

Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 2:30 P.M.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was reconvened at 2:30 p.m. with Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow presiding. Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Chris Williams, theological student advisory delegate from Dubuque Theological Seminary, who led the assembly in the opening prayer.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Janice Sloan of the AME Zion Church, who brought greetings to the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Moderator Reyes-Chow reminded the assembly that headsets for Korean and Spanish translation of business or for hearing amplification were available at the Special Assistance Booth on the concourse across from Exhibit Hall 1.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Bruce Hedgepeth, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures, for a report from the committee.

Hedgepeth reported that the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures examined the minutes of the General Assembly from the time of its convening on Saturday morning June 21, through the end of business on Sunday June 22, and found them in order. The assembly approved Item 02-01. (See page ____.) Item 02-03 (revised docket) was approved. (See page ____.) This concluded the reports of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures. Summaries of the reports are as follows:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES, REPORT ONE

I. Minutes

The Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures has examined the *Minutes* of the 218th General Assembly for Saturday, June 21, 2008, and Sunday, June 22, 2008, and found that all has been done in compliance with Standing Rules. A copy of these minutes has been posted on the website and two printed copies have been posted on bulletin boards outside the meeting hall.—Approved. (See page____.)

II. For Information

Referrals of Commissioners' Resolutions

01. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Sharing Costs of Legal Defense in Our Connectional System of Government.* Referred to Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (03)

02. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Youth Participation at the General Assembly.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Youth (17)

03. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Expanding the Role of the Commissioned Lay Pastor.* Declined: Standing Rule A.8.d.

04. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Mobilizing Presbyterians for a Significant Response to the Global Food Crisis.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues (11).

05. *Commissioners Resolution. On Amending Standing Rule B.5.d. Granting Presbytery Executives and Clerks Advisory Vote.* Referred to Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (03).

06. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Publishing in the Minutes the Full Audits of Each Assembly Entity Completed Since the Previous General Assembly Meeting.* Referred to Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (03).

07. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Encouraging Presbyteries to Approve Requests from Congregations to Honor as "Lay Pastor Emeritus/a" Commissioned Lay Pastors When They Retire.* Declined: Standing Rule A.8.f. (217th General Assembly (2006), Item 05-09)

08. *WITHDRAWN*

09. *Commissioners' Resolution. Concerning Human Rights Violations in the Philippines.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues (11).

10. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Phasing Out the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns, the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns, and the Cultural Proficiency Committees.* Declined: Standing Rule A.8.e. (218th General Assembly (2008), Item 08-16)

11. *Commissioners' Resolution. Affirming the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture and Cruelty.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Social Justice (09).

12. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Emergency Food Aid to North Korea.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues (11).

13. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Amending the Standing Rules Related to Communication Strategies, the Media, and the Unity of the Church.* Referred to Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (03).

14. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Peace with Iran.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues (11).

15. *WITHDRAWN*

16. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Urging a Gracious, Pastoral Response to Churches Requesting Dismissal from the PC(USA).* Referred to Assembly Committee on Church Polity (04).

17. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Local Enforcement of National Immigration Laws that Adversely Affect Local Congregations.* Referred to Assembly Committee on Social Justice (09).

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES, REPORT TWO

I. Docket

The Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures has considered the flow of business for the remainder of the assembly and recommends approval of the docket.—Approved. (See page ___.)

Wednesday, June 25

2:30pm

Opening Prayer

Business Meeting 5

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Stated Clerk's Orientation II
- General Assembly Nominating Committee
- Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (Financial Implications)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation and Presbyterian Publishing (15)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Church Growth and Christian Education (12)

6:00pm
7:30pm

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess
Dinner Break
Opening Prayer
Business Meeting 6

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Report of the Assembly Committee Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (7)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Youth (17)

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

Thursday, June 26
8:30am

Opening Prayer
Business Meeting 7

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (3) (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (8) (Financial Implications)
- General Assembly Nominating Committee
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (8)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Theological Issues and Institutions (13)
- Memorial Minutes for Former Moderator Ben Rose

Announcements

12:00pm
1:30pm
2:30pm

Closing Prayer
Recess
Group Lunch
Worship (In Plenary)
Business Meeting 8

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Form of Government Revision (6)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Worship and Spiritual Renewal (16)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (3)

Announcements

6:00pm
7:30pm

Closing Prayer
Recess
Dinner on own
Opening Prayer
Business Meeting 9

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Review of General Assembly Permanent Committees (14)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity (4)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Health Issues (10)

Announcements
Closing Prayer
Recess

Friday, June 27

8:30am

Opening Prayer

Business Meeting 10

- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures (3) (Financial Implications)
- Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets (8) (Financial Implications)
- Stated Clerk's Election
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Social Justice Issues (9)

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Recess

12:00pm

Lunch on own

1:30pm

Worship (in Plenary)

2:30pm

Business Meeting 11

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Church Orders and Ministry (5)
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Social Justice Issues – Continued (9)

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Recess

6:00pm

Group Dinner

7:30pm

Business Meeting 12

- Speakout
- Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures (2)
- Ecumenical Greeting
- Report of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues (11)

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Recess

Saturday, June 28

8:30am

Morning Worship (in Plenary)

Business Meeting 13

- 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 Presbytery of Twin Cities Area Committee on Local Arrangements

Closing Prayer

Noon

ADJOURN

CONFIRMATION AND INSTALLATION OF THE VICE-MODERATOR

Moderator Reyes-Chow introduced Byron Wade, minister commissioner, Presbytery of New Hope, whom he appointed Vice-Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008). Wade addressed the assembly. The assembly confirmed Byron Wade as Vice-Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) and Moderator Reyes-Chow and Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick led a service to install him into the position.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Janet Schlenker, moderator of the General Assembly Nominating Committee for information about the nominations process.

STATED CLERK'S ORIENTATION

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick, who presented a brief orientation to commissioners. This session of the orientation included procedures for conducting business in plenary, use of microphones and the speaker recognition system, making a motion, participation in dialogue, use of parliamentary procedures (using the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order*), the filing of protests and dissents, use of consent agendas, handling of minority reports, distribution of reports, electronic voting procedures, and the use of PC-biz.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAMP AND CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Elise Bates Russell of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association for a presentation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS UPDATE

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized George Kimm, moderator of the Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures, for a report on financial implications to the per capita budget of actions taken at this assembly. Kimm announced that the total financial implications of actions recommended by assembly committees amounts to: \$53,330 for 2008; \$2,341,385 for 2009; and \$118,595 for 2010. In terms of the per capita apportionment rate, this would present an increase of approximately one dollar and eight cents in 2009 and six cents in 2010. Since per capita cannot be increased for the mid year 2008, the amount of \$53,330 may have to be absorbed in the current year's budget. On Saturday morning, the committee will present to the assembly its final recommendation for balancing the per capita budget for 2009 and 2010.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS UPDATE

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON MISSION COORDINATION AND BUDGETS

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Kears Pollock, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets, for a report on financial implications to the mission budget of actions taken at this assembly. Pollock reported the total financial implications of actions under consideration by the assembly for the mission budgets were: \$8,758 for 2008; \$500,020 for 2009; and \$316,804 for 2010.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BOARD OF PENSIONS, PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, AND PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Jesse Hite, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, and Presbyterian Publishing, for a report from the committee.

At Hite's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Peter C.S. Sime, vice president of assistance, CREDO and funds development, Board of Pensions, for a description of the Presbyterian CREDO program. The assembly approved Item 15-01, approved Item 15-02 as amended, approved Item 15-03, approved Item 15-04, and approved Item 15-05 with comment. The assembly approved Item 15-06. At Hite's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Robert Leech, president and chief executive officer, Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation, to address the assembly following the confirmation of his election.

The assembly approved Item 15-07. At Hite's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Marc Lewis,

president and publisher, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, to address the assembly following the confirmation of his election. This concluded the reports of the Assembly Committee on Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, and Presbyterian Publishing. A summary of the report is as follows:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BOARD OF PENSIONS, PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, AND PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING

Item 15-01. On Urging the Board of Pensions to Expand the Definition of Medical Necessity to Include Habilitative Services for Children with Congenital Developmental Disabilities.—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 15-02. Directing the Board of Pensions to Provide a Relief of Conscience Plan Report Annually—Approved as amended. (See page __.)

Item 15-03. Continue Churchwide Grants/Promoting Appropriate Investments in New Covenant Funds—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 15-04. Amended Bylaws of the Foundation—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 15-05. Confirm the Reelection of Robert E. Leech—Approved with comment. (See page __.)

Comment: To commend Robert Leech and his staff for their leadership in the fiduciary stewardship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation.

Item 15-06. Confirm Director of New Covenant Trust Company—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 15-07. Confirm the Election of Marc Lewis—Approved. (See page __.)

15-A. Minutes, Board of Pensions—Approved with comment. (See page __.) *Comment:* Recommend that that 218th General Assembly commends and expresses appreciation to the Board of Pensions for offering the CREDO program to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). In week-long conferences, CREDO offers resources and support for the well-being of Presbyterian clergy in the areas of spirituality, vocation, finance and health. After two years, its value to participants and their congregations is already evident. The General Assembly recommends the CREDO experience to eligible ministers of the Presbyterian Church, and urges all who are invited to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity.

15-B. Minutes, Presbyterian Foundation—Approved. (See page __.)

15-C. Minutes, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation—Approved. (See page __.)

15-D. Report of Certain Amendments to Bylaws—Approved. (See page __.)

15-E. Amendments to the Benefits Plan of the PC(USA)—Approved. (See page __.)

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH GROWTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Steve Locke, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Church Growth and Christian Education, for a report from the committee. The consent agenda was approved: Items 12-03 (approved), and 12-05 (approved).

The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator E. Thomas Mathew. At Mathew's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Lonnie Oliver to introduce Item 12-01. The assembly approved Item 12-01. At Mather's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Tom Taylor, deputy executive director for mission, General Assembly Council, to introduce Item 12-02. The assembly approved Item 12-02.

The report of the committee was continued by Moderator Steve Locke. The assembly approved Item 12-04. At Locke's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized James L. Hudson, president, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, to address the assembly following the confirmation of his election. The assembly approved Item 12-06 as amended. The assembly disapproved Item 12-07. The assembly approved Item 12-08 with comment.

This concluded the reports of the Assembly Committee on Church Growth and Christian Education. A summary of the report is as follows:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH GROWTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Item 12-01. Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 12-02. Grow God's Church Deep and Wide—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 12-03. PILP Board of Directors—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 12-04. Confirm the Election of the President of PILP—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 12-05. Revisions to the 1995 Deliverance of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 12-06. List of Colleges and Universities—Approved as amended. (See page __.)

Item 12-07. On Encouraging the Observation of Children’s Day on the Second Sunday in June—Disapproved. (See page __.)

Item 12-08. On Directing the GAC to Produce Adolescent Human Development Resources—Approved with comment. *Comment:* We choose to plant the seed of peace. We set aside our individual desires to “win” and to further our own agendas and put our faith in God, and send this overture on without trying to advocate one position or another, trusting not only God, but our fellow Presbyterians to do what is right not only for our children but for our denomination. We send this overture on in the hope that the next step of the process will cultivate the seed we have planted, faithfully stepping out in mutual trust. (See page __.)

Item 12-A. Minutes, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program—Approved with comment. *Comment:* Both general and stylistic exceptions were noted. Corrections to 2006 and 2007 minutes were addressed by the committee and will be corrected by PILP. (See page __.)

Item 12-B. Sam and Helen Walton Awards for 2007 and 2008—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 12-C. Women of Faith Awards—Approved. (See page __.)

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Bruce Hedgepeth, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures, for a motion regarding the docket. The assembly voted to amend the docket to hear the report of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Margaret O. Thomas, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, for a report from the committee. At Thomas’s request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Michael Kinnamon, general secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, to bring greetings. The consent agenda was approved: Items 07-06 (approved), 07-09 (approved), and 07-14 (approved).

At Thomas’s request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Edward Chan, chair of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, to speak to Item 07-05. The assembly approved Item 07-05 as amended and approved Item 07-07. The report was arrested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons announced that the offering from the day’s Ecumenical Worship Service was \$7,941.04. These funds were designated to support the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel of the World Council of Churches.

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized the Right Reverend Cheng Huat Tan of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore, who led the assembly in prayer. The assembly recessed at 5:35 p.m. to reconvene at 7:30 p.m.