

Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 7:30 P.M.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was reconvened at 7:30 p.m. with Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow presiding. Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized the Reverend Herbert Anim Opong, Presbyterian Church of Ghana, who led the assembly in the opening prayer.

SPEAK-OUT

Commissioners, advisory delegates, and corresponding members were given an opportunity to speak out on issues outside of the deliberative mode of the assembly for fifteen minutes, with one-minute limits on individual speeches. Associate Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons instructed the assembly on the procedure to be followed during the time allotted for the speak-out. Moderator Reyes-Chow then recognized persons, who spoke on various concerns.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Archbishop Avak Asadorian from the Apostolic Church of Iraq, who brought greetings to the assembly.

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 moved that the docket for the evening session be amended to include the completion of the report of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, the report of the Assembly Committee on Youth, and the report of the Assembly Committee on Theological Issues and Institutions. The assembly approved the docket as revised.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

The report of the committee resumed. The assembly approved Item 07-01 as amended by a floor motion to strike “our belief in one God, the God of Abraham, whom Jews and Muslims also worship; and” and “; and acknowledge Abraham as an expression of our common commitment to one God” in section two.

The assembly approved Items 07-02 and 07-12. The assembly referred Item 07-03 to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations. The assembly approved Items 07-13, 07-08, and 07-10.

The assembly approved Item 07-04 with comment. The assembly approved Item 07-11 with comment.

The assembly approved Item 07-1NB and a short video presentation honoring the ecumenical work of Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick was shown.

This concluded the reports of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. A summary of the report is as follows:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

Item 07-01. On Calling for Tolerance and Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities.—Approved as amended. (See page __.)

Item 07-02. On Response to an Invitation to Interfaith Dialogue.—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-03. On Investigating the Actions and Conduct of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.—Referred to Committee on Ecumenical Relations. (See page __.)

Item 07-04. Covenant Relationship with the Korean PC in America—Approved with comment. *Comment:* The value of the covenant will depend in great measure on agreement about implementation, which will take place across all governing bodies of both denominations. Therefore, the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations, the Office of the General Assembly, and the General Assembly Council are urged to consult with presbyteries and synods that have direct experience of working with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America. (See page __.)

Item 07-05. Ecumenical Policy Statement—Approved as amended. (See page __.)

Item 07-06. Invite Ecumenical Advisory Delegates to the 219th GA—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-07. On Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-08. Mutual Recognition of Baptism with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-09. PCUSA Delegation to National Council of Churches of Christ—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-10. Covenant Agreement with Moravian Church—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-11. Episcopal Presbyterian Agreement —Approved with comment. *Comment:* In recognizing the spirit of cooperation already present in the agreement, the 218th General Assembly (2008) suggests that further dialogue between the PC(USA) and the Episcopal Church give special attention to mutuality in language regarding both church governance and worship practice. (See page __.)

Item 07-12. WARC Gender, Leadership and Power Consultation—Approved as amended.(See page __.)

Item 07-13. Transfer of Ministers/Congregations to a “Transitional Presbytery”—Approved. (See page __.)

Item 07-14. Elect Delegates to the WARC meeting June, 2010—Approved. (See page __.). (See page __.)

Item 07-1NB. That the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meeting in San Jose, California, gives thanks to God for Clifton Kirkpatrick, celebrates his years of ministry in this church and the worldwide church of Christ, and asks God's blessing on him in the days to come for the good of the wider ecumenical family and to the glory of God. —Approved. (See page __.)

Vice-Moderator Byron Wade assumed the chair.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON YOUTH

Vice-Moderator Wade recognized Sue Marshall Rush, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Youth, for a report from the committee, which included a portion of a video that the committee viewed during its meeting.

The assembly approved Items 17-1NB, 17-2NB, 17-3NB, and 17-4NB. The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator Celeste Lasich. The assembly approved Item 17-5NB and disapproved Item 17-01.

This concluded the reports of the Assembly Committee on Youth. A summary of the report is as follows:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON YOUTH

17-1NB Direct Office of Ministry with Youth to Provide DVD—Approved. (See page __.)

17-2NB On Mentors—Approved. (See page __.)

17-3NB On Creating a Youth Ministry Task Force—Approved. (See page __.)

17-4NB On Referring Matters to the Task Force—Approved. (See page __.)

17-5NB On Considering a Name Change for YADs—Approved. (See page __.)

17-01 Commissioners' Resolution. On Youth Participation at the General Assembly—Disapproved. (See page __.)

Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow assumed the chair.

REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONS

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Douglas Brouwer, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Theological Issues and Institutions, for a report from the committee.

The assembly approved Item 13-02. At Brouwer's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Lee Hinston-Hasty, Coordinator for Theological Institutions and Seminary Relations, General Assembly Council, to introduce seminary presidents present. At Brouwer's request, Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Brian Blount, president of Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, to briefly address the assembly. The report was arrested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Moderator Wade recognized Christina Fullerton, youth advisory delegate, Presbytery of Tampa Bay, who led the assembly in prayer. The assembly recessed at 10:15 p.m. to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 26.