

01 BUSINESS REFERRALS

CONTENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Item 01-01

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly recommends that the 216th General Assembly (2004) approve the proposed docket as follows:

**Proposed Docket
216th General Assembly (2004)
Richmond, VA**

Saturday, June 26

8:00am –Noon Pre-Assembly Event, Theological Task Force, Ballroom C
9:00am Platform Briefing
10:00am Leadership Briefing II, B15BC
10:00am Overture Advocate Training, B10
1:00 pm **216TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES**
Worship
COMMISSIONING SERVICE
Business Meeting I
• WELCOME
• COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS
• ORIENTATIONS: COMMON MISSION
COMMON WORK
COMMON LIFE
• MODERATOR’S REPORT
• ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS REFERRALS
Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess
5:30 pm Dinner Break (On Own)
7:30 pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 2
• Election of Moderator
Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

Sunday, June 27

10:00am Opening Worship Service (Richmond Coliseum)
12:30pm COLA Group Lunch (Richmond Coliseum)
1:00pm **NEW BUSINESS DEADLINE**
1:30pm–3:30pm Moderator’s Reception, Marriott Salons G-H
2:00pm Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures Meeting, B19
3:30pm Commissioners’ Resolution Advocate Orientation (E21A)
5:00pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 3
• Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
• Nominations for Stated Clerk
• General Assembly Nominating Committee Report
6:15pm Group Dinner
7:30pm *Committee Meeting 1*

Monday, June 28

7:00am General Assembly Breakfast and Morning Prayer, Ballroom A/B (Group Meal)
9:30am *Committee Meeting 2*
12:30pm Lunch Break
2:00pm *Committee Meeting 3*
5:30pm Group Dinner and Leadership Briefing III

01 Assembly Committee on Business Referrals

6:45pm Evening Worship (Ballroom A/B)
8:00pm *Committee Meeting 4*

Tuesday, June 29

8:30am Morning Worship (Plenary)
9:30am *Committee Meeting 5*
12:30pm Lunch Break
2:00pm *Committee Meeting 6*
Dinner Break (on own)
Free Evening (Assembly Committees Will Meet Only as Needed)

Wednesday, June 30

8:30am Ecumenical Worship Service (Carpenter Center for Performing Arts)
Distribution of Reports and Reading Time
Seminary Lunches
2:00pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 4

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Stated Clerk's Orientation II
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (Financial Implications)
- COTE Henry Luce Presentation
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess
6:00pm Dinner Break
7:30pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 5

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Top Ten Giving Presbyteries
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

Thursday, July 1

8:30am Morning Worship (Plenary)
9:30am Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 6

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (Financial Implications)
- General Assembly Nominating Committee
- Decade of the Child
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess
12:30pm Lunch Break
2:00pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 7

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer

6:00pm Recess
7:30pm Group Dinner
Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 8

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

Friday, July 2

8:30am Morning Worship (Plenary)
9:30am Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 9

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (Financial Implications)
- Stated Clerk's Election
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

12:30pm Group Lunch
2:00pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 10

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Middle East Delegation Report
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

6:00pm Dinner Break
7:30pm Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 11

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- World Prayer Concerns
- Assembly Committee Reports

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

Saturday, July 3

8:30am Morning Worship (Plenary)
9:30am Opening Prayer
BUSINESS MEETING 12

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (Financial Implications)
- Introduction of Sheppards and Lapsley Committee on Local Arrangements

Closing Prayer
Noon ADJOURN

Item 01-02

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly recommends that the 216th General Assembly (2004) approve the plenary consent agenda, consisting of the referrals in progress and the final responses to referrals, as follows:

REFERRALS IN PROGRESS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WITNESS POLICY

*A. 1996 Referral: 36.636. Response to Recommendation That ACSWP Monitor the Implementation and Consequences of the Recent International Agreements and Mechanisms for Expanding World Trade (Minutes, 1996, Part I, pp. 114, 542).	Periodic progress; 214th GA 2002 215th GA 2003 216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
B. 1999 Referral: 25.038. Response to Recommendation Directing ACSWP, Consulting with Appropriate Agencies, to Develop Comprehensive Disabilities Policy, and Report It to the 217th General Assembly (2005) (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 41, 308).	217th GA 2006
*C. 1999 Referral: 25.039. Response to Recommendation Directing ACSWP, Consulting with Appropriate Agencies, to Develop a Comprehensive Serious Mental Illness Policy, and Report to the 217th General Assembly (2005) (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 42, 309).	217th GA 2005 217th GA 2006 218th GA 2008
*D. Overture 99-17. Response to Recommendation on Affirming the Equality of Women and Men (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 80, 591).	214th GA 2002 216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
E. 2000 Referral: 25.087. D. Monitoring Report on the Implementation of General Assembly Policy on Abortion, Recommendation 6.a., That the 212th General Assembly (2000) Direct the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to Develop a Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the Problem Pregnancies and Abortion Policies Every Five Years, Beginning in 2005, and Report to the Appropriate General Assemblies—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2000, Part I, pp. 34, 265).	217th GA 2006
*F. 2001 Referral: 25.110. Response to Recommendation Directing ACSWP to Instruct Its Task Forces on Disabilities and Mental Illness to Include Dimensions of Domestic Violence in Their Respective Work (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 61, 239).	217th GA 2006 218th GA 2008
G. 2001 Referral: 25.172. Response to Recommendation Calling the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to Monitor the Implementations of this Policy on Domestic Violence Periodically with a Final Report to the 219th GA (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 61, 243).	218th GA 2008
*H. 2002 Referral: Item 12-06. Overture 02-57. On Revising the Denominational Policy on the Issue of Energy—Susquehanna Valley (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 72, 596).	216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
I. 2003 Referral: 07-01(F.12). Call Upon ACSWP to Monitor the Actions Listed Above and Report to the 217th GA (2006) (Minutes, 2003, p. 56, 441).	217th GA 2006
J. 2003 Referral: 11-13. Commissioners' Resolution 03-09. On Calling to Prayer and Action—SARS Epidemic and Taiwan (Minutes, 2003, p. 40, 631).	217th GA 2006

*A. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy previously made available for churchwide study two papers examining trade and globalization issues: “The Globalization of Life: Challenge to the Church” (PDS 68-600-01-002); “The Employment Effects of Free Trade and Globalization” (PDS 68-600-01-003). Two further papers are now available for churchwide study: “Globalization and the Environment” (PDS 68-600-03-004); and “Globalization and Culture” (PDS 68-600-03-003). Due to workload and staff limitations, the anticipated resolution on trade and globalization for this year’s assembly is now anticipated for the 217th General Assembly (2006).

*C. The prospectus for the task force was distributed to the presbyteries and congregations and a task force has been appointed. Due to committee workload and staff limitations, the ACSWP recommends an extension of this work with anticipated response to the 218th General Assembly (2008).

*D. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy has been pursuing this referral on a number of fronts, some of which have been completed in prior years as well as in this year’s proposed policy statement on “Transforming Families.” Still outstanding is work on pay equity issues, for which the ACSWP recommends an extension of this work with anticipated response to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

*F. See *C. above.

*H. The ACSWP appointed a work group to update the policy on energy and due to committee workload and staff limitations recommends the extension of this work with an anticipated final report to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE FOR RACIAL ETHNIC CONCERNS

No items.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN'S CONCERNS

No items.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

No items.

COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

<i>2000 Referral: 15.014. Take Action in Conjunction with the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America to Enter Church-to-Church Conversations to Strengthen Mutual Relationships; Present Results by 2006 (Minutes, 2000, Part I, pp. 27, 108).</i>	217th GA 2006
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COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONS AND CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION

<i>2003 Referral: 05-03(01). Authorize Participation in the Seventh Round of Reform/Catholic Dialogue with a Report to the 218th General Assembly (2008) (Minutes, 2003, p. 13, 339).</i>	218th GA 2008
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COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<i>A. 2002 Referral: Item 02-01 Recommendation 6. COGA Prepare an Evaluation of Biennial Assemblies After the 219th GA Through a Special Task Group or Committee Appointed by the Stated Clerk & Executive Director, Report to 220th GA (2012) (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 26, 159).</i>	220th GA 2012
<i>B. 2003 Referral: 13-New Business (03). Direct COGA to Review the "Guidelines for Preparation of Minutes of Agencies" to Determine Whether the Guidelines Help the Readers Review the Work of the Entity (Minutes, 2003, p. 51).</i>	217th GA 2006

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION

<i>A. Overture 98-33. On Amending W-2.4006 and W-2.4011a. to Establish Open Communion (Minutes, 1998, Part I, pp. 86, 671).</i>	212th GA 2000 213th GA 2001 214th GA 2002 217th GA 2006
<i>B. Overture 99-72. On Directing the GAC to Include in the Mission Budget Sufficient Funds to Provide for the Development and Implementation of Racial Ethnic Needs in Educational Curriculum (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 35, 672).</i>	214th GA 2002 215th GA 2003 217th GA 2006
<i>C. 2002 Referral: Item 07-07. Overture 02-32. On Instructing the Office of Theology and Worship to Develop a Theological Statement of our Faith—Presbytery of the James (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 39, 432).</i>	217th GA 2006
<i>D. 2002 Referral: Item 07-09. Overture 02-38. On Formulating a New PCUSA Confession of Faith for the 21st Century—Presbytery of S. Alabama (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 39, 434).</i>	217th GA 2006
<i>E. 2002 Referral: Item 09-03. Delay Implementation of Overture 01-55 (Study Materials on the Relationship of Science and God as Creator) Until Sufficient New Funding Is Provided (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 45, 493).</i>	216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
<i>F. 2002 Referral: Item 10-01. Authorize the Office of T&W to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of Sacramental Theology and Practice with Special Attention to the Ways in Which the Catechumenate Relates to Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 21, 503).</i>	217th GA 2006

G. 2002 Referral: Item 13-07 (Alt.) Directing the GAC, Office of Theology and Worship, to Implement Commissioners' Resolution 01-22 (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 71, 654).	218th GA 2008
H. 2003 Referral: 06-05. Overture 03-22. On Reaffirming the Church's Commitment to Older Adult Ministry—From the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (Minutes, 2003, p. 43, 400).	217th GA 2006
I. 2003 Referral: 06-11. Commissioners' Resolution 03-10. On Reaffirming Spiritual Formation as an Important Priority at All Levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Minutes, 2003, p. 44, 406).	217th GA 2006
J. 2003 Referral: 09-03(02). Request GAC, Through CMD, to Organize Workshops in Conjunction with Presbyteries, Synods, Other Entities to Address Leadership Development Issues for Hispanic Youth; Provide Progress Report to 217th GA (2006) (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 531).	Progress to 217th GA 2006
K. 2003 Referral: 09-03(05). Request GAC, Through CMD, in Consult with Hispanic Cong. Enhancement, to Develop Curriculum Materials in Spanish, Portuguese for Youth to Assist Immigrant Populations; Progress Report to 217th GA (2006) (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 531).	Progress to 217th GA 2006
L. 2003 Referral: 10-07(02). Instruct the Office of Theology and Worship to Provide Guidelines and Resources for Presbyterywide Celebration (Minutes, 2003, p. 22, 566).	217th GA 2006
*M. 2003 Referral: 10-07(03). Instruct the Office of Theology and Worship to Report Annually the Number of Presbyteries that Participate in "Celebrating the Lord's Supper Each Lord's Day" (Minutes, 2003, p. 22, 566).	Report annually
N. 2003 Referral: Item 10-06. Recommendation 4. That the General Assembly Urge the General Assembly Council, Congregational Ministries Division, to Develop and Produce Processes and Materials for the Incorporation and Reception of New Adult Members Based on The Study Catechism (Full Version)—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 565–66).	217th GA 2006
O. 2003 Referral: Item 10-12. Commissioners' Resolution 03-3. On Developing Baptismal Materials Regarding Child Abuse (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 23, 571).	217th GA 2006

*M. Materials to carry out this initiative are in progress and will be available to presbyteries in 2004.

FOUNDATION

* 1999 Referral: 30.035-.048. Approve and Authorize the Creation of New Covenant Annuity Insurance Company (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 37, 500).	217th GA 2006
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* The 211th General Assembly (1999) authorized the creation of New Covenant Annuity Insurance Company (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 500–502). Due to intervening events, including the establishment of New Covenant Funds in July 1999 and continued work on New Covenant Trust Company, N.A., the Foundation has delayed the creation of the insurance company.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

*A. 2002 Referral: Item 08-11. Regarding the Mission Initiative (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 77, 461).	Progress report annually, final report to 219th GA 2010
B. 2003 Referral: 09-03(07). Request GAC to Direct Mission Funding/Development Office to Assist the Cong. Enhancement Office in Conceiving a Funds Development Strategy by 2004; Provide Progress Report on Fundraising to 217th GA (2006) (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 532).	217th GA 2006

* The Mission Initiative Steering Committee, chaired by Lucimarian Roberts and Bill Saul, met three times since the last assembly. Ron Lundeen resigned as director of development in September of 2003. Jan Opdyke served as interim director and was subsequently selected as the campaign director in January of 2004. Susan Sommerville joined the staff as an associate director in December of 2004. Promotional materials for the campaign have been developed and a video is in progress. Identification and cultivation of donors continues on the part of staff, steering committee leadership and volunteers. Posting of campaign pledges and receipts are posted quarterly on the web site www.pcusa.org/missioninitiative.

NATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION

*A. 2001 Referral: 22.096. Response to Recommendation Requesting an Annual Report from the General Assembly Council Regarding Progress and Implementation of the Strategy Contained in "Renewing the Commitment" (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 19, 197).	Annual Progress; Final *217th GA 2006
*B. 2002 Referral: Item 11-02. Recommendation 3 Instructing GAC to Make Available Funding For a Churchwide Consultation on NA Ministries Involving NA Presbyteries, NA Consulting Committee, Office of NA Cong. Enhancement, GA Reps., MGB Staff. By 2004; Rpt to GA in 2005 (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 559)	216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
C. 2002 Referral: Item 11-02. Recommendation 4 Requesting a Report on Implementation of the Strategies to Be Presented to the 219th GA (2007), in Consultation with the Native American Consulting Committee and Appropriate GA Entities (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 559).	*218th GA 2008
*D. 2002 Referral: Item 11-02. Recommendation 5. Grant an Extension for the Completion of the Comprehensive Statistical Report Until the 216th General Assembly (2004), Which Will Be Completed by Research Services, in Partnership with the Native American Congregational Enhancement Office of the National Ministries Division (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 559).	216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
*E.. 2002 Referral: Item 11-05. Commissioners' Resolution 02-10. On Affirming the Church Growth Strategy Report (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 25, 565).	Annual progress through the 219th GA (2010)
F. 2002 Referral: Item 13-05. Recommendation 10. Urging Rural Ministry Office to Give Special Attention to Issues of Access to and Cost of Health Care in Rural Communities, Especially to Persons with Low and Fixed Incomes (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 70, 634).	216th GA 2004 217th GA 2006
G. 2003 Referral: 04-01(03). Instruct Churchwide Personnel Services and Request Middle Governing Bodies, Seminaries, and Congregations to Address the Difficulties Frequently Encountered in the Position of Associate Pastor (Minutes, 2003, p. 62, 293).	217th GA 2006
H. 2003 Referral: 04-13. Commissioners' Resolution 03-27. On Celebrating the Ministry of Women (Minutes 2003, p. 65, 331).	217th GA 2006
I. 2003 Referral: 09-01(02). Urge Governing Bodies, Related Educational Institutions to Strengthen Their Partnerships by Clarifying the Covenant Between Them, as Well as Other Ways That Each Institution is Related to the PC(USA) (a.-c.) (Minutes, 2003, 24, 521).	217th GA (2006)
J. 2003 Referral: 09-01(03). Urge Educational Institutions to Utilize Fully the Many Partners That Are Willing and Able to Assist Them in Developing the Presbyterian Reformed Presence (a.-d.) (Minutes, 2003, p. 24, 521).	217th GA (2006)
K. 2003 Referral: 09-01(07). Urge NMD, Higher Education Program to Find Ways to Assist the More Fragile Institutions Related to the PC(USA), Especially Those Whose Accreditation Is Threatened (a.-c.) (Minutes, 2003, 24, 522).	217th GA (2006)
L. 2003 Referral: 09-01(08). Urge the Agencies and Governing Bodies to Inform the Denomination About the Critical Mission of the Church In and Through Its Educational Institutions (a.-c.) (Minutes, 2003, p. 24, 522).	217th GA (2006)
M. 2003 Referral: 09-01(09). Urge NMD, Higher Education Program, to Return to the GA with a Progress Report in Three Years, and a Full Assessment of the Response to the Recommendations in Five Years (Minutes, 2003, p. 24, 523).	Progress: 217th GA (2006); Final: 218th GA (2008)
N. 2003 Referral: 09-03(03). Request GAC, Through NMD, to Organize Workshops Addressing Leadership Development for Hispanic-Latino Leaders, in Conjunction with Presbyteries, Synods, Other Entities; Provide Progress Report to 217th GA (2006) (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 531).	Progress: 217th GA (2006)
O. 2003 Referral: 09-03(04). Request GAC, OGA, and Middle Governing Bodies to Continue to Produce Resources in Spanish and Portuguese, and to Engage in Leadership Development (Minutes, 2003, Part I, p. 25, 531). 03R09-03(06). Request GAC, Thru NMD, Racial Ethnic Ministries & Office of Hispanic Cong Enhance To Organize a Nat'l Consultation in 2006 to Determine How to Implement the Strategy; Monitor Progress; Report to 218th GA (2008) (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 532).	217th GA (2006)
P. 2003 Referral: 09-03(06). Request GAC, Thru NMD, Racial Ethnic Ministries & Office of Hispanic Cong Enhance to Organize a Nat'l Consultation in 2006 to Determine How to Implement Strategy; Monitor Progress; Report to 218th GA (2008) (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 532).	218th GA 2008

Q. 2003 Referral: 09-06. Overture 03-19. Direct Evangelism & Church Development to Develop, Distribute Materials to Assist Members, Congregations in Sharing the Good News of God's Love in Jesus Christ—From the Presbytery of Inland Northwest (Minutes, 2003, p. 25, 549).	217th GA 2006
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*A. The 213th General Assembly (2001) approved “Renewing the Commitment: A Churchwide Mission Strategy for Ministry in Higher Education” by the PC(USA) and requested an annual report to the General Assembly regarding the implementation of the Strategy. The programmatic recommendations and their stages of implementation are as follows.

1. *Establishment of Campus Ministry Internship Program by 2003–04 Academic Year*

The pilot project in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic developed one internship program at a PC(USA) related college. The evaluation of this effort proved very positive. Three other proposed sites failed to develop due to an unsatisfactory pool of intern applicants and/or inability on the part of the local campus based ministry to develop funds sufficient to support the project. The effort is ongoing for that initial synod. A second synod has been focused on implementing the internship program through congregation based ministries and appears more possible in this context.

2. *Funds Development Process*

The funds development process in an initial step is working with the Synod of the Sun to create a partnership. This partnership of the synod, its presbyteries and local churches with Higher Education/Student Ministries is developing a plan to increase financial support for synod-related, campus-based ministries. It is expected that this model may be replicated in other synods of the church. It is anticipated that other models will also be developed.

3. *Electronic Based Process for PC(USA) Constituents to Connect with Higher Education Ministries*

Data gathering among seven denominations is completed and the directory came online during the fall of 2003. Concurrent with this process a “Higher Education Ministry Catalog” was published and made available through compact disks and the denomination’s Web site. Its contents include a directory of all PC(USA) related collegiate ministries (campus and church based); information on scholarship assistance; contact information on all of our church-related colleges/universities; information on how churches can minister to college student from their churches and in their communities and information on program units of the GAC that relate to young adults.

4. *Leadership Development of Collegiate Ministry Staff and Students*

In the week prior to the 216th General Assembly (2004), a conference was held in Richmond, Virginia, that had excellent representation from campus- and church-based collegiate ministry staff, chaplains from PC(USA) related colleges and universities, students and members of presbyteries and synods with responsibilities for the accountability and oversight of collegiate ministries within their bounds. Emerging from this conference is the establishment of an as yet untitled association or partnership of staff, students and advocates of PC(USA) higher education ministry. This organization may well be modeled after the influential Association of Presbyterian Church Educators with similar goals of professional development, advocacy and interpretation to the denomination of the mission of ministry in higher education.

5. *Continuation and Expansion of the Presbyterian Student Strategy Team*

The Strategy Team has taken on the planning of annual student leadership conferences encouraging the establishment and liaison with “affinity groups” including racial/ethnic students and partnerships with the National Network of Presbyterian College Women. The team has identified and set up a communications network with the Korean-American Student Empowerment organization and among Hispanic students related to the PC(USA) and will coordinate with the above mentioned staff task group focusing on ministry with African American college students.

*B. Funding has been made available through the office of the Native American Congregational Enhancement Office. The consultation is scheduled for 2005 and a final report will be forwarded to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

*D. Work is progressing on the Native American Comprehensive Statistical Report, however additional time is needed for the completion of this report and for review by the Native American Consulting Committee. The final report will be forwarded to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

*E. Progress report mandated by assembly. Unfortunately, the denomination continues to show a net loss of members, but groundwork is being laid that will put us in the position for positive growth. Here are some of the things being done to address the losses:

The Vision for Church Growth for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism and Church Growth Strategy are foundational to the work of the National Ministries Division, especially in the areas of Evangelism and Church Development and Racial Ethnic Ministries.

Training for presbytery leadership in new church development (NCD) has increased from six presbyteries with 50+ participants to fifty-five presbyteries with 150 participants. The NCD coaches have been trained and are working with NCDs and presbyteries. The 2003 annual NCD conference attracted 480.

The annual Congregational Transformation Conference brought 600 participants for training. A new training process for presbytery teams was developed and used three times in 2003 with more scheduled in 2004.

Support for immigrant pastors, fellowships, and churches are increasing. Especially noteworthy is the work being done among Brazilian immigrants. There is an increase in the number of racial ethnic fellowships and churches. The Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism and Church Growth Strategy has been reviewed and updated. The racial ethnic caucuses are developing goals and plans to support an increase in racial ethnic churches and membership.

Commitment to developing a multicultural church is growing. Two hundred seventy-five attended the fourth multicultural conference in April 2003. Future conferences and training events are being planned cooperatively with presbyteries and synods. There is growing interest in multicultural ministry among the seminaries.

We continue to work ecumenically to provide evangelism resources. An evangelism training event for middle governing bodies was held in January 2003.

Mission Program Grants support new church, congregational transformation and specialized ministries. After some decrease following September 11, 2001, presbyteries are expressing renewed interest in these efforts. During 2003, sixty-one applications for General Assembly matching grants were received. Sixty percent of the grants are being made for racial ethnic/immigrant projects.

Rural, small church, and urban ministries are identifying and responding to specialized needs in these areas. "We Are What We Eat," the General Assembly paper on support for family farmers is widely used. A revision of "New Times New Call," pastoral options for small churches has been produced, along with an update of the commissioned lay pastor manual. The 2003 Rural Ministry Conference at Dubuque Seminary focused on multiculturalism in rural ministry.

A new PCUSA media campaign titled, "Here and Now," designed for unchurched adults between the ages of 25–49 has been developed and test marketed. Materials in print, radio, and TV formats will be available by the 216th General Assembly (2004).

We are putting much energy and enthusiasm into "The Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands." Funds and pledges are being received from major donors and partnership campaigns are being conducted in a few presbyteries. The goal is to raise \$20,000,000 for new church development and congregational transformation, with emphasis on racial ethnic/immigrant growth.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*A. 2000 Referral: 12.049, <i>On Encouraging the Use of "Standards of Ethical Conduct" in Leadership Training; Request OGA to Include a Summary of Uses Made in Theological Seminaries, Churches, Presbyteries, and Synods in Its Report to the 215th GA (2003) (Minutes, 2000, Part I, pp. 54, 83).</i>	215th GA 2003 216th GA 2004
B. 2003 Referral: 13-New Business (01). <i>Direct OGA to Rep. to 216th GA Whether Minutes of New Covenant Trust Company & New Covenant Annuity Should Be Submitted to the GA for Review; OGA Also Report on Provisions that Must be Redacted Because of Federal Law (Minutes, 2003, 50).</i>	217th GA 2006
C. 2003 Referral: 13-New Business (02). <i>Direct OGA to Consider the Rationale to this Item; OGA will Consult with the Foundation in Preparing this Report; Foundation will Assist the OGA with Its Advice and Counsel (Minutes, 2003, p. 50).</i>	217th GA 2006

PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION

No items

THEOLOGICAL TASK FORCE ON PEACE, PURITY, AND UNITY

A. <i>Commissioners' Resolution 00-28. On Studying the Ordination Standards of Other Faith Communities (Minutes, 2000, Part I, pp. 20, 506).</i>	217th GA 2006
B. <i>Commissioners' Resolution 01-23 (Alt), Item #2. On the Dissemination of Annual Reports by Special Interest Organizations (Minutes, 2001, Part I, p. 22).</i>	217th GA 2006

C. <i>Overture 01-33 (Alt). On Appointing a Theological Commission to Study the Spiritual Condition of Our Church and the Causes for Unrest; Report to the 217th General Assembly (2005) (Minutes, 2001, Part I, p. 28).</i>	217th GA 2006
D. <i>2002 Referral: Item 02-10. Recommendation 1. Theological Task Force Make Its Final Report to the 217th General Assembly (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 27, 172).</i>	217th GA 2006
E. <i>2002 Referral: Item 02-10. Recommendation 2. The Theological Task Force Report Distribution to Presbyteries and Sessions Be Accomplished at Least Nine Months Before the 217th General Assembly (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 27, 172).</i>	217th GA 2006

WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES DIVISION
No items

FINAL RESPONSES TO REFERRALS

A. Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Final Responses to Referrals

1. *Alternate Resolution: Overture 95-36. "Resolved" Item 5. On Issuing a Public Call for Prayer in Response to the Increasing Violence in Our Society—From the Presbytery of Denver (Minutes, 1995, Part I, pp. 73, 684).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 12-06, "Resolution on Violence, Religion and Terrorism."

2. *Commissioners' Resolution 01-13. On False Allegations Against Educators in Schools (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 62, 492).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 10-12, "Resolution on Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse Against Educators."

3. *Commissioners' Resolution 01-27. On the Full Legalization for Immigrants in the United States of America (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 62, 502).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 10-05, "Resolution Calling for a Comprehensive Legalization Program for Immigrants Living and Working in the United States."

4. *2002 Referral: Item 12-05. Overture 02-51. On Developing a Social Witness Policy on "Takings"—From the Presbytery of Baltimore (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 73, 595).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 10-04, "Report and Recommendations on Limited Water Resources and Takings."

5. *2002 Referral: Item 14-07. Call for a Study on Violence and Terrorism, Recommendation That the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Authorize a Task Force to Study and Report on Terrorism, the Relationship of Religion to Violence, U.S. Military Response, and U.S. Political and Economic Involvement That May Contribute to Global Problems and Report to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 55, 711).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 12-06, "Resolution on Violence, Religion and Terrorism."

6. *2003 Referral: Item 07-02. Report: Living Faithfully with Families in Transition. Recommendation That the Majority and Minority Reports of Item 07-02 Plus Item 07-02 Be Referred Back to the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy for Further Work, in Consultation with the General Assembly Office on Theology and Worship and Report to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the 215th General Assembly (2003) (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 56–58, 458ff).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 10-06, “Transforming Families.”

7. *2003 Referral: Item 12-05. Overture 03-31. On Strengthening Our Christian Peacemaking Vision and Witness in Wartime—From the Presbytery of Hudson River (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 18–19, 651).*

Response: Consultation took place with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the offices of higher education and campus ministries to make available resources for college and seminary students on the morality, costs, and consequences of war in light of the Reformed tradition’s teachings.

8. *2003 Referral: Item 12-08. Statement on Iraq and Beyond. Recommendation 3. That the Work Group on Violence, Religion and Terrorism of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Incorporate in the Materials Currently in Preparation, the Concerns Raised Here—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 17, 656).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 12-05, “Iraq: Our Responsibility and the Future.”

B. Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concern Final Response to Referral

1. *2001 Referral: 26.001–.003. Response to Recommendation Create a Taskforce to Examine the Racial Justice Policies/Programs of BOP, Foundation, PILP, and PPC in Relation to the Racial Ethnic Members of the PC(USA); Report Its Findings and Recommendations to the 215th General Assembly (2003) (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 58, 333).*

Response: For response to this referral, see Item 07-08, “Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC) Task Force to Examine GA Entities: Report on Creating a Climate for Change Within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”

2. *2003 Referral: Item 07-01. Recommendation F.6. Urging ACREC and ACWC to Work to Ensure That For-Profit Prisons Are Held Accountable to All Existing Laws Relating to Prisons and Protections of Prisoners; Failure to Show Accountability Meaning Termination of Contracts—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, p. 440).*

Response: The growth of the for-profit prison industry is having a significant and highly destructive impact on communities of color. Civil rights organizations and other advocacy groups have documented a direct correlation between the decline in funding for public education at all levels and increasing funding for prisons. Coupled with higher incarceration rates for people of color, the impact on low income and minority communities is severe. For example:

A study of the state of Mississippi found the following:

- There are almost twice as many African American men in Mississippi in prison (13,837) as in colleges and universities (7,330). The state spends more per year to incarcerate an inmate (\$10,672) than to send them to college (\$6,871).
- Rather than invest in education for the rural workforce and positive economic development for poor communities, the state is undertaking a backwards approach to budgeting in which they spend a great deal of taxpayer money on corrections and then shop for the inmates to validate these expenditures after the fact. Sixty-seven percent of those incarcerated in Mississippi prisons are nonviolent offenders. [*Education v. Incarceration: A Mississippi Case Study*, was released today at a news conference on the steps of the capitol by Grassroots Leadership, a nonprofit that for twenty-two years has been dedicated to community organizing in the South.]

Similar studies in California and New York have reached the same conclusions. Poor, working-class, and mostly minority communities—especially the African American community—have been hardest hit by the “War on Crime,” especially its “War on Drugs” front, even though there is no evidence that people in those communi-

ties commit more than their share of crime. Nationally, one out of three African American youths and men between the ages of 20 and 29 are under some form of criminal justice supervision on any given day.

The Colorado Legislative Council found that while people of color are a 21 percent minority in Colorado, they comprise 57 percent of Colorado's prison population—but only 18.6 percent of the entering students at the state's four-year colleges. African Americans are ten times more likely than whites to be incarcerated in Colorado, and Latinos/as are four times more likely than Anglos.

Since 1970, the number of men and women behind bars has grown by 500 percent, while the cost of corrections has grown by about 1,500 percent. In almost every state, prisons are replacing schools, homeless shelters, hospitals, and drug rehab programs in response to poverty and joblessness in rural and urban communities.

C. *Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) Final Responses to Referrals*

1. *2002 Referral: Item 13-08. Overture 02-52. On Pastoral Resources for Women Who Have Experienced Abortion—From the Presbytery of Donegal (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 70, 654).*

Response: After reviewing available materials and in keeping with current PC(USA) policy and in consultation with other PC(USA) entities as well as the broader religious community, this resource has been written and will be available after June 15, 2004.

2. *2002 Referral: Item 11-01, Report: We Are What We Eat, Recommendation F., Direct the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns and Request Presbyterian Women to Identify Food Production/Consumption Issues as a Priority in Their Mission and Education Program—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 535).*

Response: The ACWC is not a programmatic entity; however, ACWC has requested that the Office of Women's Advocacy fulfill this request. That office will do so in planning specific workshops and conferences, i.e., Women's Advocacy Conference and Economic Justice for Women Conference, and by producing resources and Action Alerts.

3. *2003 Referral: Item 04-01. Report, Clergywomen's Experience in Ministry: Realities and Challenges, Recommendation 10. That the General Assembly Instruct the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) to Provide a Forum at Future General Assemblies for Clergywomen to Comment on Issues Raised in the 2002 ACWC Survey and Offer Continuing Feedback to the Church—From the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 62, 293).*

Response: The ACWC has scheduled such a consultation to be held at the 216th General Assembly (2004) and will continue to provide means for regular collection and consideration of feedback.

D. *Board of Pensions Final Response to Referral*

2002 Referral: Alternate Response to Item 15-03. Request the Board of Pensions to Study and Report to the 215th General Assembly (2003) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) a Recommended Design and Funding Source for an Adoption Assistance Program to Cover Compensation for Adoption Expenses for All Eligible Members of the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp.19, 742).

Response: Consistent with the view of the overture, the Board of Pensions supports the establishment of an adoption assistance program for Plan members, which should be sufficiently generous to approach the cost normally associated with childbirth that is covered under the Medical Plan.

The cost associated with childbirth under the Medical Plan has averaged \$7,000 for the past three years. The expenses normally associated with adoption range from a few hundred dollars (in state-sponsored plans) to tens of thousands of dollars for private adoptions.

Federal income tax credits in amounts as high as \$10,000 are available to taxpayers who adopt. Also, additional resources may be available from the spouse's employer because many other employers have adoption assistance benefits for employees.

The Board of Pensions would be willing to adopt and administer a program when and if adequate funding becomes available. The adoption expenses contemplated by this program cannot be reimbursed by a medical plan. Since no existing revenues to the Board of Pensions are currently available to provide this funding, the Board of Pensions is willing to commit to adding an adoption assistance program to its list of funds development opportunities.

The design of the Board of Pensions' program will depend on the funds developed to support it. The Assistance Program Shared Grants are currently available for adoptions based on financial needs.

E. Committee on the Office of the General Assembly Final Responses to Referrals

1. *2003 Referral: Item 03-17. Commissioners' Resolution 03-5: On Reviewing the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and Remedial Case 215-12: Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Canton, Ohio, v. Moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002), Fahed Abu-Akel, Et Al. (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 70, 246-47).*

Response: In the remedial case filed against the Moderator (and others) in connection with the call for a special meeting of General Assembly (*Westminster* case), the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission found that it had jurisdiction over the Moderator, specifically the "Office of the Moderator," as an "entity of the General Assembly" for purposes of *Book of Order*, D-2.0202 and D-6.0202b. See the decision in the case (*Remedial Case 215-12*) in the *Minutes*, 2003, Part I, pp. 283-86.

The 215th General Assembly (2003) approved Item 03-17, *Commissioners' Resolution 03-5* (*Minutes*, 2003, Part I, pp. 70, 246-47; for text of the commissioners' resolution, see Attachment A below) directing COGA to review this portion of the decision in light of relevant provisions in the *Book of Order*, Standing Rules, and *Robert's Rules of Order*, and to bring any recommendations back to the 216th General Assembly (2004) to clarify the role and accountability of the Moderator.

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), as directed by the 215th General Assembly (2003) in Item 03-17 (*Commissioners' Resolution 03-5*), has reviewed the interim order in Remedial Case 215-12 (*Westminster* case) together with the relevant provisions of *Book of Order*, Standing Rules of the General Assembly, and *Robert's Rules of Order*. To clarify the role of the Moderator, COGA sends the following communication to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) for its review and any recommendations the ACC may make to the 216th General Assembly (2004), per G-13.0112 c and d.

Communication to ACC: Since the Moderator is an elected officer of the General Assembly (G-9.0200 and Standing Rule F.2) and is accountable to the General Assembly and subject to its discipline, neither the Moderator nor "the Office of the Moderator" is an "entity of the General Assembly" as that term is used in connection with remedial cases in D-2.0202 and D-6.0000 and following. There is no provision in the *Book of Order* for bringing a remedial complaint against an individual member or officer of a governing body. Section D-6.0202 is specific about against whom a remedial case complaint may be filed. The Moderator of the General Assembly is an officer of the General Assembly, not an entity of the General Assembly.

Rationale

A moderator of a governing body is elected from its members. The moderator is an elected officer of that body and accountable to it. He or she can be censured or even removed from office by the body (*Robert's Rules of Order*, Section 61). Thus, the Moderator of the General Assembly is an elected officer of that body and responsible to it during his or her term (G-9.0202). The Moderator's responsibilities and functions come from the General Assembly and he or she is accountable to the General Assembly for carrying out those duties (Standing Rule F.2.). The Moderator or the Office of Moderator (a term used in the *Westminster* case decision) has no independ-

ent role apart from that derived from the General Assembly itself. He or she is answerable directly to the General Assembly and subject to its discipline.

Remedial cases in the Rules of Discipline are brought to correct an irregularity or a delinquency of a lower governing body, the General Assembly Council (GAC), or an entity of the General Assembly (D-2.0202). A remedial case against an entity of the General Assembly is intended to correct the collective action or inaction of that body itself. In every use of the word “entity” in the *Book of Order*, it refers to some organized body and not an individual or officer. No judicial precedent except the *Westminster* case applies the word “entity” to an individual.

Note: To confirm the accountability of the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly, and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council’s role assistance in ensuring that accountability, revised Standing Rule F. (Moderator of the General Assembly), includes a section calling for the submission and review of a written report by the Moderator and Vice Moderator to GAC and COGA at each of their stated meetings (F.6).

Attachment A

Item 03-17

[The assembly approved Item 03-17. See p. 70.]

Commissioners’ Resolution 03-5. On Reviewing the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and Remedial Case 215-12: Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Canton, Ohio v. Moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002), Fahed Abu-Akel, Et Al.

That the 215th General Assembly (2003) direct the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly to do the following:

1. Review the interim order of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in *Remedial Case 215-12: Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Canton, Ohio v. Moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002), Fahed Abu-Akel, et al*, in light of the role of the Moderator as described in the Standing Rules of the General Assembly, Standing Rule F., the role of the moderator as described in *Robert’s Rules of Order (G-9.0302)*, and the role of the Moderator as described in G-9.0202.
2. Compare the role and responsibilities in those sections with the concept of “entity” as described in D-6.0202b
3. Bring recommendations to the 216th General Assembly (2004) necessary to clarify the current confusion surrounding the role and accountability of the Moderator to the electing body.

Rationale

In *Remedial Case 215-12: Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Canton, Ohio v. Moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002), Fahed Abu-Akel, et al (Westminster)*, the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission found that it had jurisdiction over the Office of the Moderator when, “the Moderator is acting in a representative capacity . . . insofar as the Moderator is exercising [the] particular duty [to call a special meeting of the 214th General Assembly (2002)] in his or her representative capacity, the Office of the Moderator is ‘an entity of the General Assembly’ over which this Commission has jurisdiction. (See D-6.0202b; D-2.0202)” (See 03-Info, p. 30.)

Virtually any act undertaken by a Moderator, outside of actually moderating a meeting, would be undertaken in a representative capacity, i.e. appointing persons to committees, serving ex officio on committees or commissions, responding to correspondence to the governing body.

The decision in *Westminster* does not on its face limit itself to the Moderator of the General Assembly, and thus implicitly applies to jurisdiction over the moderators of the middle governing bodies.

Such assumption of jurisdiction gives vocal minorities the means to effectively frustrate the clear intention of the majority contrary to G-4.0301e.

Previous to the *Westminster* decision, there had always existed a virtually universal understanding that the electing body had the authority and responsibility to “discipline” its moderator for dereliction of duty or office.

Dr. Arnold Lovell, in his article in the *Presbyterian Outlook* (May 2003) noted our rich uniquely Presbyterian role for our moderators:

In referencing the role of the moderator, the structure of our *Form of Government* and our polity as a whole are derivative from our theology and confessions and insistent upon order. It is thus intentional that the structure our polity follows that only ordained presbyters may serve as moderators . . . with the varied role in each governing body explained in the chapters on the Session, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

All moderators, by virtue of their ordination to office, are subject to the jurisdiction of their ordaining bodies for offenses (D-2.0203b). In our system we assign discipline for offenses to permanent judicial commissions (D-3.0101). For dereliction in duties, it is the governing body itself that is represented and thus empowered.

R. Rhodes Stipp—Presbytery of South Louisiana
Sherry Joyce—Presbytery of Arkansas

2. *2001 Referral: Comment on Commissioners' Resolution 01-17. Encourage the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly to Create a Process in Which Overture Consultation May Take Place in an Easier and More Constructive Manner (Minutes, 2001, Part I, p. 22).*

Response: The consultation process for overtures was added to the Standing Rules by the 212th General Assembly (2000). Since that time, 161 overtures have been received from synods and presbyteries to three General Assemblies. Consultations have taken place between middle governing bodies and the national church with all of the overtures. As of this date, there has been no reason to refer an overture to a future session of the General Assembly because of lack of consultation. Further, consultation has resulted in the correction to statement of facts, the accurate identity of responsible agencies, and use of more appropriate wording in the writing of overtures. It is the opinion of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly that the consultation process is working well and further simplification is not needed.

F. Congregational Ministries Division Final Responses to Referrals

1. *2003 Referral: Item 07-05. Overture 03-28. On Concurring with the "Action for Wellness and Healing for Our Present and Future Generations of Saint Lawrence Island Yupik People"—From the Presbytery of Yukon (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 59, 500–502).*

Response: The Office of the Stated Clerk, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and the Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, communicated to the secretary of defense urging him to apologize in writing to the people of Saint Lawrence Island for the damage and suffering caused by the military occupation and to hold the military accountable for the responsible and complete cleanup of the formerly used military sites on Saint Lawrence Island. The Peacemaking Program developed Web-based education and advocacy resources addressing environmental consequences of militarism that included materials related to the situation on Saint Lawrence Island.

2. *2003 Referral: Item 07-06. Commissioners' Resolution 03-30, Recommendation 1, to Urge the U.S. Government to Provide Resources for the Decontamination of the Land That Was Used By the U.S. Navy in Bombing Target Practice in Order to Ensure Safe Future Development of That Land (Minutes, 2003, pp. 59, 502–3).*

Response: The Office of the Stated Clerk, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and the Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, communicated to the president of the United States and the secretary of defense urging them to provide resources for the decontamination of the land that was used by the U.S. Navy in bombing target practice in order to ensure safe future development of that land; sent a letter to the attorney general of the United States asking for freedom for the two persons remaining in prison for civil disobedience; and developed Web-based education and advocacy resources addressing the environmental consequences of militarism including materials related to the situation on Vieques.

3. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa, Recommendation E.1.f. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through Congregational Ministries Division and Worldwide Ministries Division, to Seek Funding for and Create Companion Resources to the Hope for a Global Future: Towards Just and Sustainable Human Development Policy Statement as It Focuses on Development in Africa—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 591).*

Response: The Congregational Ministries Division, through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and in cooperation with the Worldwide Ministries Division, created a companion resource to *Hope for a Global Future:*

Towards Just and Sustainable Human Development that focuses specifically on sustainable development in Africa.

4. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.7.c. That the General Assembly Direct the Stated Clerk and Appropriate Entities of the General Assembly Council to Urge the U.S. Government to Support by Every Means the Restriction of the Arms Trade; Particular Emphasis Should Be Placed on the Proliferation of Small Arms—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Office of the Stated Clerk, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and the Washington Office of the National Ministries Division and the Africa Offices of the Worldwide Ministries Division, urged the U.S. government to support the restriction of the arms trade, especially the proliferation of small arms. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program developed Web-based educational and advocacy materials and *Trembling Like Leaves in the Wind*, a study guide on the Resolution on Global Security approved by the 214th General Assembly (2002) addressing international arms trade and small arms proliferation.

5. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.7.d. That the General Assembly Direct the Stated Clerk and Appropriate Entities of the General Assembly Council to Urge the U.S. Government to Ratify the Land Mines Treaty—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Office of the Stated Clerk, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and the Washington Office of the National Ministries Division and the Africa Offices and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance of the Worldwide Ministries Division, urged the U.S. government to ratify the Land Mines Treaty. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program developed *On Their Behalf—A Call to Presbyterians on Immediate Action on Landmines*, a resource for education and advocacy that encourages Presbyterians to advocate for the ratification of the International Treaty to Ban Land Mines and to support efforts to clear land left uninhabitable by mines. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provides support to landmine clearing efforts in Africa.

6. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.7.e. That the General Assembly Direct the Stated Clerk and Appropriate Entities of the General Assembly Council to Urge the U.S. Government to Ensure That No Oil, Diamonds, or Other Natural Resources and Commodities Are Used to Fund Conflicts Around Africa and the World, and Also to Ensure That Such Items and Commodities so Used Are Prohibited from Entering U.S. Markets—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Office of the Stated Clerk—with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Congregational Ministries Division; the Social Justice Program, Mission Responsibility Through Investment, and Washington Office of the National Ministries Division; and the Africa Offices of the Worldwide Ministries Division—urged the U.S. government to ensure that no oil, diamonds, or other natural resources and commodities are used to fund conflicts around Africa and the world, and also to ensure that such items and commodities so used are prohibited from entering the United States. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program highlighted these concerns in Web-based resources for education and advocacy.

7. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation C. That the General Assembly Urge the United Nations to Deploy an International Peacekeeping Force, in Order to Restore Calm in the Occupied Territories, While Resuming Peace Negotiations May Be Vigorously Pursued—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 636).*

Response: The Office of the General Assembly—with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program United Nations Office of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, and the Middle East Office of the Worldwide Ministries Divi-

sion—urged the United Nations to deploy a multinational peacekeeping force as appropriate in order to restore calm in the occupied territories. This was accomplished through PC(USA) representation at the United Nations on the Nongovernmental Working Group on Israel Palestine. The Middle East Office convened a cross-divisional team representing many offices of the General Assembly Council that considers strategies for ongoing education and advocacy efforts related to peacemaking in the Middle East. The Presbyterian Washington Office regularly monitored the situation, regularly informing its Issue Network on the Middle East about developments in the region and opportunities for advocacy.

8. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation H. That the General Assembly Urge the United States to Take Seriously Its Leadership Role to Begin a Peace Initiative That Will End Israel’s Occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem and Fulfill the Stated Goal of a Two-state Settlement Based on the Pre-1967 Boundaries as Directed by UNSC 242—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 637).*

Response: The Office of the General Assembly, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program United Nations Office of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, and the Middle East Office of the Worldwide Ministries Division, urged the U.S government to take seriously its leadership role to begin a peace initiative that will end Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem and fulfill the goal of a two-state settlement based on the pre-1967 boundaries as directed by UNSC resolutions 242 and 338. This effort was facilitated in partnership with national and international ecumenical groups working for a just peace in the Middle East, including the World Council of Churches, the Middle East Council of Churches, the Churches for Middle East Peace, and the United Nations Non-Governmental Working Group on Israel-Palestine. It also included creating opportunities for Presbyterians to financially support the World Council of Churches campaign to end the occupation.

9. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation I. That the General Assembly Urge the United States Government to Demonstrate Its Seriousness About Being the Sponsor of the Middle East Peace Process and the Creation of a Viable Palestinian State “Within Three Years” by Doing Items 1. –5. —From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 637).*

Response: The Office of the General Assembly, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program United Nations Office of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, and the Middle East Office of the Worldwide Ministries Division, urged the United States government to demonstrate its seriousness about being the sponsor of the Middle East Peace Process and the creation of a viable Palestinian state within three years. This effort was done through education and advocacy in partnership with ecumenical and nongovernmental organizations including the World Council of Churches, the Middle East Council of Churches, the Churches for Middle East Peace, and the United Nations Non-Governmental Working Group on Israel-Palestine.

10. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation J. That the General Assembly Call Upon the U.S. Government and the United Nations to Work Closely with Both the Israeli Government and Palestine Leadership to Establish Mechanisms for Examining Their Own Respective Applications of the Principles of Participatory Democracy, Decent Governance, and Respect for Human Rights—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 637).*

Response: The Office of the General Assembly, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program United Nations Office of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy of the Executive Director’s Office, and the Middle East Office of the Worldwide Ministries Division, urged the U.S. government and the United Nations to work with the Israeli government and the Palestinian leadership to establish mechanisms for ensuring the application of principles of participatory government, decent governance, and respect for human rights. This effort was done through education and advocacy in partnership with ecumenical and nongovernmental organizations including the World Council of Churches, the Middle East Council of Churches, the

Churches for Middle East Peace, and the United Nations Non-Governmental Working Group on Israel-Palestine. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy lifted up concerns for human rights in Israel-Palestine in its annual *Human Rights Update 2003*.

11. *2003 Referral: Item 12-04. Overture 03-30. On Calling on the United States and Russia to Fulfill Their Commitments Under the Nonproliferation Treaty—From the Presbytery of Mission (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 18, 649–51).*

Response: The Office of the Stated Clerk, with cooperation from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Congregational Ministries Division, the Social Justice Program and the Washington Office of the National Ministries Division, communicated to President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and other appropriate decision-making officials, the church's present and continuing opposition to weapons of mass destruction; developed web-based education and advocacy resources addressing nuclear disarmament issues, including the Nonproliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; created a resource summarizing past General Assembly statements and overtures dealing with nuclear arms production, testing, and elimination; prepared resources for education and advocacy and made them available to the Peacemaking Program's leadership network; and supported interfaith efforts to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons in cooperation with the Presbyterian Washington Office.

12. *2002 Referral: Item 09-04. Recommendation That the 214th General Assembly (2002) Grant a Two-Year Deferment to Congregational Ministries Division Publishing in Order to Make Available a "Library of Resources" in Addition to the Current General Assembly Action to "Review and Revise" the "God's Gift of Sexuality" Curriculum [in response to Overture 00-70, 1999 Referral 27.007, Overture 99-46, and 2000 Referral 25.085]—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 45, 493–94).*

Response: (Background—In 2002, Congregational Ministries Division was given a two-year deferment to make available a "Library of Resources" as an alternative to the current General Assembly action to "Review and revise" "God's Gift of Sexuality" in response to *Overture 00-70, 1999 Referral 27.007, Overture 99-46, and 2000 Referral 25.085*. This comment accompanied the action, "The Assembly Committee on Christian Education and Publications' understanding is that the review and revision process will occur as part of customary, timely practices of the ... Congregational Ministries Division's Congregational Ministries Publishing program area [*Minutes, 2002, Part I, p. 45*].)

In response to the 2002 General Assembly Item 09-04, Congregational Ministries Publishing has created a library of resources. As directed by the General Assembly, Congregational Ministries Publishing has made available "a 'library of resources'... comprised of ... study aids; annotated bibliographies; specialized areas of concern related to human sexuality, such as incest, child abuse, and rape ; biblical and constitutional references ... ; providing congregations tools to create their own human sexuality learning events" (Ibid).

13. *Alternate Resolution to 2003 Referral: Item 06-06. Overture 03-23. On Appointing a Pastoral Group Whose Primary Concern Would Be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Members and Their Families in Our Local Churches—From the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 43–44, 401).*

Response: (Background: Congregational Ministries Division has been directed to identify and post on the appropriate pages of the Congregational Ministries Division Web site existing resources and models consistent with current General Assembly policies to assist presbyteries, pastors, and sessions in their pastoral ministries to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members and their families.)

A Directory of Web Sites and Representative Bibliographies has been created and is available on-line at <http://www.pcusa.org/overture2000-38/>. It may also be obtained through Presbyterian Distribution Services at 1.800.524.2612. Ask for Item Number 067821, available at no charge. The directory contains a representative, rather than exhaustive, list of the wide-ranging resources, both secular and religious, for ministering to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

The directory includes the statement, “The Church, Sexual Healing, and Transformation in Christ,” which was drafted by the 213th General Assembly (2001) in response to differing viewpoints on sexual healing. The statement reads as follows:

The Church, Sexual Healing, and Transformation in Christ

The 213th General Assembly (2001) offers the following words of affirmation and challenge to the individual members, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as they minister to those who struggle with transformational issues in the area of their sexual lives:

We believe, with Scripture, that “God is able to do far more abundantly than we could ask or think,” and that God wills us all to be a part of the “New Creation” that is possible in Jesus Christ.

We believe that this hope of transformation involves all of life, and we express our concern over divisions within the church that continue to be exacerbated by efforts that focus narrowly upon sexuality as the primary locus for defining purity of life.

We call attention to the action of the 211th General Assembly (1999) regarding “conversion therapies,” an approach related to “transformational ministries,” each of which, in its own way, is designed ... to bring about a reversal of sexual orientation and behavior in those who are self-identified as homosexual, and who express a desire to change:

The 211th General Assembly (1999) [of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)] affirms that the existing policy of inclusiveness welcomes all into membership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as we confess our sin and our need for repentance and God’s grace. In order to be consistent with this policy, no church should insist that gay and lesbian people need therapy to change to a heterosexual orientation, nor should it inhibit or discourage those individuals who are unhappy with or confused about their sexual orientation from seeking therapy they believe would be helpful. ... [The 211th General Assembly] affirms that medical treatment, psychological therapy, and pastoral counseling should be in conformity with recognized professional standards. (*Minutes*, 1999, Part I, p. 80)

Previous General Assemblies have noted that there is still no conclusive evidence clarifying the origin and basis for sexual orientation, or that “transformational/ conversional therapies” or “transformational ministries” are effective in bringing about lasting reversals in sexual orientation.

We should not reject the possibility of such change out of hand, but neither should we be blind to the dangers of offering false hopes. Given the complex realities surrounding the issue of sexual orientation, we join previous General Assemblies in declining to approve as policy a position that would place the General Assembly on only one side of the ambiguities that remain. (*Minutes*, 2001, Part I, p. 26)

14. *2003 Referral: Item 10-06. Recommendation 3. That the General Assembly Urge the General Assembly Council, Congregational Ministries Division, to Produce a New Confirmation Curriculum Based on The Study Catechism (Confirmation Version)—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 565–66).*

Response: (Background—Congregational Ministries has been directed to produce a new confirmation curriculum based on “The Study Catechism [Confirmation Version]” and to integrate the Catechisms into the “We Believe” curriculum materials for all ages.)

A confirmation curriculum based on the Study Catechism is in the production process and will be ready for use in the church beginning with fall 2005. The catechism’s are well integrated in the “We Believe” curriculum. The materials are currently in use in the church.

15. *2003 Referral: Item 10-06. Recommendation 5. That the General Assembly Urge the General Assembly Council, Congregational Ministries Publishing, to Integrate the Catechisms into the “We Believe” Curriculum Materials for All Ages—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 565–66).*

Response: See Congregational Ministries Division Response to 14. *2003 Referral: Item 10-06. Recommendation 3.* above.

16. *Alternate Resolution to Overture 01-34. Item #1. On Preparing Worship Resources Based on The Book of Confessions That Include Inclusive Language—From the Presbytery of Detroit (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 38, 445–47).*

Response: As part of its continuing effort to provide the church with gender-inclusive liturgical resources drawn from *The Book of Confessions* and other confessional material, as well as from Scripture, the Office of Theology and Worship has prepared an inclusive language version of the Confession of 1967, together with ex-

cerpts from the Confession of 1967 that are designed specifically for use in worship. Both the full inclusive language text and the liturgical excerpts from the Confession of 1967 have been published and sent to every congregation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Office of Theology and Worship is also preparing a supplemental liturgical resource containing inclusive language liturgical texts drawn from the church's confessions, and other confessional sources. This resource will be complete in 2004 and made available to the church.

17. *Alternate Resolution to Overture 01-61. On Requesting the Office of Theology and Worship to Make Available The Book of Confessions, Worship Edition—From the Presbytery of Alaska (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 38, 476–77).*

Response: See Congregational Ministries Division Response to 16. *Alternate Resolution to Overture 01-34, above.*

18. *2002 Referral: Item 07-02. Overture 02-7. On Directing the Office of Theology and Worship to Develop a Lectionary-Based Liturgical Resource Which Draws Affirmations of Faith from The Book of Confessions – From the Presbytery of Yellowstone (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 38, 425–26).*

Response: See Congregational Ministries Division Response to 16. *Alternate Resolution to Overture 01-34, above.*

19. *2002 Referral: Item 07-10. Overture 02-18. Item 1. On Celebrating the Confession of 1967 and Authorizing the Provision of an Inclusive Language Version for Liturgical Use—From the Presbytery of Hudson River (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 39, 436).*

Response: See Congregational Ministries Division Response to 16. *Alternate Resolution to Overture 01-34, above.*

20. *2003 Referral: Item 10-05. Recommendation 4. That the General Assembly Instruct the Congregational Ministries Division, Office of Theology and Worship, to Produce and Distribute Materials That Will Assist Presbyteries in Their Study of the French Confession of 1559—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 563–64).*

Response: Liturgical versions of the French Confession have been added to the Office of Theology and Worship Website (www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship), and their use is being encouraged.

21. *2003 Referral: Item 10-05. Recommendation 5. That the General Assembly Instruct the Congregational Ministries Division, Office of Theology and Worship, in Reporting the Results of Their Engagement with the French Confession of 1559—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 563–64).*

Response: Liturgical versions of the French Confession have been added to the Office of Theology and Worship website (www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship), and their use is being encouraged.

22. *2003 Referral: Item 10-05. Recommendation 6. That the General Assembly Request Congregational Ministries Division, Office of Theology and Worship, and the Office of the General Assembly to Report to the 216th General Assembly (2004) the Progress of Their Collaborative Efforts to Engage the Church in Reflection on Its Confessional and Ecclesial Foundations—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 563–64).*

Response: In 2003, the Office of Theology and Worship hosted its third quadrennial theology convocation, “We Believe in One God.” The new Lilly-funded initiative “Re-Forming Ministry” seeks to bring together the three traditional teaching offices of the church (pastors, theological professors, and church officials) to work on the vital ecclesiological issues before the church.

G. General Assembly Council Final Responses to Referrals

1. *2003 Referral: Item 06-15. Commissioners' Resolution 03-23. On Funding for Mission Personnel (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 45, 410–12).*

Response: The General Assembly Council has created a mission work plan team to envision and plan for its mission work and resource allocation for budget years 2005 and 2006. The Mission Work Plan Team developed four goals and objectives for each goal area. The General Assembly Mission Budget will be built based upon those goals and its resources will be allocated to support those goals. In the meantime, the General Assembly Council has undertaken a major funding effort by creating the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands to raise funds for mission personnel and church development and redevelopment.

2. *2003 Referral: Item 09-04, Program Design for Racial Ethnic and Immigrant Communities, Recommendation 2. That the General Assembly Council Ensure That Funding from the Mission Initiative Be Made Available for the Ongoing Implementation of the Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism Church Growth Strategy—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 25, 536).*

Response: General Assembly Council will ensure that funds received through Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands for the ongoing implementation of the Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Evangelism Church Growth Strategy are available for this purpose.

3. *2003 Referral: Item 13-03, Recommendation B. That the General Assembly Council, the Office of the General Assembly, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Work Together to Assess the Feasibility of and Develop Models for a Central Ordering and Distribution Service for All Church Agencies—From the General Assembly Committee on Review (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 49, 666).*

Response: The General Assembly Council (GAC) and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) have worked together in several areas in an effort to provide complete customer service from both entities.

In 1998, GAC and PPC developed a model to enable Presbyterian churches to place orders on-line through the Presbyterian Marketplace [PC(USA) Website for on-line ordering] for resources carried by GAC and PPC.

Also in 1998, GAC and PPC worked out an agreement for orders to be taken over the phone and routed to the appropriate entity for processing, or to transfer the caller to speak to the responsible entity.

The accounting areas of PPC and GAC provide good customer service by working closely together to ensure customer payments are accurately applied. The PPC and GAC routinely transfer customer invoice inquiries between the two entities.

The PPC and GAC maintain the same shipping/handling policies in order to provide consistency to church customers. The GAC and PPC are in constant communication with each other regarding customer inquiries.

The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) currently uses GAC as their primary source for distribution of OGA resources. The OGA has several collaborative efforts to produce and distribute their products with PPC. The GAC also provides Customer Service/Distribution for The Presbyterian Foundation, *Horizons*, and Presbyterian Women.

The PPC and GAC are currently evaluating the communication processes already in place to determine what improvements can be made and are exploring other areas to enhance cooperative customer service. The PPC and GAC believe that the cooperative efforts currently in place supersede the need for a centralized distribution/ordering point and that customers are being well-served at the present time.

4. *2003 Referral: Item 02-03. Recommendation C. That All Corporations Shall Amend Their Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Other Pertinent Documents to Carry Into Effect the Purposes and Intent of This Deliverance and Related Enactments of the General Assembly and to Report to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—*

From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 34, 124).

Response: The 215th General Assembly (2003) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) directed the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation (the Church Corporation) to amend its bylaws to institute new board terms. The General Assembly also directed the Church Corporation to report all amendments to the 216th General Assembly (2004).

At its September 27, 2003, meeting, the board of directors of the Church Corporation amended Article II, Section 2.01 (2) of its bylaws (regarding at-large members) as follows—

(2) Other members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation may be elected or removed by the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “General Assembly Council”). Such at-large members shall be elected by the General Assembly Council for ~~three~~ four-year terms after consideration of the recommendations of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and each person so elected shall be eligible to serve one additional term. A person elected to an unexpired term shall be eligible to serve only one additional ~~three~~ four-year term.

Note: Pursuant to Article II, Section 2.01 (1) of the Church Corporation’s bylaws, the members of the General Assembly Council, by virtue of their office, are the directors of the Church Corporation. Because the terms of General Assembly Council members are established in G-13.0200 of the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, the *Constitution* was amended to change those terms from three years to four years. The amendment of the *Constitution* was an act beyond the Church Corporation or the General Assembly Council and, so, is not reported here.

5. *Alternate Resolution to 2003 Referral: Item 02-16. Commissioners’ Resolution 03-25. On Adding a New Question to the Annual Statistical Report (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 35, 144–45).*

Response: In response to this resolution the following question was added to the 2003 Annual Statistical Report:

Q-8. How many “friends of the church” does your congregation have—that is, non-members aged 15 or older who regularly worship there and give their time, talent, and/or treasure to your congregation?

The results to this question will not be available until the summer of 2004. Research Services will post the results on their Web site at that time and in a report to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

6. *2003 Referral: Item 06-03. Overture 03-05. On Re-establishing a Witness Season Including a Witness Offering—From the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 43, 399).*

Response: For the final response to this referral, see Item 07-06, “Special Offerings Review Task Force.”

7. *2003 Referral: Item 06-04. Overture 03-11. On Instituting a New Annual Offering for the Support of Full-time Mission Personnel—From the Presbytery of San Gabriel (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 43, 399–400).*

Response: For the final response to this referral, see Item 07-06, “Special Offerings Review Task Force.”

8. *2003 Referral: Item 06-14. Commissioners’ Resolution 03-22. On Itinerating National Staff (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 44, 409–10).*

Response: The General Assembly Council supports the concept of using professional staff members of the General Assembly national staff to provide itinerancy service at the small church level and serving as resource to presbyteries that need assistance in serving the small churches in the denomination. The GAC recognizes and supports the strong commitment of the denomination in serving faithful witness in mission and evangelism.

The General Assembly Council will change their personnel policies to provide the opportunity for professional staff members to select an employment option of offering their services to an itinerancy service for periods

of three to twelve months to serve the congregations of small churches. This service could be taken under the current study leave policies of the current personnel policy manual or under the new provisions to be adopted.

The General Assembly Council recommends that the assignment to itinerancy service be at the option of the staff member so as to avoid the family-related issues that would be created from a “forced” assignment. Forced temporary living arrangements for a staff member and family with minor children would impose both difficult personal hardships as well as additional financial burdens both on the church and the staff member and family. By maintaining the program on a “volunteer” or personal option basis, the staff member is better able to identify the personal and family issues related to such an assignment.

The human resources department staff of the General Assembly Council will work with the office of the Churchwide Personnel Services program area in the National Ministries Division to identify the small church and presbytery opportunities for professional staff to provide the itinerancy service.

Funding for the itinerancy service remains a key issue. The General Assembly Council is able only to fund the salary and benefits of the staff member on itinerancy service and only if that staff member is paid from unrestricted budget funding. The General Assembly Council Ministries Divisions cannot pay staff from restricted funds if the position they are occupying is not directly involved in the program activities paid for by the restricted funding.

9. *Commissioners’ Resolution 00-11. Concerning General Assembly Policies and Actions Related to Women (Minutes, 2000, Part I, pp. 65, 493–94).*

Response: The General Assembly Council has prepared a comprehensive document that outlines each action taken since 1970. A copy of this document was distributed to the heads of all six General Assembly agencies in April 2004 with instructions to review how the policies and actions related to women are being implemented in their respective agencies.

This document includes a chronological summary table of each policy paper, resolution, overture, commissioners’ resolution, or other action taken, as well as a listing by subject category and by year of each action. It also includes a summary of the actions taken by the General Assembly Council to implement each of these policies. Finally, this comprehensive document includes a listing of all cross-references from one General Assembly to another (listing the previous policies cited, or previous General Assembly actions that have called for the current action, as well as the subsequent General Assemblies where reports are requested.).

10. *2001 Referral: 26.004. Response to Recommendation Directing GAC to Create a Task Force to Study the Disenfranchisement of People of Color in the United States’ Electoral System; to Consider Whether the Church Should Make a Policy Statement; Report Findings to the 215th General Assembly (2003)—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 60, 333).*

Response: For the final response to this referral, see Item 10-02, “Task Force on Election.”

11. *2001 Referral: 26.013. Response to Recommendation to Create a Task Force to Study Issues of Reparations for African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Others Who Have Experienced Unjust Treatment; Report Findings to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 60, 334).*

Response: For the final response to this referral, see Item 10-03, “Task Force to Study Reparations.”

12. *2003 Referral: Item 13-03. Recommendation C. That the General Assembly Agencies Develop a Memorandum of Understanding as a Means of Addressing Publishing Problems and Opportunities Encountered by the Church and Its Multiple Publishing Arms—From the General Assembly Committee on Review (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 49, 666).*

Response: Refer to K. *Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Final Responses to Referral, 3. Recommendation D Regarding Recommendation C*, page 31.

13. 2003 Referral: Item 13-03. Recommendation D. That the General Assembly Agencies Regularly Report to the General Assembly on the Progress on Recommendations B. and C., Beginning with the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the General Assembly Committee on Review (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 49, 666).

Response: Refer to K. *Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Final Responses to Referral, 2. Response to Recommendation D Regarding Recommendation B*, page 31.

H. National Ministries Division Final Responses to Referrals

1. 2001 Referral: 22.118–.127. Response to Recommendation That Churchwide Personnel Services, in Consultation with the Committee on Theological Education, Convene a Major Consultation to Address Critical Issues in the Recruitment, Nurture, and Support of Those Preparing for Ordained Ministry—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2001, Part I, pp. 39, 214–15).

Response: The National Ministries Division, through its Churchwide Personnel Services, in consultation with the Committee on Theological Education, convened a national Entrance Into Pastoral Ministry Consultation, June 25–26, 2004, in Richmond, Virginia.

2. 2003 Referral: Item 04-11. Commissioners' Resolution 03-13. On the Integrity of the Call Process (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 65, 329–30).

Response: The National Ministries Division, through its Churchwide Personnel Services and in consultation with the Office of the General Assembly, polled stated clerks of the 173 presbyteries about their presbytery's experience with "...churches that have recently established or that are in the process of establishing a co-pastor model of leadership with the effect of circumventing the normal interim call and pastoral call process and enabling a direct succession of pastoral leadership." Approximately one-third of the stated clerks responded; about one-half of those indicated they currently have at least one church using the co-pastor model in the presbytery. Most of those who responded gave opinions on whether or not they think the co-pastor model is being abused in the denomination; there was no consensus on this subject. The majority recommend that no change occur.

The staff also compiled congregational statistics to determine how many congregations in the denomination employed co-pastors at the end of 2002. Of the 136 congregations utilizing this model, at least 92 of these were using a married couple. This left only 44 congregations in the denomination (or less than .004 of PC(USA) congregations) that were employing unmarried co-pastors.

We have come to the conclusion that there does not appear to be a need to change the *Book of Order* in regard to co-pastors at this time. Many presbyteries appreciate the flexibility that is available to them as they counsel with their congregations regarding pastoral leadership. Because of the relatively low number of congregations that are led by co-pastors, it seems wisest for the General Assembly to continue to allow presbyteries to work closely with their congregations concerning pastoral leadership while also allowing the current *Book of Order* to remain unchanged.

3. 2003 Referral: Item 11-01. Recommendation 2. That the General Assembly Request the Research Team to Review the Situation of Prostitution Around Military Bases, Write Its Findings, and Publish the Report on the PC(USA) Website—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 39, 585).

Response: The research team that went to the Republic of Korea to look into the current situation of prostitution around U.S. military bases published a report with its findings. It is posted on the Web page of the Peacemaking program area of the PC(USA) Website.

4. *2002 Referral: Item 11-01, Report: We Are What We Eat, Recommendation C.2. That the Racial Ethnic Program Area, Environmental Justice, and the Rural Ministry Office Work Collaboratively in Advocating for the Concerns of Racial Ethnic Farmers and Ranchers, and Supporting Organizations That Provide Advocacy for Racial Ethnic Farmers/Ranchers—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 535).*

Response: Initial advocacy efforts are underway and these efforts have become part of the ongoing work of the office of Network Support: Rural and Small Church Ministries.

5. *2002 Referral: Item 11-01, Report: We Are What We Eat, Recommendation C.1.a.-f. That the Rural Ministries Office Coordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Report; Continue the Grant Program, “Grants for Rebuilding Rural Community Life”; Inform Rural Churches, Organizations, and Governing Bodies of General Assembly Resources Available to Them; Keep the Church At-Large Informed About Rural Issues; Continue to Participate in Ecumenical/Interfaith Groups; and Continue to Support Organizations Working on Family Agriculture Issues—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 23, 534).*

Response: The Rural Ministry Network office continues to urge presbyteries and programs within the General Assembly Council (GAC) to implement the recommendations of the report, “We Are What We Eat.”

Several presbyteries have scheduled events specifically addressing the issues and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies dedicated a portion of its fall 2003 meeting to these issues.

In response to a resolution from Presbyterian Women (PW) of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, PW, at its business meeting in July 2003, adopted the recommendations contained in the report for implementation throughout the PW networks.

The Washington Office has signed-on to letters/petitions supporting specific rural issues that respond to the recommendations.

Mission Responsibility Through Investment took action recently to participate in the Agribusiness Accountability Initiative, coordinated by the Center of Concern and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Grants for Rebuilding Rural Community Life continue to assist churches that, with other churches and/or organizations in their community, sponsor projects to strengthen community life.

The availability of other grant programs has been communicated and was especially effective when Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responded to the effects of the drought in the Presbytery of Northern Plains and the Presbytery of South Dakota.

Presbyterian Hunger Program continues to fund projects in rural communities as well as coalitions that address rural community issues.

Information about rural issues has been communicated through various media of the PC(USA), including: Presbyterian News Service, *Presbyterians Today*, *Horizons*, “Good News” (Evangelism and Church Development newsletter), and through the Presbyterian Rural Network Website. Action alerts have been disseminated through the Rural Ministry Network database.

In March 2003, General Assembly Moderator, Fahed Abu-Akel, itinerated across the Presbytery of South Dakota, visiting congregations, ranches, and farms, conveying the denomination’s affection and support of rural communities and congregations, especially during this time of economic hardship.

Participation in and/or financial support of continues for the organizations mentioned as they engage in advocacy and public policy action in support of family-owned and -operated farms and ranches.

The implementation of all of the recommendations will continue to be a part of the ongoing responsibilities of the Presbyterian Rural Network office.

6. *2003 Referral: Item 09-03. Strategy for Ministry with Hispanic-Latino Constituencies in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Recommendation 1. That the General Assembly Approve the Strategy for Ministry with Hispanic-Latino Constituencies and That the Office of National Ministries Division, Hispanic Congregational Enhancement, Print the Strategy Document in Spanish and Portuguese, and Distribute It to Hispanic/Latino Caucuses and Churches—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 24–25, 531).*

Response: The Comprehensive Strategy for Ministry with Hispanics in Portuguese, Spanish, and English is available at the following Web addresses:

Spanish: <http://www.pcusa.org/hispanic/pdf/estrategia.pdf>

English: <http://www.pcusa.org/hispanic/pdf/strategy.pdf>

Portuguese: <http://www.pcusa.org/hispanic/pdf/estrategia-portuguese.pdf>

7. *2003 Referral: Item 09-04. Recommendation 1. That the General Assembly Approve the Educational Process Entitled, “Program Design for Racial Ethnic/Immigrant Church Growth and Evangelism” and Make It Available Electronically for All Governing Bodies, Racial Ethnic Caucuses, and Appropriate Offices of the General Assembly Council, Particularly the Evangelism and Church Development and the Racial Ethnic Ministries Program Areas of the National Ministries Division—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 25, 536).*

Response: The “Program Design for Racial Ethnic and Immigrant Church Growth and Evangelism” is available on the Web at the following Web addresses:

www.pcusa.org/racialethnic/pdf/commissioners-report.pdf

www.pcusa.org/racialethnic/pdf/program-design.pdf

8. *2002 Referral: Item 13-06, Recommendation B.1.–2. That the General Assembly Council Work Proactively to Educate Leaders and Membership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of the Need for Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Healthcare Standards (CLAS) By Advocating for the Adoption of the Standards By All Individual Health Service Providers and Submitting Public Comment and Appropriate Testimony Supporting the Need for the Standards—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (Minutes, 2002, Part I, pp. 70–71, 644).*

Response: The Presbyterian Washington Office wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson encouraging HHS to establish a timetable for mandating adoption of Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care Standards (CLAS). The Washington Office also wrote a Stewardship for Public Life quarterly bulletin to its Health Care Network to inform Presbyterians about the General Assembly policy and to encourage Presbyterians to share CLAS information with their local communities. There have been no formal public comment opportunities.

9. *2003 Referral: Item 07-01. Resolution Calling for the Abolition of For-Profit Private Prisons, Recommendation F.1. That the General Assembly Direct the Presbyterian Washington Office, in Partnership with the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns and the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns to Do Items a.–d.)—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 56, 440).*

Response: The Presbyterian Washington Office sent a letter to the Judiciary Committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, expressing the concern of the General Assembly against the establishment of privately owned prisons. The Washington Office communicated with both the Advocacy Committee on Women Concerns and the Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns to urge that they also get their constituency involved by getting letters to their elected officials.

10. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa, Recommendation E.7.b. That the General Assembly Direct the Stated Clerk and Appropriate Entities of the General Assembly Council to Express to the U.S. Government, the Business Community, and Our World Trading Partners Our Continued and Strong Advocacy for Fair Trade Policies and the Global Assistance Programs—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Stated Clerk has sent letters to President Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization stating the General Assembly's concern and support for fair trade policies and increased global assistance programs for Africa. The following is an excerpt. The letters urged the U.S. government and our world trading partners to take a stronger and more active role in supporting fair trade policies that would benefit all—not simply the most prosperous, and to increase funding of global assistance programs for Africa.

Catherine Gordon, from the Washington Office, participated in the World Council of Churches consultation with the World Bank in October of 2003. During this event, the concerns regarding the World Bank's policies of promotion of privatization and free trade were voiced. Evidence was given to the economists and other officials in the World Bank and IMF that demonstrated how their current policies are harming the most impoverished of the most impoverished countries.

The Washington Office continued to advocate, along with our ecumenical partners, for increased funding for global assistance programs, specifically for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and for fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2003, Congress appropriated \$1.9 billion in new money to the Millennium Challenge Account (\$1 billion) and the AIDS initiative (\$2.4 billion total, including \$900 million in new funds).

In March of 2004, the Washington Office cosponsored the Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice. This event consisted of six thematic tracks with one track dedicated specifically to Africa. Workshops were held in order to educate our members concerning fair trade policies and global assistance programs and help them address their representatives in Congress and the Administration on these issues. The following workshops were offered: the Southern Africa Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. agricultural agenda and indigenous farmer rights, TRIPS and access to affordable medicines, the U.S. thirst for African oil, Water privatization, HIV/AIDS and the U.S. agenda, and Development assistance: 0.7% and the Millennium Development Goals.

11. *2003 Referral: Item 11-06. Overture 03-24. On Reaffirming the Church's Commitment for an End to the U. S. Embargo Against Cuba and the Restoration of Diplomatic Relations—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 39, 615–17).*

Response: The Washington Office sent a letter specifically to Presbyterian members of Congress expressing the concern of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that remittances cannot be paid in full to our Cuban pensioners. The Washington Office encouraged these members of Congress, along with other non-Presbyterians, to sponsor legislation that would give U.S. churches the authority to send to retired Cuban pastors and teachers the pension payments to which they are legally entitled. Letters were also sent to the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives and the Finance Committee of the Senate regarding these pension payments.

The Washington Office has been in contact with Gene Hemphill of the Board of Pensions to discuss the legal intricacies of this issue. The Board of Pensions continues to experience difficulties.

In addition, the Washington Office has continued to advocate (through education, action alerts, and direct congressional advocacy) for the lifting of the United States' embargo against the Republic of Cuba. The lifting of this embargo would allow churches in the United States to meet their contractual obligations to their Cuban pensioners. We have worked individually and in coalition with our ecumenical partners through the Cuba Steering Committee of the Latin American Working Group.

12. *2003 Referral: Item 11-08. Overture 03-33. On Opposing the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Its Current Form—From the Presbytery of San Francisco (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 40, 618–22).*

Response: The Washington Office, along with the Hunger Program, sent representatives to the Church World Service consultation—“Just Trade Agreements: Churches in North America Addressing Globalization.” Denominations gathered to pool their various principles on these issues, find the common ground, affirm a declaration, and celebrate their commitment to address the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and related economic globalization issues that affect all of us. The declaration and related resources were shared with our overseas partner churches and our ecumenical partners. The event and the language used helped PC(USA) craft how we speak about the issues. The meeting and declaration helped inform the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy’s multiyear study of economic globalization. Andrew Kang Bartlett from the Hunger Program was on the planning team for this consultation. Below, listed by program area, are the responses to the overture opposing the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.

Catherine Gordon in the Presbyterian Washington Office has been dealing with globalization and trade public policy and has represented the PC(USA) in ecumenical/interfaith working groups.Carolynn Race is keeping up on environmental issues around globalization and trade.

The Washington Office has continued its participation in the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment and its ongoing work with our ecumenical and faith partners supporting just trade and opposing unfair trade agreements, specifically the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas in its current form. The Washington Office began participation in the Economic Issues Group of the Latin American Working Group, which does work on trade issues that specifically affect Latin America, specifically the FTAA and Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Through these groups, the Washington Office has assisted in organizing press conferences, sign on letters, and lobby visits urging the U.S. government and the world community not to support unfair trade agreements including the FTAA and CAFTA. The Washington Office also sent a letter to all Presbyterian members of congress and the Administration informing them of our policy opposing the FTAA.

The Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment has put together a Website that has resources concerning the FTAA as well as other fair trade and globalization issues.

The Washington Office, along with our ecumenical partners, organized the “Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice,” March 5–8, 2004. The event was comprised of six thematic tracks. The Economic Justice track focused specifically on globalization and fair trade issues. The Latin America track had as one of its foci the FTAA. This event culminated in a lobby day in which many Presbyterians used what they had learned during the event to speak to their members of congress concerning trade issues.

The Washington Office published a background article on the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) for our Global Security Network and Washington Office Website. Information on the FTAA and other trade issues was included in our new year introductory packet. An article on the FTAA was also written for our Latin America and Hunger Stewardship of Public Life (SPL) networks.

Action alerts and updates on the FTAA were sent regularly to our online computer networks through our E-serve and Presbyterian Legislative Action Networks at www.pcusa.org/washington.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program organized “No to the FTAA” ballots for Presbyterians to voice their opposition to the FTAA in its current form to our representatives at the November consultation. Balloting on the FTAA was coordinated in countries throughout the hemisphere by the Hemispheric Social Alliance, a coalition of anti-FTAA coalitions in all the countries of the Americas.

Joining Hands Against Hunger (JHAH) sponsored globalization trainings by Agricultural Missions in JHAH presbyteries. One of the trainings stimulated the writing and introduction of the Overture on Trade and Globalization, which passed at the 2003 General Assembly. A Website was created www.pcusa.org/trade specifically to address the issues of the just trade and the trade agreements such as the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. Andrew Kang Bartlett of the Hunger Program coordinated the establishment of the Website in conjunction with the Washington Office, Peacemaking Program, United Nations Office, Social Justice Ministries, Presbyterian Women, Enough for Everyone, and Women’s Advocacy.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations assisted the Coalition of Immakolee Workers in their thirty-four-mile “poor people’s march” to the FTAA Ministerials in Miami.

Enough for Everyone gives congregations ways to act in favor of alternatives to destructive free trade systems, through the Coffee Project and Sweat-Free T. The program moved its efforts toward deepening and widening its networks involvement in trade and other economic globalization issues. The program is considering working with ecumenical partners on an international coffee agreement. It is also considering working with a group called Sabbath Economics, which is developing/compiling economic readings of the Bible that will help shed light on economic globalization and the FTAA, and help reach those for whom a biblical approach is most accessible.

The Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy has published four papers on various aspects of globalization—economic life, employment, effects on environment, and effects on culture—available through PDS.

The August 2004 Peacemaking, Hunger Program, Environmental Justice and Self-Development of People joint conference—Hope for a Global Future—will focus on the environment, poverty, human development, and various aspects of economic globalization. This year’s Peacemaking Offering focused on children, the environment, and globalization. Peacemaking developed worship resources in collaboration with JHAH that touched on economic globalization issues. Some Peacemaking Advent materials also dealt with globalization.

The voting representatives to the 2003 Churchwide Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women passed the following resolution: “That Presbyterian Women affirm support of *Overture 03-33* approved by the 215th General Assembly (2003) which states the churches ‘support for international cooperation based on fair trade, respect for diversity and common concerns for a peaceful, just and sustainable world.’ ”

The Ecumenical Mission Partnerships publicized resources on trade and economic globalization to its networks and incorporated these themes into its trainings/gatherings.

The United Nations Office held a Seminary Masters January Course (in collaboration with Columbia University) on Globalization and the Church—January 12–23, 2004.

13. *1999 Referral: 25.030. Response to Recommendation Urging Entities Engaged in Health Ministries to Develop Appropriate Documentation to Quantify Their Programmatic Work, to Be Included in the Denominational Health Programs and Policies Monitoring Report Going to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 41, 308).*

Response: As noted in the response below to Referral 25.040, documentation and full visibility for the work among General Assembly Council (GAC) entities on health issues in the U.S. is provided through joint published materials, coordinated Web sites, and educational events that inform, motivate, and equip persons for ministries of compassion and advocacy. Among the most important current initiatives are those in the areas of access to health care, support for affordable drugs for the elderly, and the development of parish nurse programs and congregational care teams.

14. *1999 Referral: 25.040. Response to Recommendation That the General Assembly Council Submit to the 216th General Assembly (2004), a Monitoring Report with Appropriate Recommendations Based on a Review of the Denominational Health Policies Since 1988, the Health Activities and Programs of General Assembly Entities and Related Organizations for 1999–2003, and the Sociopolitical Context at the Time of That Review—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 41, 309).*

Response: The Office of Health Ministries USA works closely with the Presbyterian Washington Office, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, and the Board of Pensions to give visibility to the policies of the General Assembly and to encourage churchwide action to implement those policies. This is accomplished through joint publication of resources and an active, continuously updated Web site that provides information on health issues from faith-based, government, and secular sources. The site is linked with that of other agencies in order to

provide a coordinated approach. In view of the urgent need to prioritize the use of diminishing financial resources, a more formal, long-term review is not deemed the best stewardship at this time.

15. *1999 Referral: 25.086. Response to Recommendation That the General Assembly Council Submit a Report with Appropriate Recommendations, That Assesses the Church's Progress Toward Implementing the Recommendations in This Resolution and to Provide the Necessary Funds to Ensure That This Assessment Can Be Presented to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 1999, Part I, pp. 43, 343).*

Response: As noted in the Final Response to Referrals 25.040 and 25.030 above (13. and 14.), a coordinated approach, with continuous updating of the church's involvement in health ministries of education and advocacy is available. No financial resources beyond those already committed to these programs are available for a more comprehensive report with recommendations.

16. *2003 Referral: Item 07-01. Resolution Calling for the Abolition of For-Profit Prisons, Recommendation F.3. That the General Assembly Direct the Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee to Explore with the General Assembly Investing Agencies Strategies to Lead Lehman Brothers to Discontinue the Practice of Providing Investment Capital for the Building of For-Profit Private Prisons—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 56, 440).*

Response: A shareholder resolution addressing this issue was filed and the Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI) endorsed proxy voting support. Other strategies are under consideration as the campaign against Lehman Brothers and others involved in for-profit private prisons continues.

17. *2003 Referral: Item 07-01. Resolution Calling for the Abolition of For-Profit Prisons, Recommendation F.9. That the General Assembly Encourage the General Assembly Council, Through Its National Ministries Division, Social Justice Program Area, to Focus Criminal Justice Sunday in 2004 on the Campaign to Abolish For-Profit Private Prisons—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 56, 440)*

Response: The materials produced for Criminal Justice Sunday 2004, were focused on the Campaign to Abolish For-profit Private Prisons, as requested by the General Assembly.

I. Office of the General Assembly Final Responses to Referrals

1. *2003 Referral: Item 03-19. Commissioners' Resolution 03-28. On Furthering Theological, Social, and Political Purposes (Possible Misuse of Disciplinary Process) (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 71, 249).*

Response: The 215th General Assembly (2003) referred the following to the Office of the General Assembly (OGA): study the possible misuse of disciplinary process to promote theological, social, or political interests; the frequency and financial costs of such judicial proceedings; and the standing of individuals and interested groups involved in promoting complaints and allegations. The assembly further requested that the OGA recommend any appropriate measures to ensure the spirit of the Rules of Discipline in the judicial process and report back to the 216th General Assembly (2004).

The Office of the General Assembly suggests that the Rules of Discipline not be amended out of fear but rather that the disciplinary process of inquiry and due process hearing for the purpose of community-wide correction, restraining, repentance, and reconciliation be affirmed.

In 2004, the OGA requested information from the clerks of all 173 presbyteries regarding the possible misuse of disciplinary process to promote theological, social, or political interests and the frequency and financial costs of such judicial proceedings. Of the 120 responding presbyteries, seven (or 5.8 percent) claimed to have had judicial proceedings that promoted theological, social, or political interests. The total financial cost of the judicial proceedings was approximately \$10,000. The total human hours were not calculable, although reported as high.

In each of the disciplinary cases mentioned, the investigating committees declined to file charges either finding no probable cause to believe the alleged offense occurred or that the alleged offense could not be reasonably proven. In neither case did the investigating committees determine that the allegations were filed for frivolous or intentional purposes. If the investigating committees had found that such written allegations were filed for frivolous or intentional purposes, the committees could have filed allegations against the accuser for disruption of the peace, purity, and unity of the church.

2. *2003 Referral: Item 04-08. Request 03-10. Re. Sexual Abuse Guidelines Concerning Leaves of Absence in Mattes of Sexual Abuse by Ministers—From the Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Florida (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 63, 326).*

Response: The 215th General Assembly (2003) directed the Stated Clerk to urge all presbyteries to take immediate action to include in the terms of call for all ministers provisions for placing an accused minister on a leave of absence if the presbytery receives an allegation of sexual abuse. The Office of the General Assembly sent an e-mail communication on September 9, 2003, to each of the presbyteries reflecting the statement from the 215th General Assembly (2003) and simultaneously issued Constitutional Musing, Note 4 on the church's Website that may be accessed at the following address: <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/musings/note04.htm>.

3. *2003 Referral: Item 04-12. Commissioners' Resolution 03-20. On Allegations and Transfers [of Ministers] (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 65, 330).*

Response: The 215th General Assembly (2003) referred to the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) the problem of allegations not involving misconduct or personal injury, which interrupt processes of transfers already initiated by governing bodies, thereby doing harm to individuals, congregations, presbyteries, and synods involved. The 215th General Assembly (2003) additionally requested that the OGA recommend any appropriate measures to ensure fairness in the judicial process of the church to 216th General Assembly (2004).

The OGA suggests that the Rules of Discipline not be amended out of fear but rather that the disciplinary process of fair inquiry and due process hearing for the purpose of community-wide correction, restraining, repentance, and reconciliation be affirmed.

The Rules of Discipline provides the means by which the community of the body of Christ as manifested in the church corrects and restrains wrongdoing in order to bring members to repentance and restoration of right relationship with the other members of the church community. When a governing body of the church that has jurisdiction over individuals (session or presbytery) receives a written allegation that a member of the governing body has committed an offense against Scripture or the *Constitution*, the governing body has been given notice and has a duty under the Rules of Discipline to inquire into the alleged offense and determine if there is probable grounds to believe the offense occurred and if the offense may be reasonably proven. If the committee of the governing body responsible for undertaking the inquiry (investigating committee) determines that there are probable grounds to believe the offense occurred and that the offense may be reasonably proven, the committee files formal charges with the governing body (session or permanent judicial commission of a presbytery) for a due process fair hearing regarding the alleged offenses.

Because of the responsibility of the governing body of the church that has jurisdiction over the individual accused of an offense to inquire into probable cause and reasonable proof of an allegation of offense or to provide a due process fair hearing for charges, there is a current provision (*Book of Order*, D-10.0105) that prohibits the transfer of a member or minister member to another governing body while the governing body is engaged in the inquiry or while charges are pending.

The OGA is aware of at least two written allegations filed against minister members of presbyteries within the last year that were ultimately determined to be without probable cause by the investigating committees of those presbyteries, but that had the effect of prohibiting otherwise reasonable transfers. In neither case did the investigating committees determine that the allegations were filed for frivolous or intentional purposes. If the investigating committees had found that such written allegations were filed for frivolous or intentional purposes, the committees could have filed allegations against the accuser for disruption of the peace, purity and unity of the church.

4. *2003 Referral: Item 10-05 (Recommendation 6). Request the Office of Theology and Worship and OGA to Report to the 216th General Assembly (2004) Regarding the Progress of Their Collaborative Efforts to Engage the Church in Reflection on its Confessional and Ecclesial Foundations (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 22, 563).*

Response: In 2004, the Office of the General Assembly developed a curricula entitled “Common Faith, Common Mission.” During the year, representatives from this office have demonstrated the curricula for such study in a number of forums (governing body staff meeting, Presbyterian Youth Connection, and at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference). By the time the 216th General Assembly (2004) convenes, this curricula will be available to the church in both print and digital formats.

J. Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. Final Responses to Referrals

1. *2003 Referral: Item 02-03. Recommendation C. That All Corporations Shall Amend Their Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and Other Pertinent Documents to Carry into Effect the Purposes and Intent of This Deliverance and Related Enactments of the General Assembly and to Report to the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 34, 124).*

Response: The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. reports the following:

a. On July 26, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment & Loan Program, Inc. (PILP) approved amendment of the PILP’s bylaws to reflect the change in the board terms from three-year terms to four-year terms consistent with PILP’s revised deliverance. The General Assembly Council concurred in these revisions to the bylaws at its September 2003 meeting. No other governance documents required revision.

b. On October 24, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Mortgage Corporation (“PMC”) approved amendment of the PMC bylaws to reflect the change in the board terms from three-year terms to four-year terms consistent with the PMC’s revised deliverance. The General Assembly Council concurred in these revisions to the bylaws at its February 2004 meeting. No other governance documents required revision.

2. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.6.e. That the General Assembly Request the General Assembly Council, Through the Ministries Divisions, and Entities of the General Assembly to Work Together and Coordinate Their Support of Training Programs in and Among African Communities and Churches on Conflict Resolution, Equitable Distribution of Resources, Reconciliation, and Consensus-building Around Issues of Good Governance—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, Inc. is directed by the deliverance, “to provide for loans to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, governing bodies, theological institutions, and educational institutions related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” We are, therefore, limited to providing loans and investment opportunities within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). However, we are glad to provide consulting services and information to persons and organizations requesting these services. We have consulted with an individual requesting information regarding the formation of an investment and loan program for his denomination in Kenya. We will remain open to being a resource to the churches in Africa.

3. *2003 Referral: Item 13-03. Recommendation C. That the General Assembly Agencies Develop a Memorandum of Understanding as a Means of Addressing Publishing Problems and Opportunities Encountered by the Church and Its Multiple Publishing Arms—From the General Assembly Committee on Review (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 49, 666).*

Response: Refer to K. *Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Final Responses to Referral, 3. Recommendation D Regarding Recommendation C*, page 31.

4. *2003 Referral: Item 13-03. Recommendation D. That the General Assembly Agencies Regularly Report to the General Assembly on the Progress on Recommendations B. and C., Beginning with the 216th General Assembly (2004)—From the General Assembly Committee on Review (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 49, 666).*

Response: Refer to K. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Final Responses to Referral, 2. Response to Recommendation D Regarding Recommendation B, page 31.

K. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Final Response to Referral

2003 Referral: Item 13-03. Recommendation That PPC Regularly Report on Progress on Recommendations (1)–(6) of the General Assembly Committee on Review; That GAC, OGA, and PPC Work to Assess Feasibility of and Develop Models for Central Ordering and Distribution Service; That All Agencies Develop a Memorandum of Understanding as a Means of Addressing Publishing Problems and Opportunities; Agencies Regularly Report to General Assembly (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 49, 666).

1. Response to Recommendation A (Report on Progress on Recommendations (1)–(6) of General Assembly Committee on Review

Recommendation (1)—The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) has launched a totally refreshed Website, one that can serve as a state-of-the-art e-commerce ordering tool.

Recommendations (2) and (5)—The PPC is taking the necessary steps to amend the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Organization for Mission as instructed/recommended by the General Assembly Committee on Review of the 215th General Assembly (2003). Please see Item 08-02, recommendation to the 216th General Assembly (2004).

Recommendation (3)—The PPC has revised the mission statement to a more succinct statement that better communicates the purpose of PPC.

Recommendation (4)—The PPC staff prepared, and the PPC board approved at the September 19–20, 2003, meeting, a strategic plan for 2004–2006.

Recommendation (5)—The PPC board has worked in consultation with the General Assembly Nominating Committee to begin the process to bring the composition of the PPC board into compliance with this recommendation.

Recommendation (6)—The PPC strategic plan for 2004–2006 calls for increased efforts to market to congregations, lay leaders, and seminarians, and progress is being monitored monthly by PPC's Expanded Executive Staff.

2. Response to Recommendation D Regarding Recommendation B

The General Assembly Council (GAC) and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) have worked together in several areas in an effort to provide complete customer service from both entities. In 1998, GAC and PPC developed a model whereby Presbyterian churches can place orders on-line through the Presbyterian Marketplace [the PC(USA) Website for on-line ordering] for resources carried by GAC and PPC. Also in 1998, GAC and PPC worked out an agreement where orders are taken over the phone and routed to the appropriate entity for processing or transferring the caller to speak to the responsible entity. The PPC and GAC accounting areas (in providing good customer service) work closely together to ensure customer payments get applied accurately. The PPC and GAC routinely transfer customer invoice inquiries between the two entities. The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) and the General Assembly Council (GAC) maintain the same shipping/handling policies for consistency to church customers. The GAC and PPC are in constant communication with each other regarding

customer inquiries. The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) currently uses GAC as their primary source for distribution of OGA resources. The OGA has several collaborative efforts to produce (and distribute) their products with PPC. The GAC also provides customer service/distribution for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, *Horizons*, and Presbyterian Women.

The PPC and GAC are currently evaluating the communication processes in place, what improvements can be made, as well as exploiting other areas where the two entities can provide cooperative customer service. The PPC and GAC believe that the cooperative efforts currently in place supersede the need for a centralized distribution/ordering point and that customers are being well-served at the present time.

3. *Recommendation D Regarding Recommendation C*

After extensive discussion among the General Assembly agencies, these entities are in agreement that an adequate forum for adjudicating publishing problems and identifying publishing opportunities already exists.

The elected chairs and chief executive officers of the General Assembly agencies meet regularly (two to three times per year) to convey information about their respective work, share strategic plans, coordinate plans for inter-agency initiatives, and resolve interagency conflict. As a matter of fact, the chairs and executives have not engaged in this latter activity at all—on any front, publishing or otherwise—in the last four to five years. Unanimity of purpose and a spirit of general accord have in fact pervaded this conclave in recent years. Should “publishing problems” arise in the future, it is reasonable to expect that the chairs and executives forum would be able to handle them with alacrity in the normal course of events.

As for opportunities, the chairs and executives have been instrumental in facilitating several initiatives. The six agencies cooperate annually to produce the narrative *Report to General Assembly* and are currently collaborating on the first national pastor’s conference (which will involve PPC in terms of providing the retail bookstore). Moreover, the other five agencies are aware of PPC’s offer to be a vendor of choice for production services and avail themselves of the chance to benefit from PPC’s purchasing volume on a case-by-case basis. A recent chairs and executives meeting was the occasion for other agencies to contribute to PPC’s “Equipping the Saints” program for sending foundational published resources to new clergy.

The chairs and executives will formalize the process by which publishing problems would be adjudicated and publishing opportunities are identified in a memorandum of understanding at a future meeting.

L. *Worldwide Ministries Division Final Responses to Referrals*

1. *2003 Referral: Item 11-01. Recommendation 10. That the General Assembly Request the PC(USA) Office of East Asia Pacific in the Worldwide Ministries Division to Find Ways to Work with Partner Churches in the Republic of Korea to Minister to Sex Workers in Military Camp Towns by Providing Support Systems That Protect Them from Human Rights Violations and Help Them Find Alternatives to This Work—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 39, 585).*

Response: The Worldwide Ministries Division, in partnership with churches and ecumenical bodies in Korea, worked on this issue, including providing some counseling services and legal aid to sex workers. A particular concern is the violation of human rights stemming from an unequal treaty, Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), between the Korean government and the U.S. Forces in Korea. For example, last year two children were crushed to death by a U.S. armored vehicle. The Korean legal system was not allowed to question the U.S. soldiers, who were sent back to the U.S. Thousands of Korean people held a prayer vigil and protest against the U.S. troops and asked for an apology from the president of the United States. Many human rights workers in Korea now look upon the U.S. troops in Korea as “occupation” forces.

The violation of the sex workers’ human rights in the military camp towns in Korea will be tracked, with a special concern for the provision of a counseling service and vocational training.

2. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.1.b. That the General Assembly Encourage Congregations, Presbyteries, Synods, and Entities of the General Assembly to Establish New, and to Strengthen Existing Partnerships with African Churches, Parachurch Organizations, and Mission Agencies (in Consultation with the Worldwide Ministries Division, and Ecumenical Bodies in Sharing the Gospel and Doing Mission Together—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 591).*

Response: This is an encouragement addressed to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) at all levels. The Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD) has moved forward with establishing mission networks, which serve to bring together existing presbytery and congregational partnerships, and to identify other partnerships and relationships from around the denomination that, by joining the network, can be encouraged to collaborate on a broader scale. These networks aim to strengthen the existing and foster new partnerships.

Regional liaisons have been put in place in Africa to facilitate communication and support with Presbyterians with partnerships and partner interests.

Since the 215th General Assembly (2003), initial network meetings have been held with the Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Congo, and Ghana Mission Networks.

The Ecumenical and Mission Partnership program area and area offices have also continued to initiate support and provide resources to existing presbytery partnerships.

3. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.1.e. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through Worldwide Ministries Division, to Seek Funds for and Produce a Study Guide and Bibliography in Order to Assist Presbyterians and Others in Their Study of Africa—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 591).*

Response: At least the first parts of the *Study Guide for the Resolution on Africa* will have been produced by the time of the 216th General Assembly (2004). It includes a bibliography and links to WMD Africa Office and other Websites that contain current information on Africa and African churches.

4. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.2.a. That the General Assembly Call on the General Assembly Council, Through Worldwide Ministries Division, and Governing Bodies of the PC(USA) to Strengthen Existing and Forge New Partnerships with Africa Partners That Will Enable Both African and American Mission Personnel to Give Direct Short, Intermediate, and Long-term Service in Areas of Health, Education, Evangelism, Relief and Development, and Church Administration—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: New PC(USA) mission personnel have been recruited, oriented, and assigned to work with African partners.

Additional new mission positions with various lengths of service are being established and avenues for short-term involvement are being created.

As United States presbyteries and congregations have experienced increases in the numbers of African immigrants and as these groups have begun establishing worshiping communities, the Congregational Ministries Division (CMD), the Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD), and the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) have worked with sessions, presbyteries, and African partners to provide resources and, in some instances, personnel to assist these fellowships and immigrant groups. There are currently discussions with African church partners in Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Congo regarding possible roles for members from their communions serving immigrant groups in the United States.

5. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.2.b. That the General Assembly Urge Entities of the General Assembly and Its Governing Bodies to Work Individually and Ecumenically to Provide Financial Resources to Self-help, Development and Micro-enterprise Projects and Programs in Africa—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and International Evangelism all have been and will continue to seek and provide funding for Africa's self-help initiatives in both civil society and ecclesiastical programs.

6. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.4.a. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through Worldwide Ministries Division, and Entities of the General Assembly, Local Congregations, and Middle Governing Bodies to Assist Africa Partners in Developing New Church-sponsored Educational Programs, and Strengthening Existing Ones, Equipping Christian Schools, and Providing Christian Education Opportunities in Secular Schools—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592)*

Response: Educating society and the church has always been a cornerstone of Presbyterian mission efforts. As mission initiatives come from both local and national levels in the PC(USA), it is encouraging to see continued strong emphasis placed on supporting educational activities of overseas partner churches.

The Worldwide Ministries Division has emphasized higher education, theological education, and training of leaders since the 1950s. As more African leaders were trained, they returned to strengthen, indigenize, and in many cases create new programs and new institutions. Some current initiatives to note in Africa are:

- The Akrofi-Christaller Memorial Centre in Ghana is an initiative of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to equip pastors and other church workers for a more “African” approach to church leadership. They are networking with other African universities and churches to define and increase African biblical study and theology.
- The Masters in Counseling in HIV/AIDS program of St. Paul's Theological Seminary in Kenya is preparing grassroots Christian leaders already immersed in Christian communities affected by this crisis.
- The rebuilding of theological education in Rwanda. Following the genocide in Rwanda in the early 1990s, the Presbyterian church found itself with many of its pastors killed or missing. Elisée Musemakweli, one of their leaders supported in his doctoral studies with the assistance of the PC(USA), began the hard work of reconstructing the church's seminary. Worldwide Ministries Division has placed a mission coworker (Michael Parker) at the new seminary to assist in the rebuilding efforts.
- A number of Presbyterian churches throughout Africa are initiating new universities in order to provide opportunities for their members and society at large. Some countries include Ghana, Kenya, Congo, and Malawi. Many Presbyterians in the U.S. are assisting these efforts as well as the Worldwide Ministries Division.

The PC(USA) made a conscious decision in the 1950s to emphasize higher education and not primary and secondary education. Unfortunately, in Africa many church partners are still left with this responsibility as governments are not providing educational opportunities for children. It is exciting to see that many church and presbytery partnerships include the supporting of schools run by overseas partner churches.

In an effort to coordinate and increase this support, Worldwide Ministries Division has encouraged the creation of an educational network that will highlight, encourage, and network PC(USA) efforts to support the educational programs and institutions of overseas partner churches. It is called IPEN, International Presbyterian Education Network, and can be reached at [ipen@ctr.PC\(USA\).org](mailto:ipen@ctr.PC(USA).org). The Web site is currently being built.

7. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.4.b. That the General Assembly Request That the General Assembly Council Continue to Seek to Increase Financial Support to the Leadership Development Component of the Church's Global Education Ministry, with Particular Attention to the Training and Equipping of Pastors, Evangelists, and the Laity for Continued Leadership in the Church and Civil Society in Africa—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: A Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD) Fund Development effort was initiated in 2001 to build annual giving and a \$6 million dollar permanent endowment fund for international leadership development. A quarterly newsletter highlighting current and past leaders of overseas partner churches can be found at [www.PC\(USA\).org/globaled](http://www.PC(USA).org/globaled).

8. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.4.c. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through the Worldwide Ministries Division, to Seek Resources to Provide More Scholarships for Africa Students Wishing to Do Advanced Degree Studies and for Increased Funding for Physical Facilities of Partner Educational Institutions on the Continent—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: Since 1950, more than three thousand international Christian leaders have been supported by the PC(USA) in advanced degree studies. The fund development effort mentioned in Final Response to Referral 7 above provides funds for leader development of PC(USA) partner churches in all areas, including advanced studies. Due to budget constraints, the number of persons assisted each year has dropped from more than 100 to approximately forty. The office on Global Education and International Leadership Development will continue its fundraising efforts.

9. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.5.a. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through the Worldwide Ministries Division, to Enhance Its Work with Partner Churches in Africa in Organizing Bilateral and Multilateral Programs That Enable Skilled Persons from an African Church to Provide Short and Intermediate Service to Sister Churches—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: Priority will be given through the Worldwide Ministries Division Three-Way Mission pattern of service to enable skilled persons from one African church to serve elsewhere in Africa. Other opportunities are being pursued through particular program work, such as the assessment team sent to Liberia composed of Luke Asikoye of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and White Rakuba from the South Africa Council of Churches. The PDA had requested that the New Sudan Council of Churches (with PDA funding) send Telar Deng to attend the gathering of Liberian churches as they began to strategize how the church might provide leadership in grassroots peace building. It is PDA's clear intent to identify through the Emergency Management Training of Action of Churches Together and Church World Service on the continent, where strong leadership exists and utilizes those people within the network.

10. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.5.b. That the General Assembly Call on the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the All Africa Conference of Churches to Increase Their Efforts to Seek Justice and Secure Human Rights for Women in All Segments of the Church and in Civil Society—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Moderator of the 215th General Assembly (2003) attended the Eighth Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches in Cameroon (AACC). In her remarks to the delegates, she encouraged the AACC and its constituent member churches to redouble their efforts in areas of justice, human rights, and increased participation in positions of leadership for women.

This challenge involves an ongoing dialogue between General Assembly Council staff and these organizations that will continue beyond a one-year period of time.

11. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.6.d. That the General Assembly Request the General Assembly Council, Through the Worldwide Ministries Division, to Work Closely with Sudanese Church Partners in Advocating for Just Allocation of Oil Revenues, Cessation of the War, and an End to the Persecution of Christians Particularly Those in Southern Sudan—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: The Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD) is actively engaged in the efforts in Sudan through a variety of avenues. Support to the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) in the form of personnel and resources works directly towards supporting the peace efforts. Support of PC(USA) constituency efforts for advocacy for these Sudan issues works through the Sudan Mission Network, the Washington Office on Africa, and the PC(USA) Washington Office.

12. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.6.e. That the General Assembly Request the General Assembly Council, Through the Ministries Divisions, and Entities of the General Assembly to Work Together and Coordinate Their Support of Training Programs in and Among African Communities and Churches on Conflict Resolution, Equitable Distribution of Resources, Reconciliation, and Consensus-building Around Issues of Good Governance—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: This is a very complex matter dealing with issues of dependency and paternalism as well as accountability and transparency. The World Council of Churches has created new software specifically designed for use in churches of limited financial capability. It was field-tested in Africa and was an important step. This journey continues to be a high priority with our development related offices. We have, at our partners' request, sent a cross-divisional team to South Africa to help the uniting church address issues of governance. We have helped them and other churches in South Africa share their wisdom on conflict resolution with churches in South America.

13. *2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.6.f. That the General Assembly Urge PC(USA) Partners in Africa to Press for Increased Levels of Transparency, Accountability, and Fiscal Responsibility in Both Church and Government Structures—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 593).*

Response: Our engagement with our partners is ongoing and entails these efforts. The Central/West Africa Office presentation of concerns to the Eglise Presbyterienne Camerounaise's General Assembly included elements of accountability and transparency necessary for effective partnerships as well as important for the partner church overall. That church has taken those concerns seriously and is implementing significant reforms.

14. *2003 Referral: Item 11-09. Overture 03-34. On Creating a Study Guide on the History and Evolving Present Day Situation of the Middle East—From the Presbytery of Chicago (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 40, 622–23).*

Response: In collaboration with the Office for the Middle East, a 148-page comprehensive study guide was produced as the September–October issue of the church's bimonthly magazine *Church & Society*. This focused on the history and evolving present day situation of the Middle East, focusing primarily on the central issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as proposed by the Presbytery of Chicago. It included the full text of the "Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now" (both background and recommendations) approved by the 215th General Assembly (2003). It also included:

- Reflections and analyses (articles, sermons, commentaries, position papers, etc.) by diverse authors.
- A photo essay.
- A specific section on "Christian Zionism" addressing theological interpretations of biblical materials dealing with prophecies, covenant, promise, etc., vis-à-vis the current political situation in the region.
- Voices, expressions, letters and messages from partner church leaders, interfaith colleagues, news articles, etc.
- It concluded with an extensive list of resources and suggestions for further engagement.

15. *2003 Referral: Item 11-12. Recommendation That the General Assembly Affirm the Action of the General Assembly Council Executive Committee, on Behalf of the General Assembly Council, to Send a Delegation to the Middle East to Affirm Our Partnerships, Express our Solidarity with the Peoples of the Middle East, Demonstrate Our Church's Commitment to Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation, and to Strengthen the Bridges of Understanding That Have Continued to Be Built Over Nearly Two Hundred Years in Various Countries There—From the General Assembly Council Executive Committee (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 41, 630–31).*

Response: Following an extensive process of consultations with denominational leaders, partner churches, and ecumenical bodies in the region and among various entities of the General Assembly structure, a diverse, representative delegation has been identified to respond to the invitation initiated by partner churches, approved by the General Assembly Council and reaffirmed by the General Assembly. The delegation's visit is scheduled to take place in late February-early March 2004, and is to be reported to the ensuing meeting of the General Assembly Council and to the church at large.

16. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation D. That the General Assembly Strongly Urge Israeli and Palestinian Leaders to Be Serious, Active, and Diligent About Seeking Peace for Their Peoples, or, If They Are Unwilling or Unable, to Step Down and Make Room for Other Leaders Who Will and Can—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 636).*

Response: The Office of the General Assembly has communicated the concern of the assembly to the appropriate Israeli and Palestinian leadership, urging that they seriously, diligently, and actively seek peace for their peoples, and that, if they are not able or unwilling, they should make room for others who have the will and ability to pursue peace.

17. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation E. That the General Assembly Challenge and Encourage Discussion of Theological Interpretations That Confuse Biblical Prophecies and Affirmations of Covenant, Promise, and Land, Which Are Predicated on Justice, Righteousness, and Mercy, with Political Statehood That Asserts Itself Through Military Might, Repressive Discrimination, Abuse of Human Rights, and Other Actions That Do Not Reveal a Will to Do Justice, to Love Kindness, and to Walk Humbly with God—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 636).*

Response: In the study guide titled "Israel and Palestine: The Quest for Peace," (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Church & Society*, September–October 2003), published in response to General Assembly action, a number of articles discussed issues of biblical and theological interpretations involving prophecies, covenant, promise, and land. In those discussions, the danger of confusing elements of prophecy with notions of political statehood, military might, and abuse of human rights was pointed out.

18. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation F. That the General Assembly Urge Israel to Hasten to End the Occupation of Palestinian Territories; and to Accept the League of the Arab Nations' Unanimous Offer for Peace in Return of the Land Occupied by Israel Since 1967 and Urges the League of the Arab Nations to Commit to Doing Everything in Their Power to Eliminate Funding and Support for Terrorist Acts Against Israeli Citizens—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 636–37).*

Response: The Office of the General Assembly, through the Stated Clerk, communicated the assembly's urgings to the government of Israel and the League of Arab States.

19. *2003 Referral: Item 12-01. Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End the Occupation Now, Recommendation G. That the General Assembly Urge the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Leadership to Work on Resolving the Issue of the Right of Return of Palestinians—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 15–16, 637).*

Response: Though the assembly's concern over the problem of the right of return of Palestinian refugees was duly communicated to the parties involved, the stalled peace process seems to have a long way to go before it can adequately address and resolve the issue. Presbyterians need to continue their efforts to advocate this United Nations-affirmed right of return, and to urge that it be resolved justly as well as realistically in order to reach a mutual acceptance by Israelis and Palestinians, for the sake of an enduring peace.

20. 2003 Referral: Item 12-08. *Statement on Iraq and Beyond, Recommendation 2. That a Brief Study Guide Be Prepared, as a Companion to This Statement, That Includes Scripture, Questions, Suggested Readings, Maps, Bibliographies, and Other References or Study Aids—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 17, 656).*

Response: The concerns suggested by the Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD) for “additional discussion and prayer,” have been, and will continue to be, addressed in a number of ways:

- The text of these concerns, as articulated by WMD and endorsed by the General Assembly Council, have been included in and attached to the text of the resolution approved by the 215th General Assembly (2003), and spread upon the *Minutes* of the assembly.
- In the document “*Iraq and Beyond, with Study Guide*,” prepared by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy in collaboration with the Office for the Middle East and Europe, the concerns of WMD are listed as Appendix A.
- These concerns are shared with PC(USA) mission personnel already on the field as well as those newly appointed, particularly those serving in Muslim countries.
- The WMD staff who relate to partners who make their witness in Muslim contexts keep these concerns before them when in communication with partner churches, ecumenical bodies, and interfaith contacts.
- The Office on Interfaith Relations and Education continues to be aware of these concerns as it seeks, through its dialogue and educational efforts and its programmatic planning, to be faithful to the mandate of the gospel and the functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

As the Iraq situation and related Middle East issues requiring faithful witness and advocacy for peace with justice continue to be of vital concern to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a constant and conscientious effort to remain engaged is required—especially as we seek to accompany partners in the region, in a spirit of discernment, humility, and patience.

21. 2003 Referral: Item 12-09. *Commissioners' Resolution 03-14. On Calling for Solidarity with the People and Churches of Pakistan (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 19, 660–61).*

Response: This resolution affirms the persistent requests of the church leadership in Pakistan to lift up their nation and churches in our prayers. More than any other, prayers are the most coveted request by our partners in Pakistan. Strong efforts have been made to have a face-to-face meeting with leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, and in the process we have expressed our commitment of solidarity and mission partnership, as we will continue to do. *Worldwide Ministries Highlights* articles and a special mailing on behalf of Forman Christian College have been important vehicles for calling thousands of Presbyterians to prayer and financial support for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Pakistan this year. In addition, the Stated Clerk's office has sent the letter to U.S. government officials that was mandated.

22. 2003 Referral: Item 11-03. *Resolution on Africa. Recommendation E.3.c. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through the Worldwide Ministries Division International Health Ministries Office, and Encourage PC(USA) Health-related Organizations to Continue Working with Partner Churches and Institutions in Developing Mechanisms and Resources to Address Africa's Endemic Diseases—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: The “Diseases of Poverty” that seem to disproportionately affect Africa’s people, especially women and children, are malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Working with agencies such as the UNAIDS, WHO, philanthropic organizations in the US and globally; the International Health Ministries, and Africa Area Offices have been part of projects such as the Malaria bed net project, antiretroviral drugs discussions, and other international efforts to fight these “diseases of poverty.”

The International Health Ministries Office sponsored an HIV/AIDS workshop for thirty-two participants from ten PC(USA) partner churches in Africa, October 5–19, 2003, in Malawi. The workshop included sessions on needs assessments, resource identification, community problem solving, program development, monitoring, and evaluation. The final week included visits to community-based orphan care projects, home-based care programs for AIDS patients, and meetings with men’s groups, women’s groups, youth groups, and funeral education committees.

In March 2004, the International Health Ministries Office funded a four-day African Church Leaders’ Meeting around HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Thirty church leaders are being invited to “wrestle” with their denominations’ response to the AIDS crisis. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) staff and regional HIV/AIDS consultants will facilitate discussion, including talking with congregations about HIV/AIDS and human sexuality, destigmatizing persons living with AIDS, pastoral counseling of HIV-positive persons and their families, community-based approaches to care, educational programs for orphans, and income-generation programs for AIDS orphans (with a particular focus on girls).

23. 2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. *Recommendation E.3.d. That the General Assembly Direct the General Assembly Council, Through the Worldwide Ministries Division, to Continue Its Work with Other Faith-based and Secular Health Organizations, Domestic and International, That Share a Similar Goal in the Massive Effort to Address Major Health Issues Facing Africa—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: Working through the Washington Office on Africa (WOA) and the Advisory Network for Africa (ADNA), the WMD Africa Offices have monitored and advocated for the passage and funding of major congressional legislation—Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the New Program for Africa’s Development (NePAD), which address AIDS and other diseases of poverty in Africa.

While this advocacy has been instrumental in keeping these and other legislation alive and moving through the policy-making process, funding for the passed bills continues to be difficult to secure.

The International Health Ministries Office (IHMO) works ecumenically through Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc. to support several approaches to addressing diseases of poverty. The SANRU II program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo works with Presbyterian, Mennonite, United Methodist, and American Baptist hospitals to provide equipment, training, and supplies to provide basic health care to large segments of the population. The IHMO works with Lutheran World Relief and the Carter Center in River Blindness projects in Tanzania, with Lymphatic Filariasis projects in Haiti, and with malaria bed-net projects in six countries. The International Health Ministries Office is a member of Christian Connections for International Health, which facilitates several joint projects addressing HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling, and home-based care projects in Africa.

24. 2003 Referral: Item 11-03. Resolution on Africa. *Recommendation E.3.e. That the General Assembly Urge Members of the PC(USA) and Appropriate Programs of the General Assembly (e.g. the Presbyterian Washington Office, the Presbyterian United Nations Office, and International Health Ministries Office) to Call for Increased Public Funding That Addresses Diseases of Poverty, Particularly HIV/AIDS—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 38, 592).*

Response: Worldwide Ministries Division continues to encourage individuals and congregations to support increased public funding for HIV/AIDS and other diseases of poverty through both personal commitment and through advocacy for public funding. The HIV/AIDS program manager accomplishes this through both written

materials, such as the IHMO quarterly newsletter, and by speaking engagements during her participation in denominational and ecumenical forums and educational activities.

25. *2003 Referral: Item 11-05. Overture 03-14. On the Crisis of Migrant Worker Deaths in the Borderlands—From the Presbytery of De Cristo [Recommendation 1. That The General Assembly Declare Our Opposition to “Operation Gatekeeper” and Other Border Strategies, Which Have Resulted in an Increase in Militarization, Violations of Human Rights Deaths from Dehydration and Exposure, and Racial Profiling of Hispanic Peoples in the Borderlands; and Recommendation 3. That the General Assembly Request the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program of the Worldwide Ministries Division to Be in Relationship with Congregations, Presbyteries, and Synods in the Borderlands to Determine Appropriate Ministries and Assistance for Migrants in Life-threatening Situations] (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 39, 613–15).*

Response: At the request of the Presbytery of De Cristo, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) provided \$10,000 from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in December 2003 to address the mounting death toll of migrants in the southwestern deserts of the United States. These funds will be used by ministries on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border to save as many lives as possible.

In January 2004, PDA helped facilitate a meeting of representatives from southwestern PC(USA) middle governing bodies, as well as a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Mexico, for the purpose of planning and designing a consultation of faith-based organizations that are responding to the border crisis. At the meeting, a decision was made to hold a “regional” consultation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in late April to focus on the impending crisis this summer, followed by a national event in Tucson, Arizona, this November.

Attendees for the April gathering have been identified and planning is well underway. The planning team will be expanded to include representatives from the Synod of Southern California & Hawaii and the Synod of the Sun. This group will meet in advance of the April event to further plan and design the larger consultation in November. The objective of both of these gatherings is to share information and develop response strategies that will more effectively address the crisis surround the deaths of migrant workers.

26. *2003 Referral: Item 11-14. Commissioners’ Resolution 03-16. On Displaced Persons in Colombia (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 41, 633–34).*

Response: Worldwide Ministries staff has coordinated a high level visit to Colombia for purposes of education and solidarity. The trip in January 2004 included Moderator Susan Andrews, a representative from Presbyterian News Service (Alexa Smith), and representatives from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. The Moderator was interviewed by two newspapers and appeared on television in Colombia. Reporter Alexa Smith remained for several weeks to continue to collect stories and testimonials in order to inform Presbyterians of the situation. Regular calls and letters to the Presbyterian Church in Colombia continue. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the area coordinator for Latin America have provided funds to support humanitarian assistance to the displaced. In addition, the Latin American and the Caribbean Office is working with Peacemaking, Social Justice, and the Washington Office to publish a resource (twelve-page booklet) on Colombia.

27. *2003 Referral: Item 12-08. Statement on Iraq and Beyond, Recommendation 4. That the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Be Encouraged to Act Through Appropriate Partner Agencies to Participate in the Humanitarian Response to the People of Iraq—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (Minutes, 2003, Part I, pp. 17, 656).*

Response: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance sent a churchwide appeal for Iraq, posted to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Web site updates on relief work, and made the Iraq humanitarian response the front-page article in its *Mission Mosaic* magazine. Working through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) alliance partners including the Middle East Council of Churches, Church World Service, and Norwegian Church Aid, a total of \$345,000 was sent in support of humanitarian work. An additional \$44,000 is available to support ongoing aid when the security situation stabilizes. Humanitarian response was slowed by a deteriorating security situation slowing the programming of funds on the ground.

28. *2003 Referral: Item 11-01. Recommendation 4. That the General Assembly Request That the International Personnel Be Educated Through Existing Web, Newsletter, and Training Events About the Problem of Sex Trafficking—From the General Assembly Council (Minutes, Part I, pp. 39, 585).*

Response: The Worldwide Ministries Division, as part of the General Assembly Council, following the recommendations of the Independent Committee of Inquiry that dealt with the sexual misconduct by a mission personnel in Congo, has developed a staff position that will deal with issues related to sexual misconduct and mission personnel. This staff member will, along with other duties, develop a “process [that would] include the creation of a comprehensive curriculum for the training of mission personnel in order to prevent, recognize, and deal with sexual or physical abuse.”

The specific problem of sex trafficking will be included in this curriculum and training, including venues such as the World Wide Web, newsletters, and training events.

Item 01-03

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly recommends that the 216th General Assembly (2004) approve the following list of referrals of business:

00 PLENARY

GANC, OGA

- 00-01 Approval of Committee Structure [OGA]
- 00-02 Nominations for Election on Entities of the General Assembly. [GANC]
- 00-03 Stated Clerk Nomination/Review Committee
- 00-04 Reassignment of Classes and Extension of Terms: 2003 Referral: Item 02-03(A); Item 02-09. [GANC]

01 BUSINESS REFERRALS

COGA

- 01-01 Recommendation to Approve the Docket of the General Assembly. [COGA]
- 01-02 Recommendation to Approve the Plenary Consent Agenda. [COGA]
- 01-03 Recommendation to Approve the List of Referrals of Business to Assembly Committees. [COGA]

02 BILLS AND OVERTURES

COGA, OGA

Docket of the assembly after commencement of General Assembly (Standing Rules B.1.; C.6.a.); referrals of business to assembly committees after commencement of General Assembly (Standing Rules B.6; C.6.a.); review and recommend approval of General Assembly *Minutes* (Standing Rule C.6.c.); recommend approval of time limits on debate (Standing Rule B.1.); requests for presentations to the assembly (Standing Rule C.6.e.); review requests from agencies to schedule meetings, briefings, hearings during assembly meeting (Standing Rule C.6.f.); review protests, determine if entered in the *Minutes*, prepare response if needed (Standing Rule C.6.g.); review requests for distribution of material to commissioners (Standing Rule C.6.d.); report on assembly committee requests for establishment of special committees or commissions (Standing Rule B.8.); appeal of persons denied the right to speak at a public hearing (Standing Rule C.4.g.).

03 GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES

COGA, OGA

For Plenary Action

Publication Matters:

- 03-01 Changes in publication of the *Minutes* (Part I, CD ROM; Part III, offered to ministers when requested). [OGA]
- 03-02 Use Session Annual Statistical Report Regarding Invitation of Racial Ethnic Ministers: 1999 Referral: CR 99-9 [OGA]
- 03-03 On Directing the Stated Clerk to Prepare a Comparative Statistical Report, to Include a Summation of the Sources and Uses of Funds by Presbyteries, Synods—From the Presbytery of Albany.

General Assembly:

- 03-04 Change Dates for Birmingham Assembly (2006) [COGA]
- 03-05 Amend Standing Rule D. to Include Provision for Special Meetings: 2003 Referral: Item 02-13. [COGA]
- 03-06 Instruct Presbyteries to Work on Diversity and Inclusiveness When Electing/Selecting Commissioners to GA [COR] 3 recs
- 03-07 On Amending Standing Rule B.5.e. Regarding the Timeline for Submitting Commissioners' Resolutions—From the Presbytery of Eastminster.
- 03-08 On Amending G-13.0104 to Require Annual Meetings of the General Assembly—From the Presbytery of National Capital.
- 03-09 On Directing GAC to Provide an Introduction to Anti-Racism Training for Assemblies in 2006, 2008, and 2010, Making Recommendations in 2010 for Future Events—From the Presbytery of Detroit.

- 03-22** On Appointing a Panel to Study the Apportionment of General Assembly Commissioners from Presbyteries—From the Presbytery of San Diego.
- 03-23** On an Introduction to Anti-Racism Training for Assemblies in 2006, 2008, and 2010, and at General Assembly Council Meetings—From the Presbytery of San Francisco.

Historical Society:

- 03-10** Amend Standing Rule E.7. and G.3.c. Regarding the Presbyterian Historical Society [COGA].
- 03-11** On the Montreat Historical Center—From the Presbytery of South Louisiana.
- 03-24** On Directing OGA to Develop a Long-Range Plan for the Department of History to Provide for Regional Historical Centers—From the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

Advisory Delegates:

- 03-12** On Amending the Standing Rules to Increase the Number of YADs to the Biennial Meetings of the General Assembly—From the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.
- 03-13** On Amending Standing Rule A.2. Regarding Advisory Delegates—From the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys.
- 03-14** On Amending Standing Rule A.2. to Give Advisory Delegates the Same Privilege in Committee as They Have in Plenary—From the Presbytery of Northeast Georgia.
- 03-15** On Amending Standing Rule A.2. to Remove Advisory Delegate Vote in Assembly Committees, and to Investigate the Possibility of Study Credit for YADs—From the Presbytery of the Peaks.

Per Capita:

- 03-16** Per Capita Budget Recommendations [COGA/GAC] 5 recs
- 03-17** On Amending G-9.0404d Regarding Per Capita—From the Presbytery of Lake Erie.

Other:

- 03-18** ACC Request. Interpretation Concerning GA Moderator as an Entity—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly: 2003 Referral: Item 03-17. [ACC]
- 03-19** Amend Standing Rule F. Regarding Moderator of the General Assembly [COGA]
- 03-20** Amend Standing Rule A.3. Regarding Corresponding Members [COGA].
- 03-21** Study Recent GAs Concerning “Affinity Groups” and “Special Interest Organizations”: 2003 Referral: Item 02-NB. [OGA]

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

- 03-A** Minutes, Presbyterian Historical Society.
- 03-B** Minutes, General Assembly Committee on Representation.

Information

- 03 Agency Summary, Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (See “Life in All Its Fullness”)
- 03 Agency Summary, Office of the General Assembly (See “Life in All Its Fullness”)
- 03 Agency Summary, Advisory Committee on Litigation
- 03 Agency Summary, General Assembly Committee on Representation
- 03 Agency Summary, General Assembly Nominating Committee
- 03 Moderator’s Report
- 03 Per Capita Payments by Presbytery
- 03 Affinity Group Reports

For Plenary Action**Rules of Discipline:**

- 04-01** On Amending D-10.0401c, Time Limits, When Utilizing Alternative Dispute Resolution—From the Presbytery of South Louisiana.
- 04-02** On Amending D-1.0103 to Add a Call to Prayer and Confidentiality—From the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
- 04-03** On Amending D-6.0306a and D-8.0302a to Specify a Time Limit in Exercising the Right to Challenge the Findings of the Moderator and Clerk —From the Presbytery of San Francisco.
- 04-04** On Amending D-10.0201a. to Specify a Time Limit—From the Presbytery of North Puget Sound.
- 04-05** On Amending D-10.0202h. to Allow Dissemination of Findings—From the Presbytery of North Puget Sound.
- 04-06** ACC Request. Regarding Conflict Resolution—From the Manager of Judicial Process and Social Witness, Office of the General Assembly. [ACC]
- 04-07** ACC Request. Interpretation of D-10.0102, Referring a Statement of Offense from a Non-Member of the PC(USA)—From the Manager of Judicial Process and Social Witness, Office of the General Assembly. [ACC]

Abuse of Minors:

- 04-08** Independent Committee of Inquiry Requests for Amendment to the *Book of Order* [GAC] 11 recs
- 04-09** On Adding New Sections G-6.0204, G-6.0304, and G-6.0402 Regarding Reporting Requirements of Child Abuse, in Response to the GA Independent Committee of Inquiry—From the Presbytery of Grace.
- 04-10** On Adding Section D-10.0106 to Provide for Administrative Leave in Case of Alleged Child Abuse by Clergy—From the Presbytery of Baltimore.
- 04-11** On Adding a New Section D-10.0106 Regarding Administrative Leave in Case of Alleged Child Abuse by Clergy—From the Presbytery of Northern New York.

Form of Government:

- 04-12** Undertake a Cycle of Consultation Regarding the Form of Government: 2002 Referral: Item 05-01. [OGA]
- 04-13** On Amending G-7.0306 On Who May Moderate a Congregational Meeting—From the Presbytery of Heartland.
- 04-14** ACC Request. Interpretation on Whether an E-mail Vote Is Permissible—From Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Winnebago. [ACC]
- 04-15** ACC Request. Regarding G-9.0705, Termination of Presbytery Staff—From Member, Administrative Commission, Presbytery of Hanmi. [ACC]
- 04-16** ACC Request. Regarding G-7.0304a.(3) and G-14.0603, When a Motion to Dissolve the Pastoral Relationship Is in Order—From Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. [ACC]

Other:

- 04-17** Add Standing Rule B.8.c. to Provide for Special Administrative Review: 2003 Referral: Item 03-B. [COGA]
- 04-18** On Amending Standing Rule G.2.g. and C.7. Regarding an Assembly Committee on Administrative Review—From the Presbytery of Mississippi.
- 04-19** Independent Review Process for Committees, Add Standing Rule E.11: 2002 Referral: Item 02-09 (1, 2). [COGA/GAC] 3 recs

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

04-A Vote of Presbyteries.

Information

- 04 Agency Summary, Advisory Committee on the Constitution.
- 04 Roster and Decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.
- 04 Governing Body Statements of Compliance with Permanent Judicial Commission Decisions.

05 CHURCH ORDERS AND MINISTRY

ACC, ACWC, PCCEC

For Plenary Action

Clergywomen:

- 05-03** Research Programs and Support for Clergywomen in Ministries: 2003 Referral: Item 04-01, Recommendation 2. [ACWC]
- 05-04** Monitor Clergywomen's Call Processes—2003 Referral: Item 04-01, Recommendation 9. [ACWC]

Ordination Requirements:

- 05-05** On Amending G-6.0106b Regarding Gifts and Requirements for Officers—From the Presbytery of Western New York.
- 05-06** On Striking G-6.0106b from the *Constitution* in Order to Welcome All Persons into the Life of the Church—From the Presbytery of Baltimore.
- 05-07** On Issuing an Authoritative Interpretation Clarifying Standards for Ordination—From the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.
- 05-08** On Declaring That the Definitive Guidance Statements of 1978 and 1979, and Subsequent GA Statements Shall be Given no Further Force or Effect—From the Presbytery of Detroit.
- 05-09** On Amending G-6.0106 and on Approving an Authoritative Interpretation—From the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Other:

- 05-01** On Amending G-14.0513 and G-11.0502f. to Clarify Language Regarding Temporary Pastoral Relations—From the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.
- 05-02** ACC Request. Regarding G-6.0502, Authoritative Interpretation Concerning Persistence in Disapproved Work—From Minister Member, Presbytery of the Cascades. [ACC]
- 05-10** Amend G-14.0310c Regarding Ordination Exams. [PCCEC]
- 05-11** On Amending G-14.0705c, G-11.0407, W-3.3603, and W-3.3616 Regarding Certified Christian Educators—From the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
- 05-12** ACC Request. Interpretation of G-14.0515d, Parish Associates—From Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley. [ACC]

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[No Items]

Information

- 05 Agency Summary, Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns.
- 05 Agency Summary, Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations of Candidates.
- 05 Board of Pension's Task Force on Clergy Recruitment and Retention Report.

06 ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS**CER, COGA, WMD****For Plenary Action****Interfaith**

- 06-01** Recommendation Regarding Expansion of Work Regarding 99R25.246 (Cross-Divisional Staff Team to Develop Study Resources for Congregational Use to Equip Presbyterians to Better Articulate Their Faith in Inter-religious Contexts; Final Report in 2006.) WMD 3 recs
- 06-02** On Forming a Task Force to Draft a Denominational Policy Consistent with the Religious Pluralism Reality in the U.S.A.—From the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma.
- 06-09** On Re-Examining the Relationship Between Christians and Jews and the Implications for our Evangelism and New Church Development—From the Presbytery of Hudson River.

Ecumenical Relations

- 06-03** Invite Churches to Send Ecumenical Advisory Delegates to the 217th General Assembly (2006) [CER]
- 06-04** Congregations and MGBs Study and Response to WCC Decade to Overcome Violence [CER]
- 06-05** Support for Ecumenical Formation [CER]
- 06-06** Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Understanding of 16th and 17th Century Condemnations of Other Churches in *The Book of Confessions* [CER] 5 recs
- 06-07** Review of National Council of Churches in Christ (U.S.A.) [CER] 10 recs
- 06-10** Elect Delegates and Alternates to the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (2006) [CER]

Other

- 06-08** Amend Standing Rule E.8.b. Regarding the Committee on Ecumenical Relations. [COGA]

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

- 06-A** Minutes, Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

Information

- 06 Agency Summary, Committee on Ecumenical Relations.
- 06 Agency Summary, Worldwide Ministries Division (See “Life in All Its Fullness”)
- 06 Corresponding Bodies Reports: Report on the 2003 General Assembly of the National Council of Churches in the USA, National Council of Churches in Christ in the USA 2002-2003 Quadrennium, World Council of Churches.

07 MISSION COORDINATION AND BUDGETS**GAC****For Plenary Action*****Manual of Operations/Organization for Mission***

- 07-01** Change in Manual of Operations regarding COTE [GAC]
- 07-02** Changes to Organization for Mission Regarding Budget Cycle: 2003 Referral: Item 02-02(J.5.c.) [GAC]

Budgetary Concerns

- 07-03** Mission and Programs Budget [GAC]
- 07-04** Reserved or Committed Funds [GAC]
- 07-05** Support for General Assembly Mission [GAC]

Other

- 07-06 Special Offerings Task Force: 2003 Referral: Items 06-03 and 06-04 [GAC] 7 recs
- 07-07 Presbytery and Synod Consultations: 2001 Referral: 33.002 [Joint COGA/GAC] 9 recs
- 07-08 Report on Creating a Climate of Change with the PC(USA) [ACREC] 16 recs

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

- 07A Minutes, General Assembly Council.
- 07B Minutes, PC(USA), A Corporation.
- 07C Audit.
- 07D through S Synod Minutes.

Information

- 07 Agency Summary, General Assembly Council (See “Life in All Its Fullness”)
- 07 Report of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.
- 07 Report of the GAC on Current Task Forces, Work Groups, and Ad Hoc Committees.
- 07 Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity Annual Report of Progress.
- 07 Report on Changes to Appendixes to the *General Assembly Council Manual of Operations*.

08 THEOLOGICAL ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONS

CMD, PPC, TTF

For Plenary Action

Presbyterian Publishing Corporation:

- 08-01 *PPC Hymnal* [PPC]
- 08-02 PPC Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, *Organization for Mission* changes [PPC]

Lord’s Supper:

- 08-03 Grant Permission to Theological Institutions to Celebrate the Lord’s Supper. [CMD]
- 08-04 Authorize the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper at Listed Conference Centers and at Listed Events. [CMD]

Book of Order:

- 08-05 On Reorganizing and Improving the Presentation of G-2.0300, G-2.0400, and G-2.0500 Without Material Alteration to Its Actual Content—From the Presbytery of John Calvin.
- 08-06 On Amending W-2.4006 and W-2.4011 Concerning Who May Participate—From the Presbytery of Central Washington.

Trustees:

- 08-07 Approve the New Trustees Elected by PC(USA) Theological Institutions in 2003. [CMD]
- 08-08 Approve the Nominees for Mountain Retreat Association Trustees of Stock Board of Directors. [CMD]

Other:

- 08-09 Trinity Work Group Report: Invite Response and Comment on Current Draft; Final Report in 2006. 2000 Referral: 21.164. [CMD]
- 08-10 Encourage Gatherings of Presbyterians of Varied Views to Covenant Together to Discuss the Affirmations in the Task Force’s Preliminary Report [TTF]
- 08-11 On Appropriate Language to Describe the Ministry of All Believers—From the Presbytery of New Brunswick.
- 08-12 On Examining the Conscience of Candidates—From the Presbytery of Hudson River.

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

- 08-A Minutes, Committee on Theological Education
- 08-B Minutes, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

Information

- 08 Agency Summary, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (See “Life in all its Fullness”)
- 08 Agency Summary, Congregational Ministries Division (See “Life in all its Fullness”).
- 08 Committee on Theological Education Report.
- 08 Theology and Worship Report.
- 08 Theological Task Force Narrative.

09 EVANGELISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION

CMD, NMD

For Plenary Action

Immigrant Fellowships:

- 09-01 On Amending G-9.0503 Regarding Voice and Vote for Immigrant Fellowships—From the Presbytery of Des Moines.
- 09-02 On Amending G-9.0503 Regarding Recognizing Leaders of Immigrant Fellowships as Elders—From the Presbytery of Des Moines.

Transfers/Unions:

- 09-03 On Uniting Churches in Philip, South Dakota to Form a Union Church, the United Church of Philip—From the Presbytery of South Dakota.
- 09-04 On Transferring the Korean Presbyterian Church of Staten Island from the Presbytery of New York City to the Eastern Korean Presbytery—From the Presbytery of New York City.
- 09-05 On Approving the Transfer of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, Ohio, from the Presbytery of Miami to the Presbytery of Cincinnati—From the Synod of the Covenant.

Evangelism

- 09-06 *Alpha—From a Reformed Perspective*: 2003 Referral: Item 09-07. [CMD] 2 recs
- 09-07 On Encouraging National, Presbytery, and Synod Leaders to Foster Evangelism—From the Presbytery of the Trinity.
- 09-08 On Undertaking the Publication of a Mission Magazine That Would Use the Powerful Voice of American Youth—From the Presbytery of Huntingdon.
- 09-09 On Taking Decisive Action to Recover from the Decline in Membership and Development of Ministry and Mission—From the Presbytery of Mackinac.
- 09-15 On Directing NMD to Develop a Plan for Resourcing and Funding Evangelism with Racial Ethnic Persons and Persons of Limited Economic Resources—From the Presbytery of Miami.

Education

- 09-10 List of Colleges and Secondary Schools [NMD]
- 09-11 On Supporting the Association of Presbyterian Schools (APS)—From the Presbytery of Mississippi.
- 09-12 On Recognizing Bloomfield College as a Racial Ethnic College Related to the PC(USA)—From the Presbytery of Newark. Concurrence: Presbytery of New Brunswick
- 09-13 On Improved Education for African American and Other Students Placed At-Risk for an Excellent Education—From the Presbytery of National Capital.

Other:

- 09-14 On Recognizing Ms. Dianne Davis and Constructores Para Cristo for Their Christian Ministry in Mexico—From the Presbytery of New Harmony.

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[No Items]

Information

- 09 Agency Summary, National Ministries Division (See “Life in all its Fullness”)
- 09 Annual Statistical Report and Racial Ethnic Evangelism

10 NATIONAL ISSUES

ACSWP, GAC

For Plenary Action

Referrals

- 10-01 Analysis of Church’s effort to Combat Racism: 2001 Referral: 25.231. [ACREC] 8 recs
- 10-02 Task Force on Election Report: 2001 Referral: 26.004 [GAC] 6 recs
- 10-03 Task Force to Study Reparations Report: 2001 Referral: 26.013 [GAC] 13 recs
- 10-04 Report on Limited Water Resources and Takings: 2002 Referral: Item 12-05 [ACSWP]6 recs
- 10-05 Resolution Calling for a Comprehensive Legalization Program for Immigrants Living and Working in the U.S.: 2001 Referral: Commissioners’ Resolution 01-27. [ACSWP] 10 recs
- 10-06 Transforming Families: 2003 Referral: Item 07-02. [ACSWP] statement and 16 recs
- 10-12 Resolution on Allegations of Child Abuse Against Educators [ACSWP] 8 recs

Overtures

- 10-07 On Setting Compensation Standards—From the Presbytery of New Hope.
- 10-08 On Expressing the Desire That the Patriot Act Be Repealed—From the Presbytery of Northern New York.
- 10-09 On Preparing a Policy Statement on Usury in the United States—From the Presbytery of Utah.
- 10-10 On Reaffirming the Importance of our Nation’s Social Insurance System (Social Security and Medicare)—From the Presbytery of Hudson River.
- 10-11 On Endorsing “A Christian Declaration of Marriage—From the Presbytery of Santa Barbara.

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

- 10-A Minutes, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy
- 10-B Recipients of Awards

Information

- 10 Agency Summary, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy
- 10 Agency Summary, Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns

11 HEALTH ISSUES

For Plenary Action

Abortion:

- 11-01 On Calling for the End of Abortion, and Inserting a Statement in the *Book of Order* Regarding Abortion—From the Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley.
- 11-02 On Urging Churches to Affirm in Their Ministries the Protection of Babies in the Womb Who Are Viable—From the Presbytery of Charlotte.

- 11-03** On Clarity of Late-Term Pregnancy—From the Presbytery of Beaver-Butler.
11-04 On Urging the FDA to Make Emergency Contraception Available Over the Counter—From the Presbytery of Baltimore.

Other:

- 11-05** On Opposing the Change in Requirements of Emission From Smoke Stack Industries—From the Presbytery of Savannah.

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[No Items]

Information

[No Items]

12 PEACEMAKING

ACSWP, CMD

For Plenary Action

Overtures

- 12-01** On Supporting the Geneva Accord, Urging Israel and Palestine to Implement the Accord—From the Presbytery of St. Augustine.
12-02 On Calling for an End to the Construction of a Wall by the State of Israel—From the Presbytery of Chicago.
12-03 On Confronting Christian Zionism—From the Presbytery of Chicago.
12-04 On Urging Peace in Columbia, South America—From the Presbytery of Baltimore.

Other

- 12-05** Iraq: Our Responsibility and the Future: 2003 Referral: Item 12-08(03) [ACSWP] 10 recs
12-06 Resolution on Violence, Religion, and Terrorism: Overture 95-36 (Alt)5.(1) and 2002 Referral: Item 14-07 [ACSWP] 19 recs
12-07 Commitment to Peacemaking [CMD]

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[No Items]

Information

- 12 Report on Peace and Reunification of Korea [WMD]

13 INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

ACSWP, NMD

For Plenary Action

Taiwan

- 13-01** On Expressing our Solidarity with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and with the Taiwanese people—From the Presbytery of New Covenant.
13-02 [Withdrawn]
13-07 On Expressing our Solidarity with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and with the Taiwanese people—From the Presbytery of the Pacific.

Other

- 13-03** On Authorizing the Inclusion of a Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS and Diseases of Poverty in Africa in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—From the Presbytery of New Castle.
- 13-04** On Global Population Stabilization and Reduction—From the Presbytery of Lackawanna.
- 13-05** Human Rights Update [ACSWP] 3 recs
- 13-06** Remove Talisman Energy from the GA Divestment List; 2003 Referral: Item 11-11 NMD]

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[No Items]

Information

[No Items]

14 PENSIONS, FOUNDATION, AND PILP

BOP, FDN, PILP

For Plenary Action

Board of Pensions:

- 14-01** Board of Pension's recommendation [BOP]
- 14-14** ACC Request. Regarding G-14.0506b(2), Mandatory Participation in the PC(USA) Benefits Plan—From Minister, Presbytery of Pittsburgh. [ACC]

Foundation:

- 14-02** Foundation's Mission and Ministry [FDN]
- 14-03** Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws[FDN]
- 14-04** Confirmation of Robert Leech [FDN]
- 14-05** Transfer of Constituent Corporations [FDN]

PILP:

- 14-06** PILP Board [GAC]
- 14-07** Confirmation of Jay Hudson [GAC]

Overtures:

- 14-08** On Appointing a Task Force to Review the Medical Plan of the Board of Pensions—From the Presbytery of Abingdon.
- 14-09** On Directing the Board of Pensions to Revise Their Rules for the Calculation of Salary for Churches with a Clergy Couple Installed to One Position—From the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois.
- 14-10** On Creating a Fund to Provide Shared Equity Loans for Pastors Serving Churches Where the Average Cost of a Home Is Twice the U.S. Average—From the Presbytery of San Francisco.
- 14-11** On Appointing a Task Force to Review the Pension and Medical Plans of the PC(USA)—From the Presbytery of Providence.
- 14-12** On Urging the Board of Pensions to Correct an Inequity for Churches Calling a Married Couple as Co-Pastors Sharing Less than Two Full-Time Calls—From the Presbytery of Northern New England.
- 14-13** On Reinstating Board of Pension Medical Coverage for Persons on Active Duty—From the Presbytery of Eastminster.

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- 14-A** Committee on Review (of PILP)
- 14-B** Receive Reports Regarding Amendments to the Benefits Plans.
- 14-C** Minutes, Board of Pensions.
- 14-D** Minutes, Foundation.
- 14-E** Minutes, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program

Information

- 14 2003 Report from the Board of Pensions
- 14 New Covenant Trust Company, N.A. Report
- 14 Agency Summary, Board of Pensions (See “Life in All Its Fullness”).
- 14 Agency Summary, Foundation (See “Life in All Its Fullness”).
- 14 Agency Summary, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. (See “Life in All Its Fullness”)