

APPROVED

Minutes – 6/26/04, Business Mtg 1

THE JOURNAL OF THE 216TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2004)

Saturday, June 26, 2004 , 1:00 P.M.

The 216th General Assembly (2004) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was convened by Moderator Susan Andrews, in the Greater Richmond Convention Center, Louisville, Richmond, Virginia. Moderator Andrews led the assembly in the convening prayer.

Dedication of the Building and the Furnishings

The Dedication of the Building and the Furnishings was begun with an opening prayer, led by Vice-Moderator Charles Easley. Dedication of the Baptismal Font was led by Elder Conrad Rocha in English; the Pulpit by Fernando Rodriquez (in Spanish); the Bible by YAD Porsha Peterson; and Communion Vessels by Rev. Yohan Kim (in Korean).

Katherine Cunningham, Moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly read John 10:1-11 from Scripture.

Commissioning of Commissioners & Advisory Delegates

Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick led the assembly in a Service of Recognition of Commissioners and Advisory Delegates, which included a litany of Christ's Call. Moderator Andrews charged commissioners and advisory delegates to do everything, in word or deed, in the name of Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.

Enrollment and Quorum

Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick advised the Moderator that the Book of Order, G-13.0105, establishes that the quorum of the General Assembly shall be one hundred commissioners, fifty of whom shall be elders and fifty of whom shall be ministers, representing presbyteries of at least one fourth of its synods. Standing Rule B.2. permits that the roll be established by registration.

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Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick recommended that the roll of the 213th General Assembly be established by the list of those who have registered or will register. Based on pre-registration with Assembly Services, there will be present at this assembly

544 commissioners from presbyteries

167 youth advisory delegates

25 theological student advisory delegates

8 missionary advisory delegates

15 ecumenical advisory delegates

The assembly approved that the roll of the 216th General Assembly (2004) be established by the list of those who have or will register.

THE ROLL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[INSERT LIST HERE]

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick announced that in accordance with Standing Rule A.3., corresponding members are designated and present as follows:

[INSERT CORRESPONDING MEMBERS LIST HERE]

Moderator Andrews welcomed the corresponding members.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Committee on Local Arrangements of the Presbytery of the James was presented by its moderator, R. Jackson Sadler and its vice-moderator Patricia B. Valentine. The report included a video presentation of the history of Presbyterianism in the Presbytery of the James. A second video presentation was shown regarding Hands Against Hunger, a fair trade workshop in Peru, that made the manta tote bags distributed at the 216th General Assembly

(2004).

ORIENTATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORY DELEGATES

Commissioners, and advisory delegates were divided into three groups using names of persons important to the early history of Presbyterianism: the Calvin group, the Witherspoon group, and the Knox group. The three groups were oriented to their service in three segments:

- 1) Common Mission in the life of the Church – led by GAC Executive Director, John Detterick and Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick. This segment included a brief summary of the middle governing body consultations that have taken place during the last three years.
- 2) Common Work of the denomination – presented by elected leaders of the six agencies of the Church, including Katherine Cunningham of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly; Vernon Carroll of the General Assembly Council; Elinor Hite of the Presbyterian Foundation; Molly Baskin of the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program; Earldean Robbins of the Board of Pensions; and Robert Bohl of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. This segment introduced the joint annual agency report with suggestions as to how it can be used as a teaching tool in presbyteries and congregations
- 3) Common Life – led by Moderator Andrews, Conrad Rocha, Co-Platform Manager and Gradye Parsons, Associate Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. This segment included information to help those who make up the General Assembly learn about the various kinds of assistance available to them, and to become familiar with a few of the procedures by which the assembly will deal with the business coming before it; information regarding logistics, including health needs, safety precautions and

instructions, the service provided by the General Assembly of simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings into Spanish and Korean, as well as for the hearing impaired; and reimbursement procedures. Information regarding the worship life of the assembly, which provides spiritual enrichment for the time shared at this assembly was also highlighted. This segment included an introduction on how to work together to accomplish the work of the assembly and instruction on use of the electronic voting pads, the significance of different paddle colors, and other logistical information unique to plenary.

The first report from the General Assembly Nominating Committee was presented by Susan Davis Krummel, Moderator of the General Assembly Nominating Committee, who described the process by which names to various entities of the General Assembly are placed in nomination and procedures for making nominations from the floor.

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Following the three-segment orientation, the 216th General Assembly (2004) was reconvened by Moderator Andrews who called upon General Assembly Vice-Moderator Charles Easley to assume the chair. The Vice-Moderator recognized the Moderator of the 215th General Assembly (2003), Susan Andrews, who presented the report of the Moderator. Following her report, Moderator Andrews again assumed the chair.

ACTIONS TO CONVENE ASSEMBLY

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick instructed the advisory delegates in the use of their key pads and directed them to use the key pads to establish the number of advisory delegates present:

According to the count, there were present:

- 146 youth advisory delegates
- 22 theological student advisory delegates
- 5 overseas advisory delegates
- 5 ecumenical advisory delegates

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick then instructed commissioners to use their keypads to establish that there was a quorum of commissioners present. There were 462 commissioners present and the Stated Clerk announced the quorum requirements of G-13.0105 had been met.

Moderator Andrews declared a quorum was present and the 216th General Assembly (2004) was ready for business.

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick recommended, and the assembly approved, in accordance with Standing Rules C.3.c. that the committee assistants be appointed, as follows:

Committee Assistants: Diana Barber, Margie M. Boyd, A. Vanessa Hawkins, Lydia Hernandez, Sally J. Hinchman, Dee Hoge, Jill Hudson, Howard Jackson, Don Lincoln, Mary Paik, Kevin Porter, Carl Schlich, and Pat Schumann.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

On recommendation of the Stated Clerk, the assembly approved the assembly committee structure. The committees are as follows:

1. Business Referrals
2. Bills and Overtures
3. General Assembly Procedures
4. Church Polity
5. Church Orders and Ministry
6. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

7. Mission Coordination and Budgets
8. Theological Issues and Institutions
9. Evangelism and Higher Education
10. National Issues
11. Health Issues
12. Global Ministries
13. Peacemaking
14. Pensions, Foundation, and PILP

Announcements

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick made several announcements, including a reminder that the deadline for business to be submitted to the assembly is 1:00 p.m., tomorrow, Sunday, June 27.

Closing Prayer

The Moderator called upon Dana Mayfield, Theological Student Advisory Delegate, a student at Austin Theological Seminary and Jane Busey, a student at Dubuque Theological Seminary, who offered the closing prayer for this meeting of the General Assembly.

Recess

The assembly recessed at 5:45 p.m. to reconvene at 7:30 p.m.

The official group photograph was taken following recess.