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Minutes – 7/1/04 - Business Mtg 7

Thursday, July 1, 2004, 2:00 P.M.

The 216th General Assembly reconvened at 2:00 p.m. with Vice-Moderator Jeanne Marie Peacock presiding. Lisa Largess led the assembly in prayer.

Speak-Out

Commissioners, advisory delegates, and corresponding members were given an opportunity to speak out on issues of importance to them that were not related to business before the assembly. The speak-out was scheduled to run fifteen minutes, with one-minute limits on individual speeches.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES (02)

Vice-Moderator Peacock recognized Nancy Thornton McKenzie, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures, who presented the committee's report. McKenzie informed the assembly that the report of the Assembly Committee on Evangelism and Higher Education that was arrested before lunch would resume.

Ecumenical Greeting

Vice-Moderator Peacock recognized the Rev. Alejandro Figueroa, Ecumenical Advisory Delegate, who brought greetings to the assembly from the Dominican Evangelical Church.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION (09)

Vice-Moderator Peacock recognized the vice-moderator of the Assembly Committee on Evangelism and Higher Education, William Teng, who introduced Curtis

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Kearns. Kearns briefly addressed the assembly and presented a video showing ads for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These television ads are showing in Richmond this week. Kearns also announced that there are printed ads as well and encouraged Presbyterians everywhere to use these resources.

Teng continued the presentation of the report of the Assembly Committee on Evangelism and Higher Education. Item 09-08 was referred to the General Assembly Council with comment. Item 09-09 was approved as amended by the assembly committee with recommendation 2 being amended from the floor as follows: “beginning with the word growth, strike the entire rest of the sentence and replace with the words ‘making disciples for the ministry and mission of Christ’s church.’” The moderator of the Assembly Committee on Evangelism and Higher Education, Jeanne McIver, resumed presentation of the report of the committee. Item 09-15 was approved with amendment and comment. Item 09-12 was referred to the General Assembly Council with comment. Item 09-13, recommendation 1, was approved with comment and editorial correction. Item 09-13, recommendation 2, was approved as amended from the floor by adding two paragraphs as follows: “11. That Presbyterians be called upon to confront the stubborn continuance of racial prejudice, particularly the persistence of societal attitudes that discourage academic achievement among economically disadvantaged and young people of color students and others at risk. and 12. That, because of the present educational difficulties that face many African American children and youth, the GAC, NMD be charged with considering the advisability and feasibility of founding new primary and secondary schools open to all students that addresses the urgent educational needs of

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students who are economically disadvantaged and young people of color students and other students placed at risk due to the continuing effects of racial prejudice.” Item 09-14 was disapproved with comment.

The 216th General Assembly (2004) approved the following recommendations:

I. Immigrant Fellowships

Item 09-01. On Amending G-9.0503 Regarding Voice and Vote for Immigrant Fellowships—From the Presbytery of Des Moines. *ACC +OGA +ACREC

That the recommendation is approved with amendment: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through with brackets; text to be added or inserted in shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“a. For immigrant fellowships the presbytery may, if it determines that its strategy for mission with that constituency requires it, grant [designated leader(s) of] a fellowship voice and vote in the meetings of presbytery on an annual basis.”

Item 09-02. On Amending G-9.0503 Regarding Recognizing Leaders of Immigrant Fellowships as Elders—From the Presbytery of Des Moines. *ACC +OGA +ACREC

That the recommendation is approved with amendment: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through with brackets; text to be added or inserted in shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“b) For immigrant fellowships with roots in the Reformed tradition, if the presbytery determines (1) that its strategy for mission with that constituency requires it and (2) that the chosen lay leadership of the immigrant fellowship is equivalent to elders and session, then the presbytery or its administrative commission may recognize that status as equivalent and proceed to [~~ordain~~] [recognize] those leaders as elders. In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the presbytery. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0300.”

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II. Transfers/Unions

***Item 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.**

That the recommendation is approved.

***Item 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.**

That the recommendation is approved.

***Item 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.**

That the recommendation is approved.

III. Evangelism

Item 09-06. *Alpha—From a Reformed Perspective.

1. That recommendation 1 is approved.

2. That recommendation 2 is approved.

*** \$ Item 09-07. On Encouraging National, Presbytery, and Synod Leaders to Foster Evangelism—From the Presbytery of the Trinity. +OGA +ACREC**

That the recommendation is approved.

[Financial Implications: 2004: \$4,250; (Per Capita-OGA)]

\$ Item 09-08. On Undertaking the Publication of a Mission Magazine that Would use the Powerful Voice of American Youth—From the Presbytery of Huntingdon. +GAC

That the recommendation is referred to the General Assembly Council with comment:

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Comment: We ask that the General Assembly Council seriously address the need for a youth-oriented publication that is both copy and Web-based form containing the elements found in Item 09-08 and seek funding for such a venture.

We ask that the General Assembly Council report on this matter to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

We thank the Presbytery of Huntingdon for bringing this matter to our attention and commend the youth of our denomination for seeking this publication.

[Original Financial Implications: 2006: \$706,588 (Mission-Unrestricted)]
[Committee Action: 2006: \$0]

Item 09-09. On Taking Decisive Action to Recover from the Decline in Membership and Development of Ministry and Mission--From the Presbytery of Mackinac.

That the recommendation is approved with amendments: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through with brackets; text to be added or inserted in shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“1. That the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) take decisive action to initiate decisions that will lead to ~~[the PC(USA)'s recovery from its decline in membership]~~ [growth] and development of ministry and mission.

“2. That the General Assembly, synods, presbyteries, and congregations reaffirm ~~[as its first priority, the fulfillment of]~~ the goal of ~~[recovery]~~ [growth of membership and development of ministry and mission of this church] [making disciples for the ministry and mission of Christ's church].

“3. That the whole church embrace, fund, and implement the goals of the mission initiative JOINING HEARTS AND HANDS-A Campaign to Renew the Church for Mission as the initial initiative to ~~[recover]~~ [growth in] membership and develop ministry and mission of this church.

“4. That the PC (USA) mobilize itself with continued and fervent prayer for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on our church for increase.”

Item 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. +ACREC

That the recommendation is approved with amendment and comment:

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Amendment: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through with brackets; text to be added or inserted in shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“The 216th General Assembly (2004) to direct the National Ministries Division to develop a comprehensive plan for [~~resourcing~~] [accessing resources] and [for] funding evangelism with racial ethnic persons and persons of limited economic resources, including but not limited to coordination between Racial Ethnic Ministries and Evangelism and Church Development for funding and resources.”

Comment: The challenge of the implementation of the racial/immigrant church growth strategy must never be considered as a program of racial ministries program area, or as coming from the racial ethnic church, rather from the while church that sees itself under a mandate to be an inclusive church.

IV. Education

* Item 09-10. List of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

That the recommendation is approved.

*Item 09-11. On Supporting the Association of Presbyterian Schools (APS)—From the Presbytery of Mississippi. +ACSWP

That the recommendation is approved.

\$ Item 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. +GAC

That the recommendation is referred to the General Assembly Council, National Ministries Division (NMD), with comment:

Comment: That the NMD (1) consider the special circumstances of Bloomfield College as an historic institution in the Synod of the Northeast; and (2) consider ways in which Bloomfield College might be admitted to a list of racial-ethnic colleges in a way that would not diminish the funding to other institutions.

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[Original Financial Implications: 2005: \$290,870; 2006: \$290,870
(Mission Budget-Restricted)]
[Committee Action: 2005: \$0; 2006: \$0]

\$ Item 09-13. On Improved Education for African American and Other Students Placed At-Risk for an Excellent Education—From the Presbytery of National Capital. +GAC +ACREC

1. That Recommendation 1. is approved with comment.

Comment: The National Ministries Division consider using the Pentecost Offering [for some funding] for youth and young adults at risk [~~for some funding~~].

2. That Recommendations 2. through 10. are referred to the General Assembly Council, National Ministries Division, so that a feasible plan can be developed to address the central concerns of this overture; with a report being made to the 217th General Assembly (2006). And to add two additional items, as follows:

[11. That Presbyterians be called upon to confront the stubborn continuance of racial prejudice, particularly the persistence of societal attitudes that discourage academic achievement among economically disadvantaged and children of color students and others at risk.

12. That because of the present educational difficulties that face many economically disadvantaged and children of color and youth, the GAC, National Ministries Division be charged with considering the advisability and feasibility of founding new primary and secondary schools open to all students that addresses the urgent educational needs of economically disadvantaged and children of color Students and other students placed at risk due to the continuing effects of racial prejudice.]

[Original Financial Implications: 2005: \$150,412; 2006: \$88,059; 2007: \$97,865; 2008: \$373,290 (Mission-Unrestricted/Restricted)]
[Committee Action: 2005: \$0; 2006: \$0; 2007: \$0; 2008: \$0]

V. Other

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

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That the recommendation is disapproved with comment:

Comment: The General Assembly recognizes the legitimacy of the needs being addressed and encourages the discipleship and witness of Presbyterians in ministering to that need. Thousands of Presbyterians are following the leadership of the Lord in mission and their efforts are bearing great fruit. It is commendable that presbyteries are celebrating this fact.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

The Vice-Moderator recognized Gary Cook, associate director for Global Service and Witness, Worldwide Ministries Division, General Assembly Council, who, with Lionel Derenoncourt, associate for Hunger Concerns, presented a report concerning the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES (03) – Part One

Vice-Moderator Peacock recognized Judith Hartley, moderator of the Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures, to present part one of the assembly committee's report. The assembly approved the consent agenda, following removal of Items 03-02 and 03-27. The remaining consent agenda included Items 03-01, 03-03, 03-05, 03-06, 03-10, 03-20, and 03-21. Item 03-04 was approved. Items 03-07 and 03-08 were disapproved. The assembly approved an alternate resolution to Item 03-09. Item 03-23 was answered by the action taken on Item 03-09. Item 03-22 was disapproved. Items 03-11 and 03-24 were referred to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly task force. Item 03-12 was disapproved failing to receive the required 2/3 affirmative vote. Item 03-13 was referred to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. Item 03-14 was disapproved.

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Moderator Ufford-Chase assumed the chair.

Its vice-moderator Leah Johnson continued presentation of the report of the Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures. Item 03-15 was disapproved. Recommendations 1, 2 and 5 of Item 03-16 were approved. Item 03-17 was disapproved. Hartley, moderator of the Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures presented the remaining items of the assembly committee's report. Item 03-18 was approved. Item 03-19 was approved with amendment. Item 03-25 was approved. Item 03-26 was approved with the following floor amendment: “add the phrase ‘in the questions that are asked of commissioners and advisory delegates’ between the words ‘scripture’ and ‘in’ in recommendation number one.” Items 03-02 and 03-27, which had been removed from the consent agenda, were disapproved.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES – Report One

The 216th General Assembly (2004) approved the following recommendations: [Consent agenda items are marked with an asterisk (*); Items with financial implications are indicated with a “\$” sign.]

Publication Matters

***Item 03-01. Changes in Publication of the *Minutes*.**

- 1. That Recommendation 1. is approved.**
- 2. That Recommendation 2. is approved.**

Item 03-02. Use Session Annual Statistical Report Regarding Invitation of Racial Ethnic Ministers.

That the recommendation is disapproved.

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***Item 03-03. Direct 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. +OGA**

That the recommendation is approved.

General Assembly

Item 03-04. Change Dates for Birmingham Assembly (2006).

That the recommendation is approved.

***Item 03-05. Amend Standing Rule D. to Include Provision for Special Meetings.**

That the recommendation is approved with amendment:

Amend “5.b.” as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“b. The Book of Order establishes the minimum number of signatures to require a called meeting. The Moderator, upon receipt of the petition, shall ask the Stated Clerk to ~~do~~ [complete] the following within thirty days:”

***Item 03-06. Instruct Presbyteries to Work on Diversity and Inclusiveness When Electing/Selecting Commissioners to GA.**

That the recommendation is approved.

Item 03-07. Amend Standing Rule B.5.e. Regarding the Timeline for Submitting Commissioners’ Resolutions—From the Presbytery of Eastminster. +COGA

That the recommendation is disapproved.

\$ Item 03-08. Amend G-13.0104 to Require Annual Meetings of the General Assembly—From the Presbytery of National Capital. *ACC +COGA

That the recommendation is disapproved.

[Original Financial Implications: \$66,000 (2008); \$2,202,126 (2009); \$70,000 (2010) (Per Capita)]

[Original Financial Implication: \$456,125 (2009) (Mission)]

[Committee Action: \$0 (2008); \$0 (2009); \$0 (2010)]

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§ Item 03-09. Direct 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. +COGA/GAC +ACREC

In response to this item, that the 216th General Assembly (2004) approved the following:

1. Requests that the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) and the General Assembly Council (GAC) create a proposal regarding the implementation of presenting an Introduction of Antiracism Training at each General Assembly and bring the proposal before the 217th General Assembly (2006).

2. Request the implementation of said proposal at the 218th General Assembly (2008), the 219th General Assembly (2010), and the 220th General Assembly (2012).

3. Direct that antiracism training be provided for all members of the General Assembly Council in their meetings for the numbers of years described in 1 and 2 above.

[Original Financial Implications: \$85,980 (2008) (Per Capital-OGA)]

[Committee Action: \$0 (2008)]

Item 03-23. Introduction to Anti-Racism Training for Assemblies in 2006, 2008, and 2010, and at General Assembly Council Meetings—From the Presbytery of San Francisco. +ACREC

That the recommendation is answered by the action taken on Item 03-09 of this report.

§ Item 03-22. Appoint a Panel to Study the Apportionment of General Assembly Commissioners from Presbyteries—From the Presbytery of San Diego. +COGA

That the recommendation is disapproved.

[Original Financial Implications: \$7,700 (2004) (Per Capita—OGA)]

[Committee Action: \$0 (2004)]

Historical Society

***Item 03-10. Amend Standing Rule E.7. and G.3.c. Regarding the Presbyterian Historical Society.**

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That the recommendation is approved.

\$ Item 03-11. On the Montreat Historical Center—From the Presbytery of South Louisiana. +COGA

That the recommendation is referred to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly-appointed task force, who will report in 2006.

[Note: This task force, formed in 2001 after receiving a report from an archival consultant Warner-Yakel, is comprised of members of Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), General Assembly Council (GAC), Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS), and the Montreat community.]

[Original Financial Implications: \$221,500 (2005); \$230,200 (2006) (Per Capita-OGA)]

[Committee Action: \$0 (2005); \$0 (2006)]

Item 03-24. Direct 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.

That the recommendation is referred to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly-appointed task force, who will report in 2006.

[Note: This task force, formed in 2001 after receiving a report from an archival consultant Warner-Yakel, is comprised of members of Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), General Assembly Council (GAC), Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS), and the Montreat community.]

Advisory Delegates

\$ Item 03-12. Amend the Standing Rules to Increase the Number of YADs to the Biennial Meetings of the General Assembly—From the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. +COGA +ACREC, ACWC

That the recommendation is disapproved.

[Original Financial Implications: \$20,800 (2008) (Per Capita-OGA)]

\$ Item 03-13. Amend Standing Rule A.2. Regarding Advisory Delegates—From the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys. +COGA

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That the recommendation is referred to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly for review regarding appropriate levels of youth, missionary, ecumenical, and theological student delegates' participation. A report and recommendations should be brought back to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

[Original Financial Implication: \$49,680 (2008) (Per Capita-OGA)]

[Committee Action: \$0 (2008)]

Item 03-14. Amend Standing Rule A.2. to Give Advisory Delegates the Same Privilege in Committee as They Have in Plenary—From the Presbytery of Northeast Georgia. +COGA +ACREC +ACWC

That the recommendation is disapproved.

Item 03-15. Amend 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. +COGA +ACREC +ACWC

That the recommendation is disapproved.

Per Capita

Item 03-16. Per Capita Budget Recommendations.

1. That Recommendation 1. is approved.
2. That Recommendation 2. is approved.

[Note: Item 03-16, Recommendations 3.a.–b. and 4., will appear in 03 Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures Report Two, which will be presented to plenary on Saturday, July 3.]

5. That Recommendation 5. is approved.

Item 03-17. Amend G-9.0404d Regarding Per Capita—From the Presbytery of Lake Erie. *ACC +COGA

That the recommendation is disapproved.

Other

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Item 03-18. ACC Request for an Interpretation Concerning GA Moderator as an Entity.

That the recommendation is approved.

Item 03-19. Amend Standing Rule F. Regarding Moderator of the General Assembly.

That the recommendation is approved with amendment:

Amend “3.c.(5)” as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“(5) *Not less than fifteen days before the convening of the General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall distribute to commissioners and advisory delegates an information packet containing the following material regarding each candidate for Moderator [and Vice-Moderator] who is known to the Stated Clerk and who wishes to be included.”*

***Item 03-20. Amend Standing Rule A.3. Regarding Corresponding Members.**

That the recommendation is approved.

***Item 03-21. Study Recent General Assemblies Concerning “Affinity Groups” and “Special Interest Organizations.**

That the recommendation is approved.

Commissioners’ Resolutions

Item 03-25. On Providing Disability Awareness Training for Commissioners to the 217th General Assembly (2006).

That the recommendation is approved.

Item 03-26. Emphasizing the Importance of Scripture.

That the recommendation is approved, as amended to insert in item 1., between the words “scripture” and “in,” [in the questions that are asked of commissioners and advisory delegates.]

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Item 03-27. Recording Commissioners' Votes in the *Minutes of the General Assembly, Part I.*

That the recommendation is disapproved.

Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

[The items listed below were acted upon and approved by the assembly committee. No further action is needed, and is here for information only.]

Item 03-A. Minutes, Presbyterian Historical Society.

That the minutes are approved.

Item 03-B. Minutes, General Assembly Committee on Representation.

That the minutes are approved.

Announcements and Recess

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick announced there was a group meal this evening. He also told the assembly that \$6,787 had been donated in response to the option for commissioners, advisory delegates and staff to donate a portion of their per diem for Wednesday evening's meal. Following announcements by Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick and prayer by Leah Hrachovec and Joel Tolbert, theological student advisory delegates from Columbia Theological Seminary, the assembly recessed at 6:00 p.m., to be reconvened at 7:30 p.m.