

**THE JOURNAL OF THE
218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)**

Saturday, June 21, 2008, 10:00 A.M.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was convened by Joan Gray, moderator, 217th General Assembly (2006), in Exhibit Halls 2 and 3 of the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, California. Moderator Gray led the assembly in the convening prayer. Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick led the commissioners in a Call to Discipleship.

COMMISSIONING OF COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORY DELEGATES

Moderator Gray, Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick, Catherine Ulrich, moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, Dennis Hughes, moderator-elect of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, and Robert Wilson, vice-moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2006), led the assembly in a Service of Recognition of Commissioners and Advisory Delegates, which included a litany of enrollment and commitment to faithful fulfillment of their service as commissioners and a charge to commissioners.

ENROLLMENT AND QUORUM

Moderator Gray recognized Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick, who advised the Moderator that Standing Rule D.2. permits that the roll be established by registration. Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick recommended that the roll of the 218th General Assembly (2008) be established by the list of those who had registered or would register. Based on pre-registration with General Assembly Meeting Service, there would be present at this assembly:

- 752 commissioners from 173 presbyteries
- 173 youth advisory delegates
- 25 theological student advisory delegates
- 8 missionary advisory delegates
- 15 ecumenical advisory delegates

The assembly approved that the roll of the 218th General Assembly (2008) be established by the list of those who had registered or would register. Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick then informed the Moderator that G-13.0105 of the *Book of Order* 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."

Moderator Gray informed the assembly that at a later time, before taking any additional votes, a quorum of commissioners present at this assembly would be established by the use of the electronic voting system.

THE ROLL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The roll of the General Assembly can be found on page ____.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick announced that in accordance with Standing Rule B.3., corresponding members are designated and present at the General Assembly. The list of corresponding members can be found on page ____.

Moderator Gray welcomed the corresponding members.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Committee on Local Arrangements of the Presbytery of San Jose was presented by its moderator, Bob Bowles, and vice-moderator, Lynn Viale. At the conclusion of the report, the committee presented gifts to Moderator Gray and Vice-Moderator Wilson.

REPORTS OF THE MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR

Moderator Joan Gray called upon Vice-Moderator Robert Wilson to assume the chair. Vice-Moderator Wilson recog-

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nized the Moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2006), Joan Gray, who presented the report on the work of the Moderator during the last two years. At the conclusion of the report, Moderator Gray assumed the chair.

Vice-Moderator Robert Wilson presented a report of the work of the Vice-Moderator over the last two years. Vice-Moderator Wilson assumed the chair.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

Vice-Moderator Wilson called upon Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Council (GAC), who introduced Allison Seed, chair, GAC, for a report. Included in the report was the presentation of a video.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Vice-Moderator Wilson recognized Janet Schlenker, moderator of the General Assembly Nominating Committee (GANC), who described the process by which the GANC places names in nomination and the procedure for making nominations from the floor.

REPORT ON BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Vice-Moderator Wilson called upon Joey Bailey, deputy executive director for Shared Services, GAC, who described the process to be used in identifying items with budget implications and how that process can inform decisions made during the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick made several announcements, including a reminder that the deadline for business to be submitted to the assembly was 10:00 a.m., Sunday, June 22.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice-Moderator Wilson called upon Emily McGinley, a theological student advisory delegate from McCormick Theological Seminary. Ms. McGinley offered the closing prayer for this session of the General Assembly.

RECESS

The assembly recessed at 11:35 a.m.

Saturday, June 21, 2008, 1:30 P.M.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with Vice-Moderator Robert Wilson presiding. He introduced the Right Reverend Sheilagh Kesting, former moderator of The Church of Scotland, who opened this meeting of the assembly with prayer.

VIDEO ON AGENCIES OF THE CHURCH

A video was shown that outlined the work and ministry of the six agencies of the church.

ORIENTATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORY DELEGATES

The moderator recognized Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick for an orientation of commissioners and advisory delegates. Commissioners and advisory delegates were divided into three groups—Calvin, Witherspoon, and Knox. The three groups were oriented to their service in three segments as follows:

1. *Common Mission in the Life of the Church*, led by Linda Valentine, executive director, General Assembly Council, and Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick. This session included sharing of hopes for the gifts that this assembly might offer for the renewal of the Presbyterian church and its mission.

2. *Common Work of the Denomination*, presented by elected leaders of the six agencies of the church, including the Office of the General Assembly, General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc., Board of Pensions, and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. This segment introduced the joint annual agency

report with suggestions as to how it could be used as a teaching tool in presbyteries and congregations.

3. *Common Life*, led by Moderator Gray, Vice-Moderator Wilson, and Associate Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons. This segment included information to help those who make up the General Assembly learn about the various kinds of assistance available to them; become familiar with a few of the procedures by which the assembly would deal with the business coming before it; information regarding logistics, including health needs, safety precautions and instructions; services provided by the General Assembly for simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings into Spanish and Korean, and 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.

Moderator Joan Gray assumed the chair.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Moderator Gray recognized Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick for an explanation of the development of the committee structure for the assembly. Following his description, the assembly approved Item 00-02, committee structure.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS REFERRALS

Moderator Gray recognized Bruce Hedgepeth, moderator, Assembly Committee on Business Referrals, who presented the committee's report. The assembly approved Item 01-01, the proposed docket. (See page __.) The report was arrested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick made an announcement that a media presentation highlighting the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reunion assembly of 1983 would be available on screens through the week.

CLOSING PRAYER

The Moderator called upon Jonathan Wiesehuegel, youth advisory delegate, Presbytery of East Tennessee, who offered the closing prayer for this session of the General Assembly.

RECESS

The assembly recessed at 4:50 p.m.

Saturday, June 21, 2008, 7:30 P.M.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) reconvened at 7:30 p.m. with Moderator Gray presiding. She introduced David Cockcroft, Presbytery of New York City, who opened this meeting of the assembly with prayer.

ECUMENICAL GREETINGS

Moderator Gray recognized the Reverend Thomas Wipf, Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches, who brought fraternal greetings to the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Joan Gray recognized Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick for an announcement. Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick lifted up the life and ministry of John Coffin, longtime servant of the church, who was attending his fiftieth general assembly meeting.

Moderator Gray recognized Catherine Ulrich, moderator, Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, who reported that the moderator candidates' campaign expenses had been reviewed and found to be in order.

ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

Moderator Joan Gray called for the election of the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as required by *Book of Order*, G-9.0200, and Standing Rule H. The Stated Clerk described the procedure for the election. Moderator Gray announced that four candidates had declared their intention to stand for election. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The most recent past Moderator present, Rick Ufford-Chase, Moderator, 216th General Assembly (2004), met with the candidates backstage and led them in prayer.

Four candidates were placed in nomination: Bruce Reyes-Chow, Presbytery of San Francisco, who was nominated by Vivian Guthrie, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; Carl Mazza, Presbytery of New Castle, who was nominated by Grace Bowen, Presbytery of New York City; William Teng, Presbytery of National Capital, who was nominated by Tamara Letts, Presbytery of Yukon; Roger Shoemaker, Presbytery of Homestead, who was nominated by William Nottage-Tacey, Presbytery of Central Nebraska.

Following nominating speeches, each candidate was afforded an opportunity to address the General Assembly for five minutes. The candidates then responded to questions from the floor. At the expiration of the time allotted for this process, the candidates were escorted from the hall by former Moderator Ufford-Chase. Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick explained the electronic voting procedures.

Bruce Reyes-Chow was elected Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) on the second ballot, receiving a total of 390 votes. Of the total votes cast William Teng received 255, Carl Mazza received 52, and Roger Shoemaker received 7.

Moderator Gray declared that Bruce Reyes-Chow was duly elected to the office of Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008).

After being escorted back into the hall by former Moderator Ufford-Chase, Moderator-elect Reyes-Chow was accompanied to the platform by family members and friends.

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED MODERATOR

Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick and retiring Moderator Joan Gray installed Bruce Reyes-Chow to the office of Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008). Retiring Moderator Gray presented Moderator Reyes-Chow with the moderatorial stole, and with Celtic crosses that have been worn by all Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Moderators since 1983. Evelyn Pugh and Sarah Reyes led the assembly in prayer for the Moderator.

Moderator Reyes-Chow addressed the assembly briefly.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick for a special presentation. Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick presented retiring Moderator Joan Gray with a crystal cross and a replica of the Celtic crosses that have been worn by all Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Moderators since 1983. Vice-Moderator Robert Wilson received a chalice and paten from the communion set used during the 217th General Assembly (2006).

RECOGNITION OF FORMER MODERATORS

Moderator Reyes-Chow welcomed the following former moderators to the platform:

Name	Year	G.A.	Church
Charles A. Hammond	1980	192nd	UPCUSA
Harriet A. Nelson	1984	196th	PC(USA)
Benjamin Weir	1986	198th	PC(USA)
David L. Dobler	1993	205th	PC(USA)
Marj Carpenter	1995	207th	PC(USA)
John M. Buchanan	1996	208th	PC(USA)
Freda A. Gardner	1999	211th	PC(USA)
Syngman A. Rhee	2000	212th	PC(USA)
Jack Rogers	2001	213th	PC(USA)
Susan Andrews	2003	215th	PC(USA)
Rick Ufford-Chase	2004	216th	PC(USA)
Joan Gray	2006	217th	PC(USA)

PRESENTATION TO NEW MODERATOR

Lynn Viale, Vice-Chair, Committee on Local Arrangements, presented gavels for use by the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008).

RECESS

After prayer offered by Jeannene Wiseman, missionary advisory delegate, the assembly recessed at 10:10 p.m. to reconvene at 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 22.