
7. That the minutes of the meeting of March 7-8, 1996 be accepted.
8. That the minutes of the meeting of October 3-4, 1996 be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert V. Massengill, Chairman
Mission to the World

RVM/cgs

APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT A

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WHEREBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA MEMBERS ARE AFFILIATED WITH MISSION TO THE WORLD WHILE EMPLOYED BY ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

This agreement concerns missionary personnel who are members of the Presbyterian Church in America, affiliated with Mission to the World and employed by Action International Ministries and who are not working directly in church planting.

1. The appointment of the missionary will be subject to the approval of both agencies in accordance with the standards established by each agency.
2. In the event that one agency requests confidential materials gathered by the other, such materials shall be shared with the understanding that the materials shall be kept confidential by that agency.
3. The missionary candidate shall participate in any candidate and training program of Action International Ministries as requested in addition to that of Mission to the World.
4. Mission to the World shall be the primary sponsoring agency for financial and prayer support of the missionary. All itineration work within the Presbyterian Church in America shall be coordinated by the Committee on Mission to the World in order that adequate prayer and financial support can be realized.
5. Action International Ministries will supervise the securing of visas and make other arrangements necessary for beginning field work.
6. Action International Ministries shall be the directing agency in relation to missionary activities on the field. Changes in mutually accepted job descriptions should be made in consultation with Mission to the World.
7. Final discipline as relates to theology and morals rests in the proper church court of the Presbyterian Church in America. Administrative discipline is the prerogative of Action International Ministries but it shall be exercised only after consultation with Mission to the World.
8. The Mission to the World missionary will have liberty in the full and free presentation and practice of the whole counsel of God as contained in and understood in the Reformed view, as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechism, recognizing that he must also respect the position of others in an interdenominational setting.
9. While on the field and while traveling to and from the field, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of Action International Ministries.
10. While on the field, the missionary shall be an integral part of the field staff, sharing equally in privileges and responsibilities as any other member and being subject to the policies and direction of Action International Ministries.

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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

MISSION TO THE WORLD AND ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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- 11. The missionary's field director will initiate home ministry assignment planning in consultation with Mission to the World and also with Action International Ministries.
- 12. While on home ministry assignment, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of Mission to the World. Among the missionary's home ministry assignment responsibilities, consideration will be given by Mission to the World to assignments, projects, additional study or training requested by Action International Ministries. Progress and activity information during home ministry assignment will be provided for Action International Ministries.
- 13. While on home ministry assignment, the missionary will be expected by Mission to the World to carry on a deputation ministry for Mission to the World within the constituency of the Presbyterian Church in America congregations. Each agency shall assume the arrangements and expenses of deputation when the member is doing deputation for either agency. Primary home ministry assignment responsibilities will be within the Presbyterian Church in America under Mission to the World coordination.
- 14. The missionary will not solicit homeland constituencies of either agency for personal funds or field needs without the permission of the respective agency.
- 15. The support quota, work budget, etc. of the missionary with Action International Ministries will be established by Action International Ministries. Mission to the World will receive and receipt the missionary's funds from the Presbyterian Church in America and transfer them monthly to Action International Ministries to be transmitted to the field by that agency. Action International Ministries will inform Mission to the World of funds designated for the missionary from other sources.
- 16. The missionary shall be under the hospitalization, retirement, and insurance plans provided by Mission to the World. Other financial arrangements shall be as determined by Action International Ministries.

ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

_____ Title
 _____ Title

DATE: _____

COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

_____ Chairman _____ Coordinator

Date: _____

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ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES STATEMENT OF FAITH

Among other equally Biblical truths, we believe in:

- A. The Bible, the Word of God; in its divine verbal, plenary inspiration; its inerrancy and infallibility in the original languages; and its supreme and final authority in faith and life. (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20,21);
- B. One God, eternally existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14);
- C. The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - 1. His essential, absolute and eternal Deity (Phil. 2:6; John 1:4; Heb. 1:8);
 - 2. His true and sinless humanity (I Pet. 2:22; I John 3:5);
 - 3. His virgin birth (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20);
 - 4. His substitutionary, propitiatory death (Matt. 20:28; mark 1:45; I Tim. 2:6);
 - 5. His bodily resurrection (John 20:19, 20);
 - 6. His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51); and
 - 7. His personal, visible and bodily coming again with power and great glory (Titus 2:13; John 14:2,3; Rev. 19:11-16);
- D. The Holy Spirit who shows the redeeming purpose of God to the world by convincing the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-11), and by regenerating (Titus 3:5), uniting to Christ (I Cor. 12:13), indwelling (Eph. 1:13; 5:18), sanctifying (Gal. 5:16; I Cor. 6:11) illuminating (John 16:13) and empowering for service (I Cor. 12:4-11), all who place complete faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 5:5);
- E. The total depravity of Man because of the Fall (Gen. 3:10-24);
- F. Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from works (Eph. 2:8);
- G. The everlasting bliss of the saved and the eternal suffering of the lost (Dan. 12:2; Luke 16:24-26; John 5:28; Rev. 20:14);
- H. The real spiritual unity in Christ of all redeemed by His precious Blood (I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:4-6; 4:11-15; 5:25,26);
- I. The necessity of maintaining, according to the Word of God, the purity of the Church in doctrine and life (I Cor. 6:19-20; I Thess. 4:3)

ACTION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES PURPOSE STATEMENT

ACTION is an interdenominational, Christ-centered organization whose purpose is to exercise and encourage evangelism, discipleship and development toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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(May 20, 1996)

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ATTACHMENT B

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

between

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA (RPCNA)

and

COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (PCA)

This agreement relates to individuals who are members of the RPCNA and will be serving on a Mission to the World directed ministry as members of both the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions and MTW.

1. The appointment of the missionary will be subject to the approval of both agencies in accordance with the standards established by each agency.
2. In the event that one agency requests confidential materials gathered by the other, such materials shall be shared with the understanding that the materials shall be kept confidential by that agency.
3. The missionary candidate shall participate in the training program of MTW in addition to any training required by the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions.
4. The RPCNA shall be the primary sponsoring agency for financial and prayer support of the missionary. All itineration work within the RPCNA shall be coordinated by the RPCNA in order that adequate prayer and financial support can be realized. The individual will also be permitted to raise support within the PCA. One hundred percent of needed support must be raised before the individual leaves for the field.
5. MTW will supervise the securing of visas and make other arrangements necessary for beginning field work.
6. MTW shall be the directing agency in relation to missionary activities on the field. Significant changes in a mutually accepted job description should be made in consultation with the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions.
7. Final discipline as relates to theology and morals rests in the proper church court of the RPCNA. Administrative discipline is the prerogative of MTW but it shall be exercised only after consultation with the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions.
8. While on the field and while traveling to and from the field, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of MTW.
9. While on the field, the missionary shall be an integral part of the field staff, sharing equally in privileges and responsibilities as any other member and subject to the policies and direction of MTW.
10. MTW, in consultation with the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions, will establish dates of the home ministry assignments (furloughs).

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

MISSION TO THE WORLD AND RPCNA BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

PAGE 2

11. While on home ministry assignment, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions. Among the missionary's home ministry assignment responsibilities, consideration will be given by RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions to assignments, projects, additional study or training requested by MTW.
12. While on home ministry assignment, the missionary will be expected to carry on an itineration ministry for the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions and for MTW with the constituency of MTW. Each agency shall assume the responsibility for the expenses and arrangements for itineration done among its constituency.
13. The missionary will not solicit homeland constituencies of either agency for personal funds or field needs without the permission of the respective agency.
14. The financial support requirement for the missionary will be established by MTW in consultation with the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions. Arrangements for receipting moneys and transferring funds to the missionary on the field will be made on mutually agreed upon terms between MTW and RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions.
15. Hospitalization, retirement, and insurance will be arranged for the missionary on mutually agreed upon terms between MTW and RPCNA.

RPCNA BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

_____	_____	_____
	Title	Date
_____	_____	_____
	Title	Date

COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD, PCA

_____	Chairman	_____
		Date
_____	Coordinator	_____
		Date

APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT C

MTW CAREER MISSIONARIES

Adams, Rev. & Mrs. A. E. (Earl/Rosie)
Adams, Mr. & Mrs. Steven P. (Joyce)
Akovenko, Mr. & Mrs. James S. (Sue)
Allen, Rev. & Mrs. William (Bill/Sharon)
Altork, Rev. & Mrs. Richard F. (Barbara)
Anderson, Rev. & Mrs. Sidney B. (Louise)
[REDACTED]
Aschmann, Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. (Heidi Marie)
Austin, Rev. & Mrs. Thomas L. (Ann)
Azbell, Miss Jean
Bakelaar, Mr. & Mrs. Peter (Diane)
Bancroft, IV, Rev. & Mrs. Josiah D. (Barbara)
[REDACTED]
Barnett, Miss Ellen S.
Baughman, Mr. & Mrs. Loren (Pam)
Behrend, Miss Brenda
Bennett, Rev. & Mrs. Dennis Gene (Cynthia)
Bergey, Dr. & Mrs. Ron (Francine)
Bindewald, Rev. & Mrs. Dave (Barbara)
Birdsall, Rev. & Mrs. S. Douglas (Doug/Jeanie)
[REDACTED]
Bloemsmma, Mr. & Mrs. Terry (Ruth)
Bolton, Miss Rosemary
Booth, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis (Natalie)
Borden, Rev. & Mrs. Jeffrey A. (Jeff/Patty)
Box, Mr. & Mrs. Rick (Pam)
Boyer, Rev. & Mrs. R. Eugene (Charlotte)
Bradford, Mr. & Mrs. Bill (Allen)
Brinkerhoff, Miss Jane
Brooks, Mr. & Mrs. David (Gwen)
Brown, Miss Roberta Marie
Buckner, Jr., Rev. & Mrs. James (Bonnie)
Burch, Rev. & Mrs. John (Susan)
Cadiente, Miss Nena
Camenisch, Rev. & Mrs. Glenn D. (Frances)
Carney, Mr. & Mrs. G. Morris (Harriett)
Carr, Mr. & Mrs. Bill (Susan)
Carr, Rev. & Mrs. Robert (Lois)
Carter, Miss Brenda
Caulkins, Mr. & Mrs. Donald W (Don/Marion)
Caviness, Rev. & Mrs. Don (Velma)
Chambers, Mr. & Mrs. Garry (Anita)
Chaplin, Rev. & Mrs. Carl (Becky)
Clay, Mr. & Mrs. Henry (Wendy)
Cobb, Mr. & Mrs. Donald (Claire-Lise)
[REDACTED]
Collinge, Dr. JoAnne (Jody)
Colson, Mr. Sanders
Conroy, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis (Rhonda)
Courtney, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas J. (Tom/Jan)
Crabb, Rev. & Mrs. Ken (Susan)
Crane, Rev. & Mrs. Richard (Robyn)
Cross, Rev. & Mrs. David L. (Barbara)
Cross, III, Rev. & Mrs. Walter G. (Jerry/Peggy)
Cvelich, Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. (Page)
[REDACTED]
Dance, Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. (Judy)
Dangler, Miss Sally
Davidson, Rev. & Mrs. Charles W. (Bonita)
Davila, Mr. & Mrs. Rodney (Jana)
Davis, Mr. David
Day, Mr. & Mrs. William L. (Bill/Sherry)
Dearman, Miss Jan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Deibert, Miss Nancy
[REDACTED]
DeWitt, Rev. & Mrs. Charles (Carol)
Diaso, Mr. & Mrs. David (Dawn)
Dinkins, Miss Ruth
Dooley, Miss Mari
Dortzbach, Rev. & Mrs. Karl (Debbie)
Dye, Rev. & Mrs. Richard (Dick/Ann)
Dye, Mr. & Mrs. Roger (Laura)
Edwards, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas (Tom/Connie)
Elder, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Basil Meredith (Sandy)
Farris, Mrs. Edwin R. (Kathryn)
Fiol, Mr. Alan F.
Fiol, Dr. & Mrs. David (Eleanor)
Fleming, Miss Caroline
Foucachon, Rev. & Mrs. Francis (Donna)
Frank, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon R. (Bud/Susan)
Frederick, Dr. & Mrs. John R. (Gail)
Gahagen, Mr. & Mrs. Craig (Heather)
Gildard, Mr. & Mrs. James H. (Jacki)
[REDACTED]
Gleason, Mr. & Mrs. W. Daniel (Dan/Bonnie)
Goodman, Mr. & Mrs. J. William (Bill/Martha)
Gray, Mr. Rick
Greete, Mr. & Mrs. Richard (Christine)
Grubb, Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. (Glenn/Sharlene)
Gutierrez, Rev. & Mrs. Gerardo (Gerry/Ruth)
Hale, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sidney (Deborah)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Harrell, Rev. & Mrs. Joseph R. (Joe/Becky)
Hatch, Mrs. Alice
Hatmaker, Miss Charlene
Hebert, Mr. & Mrs. Harless David
(Dave/Paula)
Helms, Dr. & Mrs. Rob (Marilyn)
Hendrix, Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. (Rick/Jan)
Herron, Rev. & Mrs. Dan (Betty)
Hicks, Miss Eileen
Hill, Mr. & Mrs. David William (Barbara)
Hivner, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Richard (Rick/Clare)
[REDACTED]
Huber, Mr. & Mrs. Eric (Lauren)
Hudson, Rev. & Mrs. Thomas (Tom/Carol)
Iverson, III, Rev. & Mrs. Daniel (Dan/Carol)
Jackson, Rev. & Mrs. William (Bill/Jean)
[REDACTED]
James, Mr. & Mrs. Guyton (Virginia)
Jennings, Rev. & Mrs. Nelson (Kathy)
Jewett, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin (Mel/Charlotte)
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Gary (Linda)
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Ronny (Ron/Lizanne)
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Steve (Rena)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Karner, Miss Linda
Kiewiet, Rev. & Mrs. David (Jan)
Kim, Mr. and Mrs. Dong Kwon (David/Joo
Eun)
Kim, Rev. and Mrs. Moon-Hyung (Min-Jung)
King, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Kimberly)
King, Mr. & Mrs. J. Wayne (Julie)
Kobb, Rev. & Mrs. James (Jim/Debra)
Kuch, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence (Larry/Karen)
Kuykendall, Mrs. Billie
Kyle, Rev. & Mrs. Jayson D. (Jay/Maureen)
Kyle, Rev. & Mrs. John (Lois)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lane, Mr. & Mrs. Bryan D. (Janet)
Langford, Mr. Bruce
[REDACTED]
Leonard, Rev. & Mrs. John (Christy)
Lesondak, Mr. & Mrs. John (Kathy)
Leverett, Rev. Rob
Linton, Mr. & Mrs. Philip (Phil/Janet)
Long, Jr., Rev. & Mrs. Johnny Wade
(John/Becky)
Long, Dr. & Mrs. Paul B. (Mary Jo)
Long, Rev. & Mrs. Steve D. (Eva)
Lott, Mr. & Mrs. Michael (Mike/Mary)
Lottman, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest (Ernie/Andree)
Lyle, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph (Joe/Ann)
Macy, Mr. & Mrs. John P. (Yvonne)

Mahaffey, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Bob/Sue)
Mailloux, Rev. & Mrs. Marc (Aline)
March, Mr. & Mrs. Cary (Charlotte)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Marshall, Rev. & Mrs. Verne (Alina)
Mateer, Rev. & Mrs. Samuel (Sam/Lois)
Matlack, Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth (Ken/Tammie)
Matsinger, Mr. & Mrs. Jay (Nancy)
May, Rev. & Mrs. Tom (Linda)
[REDACTED]
McCoy, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Charlie/Ilo)
McKaughan, Rev. & Mrs. Paul (Joanne)
McKeown, Rev. & Mrs. Timothy A.
(Tim/Becky)
Meiners, Rev. & Mrs. Paul (Liz)
Michael, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald (Ron/Mary Jane)
[REDACTED]
Miles, III, Rev. & Mrs. Ray H.
(Raymond/Allison)
Miley, Miss Gindy
Mitchell, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Petrie (Ruth)
Mollenkof, Mr. & Mrs. Mark (Clarice)
Mylin, The Rev. & Mrs. Mark (Marti)
[REDACTED]
Nantt, Rev. & Mrs. Gary A. (Carol)
Nantz, Dr. & Mrs. Quentin (Karen)
Newbrander, Mr. & Mrs. Tim (Lyn)
Newsome, Rev. & Mrs. Wayne (Amy)
Norton, Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. (Lynn)
Oban, Miss Carol J.
O'Connor, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin (Diana)
Ooms, Miss Lois
Padilla, Rev. & Mrs. Manuel (Tito/Kim)
Park, Dr. & Mrs. G. Timothy (Tim/Lynn)
Park, Dr. & Mrs. Hyung Young
(Young/Soon Ja)
Parker, Dr. & Mrs. John (Sue)
Partridge, Miss Kathryn JoAnne (Kathy)
Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. James T. (Jim/Mary
Alice)
Patton, Rev. & Mrs. Tom (Diana)
Payne, Dr. & Mrs. Michael (Karen)
[REDACTED]
Pelletier, Dr. & Mrs. Allen (Marge)
Peters, Mrs. Stanley R. (Claudia)
Pike, Rev. & Mrs. Melvin (Mel/Cindie)
Pilato, Mr. & Mrs. Greg (Laura Ann)
Porter, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel (Dan/Bonnie)
Powlison, Mr. & Mrs. Keith (Ruth)
[REDACTED]
Quarterman, Dr. & Mrs. Clayton E.
(Clay/Darlene)
Ramsay, Rev. & Mrs. Richard (Rich/Angelica)

APPENDICES

Rarig, Rev. & Mrs. Stephen (Steve/Berenice)

[REDACTED]

Reid, Rev. & Mrs. Fred (Mele)

Richie, Miss Merrily

Robfogel, Rev. & Mrs. William (Bill/Edna)

Rowan, Mr. & Mrs. Steve (Nancy)

Rug, Rev. & Mrs. John (Cathy)

Savage, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Joel (Tom/Wendy)

Sawyer, Rev. & Mrs. Charles (Rick/Mindi)

Scharf, Rev. & Mrs. Russ (Cherrie)

Schnackenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Bob/Val)

Schoof, Rev. & Mrs. Steve (Beth)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sell, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Paul (Dan/Robbie)

Sexton, Mr. & Mrs. John (Elizabeth)

Shane, Rev. & Mrs. John J. (Susan)

Shaver, Mr. & Mrs. Dave W. (David/Helen)

Shelden, Mr. & Mrs. Howard (Deidre)

Sheppard, Mr. & Mrs. Craig (Lisa)

[REDACTED]

Sledge, Rev. & Mrs. Charles F. (Judy)

Smalling, Mr. & Mrs. Roger (Dianne)

Smith, Rev. & Mrs. David (Dave/Dee)

Sneed, Mr. & Mrs. Roy (Carol)

Soetjianto, Mr. (Soetji)

Spitler, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison (Sandy)

Spooner, Dr. & Mrs. Arthur (Ursula)

Stanton, Rev. & Mrs. Dallard J. (Dal/Beth)

Stark, Mr. & Mrs. Jim (Jeanie)

[REDACTED]

Stevens, Mr. & Mrs. Carl (Irma-Marie)

Stevens, Miss Carla

Stewart, Mr. Robert D.

[REDACTED]

Strumbeck, Rev. & Mrs. David M. (Susan)

Sundeen, Miss Susan Marie

Swisher, Rev. & Mrs. John (Linda)

Talley, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey (Jeff/Esther)

Tarter, Rev. Chuck

Tate, Mr. & Mrs. Jim B. (James/Caty)

Taylor III, Rev. & Mrs. Paul W. (Sarah)

Taylor, Rev. & Mrs. Brad (Colleen)

[REDACTED]

Taylor, Rev. & Mrs. Gordon R. (Elizabeth E.)

Terranova, Mr. & Mrs. Russell (Barbara)

[REDACTED]

Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Keith (Julie)

Thompson, Rev. Jeffrey Lee (Jeff)

Thompson, Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth A. (Ken/Kim)

Toledo, Mr. & Mrs. Pedro (Betsy)

Traub, Rev. & Mrs. William (Will/Judi)

Travis, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar W. (Ed/Nitya)

Trotter, Rev. & Mrs. Lawrence (Larry/Sandy)

Troxell, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie (Jan)

Truong, Dr. & Mrs. Hi Phan (Hi/Yen)

Tucker, Rev. & Mrs. Eric (Conchita)

Ulrich, Dr. & Mrs. Wesley (Beverly)

Vick, Miss Renee

Wagner, Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. (Ramona)

Waldecker, Rev. & Mrs. Gary (Phyllis)

Wallace, Miss Melinda Anne

Wallace, Miss Ruth Adeline

Ward, Rev. & Mrs. Herbert (Herb/Kathy)

Warren, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew (Andy/Bevely)

Warren, Rev. and Mrs. Paul (Phyllis)

Watanabe, Rev. & Mrs. Gary (Lois)

Wessel, Rev. & Mrs. Hugh S. (Martine)

White, Miss Rebecca G. (Becky)

White, Mr. & Mrs. David M. (Robin)

Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. (Don/Terry)

Williams, Dr. & Mrs. Steven Wilson

(Steve/Rita)

Wilson, Rev. & Mrs. G. Michael

(Mick/Michele)

Wolfe, Rev. & Mrs. Richard (Lori)

Wood, Rev. & Mrs. William (Bill/Christel)

Wood, Mr. & Mrs. Kenton (Karen)

Wood, Miss Susan

Woodham, Dr. & Mrs. Michael (Debbie)

Woodson, Rev. & Mrs. Robert C. (Bob/Shirley)

[REDACTED]

Wroughton, Jr., Rev. & Mrs. James F.

(Jim/Ellen)

Young, Rev. & Mrs. Bruce D. L. (Susan)

Young, Rev. & Mrs. Daniel James (Dan/Becky)

Young, Rev. & Mrs. Stephen T. (Steve/Sarah)

Zapata-Ruiz, Moises A. (Lourdes)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT D

MTW STAFF MISSIONARIES

Depue, Mr. and Mrs. Graydon (Greg/Diane)
Gahagen, Rev. and Mrs. Donald (Sue)
Kyle, Mr. and Mrs. Marc (Beth)
Popp, Rev. and Mrs. Eric (Joy)
Rollo, Mr. and Mrs. John (Claudia)

APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT E

MTW/IMPACT MISSIONARIES

Adams, Miss Emily
Adams, Miss Rebecca
Alcott, Mr. & Mrs. Mike (Donna)
Arnold, Jennie Lee
Barker, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Checker/Gloria)
Breininger, Miss Kay
Bower, Mr. Chris
Boyles, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel (Brenda)
Brown, Miss Linda ("Skye")
Buchanan, Miss Jan
Bucklen, Miss Layne
Bukovietski, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander (Debbie)
Burnside, Mr. & Mrs. Bill (Minnie)
Burrack, Miss Pamyla
Carman, Miss Cathy
Carter, Miss Sarah L.
Caswell, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle (Luchrysta)
Chambers, Mr. Phil
Chesemore, Mr. Scott
Coburn, Mr. & Mrs. Andy (Kelli)
Coffelt, Ms. Terri
Collins, Mr. Calvin
Coulbourne, Mr. & Mrs. Craig (Ree)
Craig, Mr. & Mrs. Scott (Kathy)
DeKruif, Miss Lisa
DeVere, Miss Jill
DeWitt, Mr. Jim
DuBose, Mr. & Mrs. Curtis (Chris)
Dunn, Miss Laura
Eide, Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan (Tracy)
Filiatreau, Miss Kathy
Floyd, Mr. Scott
Gallemore, Doris
Haber, Miss Becky
Hacquebord, Heero
Halcomb, Miss Rona
Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Johnathan (Jon/Linda)
Hardgrove, Miss Hope
Irwin, Ms. Stacey
Iverson IV, Mr. Daniel
Kim, Mr. Jeffrey Andrew (Jeff)
Lo Galbo, Mr. & Mrs. Sal (Ginny)
Lorick, Rev. & Mrs. C. Keith (Keith/Elizabeth)
Lynch, Miss Debbie
Mahoney, Miss Melissa
Mateer, Miss Yvonne Elizabeth (Vonnie)
McCullough, Ms. Louisa
McGinnis, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory
(Greg/Elizabeth)
McNulty, Miss Traci
Miller, Mr. John F. (Trey)
Miner, Ms. Elizabeth Grace
Mullinax, Mr. & Mrs. Philip (Shelby)
Newland, Miss Judith
Nish, Miss Jennifer
Noch, Mr. & Mrs. Andy (Suzanna)
Parsons, Mr. & Mrs. Joey (Fran)
Peace, Mr. & Mrs. Fred (Emma)
Perry, Rev. & Mrs. Greg (Marilyn)
Pitz, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel (Yuki)
Pohl, Mr. Chris
Richards, Miss Deborah Rae (Debbie)
Rodgers, Mr. Matthew (Matt)
Ryerson, Mr. & Mrs. Jim (Darcy)
Sechler, Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. (Dick/Sharon)
Shepherd, Mr. Doug
Shipes, Mr. Dan
Slater, Miss Stephanie
Smith, Miss Jennifer
Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. (Karen)
Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Ron (Peg)
Smoak, Ms. Jennifer L.
Stelzig, Mr. & Mrs. Doug (Cindy)
Stewart, Miss Kelly M.
Stone, Miss Laurel
Strohman, Miss Christine
Tempelman, Mr. & Mrs. Martin (Corinne)
Veldhorst, Mr. & Mrs. David (Dave/Jan)
Ware, Miss Anna
Wenger, Mr. & Mrs. Mark (Debbie)
Wessman, Mr. & Mrs. Todd (Sally)
Willis, Miss Heather
Woll, Miss Vanessa
Woodis, Miss Ronda Kay

APPENDIX K

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

I. MINUTES

The General Assembly's Nominating Committee convened in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Holiday Inn Airport North on March 18, 1997. The meeting was opened in prayer by the TE Doug Falls at 9 a.m. A season of prayer for the PCA and the work of the Nominations Committee was held from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Committee members present with their Presbytery and class as follows:

RE John Kenyon, Ascension, 1997
RE Grover Timms, Calvary, 1997
TE Dewey Murphy, Central Carolina, 1999
TE Doug Falls, Central Florida, 1997
RE James Alinder, Covenant, 1997
RE Philip (Tom) Clark, Fellowship, 1997
TE M. D. Connor, Grace, 1999
RE Will Billings, Great Lakes, 1999
TE James Cavanah, Gulf Coast, 1997
TE Philip Kayser, Heartland, 1999
TE John McNicoll, Heritage, 1997
TE Young Kim, Korean Northwest, 1999
RE Volney Pierce, Louisiana, 1998
RE J. Edmund Johnston, Mississippi Valley, 1999
RE Jack Watkins, Nashville, 1997
RE Robert Berry, Jr., New Jersey, 1998
TE Don Clements, New River, 1998
TE John Batusic, North Georgia, 1998
TE Charlie Cobb, North Texas, 1998
RE Jack Merry, Northeast, 1997
TE Lewis Ruff, Northern California, 1998
RE Robert Taylor, Pacific, 1999
TE Gary Bainton, Palmetto, 1997
RE Howard Donahoe, Pittsburgh, 1998
RE Calvin Clark, Potomac, 1998
TE James M. Talarico, Rocky Mountain, 1997
RE Bob Murdock, South Coast, 1999
TE William Fitzhenry, South Texas, 1999
RE Irvin Wicker, SE Alabama, 1999

APPENDICES

TE Woodson Markert, SE Louisiana, 1998
RE Gordon Frost, Southern Florida, 1998
RE David Crabtree, SW Florida, 1997
TE John Pickett, Southwest, 1998
RE Howard E. Perry, Susquehanna Valley, 1997
TE Bob Borger, Tennessee Valley, 1997
RE Henry Ware, Warrior, 1997
TE G. Brent Bradley, Westminster, 1999

Dr. Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk of General Assembly, was present and acted as a resource person to the Committee.

Chairman Jack Merry reminded the committee that the order of the day would be lunch at 12 noon.

A motion was made to have the chairman appoint an Ad Hoc committee of two TEs and two REs, who have served at least two years on this committee, to work with the Stated Clerk of General Assembly in drafting a proposed manual of operations for the committee and to present their report to the full committee at our meeting in Colorado Springs in June. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to have the Nominating Committee recommend that the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly exhort its presbyteries to (1) be more diligent in making proper submissions of nominees to General Assembly committees, and (2) work diligently to recruit and submit nominees from every presbytery.

[NOTE: In 1997, more than 25% of submissions were improper in one way or another and more than 25% of English Language Presbyteries made no submissions at all.]

The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to include in the committee's considerations the purple sheets (late entries) that were included in the Rainbow Book on Nominees. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to disregard all handwritten forms. The motion was seconded and passed.

The committee was divided into five subcommittees to consider and recommend nominees for the permanent committees and board vacancies. The assignments for the subcommittees were as follows:

1. Subcommittee A -- Administration; Ridge Haven; and Insurance, Annuities & Relief

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. Subcommittee B -- Christian Education & Publications; Covenant College; and Theological Examining
3. Subcommittee C -- Mission to North America and Interchurch Relations
4. Subcommittee D -- Mission to the World; PCA Foundation; and Constitutional Business
5. Subcommittee E -- Covenant Seminary and Standing Judicial Commission.

The subcommittees were dismissed to separate meeting areas.

The committee reconvened at 1 p.m. with prayer by TE Lewis Ruff. Each subcommittee presented the nominations for the committees and boards for which it was responsible. Each individual permanent committee and board slate was considered and voted upon by the committee.

The nominations and summary of biographical forms are attached.

A motion was made for the committee to meet at the General Assembly on Tuesday, June 10, 1997, at 11 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made for the 1998 committee meeting to be held on Saturday, March 28, 1998. The motion was seconded and passed.

The committee elected TE Don Clements, New River Presbytery, Chairman and RE Robert Taylor, Pacific Presbytery, Secretary of the 1998 General Assembly Nominating Committee.

The Committee adjourned with prayer by TE Don Clements at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ RE Jack Merry, Chairman

/s/ RE James B. Alinder, Secretary

APPENDICES

II. DISTRIBUTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
BY PRESBYTERIES

ASCENSION	NOM, RPR
CALVARY	MNA, CC, IRC, 2- RH, SJC, NOM, RPR
CENTRAL CAROLINA	MTW, NOM, RPR
CENTRAL FLORIDA	MTW, 2-CC, NOM
CENTRAL GEORGIA	AC, CE&P, CC, CCB, 2-CTS, FD, SJC, NOM, RPR
COVENANT	2-AC, CE&P, 2-CTS, IAR, FD, CCB, NOM, RPR
EASTERN CANADA	NOM, RPR
EASTERN CAROLINA	(none)
EVANGEL	AC, 2-CE&P, MNA, MTW, 3-CTS, IAR, THEO EX, NOM, RPR
FELLOWSHIP	AC, 2-CE&P, MTW, CCB, IAR, 2-THEO EX, SJC,
GRACE	MTW, CCB, SJC, NOM, RPR
GREAT LAKES	CC, CTS, IAR
GULF COAST	MTW, 2-RH, NOM, RPR
HEARTLAND	AC, CE&P, CC, CTS, IAR, RPR
HERITAGE	2-CC, CTS, NOM, RPR
ILLIANA	CCB, RPR
JAMES RIVER	CC, SJC, NOM, RPR
KOREAN CAPITAL	(none)
KOREAN CENTRAL	RPR
KOREAN EASTERN	RPR
KOREAN SOUTHERN	(none)
KOREAN SOUTHEASTERN	RPR
KOREAN SOUTHWEST	(none)
LOUISIANA	IAR, SJC, NOM, RPR
MID-AMERICA	CE&P, 2-CC, SJC
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	AC, 3-MNA, IRC, SJC
MISSOURI	2-MNA, CC, CTS, IAR, SJC, RPR
NASHVILLE	CE&P, CC, MTW, NOM, RPR
NEW JERSEY	AC, IAR, CCB, SJC, NOM, RPR
NEW RIVER	THEO EX, SJC, NOM, RPR
NORTH GEORGIA	AC, CE&P, MNA, MTW, 2-CC, RH, 3-SJC, NOM, RPR
NORTH TEXAS	CE&P, MNA, CC, FD, NOM, RPR
NORTHEAST	NOM, RPR
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	MNA, NOM, RPR
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2-CTS, RPR

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PACIFIC	(none)
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	CC, NOM
PALMETTO	MNA, CC, RH, SJC, RPR
PHILADELPHIA	CE&P, MNA, 2-MTW, CC, IRC, CCB, SJC NOM, RPR
PITTSBURGH	CTS, NOM, RPR
POTOMAC	MTW, 2-CC, CTS, THEO EX, NOM, RPR
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	CC, IAR, SJC, NOM, RPR
SIOUXLANDS	(none)
SOUTH COAST	CC, NOM, RPR
SOUTH TEXAS	CE&P, CTS, SJC, NOM
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA	AC, CE&P, 2-MTW, CC, CTS, 2-IRC, 2-CCB, SJC
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	AC, MNA, NOM, RPR
SOUTHERN FLORIDA	AC, CE&P, 2-MNA, MTW, CC, CTS, IRC, RH, SJC, NOM, RPR
SOUTHWEST	NOM, RPR
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA	CTS, NOM, RPR
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	CTS, SJC, NOM, RPR
TENNESSEE VALLEY	CC, 3-CTS, 2-IAR, IRC, THEO EX, SJC, NOM, RPR
WARRIOR	FD, RH, SJC, NOM, RPR
WESTERN CAROLINA	CE&P, MNA, MTW, CC, FD, RH, SJC, THEO EX, NOM, RPR
WESTMINSTER	AC, MTW, IAR, SJC, THEO EX, RPR

APPENDICES

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

George C. Fuller, New Jersey
Timothy Diehl, Heartland

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2000

Ralph Mittendorff, S. Florida

Class of 1999

G. Fredric Mau, Covenant

Edwin Hackenberg, SE Louisiana
G. Paul Jones, C. Georgia

Class of 1998

William A. Fox, Jr., Fellowship
D. Steven Meyerhoff, Westminster

Howard Q. Davis, Covenant

Class of 1997

R. Grady Love, N. Georgia

William F. Joseph, Jr., SE Alabama

Alternates

William C. Hughes, MS Valley

Tom Leopard, Evangel

Chairman of Committee or Board or his designate

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2001

ONE TE

ONE RE

Alternates

ONE TE

ONE RE

C. Nominations:

Class of 2001

William C. Hughes, MS Valley

Charles Bobyack, Calvary

Alternates

Al Herrington, E. Carolina

William (Bingy) Moore, Potomac

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

D. Biographical Sketches

- RE Charles Bobyack: Calvary. Retired owner of property and casualty insurance agency; has served as alternate on Administrative Committee 1995-96 and as principal of Audit Committee 1994-95; served on presbytery Administrative and Church and Ministerial Relations Committees.
- TE Al Herrington: Executive Director of Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship; has served as principal on the Ridge Haven Board and, at presbytery level, on MNA, MTW, COA, and CE Committees.
- TE William C. Hughes: Mississippi Valley. Executive Minister of First PCA, Jackson, MS; currently serving as alternate on Administrative Committee; has served on Nominating Committee and several Committees of Commissioners; at presbytery level, has served on MTW, MNA, Nominating and RUM.
- RE William H. (Bingy) Moore: Potomac. Has served six years as alternate or principal on the Administrative Committee, and as chairman of the Finance Subcommittee of AC, as principal on Review of Presbytery Records Co., and on the Co. of Commissioners for AC; at presbytery level, has served as Vice Moderator and on numerous committees.

COMMITTEE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

A: Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Ruling Elders:

	Class of 2000
George W. Mitchell, Evangel	Barron Caulfield, Covenant
Paul G. Settle, North Texas	Ronald L. Martin, Nashville
	Class of 1999
Larry Doughan, Heartland	Philip (Tom) Clark, Fellowship
	Steve Fox, SE Alabama
	Class of 1998
P. Legree Finch, S. Texas	John (Jack)Sullivan, W. Carolina
H. Wallace Tinsley, Jr., Fellowship	Robert Whittaker, Mid-America
	Class of 1997
Michael Potts, S. Florida	George Harris, Philadelphia
Donald J. Musin, N. Georgia	
	Alternates
Terry Johnson, C. Georgia	Charles Gibson, Evangel

APPENDICES

Advisory Members
Director of Ridge Haven
Frank Brock, President of Covenant College
Bryan Chapell, President of Covenant Theological Seminary

B. To Be Elected:

	Class of 2001	
TWO TES		ONE RE
	Alternates	
ONE TE		ONE RE

C. Nominations:

	Class of 2001	
Douglas, Falls, C. Florida		Jim R. Baird, Westminster
Terry Johnson, C. Georgia		
	Alternates	
Rod S. Mays, Calvary		Jeff Oxman, Pacific

D. Biographical Sketches

- RE Jim Baird: Westminster. Engineer with Eastman Chemical Co.; has served as alternate on CE&P and on CE&P on presbytery level; home schools his seven children.
- TE Doug Falls: Central Florida. Assistant Dean for RTS; currently concluding service on Nominating Co.; has served on CE&P at presbytery level; has been involved in curriculum development and individual course development and has taught CE at RTS.
- TE Terry Johnson: Central Georgia; Pastor, Independent PC, Savannah, GA; currently serving as alternate on CE&P; has served on MNA Co. at presbytery level.
- TE Rod Mays: Calvary. Sr. Pastor, Woodruff PCA, Greenville, SC; has served as principal on Constitutional Business, Task Force on Campus Ministry, and MNA (Co-Opt subcommittee on Campus Ministry); at presbytery level, has served as moderator and on MNA and Campus Ministry.
- RE Jeff Oxman: Pacific. Self employed investment advisor; at presbytery level, has served as principal and chairman of Administrative Co. and on Judicial Commission and Commission as Interim Session; has written and published a textbook and is currently writing another book; teaches young marrieds and leads a small group Bible Study.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Philip D. Douglass, Missouri
David A. George, N. California

W. Wilson Benton, Jr., Missouri
P. Thomas Wood, Palmetto

Frank E. Hamilton, W. Carolina
J. Al LaCour, N. Georgia

P. David Nicholas, S. Florida

William T. Iverson, S. Florida

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2000

Collie W. Lehn, Calvary
Mark Thompson, SE Louisiana

Class of 1999

Sang W. Song, Philadelphia

Class of 1998

Michael A. Russell, Evangel
John High, MS Valley

Class of 1997

T. Edmund Johnston, Jr., MS Valley
M. Larry Smith, N. Texas

Alternates

John (Jack) Laws, MS Valley

B. To Be Elected:

ONE TE

Class of 2000

TWO REs

ONE TE

Alternates

ONE RE

C. Nominations:

Roland Barnes, C. Georgia

Class of 2001

John Laws, MS. Valley
Douglas Russ, N. Georgia

William Iverson, S. Florida

Alternates

vacancy

APPENDICES

D. Biographical Sketches

- TE Roland S. Barnes: Central Georgia. Pastor, Trinity PC; served as Chairman of a Judicial Commission; served on Review of Presbytery Records Co. and as its Chairman; served on Nominations Co., on Ad-Interim Co. to study church-state issues; on CCB and as its chairman; Co. of Commissioners on MNA and as its secretary; served n several presbytery committees (currently Chairman of MNA); planted Trinity PCA in Statesboro as a mission work of Central Georgia Presbytery, instrumental in planting of Golden Isles PC, St. Simons Island, GA; developed a plan for planting 20+ churches in C. GA Presbytery over the next 15-20 years which was adopted by the presbytery in July 1996; has a great desire to work with MNA in planting churches in North America.
- TE William T. Iverson: Southern Florida. Evangelist, Education, Church Planter with PEF, Daniel Iverson Center for Christian Studies; has served on MNA, MTW, IE, and CE at presbytery level; has a heart for evangelism and church planting; urban and transcultural experience coupled with a theological approach to the Great Commission; has planted black and Hispanic churches and helped plant 15 in all; lived among minorities and in the urban scene for 34 years; presently working with 4 new church plants.
- RE John Laws, Mississippi Valley. General Contractor, Laws Construction Co., Inc. Serves as RE on session of Pear Orchard PCA.
- RE Douglas Russ: North Georgia. Executive Director, Perimeter Ministries Int'l; has served on presbytery MNA Co.; has extensive knowledge in demographic analysis, strategic planning, recruitment and placement of church pastors, fund raising and budgeting; spiritual gifts include leadership and administration; personally participated in the leadership of 3 church plants.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2000

D. Clair Davis, Philadelphia
Shelton Sanford, Fellowship

J. Olin Coleman, W. Carolina
Gerald Sovereign, Gulf Coast

Class of 1999

R. Thomas Cheely, Evangel

Robert Massengil, Grace
Jimmy Wolfe, Nashville

Class of 1998

C. Eugene Craven, C. Carolina
Dan A. Faber, Potomac

Kenneth Simmelink, Westminster
Joe Sugg, SE Alabama

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Class of 1997

Oliver J. Claassen, N. Georgia
Addison P. Soltau, S. Florida

John B. Noble, Jr., SE Alabama

Alternates

Joseph L. Creech, C. Florida

Ralph L. Ruth, Philadelphia

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2001

TWO TEs

ONE RE

Alternates

ONE TE

ONE RE

C. Nominations:

Class of 2001

Joseph L. Creech, C. Florida
Kris Lundgaard, Southwest

L. B. (Pete) Austin, TN Valley

Alternates

William H. Smith, Pittsburgh

Ralph Ruth, Philadelphia

D. Biographical Sketches

RE L. B. (Pete) Austin, III: Tennessee Valley. Business owner, property development and management; served on MNA Co. 1976-80, 81-85, 86-90, and 91-94; served on AC and several years as MTW rep.; on presbytery level served on MTW Co. for several years; Moderator of 11th GA; gifted in leadership and administration.

TE Joseph Creech: Central Florida. Pastor of Orangewood PCA; currently serving as alternate on this co.; served on MTW Co. at presbytery level - much of the time as Chairman; served on the MTW- Acapulco Church Planting Team from 1978-86, establishing a local church, training the leadership and turning the church over to the Nationals; led many mission trips for adults and youth; Master of Missiology degree and Master of Arts in Marriage and Family counseling - thesis had to do with Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Needs of Furloughing Missionaries; heart for missions and deep concern for the wholeness of the missionary family.

TE Kris Lundgaard: Southwest. Pastor of University PCA; has served on presbytery Credentials Co. and as its Chairman and as Stated Clerk of presbytery; leadership, interest, and experience - led 5 short-term missions trips to Eastern Europe; sabbatical in Eastern Europe; Chairman of Missions Co. of his church, sending teams to Mexico, Africa, and Eastern Europe every year.

RE Ralph I. Ruth: Philadelphia. Business owner - wholesale and retail distributor; has served presbytery on MTW and Licensure Co.; instrumental in founding 2 PCA

APPENDICES

churches and served as an initial RE in each; concern for missions since coming to know the Lord; served as missions coordinator for 30 years in 2 different churches; has supported missionaries for 32 years; instrumental in founding 3 new businesses.

TE William H. Smith: Pittsburgh. Pastor of First Reformed PCA; has served presbytery on MTW and Candidates and Credentials Co.; has an understanding of theology combined with a zeal for doing and administrative ability; has committed himself to strengthening the missions ministry of his church which is a leader in the presbytery in involvement in and support of MTW and has significantly increased faith-promise giving; traveled with Dr. Patterson to Japan and the Philippines on a vision trip in 1996.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COVENANT COLLEGE

A: Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Arthur Broadwick, C. Georgia
Robert S. Rayburn, Pacific NW

William S. Barker, Philadelphia
J. Render Caines, TN Valley
James A. Dodd, Heartland
C. Al Lutz, Great Lakes

Cortez A. Cooper, Jr., SE Alabama
Allen Mawhinney, C. Florida
Arthur Scott, Palmetto

J. Robert Fiol, James River
Gerald K. Partain, Southwest *
Mark Van Gilst, Heritage

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2000

Thomas Bain, Jr., North Texas
Joel Belz, W. Carolina
C. Herb Crews, Calvary
David V. Edling, South Coast
Henry F. Schaefer, III, N. Georgia

Class of 1999

Dwight L. Allen, N. Georgia
Jack Armstrong, Heritage
Robert G. Avis, Missouri

Class of 1998

Richard Chewning, Mid-America
Jim Dixon, Mid-America
Donald E. Rittler, Potomac
Robert den Dulk, (CRC)

Class of 1997

Robert L. Butterfield, C. Florida *
Charles E. Carraher, S. Florida
Charles James, Potomac *
Michael Tant, Nashville *

(* Eligible for election for a 2nd term.)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2001
Seven Members (Teaching or Ruling Elders)
One may be from other NAPARC denominations
(See Bylaws VI.2, para. 3)

C. Nominations:

Class of 2001

Marvin Padgett, Nashville	Kenneth Avis, Covenant
Rodney Stortz, Missouri	Robert Butterfield, C. Florida
VACANCY	Richard Hostetter, TN Valley
	Michael Tant, Nashville

D. Biographical Sketches

- RE Kenneth E. Avis: Covenant. Emeritus Professor, The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy; served on the Covenant College Board from 1988 to 1996; has served as Moderator of Presbytery and on the CE and Administrative Committees; Sunday School teacher for many years and was chairman of the board of Evangelical Christian School in Memphis for its first ten years.
- RE Robert L. Butterfield: Central Florida. Claims Manager and Risk Manager for Orlando Regional Healthcare System; has previously served for 18 years on the Covenant College Board; has served as moderator of Presbytery and on MNA and MTW Committees of presbytery.
- RE Richard Hostetter: Tennessee Valley. Attorney/Businessman; served on Covenant College Board from 1990 to 1996; has a great deal of legal and business experience; has served on numerous business and ministry boards; understands organizations and is well versed in Reformed Theology.
- TE Dennis Johnson: South Coast. [NOTE: Subsequent to Nominating Committee meeting, Mr. Johnson sent a letter expressing regrets that he really could not accept this position. His resignation leaves a vacancy.]
- TE Marvin Padgett: Nashville. Coordinator of Campus Ministries of MNA; has served as principal of CE&P Co. and on Co. of Commissioners for Covenant Seminary and CE&P; served as Moderator of Presbytery and on Missions and CE Co. of presbytery.
- TE Rodney Stortz: Missouri. Sr. Pastor of Twin Oaks PCA, Ballwin, MO; served on Covenant Seminary Board from 1980 to 1992, and as Board Secretary for six of those years; has served as Moderator of Presbytery and on CE and MNA Committees of Presbytery.
- RE Michael R. Tant: Nashville. Environmental Engineer; served on Covenant College Board from 1996 to present; served on presbytery Nominating Co.; has desire and ability to work with college age students.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Dan Dermeyer, Heartland
Joseph Novenson, TN Valley

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2000

Larry De Heer, Heritage
Lanny Moore, SW Florida
Rudolph F. Schmidt, TN Valley
Robert Singleton, S. Florida

Class of 1999

Hudson T. Armerding, Susq. Valley
John Wood, TN Valley

Richard Ellingsworth, Potomac
Mark Ensio, South Texas
John J. Reed, Missouri
Arthur Stoll, N. Illinois

Class of 1998

Paul H. Alexander, Evangel
William G. Hay, Evangel
Wayne G. Herring, Covenant

Bruce G. Kitchen, C. Georgia
Walter Turner, Pittsburgh
VACANCY

Class of 1997

Michael R. Marcey, N. Illinois *
William Spink, Jr., Covenant

Edward S. Harris, Great Lakes
Allen L. Knox, Jr., SE Alabama
S. Fleetwood Maddox, C. Georgia *
John E. Spencer, Evangel *

(* Eligible for election to a 2nd term.)

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2001

Six Members (Teaching or Ruling Elders)
One may be from other NAPARC denominations
(See Bylaws VI.2, para. 3)

Class of 1998

One member (TE or RE)

C. Nominations:

Class of 2001

Mike Marcey, N. Illinois
H. Andrew Silman, Grace

John Albritton, SE Alabama
Robert Hamby, Calvary
Jack Kramer, Missouri
Fleetwood Maddox, C. Georgia

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Covenant Theological Seminary - continued

Class of 1998

John Spencer, Evangel

D. Biographical Sketches

- RE John Albritton: SE Alabama. Attorney, Montgomery, AL; PCA Foundation member and advisor for many years; gifts and experience in establishing financial trusts and estate plans; advisor to a variety of GA committees; parent of an alumnus with deep interest in the educational quality of CTS; strong interest in the Francis Schaeffer Institute; presently serving on presbytery Nominations Committee.
- RE Robert Hamby: Calvary. CFO and Executive VP, Focus on the Family; wisdom and experience in overseeing the financial affairs of major organizations; brings spiritual principles to financial decision making; gifts and experience in administration and financial leadership; parent of a current student -- therefore, a deep interest in helping CTS maintain spiritual and financial integrity; desire to see Biblical truth pursued; deeply committed to proper maintenance of theological foundation of the PCA.
- RE Jack Kramer: Missouri. President, Cambridge Engineering; corporate leadership abilities and administrative gifts; leadership and instruction in personal stewardship and resource management; heavily involved in organizing Bible study leadership for lay persons; husband and father-in-law of CTS alumni; interest in spreading of Biblical truth, especially through the Schaeffer Institute.
- RE Fleetwood Maddox: Central Georgia. Surgeon-Ophthalmologist; served on CTS Board from 1993 to present; seminary rep. to COA; experience in financial planning, having worked closely with PCA Foundation in development of denominational resources; gift of service, providing medical aid to deprived persons on mission field; passion for training Christ-centered students and teachers; pastoral heart; chairman of the FPC Macon Counseling Center; gift of enthusiastic leadership and encouragement.
- TE Michael R. Marcey: Northern Illinois. Pastor, Naperville PCA; served on CTS Board from 1993 to present; chairman of presbytery MNA Co.; experience in teaching on seminary level; brings church planting perspective to the Board; graduate of CTS; passion for preparing ministers to serve Christ's Church; committed to seeing the mind and heart being trained to serve; grace-centered approach to ministry and education.
- TE Andrew Silman: Grace. Pastor, First PC, Hattiesburg, MS; has served as alternate and principal on MNA and as chairman 1994-96; served on Administration, MNA, and Examination Co. at presbytery level; has administrative and leadership gifts; heart for theological education and maintenance of theological purity; alumnus of CTS with one child now attending and another going, which fosters interest in quality of education and pastoral instruction.

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RE John Spencer: Evangel. Retired manager with Bell South; has served on CTS Board from 1978-96 (with rotation), as principal and chair of CE&P, and as principal and secretary of Administration Co. and as principal on Candidates, CE and Examination Co. of presbytery; administrative gifts and experience - original secretary of COA; people management skills and gifts; interest in spreading Biblical truth; willingness to serve in many different areas; experience in Board leadership at CTS as Student Affairs Co. Chair.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSURANCE, ANNUITY, AND RELIEF FUNDS

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elder

Ruling Elder

Class of 2000

Gary Campbell, Missouri
Glenn Fogle, Heartland
Darryl Treadway **, Fellowship

Class of 1999

Dennis Carew, Rocky Mountain
John Mardirosian, New Jersey
T. Ramon Perdue, TN Valley

Class of 1998

Larry E. Ball, Westminster

Dudley M. Barnes, Covenant
William T. Clarke, Louisiana

Class of 1997

Robert T. Clarke, III, TN Valley *

W. Hal Shepherd, Evangel *
Thomas J. Stein, Great Lakes

Advisory Member: Paul Gilchrist, Stated Clerk

(* Eligible for election to 2nd term.)

** Deacon

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2001

Three Members (Teaching or Ruling Elders or Deacons)
[At least two of the total membership must be TEs]

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

C. Nominations:

Class of 2001

Robert T. Clark, TN Valley

Hal Shepard, Evangel
Allen Wright, N.Georgia

D. Biographical Sketches

TE Robert T. Clarke, III: Tennessee Valley. Pastor, Christ PC; has served as principal of IAR from 1993-97 and as principal of CE at presbytery level; has sixteen years of business management experience in a large auto dealership where he was involved in oversight of the retirement and health insurance plan; currently serving as chairman of the Relief Co.

RE W. Hal Shepherd: Evangel. Owner/President of W. H. Shepherd Co., Inc., a group health and life insurance company; currently serving on IAR as Chairman of the Annuity Co.; has more than 30 years experience in life, health, retirement and annuities.

RE Allen Wright: North Georgia. Investment Consultant -- Senior VP of Paine Webber, Inc.; has served on IAR Board from 1988-96 and has served as chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Investment Co.; he is one of thirty PRIME consultants with Paine Webber.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders

Ruling Elders

Class of 2000
VACANCY

Class of 1999

Willis Frazer, Covenant

Class of 1998

David H. Clelland, N. Texas

Robert (Neal) Ham, C. Georgia

Class of 1997

Thomas G. Kay, Jr., Covenant

Stanley J. Riordan, W. Carolina

APPENDICES

Appointed Members:

Christian Education & Publications
Covenant College
Covenant Theological Seminary
Mission to the World
Mission to North America

NOTE: By prior action of the General Assembly (24GA, 24-15, recommendation 4), the structure of the PCA Foundation was changed to have 5 members elected at large and 5 appointed members, one from each committee or agency supporting the Foundation.

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2000

Class of 2001

Two Members (Teaching or Ruling Elders or Deacons)
[At least two of the total membership are to be TEs.]

C. Nominations:

Class of 2000

Henry Bishop, SE Alabama

Class of 2001

W. Douglas Haskew, Evangel

D. Biographical Sketches

TE Henry Bishop: SE Alabama. Pastor, Covenant PCA; served on Ridge Haven Board, 1985-88; served presbytery on CE, Advisory (2 presbyteries) and Examinations Co.; educated and experienced in Banking & Finance; several courses from College of Financial Planning; particular interest in stewardship from a Reformed perspective; extraordinary amount of confidence-building calmness and common sense.

RE W. Douglas Haskew: Evangel. Retired Financial Counselor/Investments; has served on Theological Examination, IAR, Administration Committees and on MNA Subcommittee to select new Coordinator; served presbytery on MNA, MTW, Pastoral Care, Nominations and Administration Co.; served 30 years as officer of large financial corporation.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF RIDGE HAVEN

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Robert F. Brunson, Warrior

Thomas Cook, W. Carolina

Richard J. Lindsay, Jr., Fellowship

H. R. (Pat) Patteson, Palmetto

Malcolm M. Griffith, Gulf Coast

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2001

Julian H. Davis, C. Georgia

Class of 2000

Harry Kaplan, W. Carolina

Class of 1999

Kirby Reichmann, Gulf Coast

Class of 1998

Lindsay Tippins, N. Georgia

Class of 1997

Kim Conner, Calvary *

Advisory Members

Charles H. Dunahoo, Coordinator of CE&P

Paul Kooistra, Coordinator of MTW

Cortez Cooper, Coordinator of MNA

Paul R. Gilchrist, Stated Clerk

(* Eligible for election to 2nd term.)

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2002

Two Members (Teaching or Ruling Elders)

C. Nominations:

Class of 2002

John Furman, New River

Jimmy Lyons, Evangel

D. Biographical Sketches

TE John Furman: New River. Sr. pastor, Westminster PCA, Roanoke, VA; served on Co. of Commissioners for Covenant Seminary and Ridge Haven; served presbytery on MTW, MNA (chairman), and CE (chairman); BS degree in Camp Administration from Clemson U. with extensive experience working at summer camps; prior to entering the ministry, taught Bible for 10 years at the high school

APPENDICES

and college level, including structuring retreats and conferences; served 4 years as a Youth Minister.

TE Jimmy Lyons: Evangel. Honorably retired; served as pastor for 15 years, then served as Missionary Evangelist at Large for MTW from 1973 to retirement; understands the workings of Assembly agencies and is effective in raising support; gifted preacher; participated in planning for and organization of the PCA; works as team member and effective in visualizing and reaching goals set by the Assembly.

ASSEMBLY THEOLOGICAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE

A: Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Stephen M. Clark, Potomac

William Traub, New River

Charles W. Anderson, TN Valley

Samuel Hoyt, Fellowship

Ruling Elders:

Class of 1999

Roger Schultz, Westminster

Class of 1998

William Cranford, Fellowship

Class of 1997

George Moss, Evangel

Alternates

Terrill Elniff, W. Carolina

B. To Be Elected:

ONE TE

Class of 2000

ONE RE

ONE TE

Alternates

ONE RE

C. Nominations:

Daniel Doriani, Missouri

Class of 2000

Terrill Elniff, W. Carolina

Robert Evans, Gulf Coast

Alternates

Barry Teague, SE Alabama

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

D. Biographical Sketches

- TE Daniel M. Doriani: Missouri. Professor of New Testament, Dean of Faculty and VP for Academics at Covenant Seminary; has served presbytery on the Finance and CE Co.; extensive theological training with Ph.D. in historical theology from the Reformation era; experienced in theological examinations since as Dean, he is responsible for both preliminary and formal theological examinations of all candidates for Covenant's faculty and, while Chair of the New Testament Dept., he participated in the theological exam. of every candidate for the faculty, including knowledge of theology and Bible and exploration of candidate's agreement with the distinctives of the PCA, and the controverted topics in the church today; served as solo pastor for 5 years and an interim pastor 3 times; currently serves as theologian in residence, with significant teaching and consulting ministry, at Kirk of the Hills PC.
- RE Terrill Elniff: Western Carolina. CPA with Elniff, Foster and Co., P. A., Ashville, NC; has served presbytery on Judicial Commission, Audit, Administration Co. and as Vice Moderator; has shown care and knowledge of the Reformed Faith in his several positions of service in presbytery; has layman's interest in theology and church history, having taught Sunday School classes on the Westminster Confession for several years; has been a sometime student of Puritanism and is author of "The Guise of Every Graceless Heart: Human Autonomy in Puritan Thought and Experience" (Ross House Books, c. 1981).
- TE Robert Evans: Gulf Coast. Pastor, Wildwood PCA; has served on Interchurch Relations Co. and on presbytery Theological Examinations Co. and as Chairman of this Co.; has keen grasp of theological issues and an ability to articulate them; has interest in the theological preparation and credibility of all who serve in the PCA. As a pastor, he is also concerned with the abilities of ministers to articulate the faith in a way the average person can understand.
- RE Barry E. Teague: SE Alabama. Self-employed attorney; has a thorough grasp of and commitment to the Bible, gained at Asbury College; serves as pulpit supply for small churches; has been pursuing a Master of Biblical Studies degree at Birmingham Theological Seminary having completed one year earning 14 hours in a curriculum which require 35 hours; has taught Sunday School for the past 30 years.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS

A: Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2000

Robert (Ric) Cannada, C. Georgia

Daniel Hall, Fellowship

APPENDICES

Class of 1999

Frank Moser, Philadelphia Ralph I. Lawson, Covenant

Class of 1998

William P. Thompson, SE Alabama Frank C. Young, SE Alabama

Class of 1997

Bryan Chapell, Illiana Samuel J. Duncan, Grace

Alternates

Morton H. Smith, W. Carolina Richard Springer, New Jersey

B. To Be Elected:

Class of 2001

ONE TE ONE RE

Alternates

ONE TE ONE RE

C. Nominations:

Class of 2001

Morton Smith, W. Carolina Calvin Poole, SE Alabama

Alternates

Craig Childs, Evangel Richard Springer, New Jersey

D. Biographical Sketches

TE Craig D. Childs, Sr: Evangel. Pastor, Faith PCA, Anniston, AL; served as co-chairman of Judicial Commission in *Rayburn vs. Missouri* and on the CCB from 1992-1995; has served as Moderator of presbytery and as chairman of both Examinations and Ministers Committees of presbytery.

RE Calvin Poole: SE Alabama. Attorney with Poole & Poole Law Firm; served on Co. of Commissioners on MTW and Interchurch Relations; at presbytery level, has served on MTW; teaches adult Sunday School Class and has been on two mission trips to the Soviet Union.

TE Morton H. Smith: Western Carolina. Professor of Systematic Theology, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; served 16 years as Stated Clerk of the PCA General Assembly; was member of the original Constitutional Co. that prepared the *BCO* for the first General Assembly of the PCA; author of *Commentary on the Book of Church Order*.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RE Richard Springer: New Jersey. Supervisor of Technology (education) for Greater Egg Harbor Regional Schools; has served as principal on CCB, Co. of Commissioners several times, on Judicial Commissions and as Floor Clerk; has served as Moderator of presbytery, as Asst. Clerk for more than 10 years and on numerous committees of presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

A: Present Personnel:

Teaching Elders:

Ruling Elders:

	Class 1999	
Robert I. Reymond, S. Florida		Thomas Sanford, MS Valley
	Class of 1998	
Henry Lewis Smith, SE Alabama		R. Meade Guy, SE Alabama
	Class of 1997	
William Edgar, III, Philadelphia *		Robert Ashlock, TN Valley *
	Alternates	
VACANT		James D. Walters, Jr., Calvary
	Ex-Officio	
	Paul R. Gilchrist, TN Valley, Stated Clerk	
	Don Gahagan, North Georgia, MTW	

(* Eligible for election to 2nd term.)

B. To Be Elected:

	Class of 2000	
ONE TE		ONE RE
	Alternates	
ONE TE		ONE RE

C. Nominations:

	Class of 2000	
Donald J. MacNair, Missouri		James Walters, Calvary

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Alternates

Stephen Smallman, Potomac

Philip Anderson, Evangel

D. Biographical Sketches

RE Philip Anderson: Evangel. Retired; has served on presbytery MTW, MNA, and Candidates, Licentiates and Interns Co.; has served as Moderator for presbytery and served on various Co. of Commissioners.

TE Donald J. Mac Nair: Missouri. Minister, Adjunct Professor at CTS; President of Churches Vitalized; served on Administrative Committee and as Vice Chairman and Chairman; served on the Nominating Co. and as its Chairman; Coordinator, Theological Ed. PCA (CE&P); in former branch of RPCES served as Moderator and 8 years on RPCES Foundation with one year as Chairman; member of Board of National Presbyterian Missions for 2 years and Executive Director for 19 years; served as Moderator of Missouri Presbytery for 4 years and on a series of special committees; teaches PCA polity at CTS; led RPCES into being received by PCA; member of NAPARC for 4 years and as Chairman 1 year; member, Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship for 8 years and Chairman for 3 years.

TE Stephen E. Smallman: Potomac. Executive Director, World Harvest Mission; served as principal, CTS 1988-96; Fraternal Relations Co. of RPCES (served on Committee for J&R); served on presbytery MTW and Candidates & Credentials Co.; interest in the larger body of Christ.

RE James D. Walters, Jr.: Calvary. Forester with South Carolina Forestry Commission; currently serving as alternate on Interchurch Relations Co.; has served two presbyteries as both alternate and principal of Examination Co.; currently serving as Moderator of Calvary Presbytery; active member of Gideons Int'l; for 22 years.

STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

A. Present Personnel:

Teaching Elder

Ruling Elder

Class of 2000

Paul B. Fowler, Rocky Mountain
David W. Hall, TN Valley
L. Roy Taylor, Grace

Eugene Friedline, James River
Edward J. Robeson, W. Carolina
John Van Voorhis, Calvary

Class of 1999

Michael D. Bolus, C. Georgia
Paul D. Kooistra, Warrior
James L. Smith, Jr., S. Florida

Mark Belz, Missouri
James L. Moore, MS Valley
W. Jack Williamson, SE Alabama

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Class of 1998

LeRoy H. Ferguson, III, Palmetto	Harrison Brown, Susq. Valley
Ben W. Konopa, Westminster	M. Dale Peacock, Louisiana
John S. Ragland, N. Georgia	John B. White, Jr., N. Georgia

Class of 1997

John Preston Clark, Sr., Philadelphia *	John W. Lane, New Jersey *
John E. Grauley, N. Georgia	Robert H. Miller, New River *
Robert M. Ferguson, S. Texas *	Wayne Sparkman, Mid-America *

(* Eligible for election to another term.)

B. To Be Elected:

	Class of 2001	
THREE TEs		THREE REs

C. Nominations:

	Class of 2001	
John Clark, Sr., Philadelphia	Jack Lane, New Jersey	
Robert Ferguson, S. Texas	Robert Miller, New River	
John (Chip) McArthur, Fellowship	vacancy	

D. Biographical Sketches

- TE John P. Clark, Sr: Philadelphia. Pastor, Lansdale PC; currently serving a term on the SJC; has served presbytery on Judicial Business (Chairman) and Liscensure Co.
- TE Robert M. Ferguson: South Texas. Pastor, Spring Cypress PC; has served as Alternate, Principal and Chairman of CCB and as Principal and Chairman of SJC; has served presbytery on Administration, MTW, CE and Nominating Co.; brings legal skills as a lawyer; has served as a Parliamentarian of GA.
- RE John W. (Jack) Lane: New Jersey. Self employed attorney; has served on SJC and served presbytery on Membership & Assistance Co., Executive Co., and as Moderator; has necessary legal skills and gifts to deal with judicial process; has shown diligence in the performance of all duties; committed to strict constructionism vis-a-vis the church standards, compassion, and fairness (Blind justice); sees his independence from any particular segment or pressure group within the PCA as helpful in engendering trust in the system.
- TE John M. McArthur, Jr.: Fellowship. Pastor of Olivet PC; has served presbytery on Nominations and Sessional Records, Examinations and CE Co.; has discernment and compassion for God's people; believes that God has given him the ability to listen and discern with compassion and has a burden that the PCA be more

APPENDICES

effective in the Godly exercise of Biblical church discipline at all levels of the church.

RE Robert H. Miller: New River. Retired Associate Professor Electrical Engineering at Virginia Tech; has served on CE and SJC Co.; served presbytery on Candidates & Credentials, Administration, and CE Co. as Recording Clerk and Moderator; has a desire to see constitutional procedures and safeguards observed in the PCA.

Supplemental Report Nominating Committee to the 25th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America

Minutes of the Nominating Committee:

Chairman RE Jack Merry called the meeting to order and opened in prayer at 11:00 a.m. on June 10, 1997, at Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Committee members present were:

Presbytery	Commissioner
Covenant	RE James B. Alinder
Fellowship	RE Philip (Tom) Clark
Grace	TE M. D. Conover
Great Lakes	RE Will Billings
Heartland	TE Phillip Kayser
Louisiana	RE Volney Pierce
New River	TE Don K. Clements
Northeast	RE Jack Merry
Pacific	RE Robert Taylor
Palmetto	TE Gary Bainton
Philadelphia	RE K. W. Rush
Pittsburgh	RE Howard Donahoe
Rocky Mountain	TE James M. Talarico
Southeast Alabama	RE Irv Wicker
Southwest Florida	RE David Crabtree
Tennessee Valley	TE Bob Borger
Westminster	TE G. Brent Bradley

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman announced that TE Dennis Johnson, who was selected by the Nominating Committee as a nominee for the Board of Trustees of Covenant College, cannot serve. After discussion, a motion was made to forego selecting another nominee for this position. The motion was seconded and passed.

The chairman reminded the committee that one slot on the Standing Judicial Commission was left vacant. A motion was made to leave this slot vacant. The motion was seconded and passed.

TE Don Clements, Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee to draft a proposed manual of operations, reported for the Ad-Hoc Committee. Their report includes the following recommendations.

1. That the General Assembly authorize the Nominating Committee to develop a Manual of Operations which would seek to include: (1) The purpose and responsibilities of the Nominating Committee; (2) the schedule for the process of submitting nominations; and (3) the actual process and forms for nominating; and that the General Assembly direct the Nominating Committee to submit the proposed manual to the 1998 General Assembly for information as part of its report. (See *M24GA*, 24-54, IV, 1, pg. 267 for precedent involving the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records Manual.) This manual would take effect after the 1998 General Assembly and any subsequent changes to the manual will be reported to the General Assembly for information.
2. In an effort to save approximately \$15,000 of the \$20,000 expense for this committee, that the 1998 full meeting of the Nominating Committee be held one day prior to the General Assembly in St. Louis, rather than in Atlanta in the spring as in the past. This will mean the Nominating Committee report will be available on the first day of the General Assembly with the supplement rather than in the handbook.

The Ad-Hoc Committee submitted a new nominating form consisting of one page with pertinent date, signature of the Presbytery Clerk, a statement from the candidate regarding his qualifications, and a one page endorsement by the committee or agency involved or by some PCA Elder. A copy of the suggested form is attached. The committees also requested that two or three other members be appointed by the chairman to serve on the committee which will meet again on September 26, 1997 and January 30, 1998.

A motion to approve the recommendation was seconded and passed.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed and the meeting was closed in prayer by RE Bob Taylor at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jack Merry, Chairman
/s/ James B. Alinder, Secretary

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Attachment 1

**Presbytery Nominee
Biographical Form
For General Assembly**

revised 6/10/97
(Top section may be hand printed)

Committee/Agency _____
Deacon () RE () TE () Name _____
Occupation _____
Presbytery _____
Nominee's Church _____
Church Location _____

Approved as Nominee by Presbytery on _____, 19 ____
Signed: _____ Presbytery Position: _____
Stated Clerk or Presbytery Representative

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS!

The remainder is to be completed and mailed by the Nominee. **It must be typed** to be considered. It must be received in the PCA Stated Clerk's Office **no later than February 28, 1998**. Nominations received after that date **will not** be considered. PCA Stated Clerk's Office, 1852 Century Place, Suite 190, Atlanta, GA 30345-4305.

In the space below, explain why you believe you would be a good addition to this committee or agency. Comment on your gifts, church and professional experience, presbytery and GA committees, etc. You are encouraged to include with this form a one page letter of recommendation from any elder in your presbytery. The PCA Stated Clerk's Office will copy it to the back of this form. Do not write on the back of this form. You must mail this form and the letter together.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Second Supplemental Report
Nominating Committee
to the 25th General Assembly
of the Presbyterian Church in America**

Minutes of the Nominating Committee:

Chairman RE Jack Merry called the meeting to order and RE Irv Wicker opened the meeting in prayer at 7:30 a.m. on June 12, 1997, at Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.

Committee members present were:

Presbytery	Commissioner
Covenant	RE James B. Alinder
Fellowship	RE Phillip (Tom) Clark
Great Lakes	RE Will Billings
Heartland	TE Phillip Kayster
Louisiana	RE Volney Pierce
New River	TE Don Clements
Northeast	RE Jack Merry
Pacific	RE Robert Taylor
Philadelphia	RE K. W. Rush
Southeast Alabama	RE Irv Wicker
Southwest Florida	RE David Crabtree
Westminster	TE G. Brent Bradley

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 1997, meeting was seconded and passed.

A motion that all anonymous nominations be ruled out of order was seconded and passed.

The chairman presented the names of the nominees from the floor.

A motion to rule out of order the nominations of TE T. Mark VanGilst was seconded and passed. He is on the list of ineligible members who must take a year off.

A motion to accept TE Stephen Smallman's request to withdraw his name as a nominee to the Interchurch Relations Committee was seconded and passed.

A motion to rule out of order both nominations of RE John W. Jardine was seconded and passed. [see RAO 7-4I]

APPENDICES

A motion to rule out of order the nomination of RE Don Smith was seconded and passed. He was not nominated in opposition to anyone.

A motion to rule out of order the nomination of TE R. Laird Harris was seconded and passed. He was not nominated in opposition to anyone.

A motion to approve as eligible all other nominations from the floor was seconded and passed.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed and the meeting was closed in prayer by TE Don Clements at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ RE Jack Merry, Chairman
/s/ RE James B. Alinder, Secretary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class of 2001

In opposition to RE Jim R. Baird:
RE Charles Gibson

In opposition to TE Douglas Falls:
TE Michael C. Woodham

Biographical Sketch:

RE Charles Gibson: Evangel Presbytery. RE at Altadena Valley PC, Birmingham, AL.

He is involved in Christian Education work at local church, has held various presbytery level positions, including Theological Exam. Co. He has served as an alternate on GA level CE&P for the past year, and has been at every meeting and has provided valuable input. He has a heart for serving our Lord through CE. [The other Evangel Presbytery member nominated from Evangel Presbytery has now moved to North Georgia Presbytery.]

TE Michael C. Woodham: Southern Florida Presbytery. Dr. Woodham is highly committed to Christian education. He is involved in education and training pastors and church leaders and has been doing so since 1977 in Latin America and the Caribbean. He received his Doctor of Education from the University of Alabama in administration and planning. He is the International Director of IONA Centres for Theological Study in Miami, FL 9a division of Ministries in Action, Inc.). He is currently involved in developing an advanced program of Christian education by extension for pastors and church leaders who can earn fully accredited degrees overseas.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA

Class of 2000

VACANT position:

RE Eugene K. Betts

Biographical Sketch:

RE Eugene K. Betts: Philadelphia Presbytery. He is a “missionary kid” in India, has a keen interest in multi-cultural church planting. He is chairman of the missions commission at Tenth PCA since 1981 (except for 2 sabbatical years), member of Presbytery MNA committee since 1986 and financial secretary since about 1987. He is a physician who has felt a call to serve missions since 1981. Missions budget at Tenth PC increased 5 fold since he became chairman and now supports 280 missionaries. He is known amongst this missionary family for the faithful and consistent prayer and financial support.

MISSION TO THE WORLD

Class of 2001

In opposition to RE L. B. (Pete) Austin:

RE Charles W. Burns

Biographical Sketch:

RE Charles W. Burns: Heritage Presbytery. He served as a member of GA MTW for 4 years and alternate for two years. Combines financial expertise with passion for missions. Served on Presbytery’s Church Planting Committee and on Session of his church. He is retired financial member of a non-profit museum with large endowment.

COVENANT COLLEGE

Class of 2001

VACANT position:

TE James M. Garretson

Biographical Sketch:

TE James M. Garretson: Pacific Presbytery. Since graduating from Covenant College, Jim has consistently supported the college and advocated the biblical world view he learned to appreciate at Covenant. He has a variety of experiences which will serve him well as a Board member: urban ministry, youth ministry, campus ministry, pastor (OPC and PCA) and Christian high school board member. In addition to taking courses at CTS and Lutheran Theological Seminary, he has a BA from CC and a MTS, and a Master of Divinity from Regent College. He is

APPENDICES

currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry from WTS while serving as pastor at Calvary PCA, Glendale, CA.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS

Class of 2001

In opposition to RE Calvin Poole
RE Richard Springer

Alternate

In opposition to TE Craig Childs
TE T. David Gordon

Biographical Sketch:

TE T. David Gordon: Northeast Presbytery. Professor at Gordon-Conwell Seminary, teaching NT and denominational polity, pastor of Christ PC in Nashua, NH, and moderator of Northeast Presbytery. He has served as respondent in judicial cases, thus is knowledgeable regarding the *BCO*. He has served on Ad Interim Co. to study judicial procedures.

RE Richard Springer: New Jersey Presbytery.
SEE page 470

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

Class of 2000

In opposition to TE Donald MacNair:
TE Joseph Pipa

Alternate

Vacant position:
TE K. Eric Perrin

Biographical Sketch:

TE K. Eric Perrin: Palmetto Presbytery. Pastor of Cornerstone PCA, Columbia, SC. He has served with distinction on the IRC in the past. Knowledgeable on various churches in NAPARC. Is chairman of World Fellowship of Reformed Churches.

TE Joseph Pipa: South Coast Presbytery. He has served as chairman of the CE&P; as a CE member, served on Admin. Co. He also served as chairman/Trustees of GCP which gave him many contacts in the OPC. As a professor at WTS in California. He has had the privilege of teaching men who serve in a number of NAPARC churches. He has also preached in a number of pulpits in NAPARC churches. He maintains a broad reformed ecumenical relations by his work in

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Banner of Truth Pastors Conferences. For the last two years he has chaired a committee that has put on a conference for growing reformed churches that included Presbyterian, Reformed, and Reformed Baptist Churches in southern California.

STANDING JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2001

In opposition to TE John Clark:

TE Dominic Aquila

Vacant position:

RE Tom Leopard

Biographical Sketch:

TE Dominic Aquila: Southern Florida Presbytery. He is senior pastor of Kendall PCA, Miami, FL, since 1988. He has served previously on the SJC (19989-92), holding the office of Secretary for 2 years. He also served on the GA MTW (1992-96), and is its chairman for one year. He is active in the Presbytery of So. Florida where he served as Chairman of the Minister and Church Relations Co. for over 5 years, and is presently Chairman of the Credentials Co. He is well-versed in the Constitution of the PCA, has participated in deciding significant cases that have come before the SJC, and has argued cases before the SJC as Counsel and Respondent.

RE Tom Leopard: Evangel Presbytery. He supervises the staff of Briarwood PCA as church administrator, a position he has held for 23 years. He has served Evangel Presbytery as chairman of the Admin. Co.; has served GA as member and chairman of both the PCA Foundation and IAR. He is a person of great wisdom and discernment. He is committed to justice and discipline with fairness and compassion.

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APPENDIX L

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FOUNDATION REPORT TO THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Fathers & Brothers

It has been my great privilege to serve the PCA Foundation for the last 16 years.

I have been blessed to work with such gifted Board members and staff. We believe the Lord has used our work in the lives of thousands of Christians who are seeking to be the most effective stewards possible.

When we took over the leadership from Pappy Howland, the Foundation was a part-time sub committee under the Stewardship Committee and the umbrella of the Committee on Administration.

We have seen the Lord cause us to grow from a few hundred thousand dollars to the point that by the end of 1996 we had received over \$37,000,000.

During 1996 I have come to believe that the Lord is calling me out of this familiar role as President of the PCA Foundation into a broader role involving the stewardship of life rather than exclusively the stewardship of assets.

I am excited about the change because the Lord is clearly in it. My resignation is effective June 30, 1996.

The Foundation has established a Search Committee and is hopeful to have a candidate to present to this year's General Assembly.

Pray for Jan and me as we face the joys and challenges of a new ministry.

In 1996 the Foundation received in excess of \$3,000,000 in new gifts. Much of these gifts would otherwise have found their way into gift, capital gain and estate taxes.

At the suggestion of the donors themselves we distributed over \$2,300,000 to various Christian ministries.

Since J&R our distributions have been consistent: 75% directed to the PCA. 48% to PCA Committees and Agencies, another 27% to local PCA churches and finally 25% to non-PCA ministries.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our recommendations are:

1. Approval of our proposed 1997 budget as submitted.
2. All local PCA congregations be encouraged to consider the variety of ways in which the Foundation can serve them.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and myself I say thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John W. S. Hudson
President

APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT "A"

PLANNED GIVING REPORT

(January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996)

New Gifts "IN"	\$3,311,154
Total Distributions Made	2,345,551
Operating Expenses	439,136

Distributions Made:

Total C&A	\$644,268
PCA Churches	<u>964,269</u>
TOTAL PCA	\$1,608,537
Other Christian	698,387
TOTAL 1996	\$2,306,924

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATTACHMENT "B"

PLANNED GIVING REPORT
(Pre J&R through December 1996)

New Gifts "IN"	\$37,599,104
Total Distributions Made	24,669,480
Operating Expenses	3,525,451

Distributions Made:

Total C&A	\$11,913,841
PCA Churches	<u>6,674,314</u>
TOTAL PCA	\$18,588,155
Other Christian	6,081,325
TOTAL Pre J&R - December 1996	\$24,669,480

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APPENDIX M

RIDGE HAVEN CONFERENCE CENTER REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

You have perhaps heard the expression, *more than just a pretty face*. To coin a phrase, *Ridge Haven is also more than just a pretty place!* Located in the southern mountains of Western North Carolina, the *Land of Waterfalls*, the 900 acre official Camps and Conference Center for the Presbyterian Church in America is indeed a pretty place! Unspoiled by vast developments of commercialization like many tourist destinations, Ridge Haven is more than ever a centrally located, easily accessible and accommodatingly comfortable place where one can see deer, rabbits, squirrels, and occasionally, red and gray foxes as well as many forms of wildlife *in the wild*; hear songbirds throughout the day; and catch the aroma of the beautiful mountain laurel, rhododendron, and the hundreds of mountain trees and flowers native to the area. At night, undimmed by carnival lights and the sights and sounds of the attractions of the world, the stars seem close enough to touch and more than one could count in a lifetime. Ridge Haven is indeed a beautiful place that declares *the glory of God*; reveals *His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and divine nature*; and invites and encourages each one to *be still and know that I am God*.

But Ridge Haven is more than just a pretty place! It is one of the special places that God has been pleased to put his Spirit and where the Lord of glory has been at work. It is a special place where in 1996 almost 7,000 came for Bible teaching, fellowship, rest, relaxation, and recreation. It is the special place where 61 summer campers and 4 winter Christmas campers met their Savior and Lord for the first time and hundreds more renewed their relationship with and commitment to the living and triune God. In addition, hundreds of adults were spiritually renewed, challenged, and recommitted their lives to Jesus Christ through such annual ministries as the Couples Conference which featured the Marriage Alive presentation of Dave and Claudia Arp, the Spring Fling Work Week, the Men's Fishing Tournament, the Springtimers Bible Conference, The Covenant Family Conference co-sponsored with Covenant Theological Seminary (a unique family vacation opportunity), the Great American Family Camp Out, and the Keenagers Bible Conference.

Many individual volunteers, churches, and groups made Ridge Haven one of their mission work projects in 1996. These, along with the growing resident community, have immeasurably helped to make Ridge Haven one of the most unique and blessed places of opportunity and ministry that exist in the Presbyterian Church in America. Retirees and others looking for ministry opportunities will find many at Ridge Haven!

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1997 and 1998 hold an even greater promise and challenge. Among the additions and changes is a golfers-get-away weekend and the denomination-wide and co-sponsored mission conference for high school students, identified as the Youth World-Awareness Weekend, YoWAW for short. The '97 YoWAW Conference held in January was attended by 396. In addition to the two first-time decisions, 47 made recommitments to Christ, 36 indicated their calling to full-time ministry and 171 indicated their availability to the Lord.

For those of you who are a part of all of this, we thank you for your prayers, your financial support, and your presence. For those of you who have thus far missed the opportunity or never had the privilege of coming to Ridge Haven, it is not too late. We invite you to come, we ask that you to pray for Ridge Haven, and we challenge you to join us in this part of the kingdom work.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Morse Up De Graff, Director

PART IV

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS MINUTES

ERRATA FOR MINUTES OF THE 24th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1996:

- P. 176 Strike from section II “the request that the” in the second line of the paragraph.
- P. 225 Item 24-43 -- “Specific” should read “specified”.
- P. 241 Item 26 - Delete text, and insert: “On motion, the Assembly directed the Board of Directors to prepare a statement describing what is actually trademark protected, so that there may be a clear understanding of what is or is not permissible regarding its usage. This statement is to be distributed to all Sessions and ministers of the PCA.”
- P. 257 Item 32,d - Strike “or previous assemblies” re. NE Presbytery. It should read:
e. “That response to the 22nd GA exceptions be found satisfactory.”
- P. 271 RE: New RAO 14: *Adopted.*
- P. 296 Between items 14 and 15, add:
The Committee on Constitutional Business reported as follows:
The General Assembly referred a question to the CCB concerning the propriety of B&O making amendments to overtures that go further than mere improvements to the statement, when the original text of the overture is not printed in the B&O report.
It was moved and carried to advise that the procedure adopted by B&O was a technical violation of the Manual for Operation of Committees of Commissioners. It was noted that B&O had reviewed the procedure with the Stated Clerk and been instructed to proceed in such a manner, due in part to problems with typing and printing the reports of the various committees.
It was moved and carried to advise that the technical violation could be handled by having the B&O make the recommendation in its Report as a Substitute for the whole.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It was moved and carried to advise that finding a permanent solution to the problem be referred to the CCB to report to the next General Assembly.

The Moderator then ruled Overture 27 as amended to be considered a substitute.

- P. 314-315 Item 23 - Move the unnumbered paragraph under Grounds (i.e. "The General Assembly therefore directs . . . and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.") to item 24 (p. 315) to be inserted in line 6 of the first paragraph between the word "standard" and the bracketed cross reference.
- P. 314 Item 23 - Following the last "**Whereas**" insert:
"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that
1. The PCA hereby register its opposition to abortion on demand in general, and in particular to the heinous and reprehensible form of abortion known as 'partial birth abortion;'
 2. The PCA encourage her churches and members to participate in the postcard campaign urging Congress to override President Clinton's veto;"
- P. 315 Item 24 - Delete last paragraph (i.e. "And be it further resolved. . ." etc.) since this was inserted into the adopted statement.

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