

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

Friday, June 27, 2008, 8:30 A.M.

The 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. with Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow presiding. Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized the Reverend Stephen Kendall of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, who led the assembly in the opening prayer.

**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.

The assembly approved revisions to the docket (Item 02-04, see page 137). The assembly acted to approve a one-minute limit on speeches for Friday business sessions and to cancel any scheduled speakout sessions.

Hedgepeth reported that the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures examined the minutes of the General Assembly of Wednesday, June 25, 2008, and found them in order. The assembly approved Item 02-02. (See page 135.)

**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 reported that the total financial implications of actions approved by the assembly to date were \$8,495 for 2008; \$164,845 for 2009; and \$38,165 for 2010. Items recommended by assembly committees, but yet to be considered by the assembly, amount to: \$44,835 for 2008; \$176,540 for 2009; and \$80,430 for 2010. Kimm asked the assembly to be mindful of the per capita budget implications of proposed actions.

**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 announced that the total financial implications of actions approved by the assembly to date were \$380 for 2008; \$121,275 for 2009; and \$12,752 for 2010. Items recommended by assembly committees, but yet to be considered by the assembly amount to: \$8,378 for 2008; \$112,237 for 2009; and \$43,486 for 2010.

**ELECTION OF THE STATED CLERK**

Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow called for the election of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, as required by Standing Rule H. In accordance with the same Standing Rule, Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick yielded the clerk's chair to Alyson Janke, stated clerk of the Presbytery of John Knox. Janke described the procedure for the election.

Having been nominated during a previous meeting of the assembly (see pages 5, 77), the nominee of the committee, Gradye Parsons, and the three other candidates for stated clerk, Edward Koster, William Tarbell, and Winfield Jones, were afforded an opportunity to address the General Assembly for five minutes each. The candidates then responded to questions from the floor for a period of one hour. The candidates were then escorted from the hall by Platform Manager Conrad Rocha. Acting Stated Clerk Alyson Janke explained the electronic voting procedures and Moderator Reyes-Chow led the assembly in prayer.

Gradye Parsons was elected Stated Clerk of the General Assembly on the first ballot, receiving a total of 405 votes. Of the total votes cast Winfield Jones received 176, Edward Koster received 110, and William Tarbell received 21.

Moderator Reyes-Chow declared that Gradye Parsons was duly elected to the office of Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

Stated Clerk-elect Gradye Parsons was accompanied to the platform by family members and friends. Moderator Reyes-Chow led a service of installation for Stated Clerk-elect Parsons. Dennis Hughes, Donnie Woods, and Catherine Ulrich participated in leading the service. Kathy Parsons led the assembly in prayer.

Parsons addressed the assembly, promising to always offer the assembly his very best.

#### **REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH ORDERS AND MINISTRY**

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Dan Holloway, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Church Orders and Ministry, for a report from the committee.

The assembly approved Item 05-03 as amended and answered Item 05-18 with the action taken on Item 05-03.

The assembly approved Item 05-12 as amended and answered Items 05-01, 05-02, 05-04, 05-05, 05-07, and 05-10 with the action taken on Item 05-12.

Holloway moved the committee recommendation on Item 05-09. A minority report was introduced. The minority report was perfected. The main motion was perfected. Moderator Reyes-Chow put the question to the assembly, "Shall the minority report become the main motion?" The minority report was defeated. The assembly approved Item 05-09 with comment.

The assembly answered Items 05-06, 05-08, 05-11, and 05-13 with the action taken on Item 05-09.

The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator Barbara Farley.

The assembly approved Items 05-14 and 05-15. The assembly approved Items 05-16 and 05-17.

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Church Orders and Ministry and the committee report is as follows:

#### **Assembly Committee on Church Orders and Ministry**

**[There are no items for the consent agenda and there are no items with financial implications in this report.]**

**Item 05-01. On Rescinding the Action of the 217th General Assembly (2006) on Recommendation Five of the Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12. (See page 345.)**

**Item 05-02. On Requesting that All Actions of the 217th General Assembly Related to the Report of the Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity be Fully Rescinded—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12. (See page 352.)**

**Item 05-03. On Directing the Stated Clerk to Collect and/or Develop Models of Examination Procedures—Approved as amended. (See page 353.)**

**Item 05-04. On Rescinding Recommendation 5 of the Theological Task Force Report, and Adopting a New Authoritative Interpretation Regarding Ordination Standards—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12. (See page 358.)**

**Item 05-05. On Approving an Authoritative Interpretation to G-6.0108, "Freedom of Conscience - Interpretation of Scriptures"—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12. (See page 361.)**

**Item 05-06. On Deleting G-6.0106b, and on Providing a New Authoritative Interpretation—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-09. (See page 364.)**

**Item 05-07. On Amending G-6.0106b and G-6.0108b to Clarify the Requirement that Mandatory Provisions of the *Book of Order* Be Enforced by Ordaining Bodies—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12. (See page 368.)**

**Item 05-08. On Deleting G-6.0106b and Approving an Authoritative Interpretation—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-09. (See page 370.)**

**Item 05-09. On Deleting G-6.0106b and Substituting a new Paragraph in its place; on Amending G14.0240 and G-14.0450; and on Providing a New Authoritative Interpretation—Approved with comment. (See page 371.)**

**Item 05-10. On Amending G-6.0108b, "Freedom of Conscience within Certain Bounds," to Include a Freedom of Ordaining Bodies within Certain Bounds—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12. (See page 374.)**

**Item 05-11. On Amending G-6.0106b and Providing a New Authoritative Interpretation—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-09. (See page 377.)**

**Item 05-12. On Adopting an Authoritative Interpretation of G-6.0108 to Ensure Proper Application of Ordination Standards—Approved as amended. (See page 379.)**

**Item 05-13. On Replacing G-6.0106b With a New Paragraph, and Providing A New Authoritative Interpretation—Answered by the action taken on Item 05-09. (See page 383.)**

**Item 05-14. G-14.0482, Ordaining to Non-Called Positions—Approved. (See page 385.)**

**Item 05-15. G-14.0550, Non-Ministers are Temporary Supplies—Approved. (See page 386.)**

**Item 05-16. Interpretation of PUP—Approved. (See page 387.)**

**Item 05-17. Omission of Reference to Directory of Worship from G-6.0108a—Approved. (See page 388.)**

**Item 05-18. On Directing the Stated Clerk to Collect and/or Develop Models of Examination Procedures— Answered by the action taken on Item 05-03. (See page 389.)**

#### **Dissents**

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-01 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-02 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-03 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise; and David Speering, Presbytery of Charlotte.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-05 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Erma Jones, Presbytery of Cherokee; Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise; and David Speering, Presbytery of Charlotte.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-06 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Walt Dellow, Presbytery of John Calvin; and Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-07 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-08 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Toby Gurley, Presbytery of South Alabama; and Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-09 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Steve Aeschbacher, Presbytery of Seattle; Clay Allard, Presbytery of Grace; Lisa Baker, Presbytery of Southern New England; Valerie Bell, Presbytery of Peace River; Christine Bohn, Presbytery of Detroit; George Bones, Presbytery of New Covenant; Rick Boogaard, Presbytery of Seattle; Brad Buff, Presbytery of Inland Northwest; Deena Candler, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley; Jim Caprell, Presbytery of Foothills; Maurice Caskey, Presbytery of San Diego; Cricket Cohen, Presbytery of West Jersey; Clinton Cottrell, Presbytery of Peace River; Gerald Coutant, Presbytery of Northeast Georgia; Jeanne Cox, Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley; Bob Davis, Presbytery of San Diego; Leslie Day-Ebert, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Peter deVries, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler; Sylvia Dooling, Presbytery of Plains and Peaks; Lisa Lani Easterling, Presbytery of South Louisiana; Mark Evans, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler; Robert Farrow, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Douglas Fletcher, Presbytery of Mission; Jack Foley, Presbytery of Cherokee; David Freehling, Presbytery of Pueblo; George Gardner, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler; David Grove, Presbytery of Cherokee; Michael Haggin, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; John Hamilton, Presbytery of Blackhawk; Timothy Havlicek, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina; Bruce Hedgepeth, Presbytery of Central Florida; Hank Heidler, Presbytery of West Jersey; Mark Hunt, Presbytery of Charleston-Atlantic; Tim Hunt, Presbytery of San Francisco; Erma Jones, Presbytery of Cherokee; Sally Kirby, Presbytery of Peace River; Conway Lanford, Presbytery of New Hope; Freda Lawther, Presbytery of Lake Huron; Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise; Tamara Letts, Presbytery of Yukon; Jeffrey Leininger, Presbytery of Palisades; Charlie Little, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Laura Long, Presbytery of Western North Carolina; Jesse Mabanglo, Presbytery of Seattle; Lee Martin, Presbytery of Peace River; Gary Mathews, Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma; Linda Matkins, Presbytery of South Dakota; Steven Matthies, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley; Duncan McColl, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Emily McColl, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Curt McFar-

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land, Presbytery of Central Washington; Catherine McGowen, Presbytery of South Louisiana; Rick Mechtly, Presbytery of Northeast Georgia; Henry Meeuwse, Presbytery of Charleston-Atlantic; Richard Mills, Presbytery of Pittsburgh; Maurice Mitchell, Presbytery of Cincinnati; James Moelk, Presbytery of Lake Erie; Todd Mulford, Presbytery of South Louisiana; Tom Murray, Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma; Ron Oldenkamp, Presbytery of Sacramento; Louis Paradise, Presbytery of San Joaquin; Mark Patterson, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Scott Paul-Bonham, Presbytery of Ohio Valley; Gary Pichon, Presbytery of Cherokee; Marjorie Poggas, Presbytery of Yukon; Gene Price, Presbytery of New Covenant; Karen Rogers, Presbytery of Cimarron; Frederick Seay, Presbytery of South Louisiana; John Sheldon, Presbytery of West Jersey; Archie Smith, Presbytery of San Joaquin; David Speering, Presbytery of Charlotte; William Stepp, Presbytery of Tropical Florida; Donna Steven, Presbytery of North Central Iowa; Betsy Straeter, Presbytery of San Gabriel; Thomas Straeter, Presbytery of San Diego; William Teng, Presbytery of National Capital; Paul Terry, Presbytery of Southern New England; David Ullom, Presbytery of North Central Iowa; Burfoot Ward, Presbytery of Lake Erie; Bob Welsh, Presbytery of Central Washington; and Charles Winkelman, Presbytery of Northumberland.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-10 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-12 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Steve Aeschbacher, Presbytery of Seattle; Clay Allard, Presbytery of Grace; Lisa Baker, Presbytery of Southern New England; Laureen Bodnar, Presbytery of Pittsburgh; Christine Bohn, Presbytery of Detroit; George Bones, Presbytery of New Covenant; Rick Boogaard, Presbytery of Seattle; Deena Candler, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley; Maurice Caskey, Presbytery of San Diego; Cricket Cohen, Presbytery of West Jersey; Nancy Cormack-Hughes, Presbytery of Utah; Jeanne Cox, Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley; Bob Davis, Presbytery of San Diego; Leslie Day-Ebert, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Peter deVries, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler; Sylvia Dooling, Presbytery of Plains and Peaks; Dale Dykstra, Presbytery of Blackhawk; Mark Evans, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler; Jon Faraone, Presbytery of Western Kentucky; Robert Farrow, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Douglas Fletcher, Presbytery of Mission; Jack Foley, Presbytery of Cherokee; Doug Garrard, Presbytery of Riverside; David Grove, Presbytery of Cherokee; John Hamilton, Presbytery of Blackhawk; Chip Hatcher, Presbytery of St. Andrew; Bruce Hedgepeth, Presbytery of Central Florida; Hank Heidler, Presbytery of West Jersey; Douglas Hileman, Presbytery of Donegal; Bill Hoffman, Presbytery of Shenango; Tim Hunt, Presbytery of San Francisco; Mike Lambert, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise; Jeffrey Leininger, Presbytery of Palisades; Charlie Little, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Jesse Mabanglo, Presbytery of Seattle; Gary Mathews, Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma; Linda Matkins, Presbytery of South Dakota; Steven Matthies, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley; Duncan McColl, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Emily McColl, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Curt McFarland, Presbytery of Central Washington; Catherine McGowen, Presbytery of South Louisiana; Rick Mechtly, Presbytery of Northeast Georgia; Richard Mills, Presbytery of Pittsburgh; James Moelk, Presbytery of Lake Erie; Tom Murray, Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma; Ron Oldenkamp, Presbytery of Sacramento; Louis Paradise, Presbytery of San Joaquin; Doris Pate, Presbytery of San Diego; Mark Patterson, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Gary Pichon, Presbytery of Cherokee; Gene Price, Presbytery of New Covenant; Lawrence Ruby, Presbytery of Pittsburgh; Frederick Seay, Presbytery of South Louisiana; John Sheldon, Presbytery of West Jersey; Terry Simm, Presbytery of Prospect Hill; Archie Smith, Presbytery of San Joaquin; William Stepp, Presbytery of Tropical Florida; Betsy Straeter, Presbytery of San Gabriel; Thomas Straeter, Presbytery of San Diego; Paul Terry, Presbytery of Southern New England; William Teng, Presbytery of National Capital; Paul Terry, Presbytery of Southern New England; Ron Urzua, Presbytery of Santa Barbara; Burfoot Ward, Presbytery of Lake Erie; Bob Welsh, Presbytery of Central Washington; and Charles Winkelman, Presbytery of Northumberland.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-13 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Rebecca Lee, Presbytery of Boise; and David Speering, Presbytery of Charlotte.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-15 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Todd Mulford, Presbytery of South Louisiana.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 05-16 of the Assembly Committee on Church Order and Ministry: Linda Matkins, Presbytery of South Dakota.

#### RECESS

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Michelle Muñiz-Vega, youth advisory delegate from the Presbytery of San Juan, who led the assembly in prayer. The assembly recessed at 12:01 p.m. to reconvene at 2:30 p.m., following worship at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, June 27, 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 Bishop Eliezer M. Pascua of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, who led the assembly in the opening prayer.

## ECUMENICAL GREETING

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized the Reverend Elisa Muñoz de Bulnes of the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela, who brought greetings to the assembly.

Vice-Moderator Byron Wade assumed the chair.

### REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PEACEMAKING AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Vice-Moderator Wade recognized Nancy Kahaian, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues, for a report from the committee.

The assembly approved Items 11-12 (as amended), 11-13, 11-14 (as amended), 11-16, 11-19, 11-30 (as amended), and 11-31 on the committee's consent agenda.

The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator Beverly James.

Following the viewing of a portion of a video presentation on the topic, the assembly approved Item 11-32.

The report of the committee was continued by Kahaian.

William Poole, moderator of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, led the assembly in prayer for Christians in Zimbabwe. The assembly approved Item 11-15 as amended and with comments.

Helis Hernan Barraza Diaz, moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, led the assembly in prayer for Christians in Colombia. The assembly approved Item 11-18 as amended and answered Item 11-21 with the action taken on Item 11-18.

The assembly approved Item 11-22 and answered Item 11-01 with an alternate resolution. The assembly answered Items 11-03 and 11-04 with the action taken on Item 11-01.

The assembly approved Item 11-06 and answered Item 11-25 with the action taken on 11-06. The assembly approved Item 11-28 as amended.

Kahaian introduced the committee recommendation on Item 11-26. A minority report was introduced. The main motion was perfected as amended. The minority report was perfected. Vice-Moderator Wade put the question to the assembly, "Shall the minority report become the main motion?" The minority report was approved. The assembly answered Item 11-26 with the action taken on 11-01.

The assembly disapproved Items 11-02 and 11-07 and approved Item 11-09. The assembly approved Item 11-11 as amended and approved Item 11-17 as amended.

Kahaian introduced the committee recommendation on Item 11-10. A minority report was introduced. The main motion was perfected as amended. The minority report was perfected. Vice-Moderator Wade put the question to the assembly, "Shall the minority report become the main motion?" The minority report was defeated. The assembly approved Item 11-10 as amended and with the following floor amendments: (1) strike "sorrow and confession" and insert "humility" in the first sentence of the first paragraph, and (2) insert paragraphs 12 through 15 to read:

[12. Commend to the church the call of the 216th General Assembly (2004) for the church to express its pastoral concern for and offer pastoral care to members of the United States armed forces serving their country in the war in Iraq and their families as well as for veterans of the war who have returned home (Iraq: Our Responsibility and the Future, Minutes, 2004, Part I, pp. 864ff).

[13. Direct the General Assembly Council to continue to expand the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s commitment to relief efforts in Iraq in cooperation with our ecumenical partners, to ministries that address human needs in Iraq caused by the war, and to long-term development efforts to assist in the rebuilding of the country.

[14. Call upon all presbyteries, congregations, and members within the PC (USA) to intentionally, personally, and concretely work to bring healing, peace, justice, and care to all affected by the war in Iraq, not only through our prayers but through the giving of our resources, time, money, and very selves to improve the lives and future of all involved, especially the hurting, the poor, the oppressed, and those whose lives have been damaged by the war.

[15. Pray for, call for, and work for a just and peaceful future for the nation and people of Iraq, which includes the establishing of a just, stable, and democratic government and the timely departure of U.S. military forces and their con-

tractors as soon as it is possible to leave the nation in an appropriately stable, just, and self-sustaining form.”]

The assembly answered Items 11-08, 11-20, and 11-24 with the action taken on Item 11-10. The assembly approved Item 11-27 and answered Item 11-29 with the action taken on Item 11-27. The assembly disapproved Item 11-23 and approved Item 11-33 as amended and with the following floor amendment: to insert the following text at the beginning of the item: “The 218th General Assembly (2008) directs the Stated Clerk to send the following resolution to the president of the United States of America and the United States Congress:”

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues and the committee report is as follows:

#### **Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues**

[Consent agenda items are indicated by an asterisk. Items with financial implications are indicated by a dollar sign (\$).]

**Item 11-01. On Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel—Answered with alternate resolution. (See page 1137.)**

**Item 11-02. On Pursuing a Culture of a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine—Disapproved. (See page 1139.)**

**Item 11-03. On Endorsing the “Amman Call” Regarding Arab-Israeli Peace—Answer by action taken on Item 11-01. (See page 1145.)**

**Item 11-04. On Travel to Israel and Palestine—Answer by action taken on Item 11-01. (See page 1148.)**

**Item 11-05 was WITHDRAWN. There is no Item 11-05.**

**Item 11-06. On the 218th General Assembly Being a Voice for the Victims of Violence in Israel and Palestine—Approved. (See page 1150.)**

**Item 11-07. On Supporting Israel’s Right to Exist But Calling for Temporary Suspension of Military Aid to the State of Israel—Disapproved. (See page 1151.)**

**Item 11-08. On the Withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Iraq—Answered by action taken on Item 11-10. (See page 1155.)**

**Item 11-09. Regarding Assistance for Iraqi Refugees—Approved. (See page 1156.)**

**Item 11-10. On Building Peace in Iraq—Approved as amended. (See page 1159.)**

**Item 11-11. On Addressing the Violence and Suffering Inflicted on Iraqi Women During the Current Prolonged War—Approved as amended. (See page 1162.)**

**\*Item 11-12. On Preventing the Trafficking of Women, Internationally and Nationally—Approved as amended. (See page 1164.)**

**\*Item 11-13. Resolution to Expand Ministry: Human Trafficking—Approved. (See page 1167.)**

**\*Item 11-14. On Endorsing the “Publish What You Pay” Campaign—Approved as amended. (See page 1170.)**

**Item 11-15. On Support for the Presbyterian Church in Zimbabwe—Approved as amended and with comment. (See page 1174.) *Comment:* Commend the South African dockworkers for having the courage to refuse to unload a shipment of arms from China for Zimbabwe. Commend the various religious and secular organizations working to restore peace and order in many countries in Africa and around the world.**

**\*Item 11-16. On Peacemaking and the Pursuit of Justice and Fairness of Shalom—Approved. (See page 1176.)**

**Item 11-17. Overture on War, Mercenaries, and Profiteering—Approved as amended. (See page 1177.)**

**Item 11-18. Human Rights in Colombia—Approved as amended. (See page 1180.)**

**\*Item 11-19. Commitment to Peacemaking—Approved. (See page 1185.)**

**Item 11-20. On Ending the War in Iraq—Answered by action taken on Item 11-10. (See page 1186.)**

**Item 11-21. On Peacemaking in Colombia—Answered by action taken on Item 11-18. (See page 1188.)**

**\$Item 11-22. On Supporting Those Who Feel Called to Seek Status as Conscientious Objectors—Approved. (See page 1191.) [Financial Implication: (2008): \$0; (2009): \$3,000; (2010): \$0 [Mission]]**

**Item 11-23. On Divestment from Caterpillar, Inc. and Motorola, Inc. for Profiting from the Israeli Military Occupation of Palestine Territories—Disapproved. (See page 1193.)**

**Item 11-24. Costly Lessons of the Iraq War—Answered by action taken on Item 11-10. (See page 1198.)**

**Item 11-25. On Becoming Non-Partisan Advocates for Peace—Answered by action taken on Item 11-06. (See page 1219.)**

**Item 11-26. On Middle East Peacemaking—Answered by action taken on Item 11-01. (See page 1220.)**

**Item 11-27. Report from MRTI of Corporate Engagements in Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank—Approved. (See page 1223.)**

**\$Item 11-28. Prepare Study on Israel/Palestine within the Context of the Middle East—Approved as amended. (See page 1226.) [Original Financial Implications- (2008): \$7,340; (2009): \$29,960; (2010): \$5,240 [Per Capita-GAC] Committee Action Financial Implications- (2008): \$8,455; (2009): \$27,925; (2010): \$5,380 [Per Capita-OGA]]**

**Item 11-29. Alternate Resolution to 2006 Referral: Item 11-01. *On Rescinding and Modifying Certain Actions of the 216th General Assembly (2004) Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Recommendations 2.a.–d. Direct Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to Ensure That Its Strategies for Engaging Corporations with Regard to Israeli and Palestinian Territories—Answered by action taken on Item 11-27. (See page 1226.)***

**\*Item 11-30. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Mobilizing Presbyterians for a Significant Response to the Global Food Crisis—Approved as amended. (See page 1226.)***

**\*Item 11-31. *Commissioners' Resolution. Concerning Human Rights Violations in the Philippines —Approved. (See page 1229.)***

**Item 11-32. *Commissioners' Resolution. On Emergency Food Aid to North Korea—Approved. (See page 1232.)***

**Item 11-33. *Commissioners Resolution. On Peace with Iran—Approved as amended. (See page 1233.)***

### Dissents

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 11-01 of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues: Maurice Caskey, Presbytery of San Diego; Bob Davis, Presbytery of San Diego; Michael Haggin, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Mike Lambert, Presbytery of Los Ranchos; Steven Matthies, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley; Mark Moore, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley; and Thomas Straeter, Presbytery of San Diego.

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 11-10 of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues: Walt Dellow, Presbytery of John Calvin; Dale Dykstra, Presbytery of Blackhawk; William Johnson, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley; Tamara Letts, Presbytery of Yukon; and Gene Price, Presbytery of New Covenant.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 11-18 of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues: Paul Terry, Presbytery of Southern New England.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 11-26 of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues: Mark Moore, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 11-27 of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues: Mark Moore, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

The following commissioner filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 11-29 of the Assembly Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues: Mark Moore, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

Moderator Reyes-Chow assumed the chair.

#### **REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH POLITY**

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Chandlee Gill, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity, for a report from the committee.

The assembly approved Items 04-09, 04-10, 04-11, 04-14, 04-15, 04-18 (alternate resolution), 04-19, 04-20, 04-21, 04-22, 04-23, 04-24, 04-25, 04-26 (with comment), and 04-27 on the committee's consent agenda.

The assembly approved Item 04-01 as amended and approved Item 04-02 as amended.

The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator Raymond Thomas.

The assembly disapproved Item 04-03 with comment and disapproved Item 04-04. The assembly disapproved the committee's recommendation to approve Item 04-06 with amendment; the floor then disapproved the item. Item 04-07 was answered with an alternate resolution.

The report of the committee was continued by Gill.

Gill moved the committee recommendation on Item 04-08. A substitute motion was introduced.

The assembly voted to recess for dinner and the report of the committee was arrested. Moderator Reyes-Chow offered prayer. The assembly recessed at 5:52 p.m. to reconvene at 7:30 p.m. (Report continued below.)

Friday, June 27, 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 Derrick McQueen, theological student advisory delegate from Auburn Theological Seminary, who led the assembly in the opening prayer.

#### **REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH POLITY**

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Chandlee Gill, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity, to continue the report from above. The assembly resumed consideration of Item 04-08. The main motion was declared perfected. The substitute motion was perfected. Moderator Reyes-Chow put the question to the assembly, "Shall the substitute become the main motion?" The substitute motion was defeated. The assembly disapproved Item 04-08.

The assembly approved Item 04-13 with the following floor amendments: (1) insert "and theological balance" following the words "broad diversity" in paragraph 2, and (2) to insert the following text as a new paragraph 4: ["4. This overture seeks to renew and strengthen the commitment of the PCUSA to equal protection under the law, encourage steps to reinforce this commitment and to affirm the importance of pastoral care and outreach to non-traditional families, including those same-gender commitment partners. This overtures advocates for equal rights and does not seek to redefine the nature of Christian marriage."].

The assembly answered Item 04-12 with the action taken on Item 04-13.

The assembly approved Item 04-16, approved Item 04-17 with comment, and approved Item 04-28 as amended. Gill reported that the committee had taken final action on Items 04-A-P.

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity and the committee report is as follows:

#### **Assembly Committee on Church Polity**

[Consent agenda items are indicated by an asterisk.]

**Item 04-01. On Amending G-6.0401 by Replacing the Word "Sympathy" with the Word "Empathy"—From the Presbytery of Albany—Approved as amended. (See page 239.)**

**Item 04-02. On Amending G-5.0200 to Add the Vows of Membership to the *Book of Order*—From the Presbytery of Mission—Approved as amended. (See page 241.)**

**Item 04-03. On Amending G-10.0101, G-10.0401, and D-10.0401b Regarding Accounting Practices of the**

**Church—From the Presbytery of the Pacific—Disapproved with comment. (See page 243.)** *Comment:* It is expected that the accounting practices of a church shall minimally conform to the standards of not-for-profit organizations for their state.

**Item 04-04. On Amending G-7.0301, “Meetings of the Congregation”—From the Presbytery of Denver —Disapproved. (See page 245.)**

**Item 04-05 was WITHDRAWN. There is no Item 04-05.**

**Item 04-06. On Amending D-7.0402c and D-8.0404c. Regarding Permanent Judicial Commission Written Decisions—From the Presbytery of Stockton—Disapproved. (See page 248.)**

**Item 04-07. On Adding a New Section D-1.0104 to Limit the Abuse in Disciplinary Process by the Filing of Multiple Complaints and/or Allegations—From the Presbytery of Los Ranchos.—Approved an Alternate Resolution. (See page 249.)** Alternate Resolution: That the Stated Clerk be instructed to prepare an advisory opinion outlining existing remedies to address abuses of judicial process, and the Office of the General Assembly be instructed to prepare any necessary constitutional amendments for presentation to the 219th General Assembly (2010) in order to provide for responses following due process, for permanent judicial commissions and sessions to censure persons found guilty of abusing judicial process through frivolous and/or harassing complaints and/or allegations.

**Item 04-08. On Amending W-4.9000 Regarding the Definition of Marriage—From the Presbytery of Baltimore—Disapproved. (See page 251.)**

**\*Item 04-09. On Establishing the Star Valley United Church in Thayne, Wyoming, as a Union Church—From the Presbytery of Wyoming—Approved. (See page 254.)**

**\*Item 04-10. On Establishing Cornerstone Community Church of Lansingburgh, N.Y., as a Union Church—From the Presbytery of Albany—Approved. (See page 255.)**

**\*Item 04-11. On Establishing Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Union Church—From the Presbytery of Nevada—Approved. (See page 256.)**

**Item 04-12. On Equal Rights for Families of Same-Gender Partners—From the Presbytery of New Brunswick.—Answered with Action on Item 04-13. (See page 257.)**

**Item 04-13. On Equal Rights for Families of Same-Gender Partners—From the Presbytery of Denver—Approved with Floor Amendment (See page 258.)**

**\*Item 04-14. Moderator Discretion in Determining Suitability for Membership and Ordination—Approved. (See page 260.)**

**\*Item 04-15. Request for Interpretation of D-2.0103, D-10.0202, Alternate Forms of Resolution (AFR)—Approved. (See page 262.)**

**Item 04-16. Interpretation of the Rules of Discipline: Status of Negotiated Settlements—Approved. (See page 264.)**

**Item 04-17. Possible Conflict Between 14.0730b and G-11.0407, Certification of Christian Educator—Approved with comment (See page 265.)** *Comment:* That the inclusion of Associate Christian Educators be examined by the appropriate General Assembly committee or entity.

**\*Item 04-18. G-13.0107, Synod Participation on Permanent Committees and GANC—Approved an Alternate Resolution. Alternate resolution approved. (See page 266.)**

**In response to Item 04-18, the 218th General Assembly (2008) approved the following resolution:**

While the Advisory Committee on the Constitution has offered some relief to these concerns by proposing new language that would allow the General Assembly to determine which of its permanent committees shall have permanent representation from each of the synods or have rotating representation from among the synods, the General Assembly Nominating Committee believes that the former advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution provided to the 217th General Assembly (2006) is a more effective response. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution formerly advised the 217th General Assembly (2006) that

4. Proposed amendments to G-13.0107: The proposed revision of this section should be assessed to determine whether all permanent committees of the General Assembly require representation from each synod. The term “permanent committees” is not specifically defined by the provision, but presumably would include all committees whose membership is not otherwise defined by *Book of Order*. The assembly should consider whether the size of permanent committees should be defined by the mission of the committee rather than a formalistic approach. (Section G-9.0402a: “Mission determines the form of structure and administration. All structures should enable the church to give effective witness to the Lordship of Christ in the contemporary world.”) [Underline added for emphasis.]

If the 217th General Assembly (2006) agrees with the restructuring of membership being proposed and wishes to address these concerns, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution suggests the following alternative resolution be presented to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote:

- a. Shall G-13.0107 be stricken.
- b. Shall G-13.0108 be amended as follows: [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“The General Assembly shall establish a permanent Committee on Representation as required by G-9.0105, which shall advise the General Assembly Nominating Committee of any need for nominations in particular categories needing increased representation. The Committee on Representation shall report to each meeting of the General Assembly (other than special or adjourned meetings) regarding progress toward fair representation of the categories of persons listed in G-4.0403. *The committee shall consist of members equal in number to the synods of the church, each member resident in a different synod, and members distributed so that there are one third ministers (both women and men), one third laymen, and one third laywomen.*”

- c. Add to the proposed revision to G-13.0202 as proposed by this Item the following text:

“The membership, terms of office, and officers of the General Assembly Council shall be approved by the General Assembly as provided for in the manual of operations of the General Assembly Council. *The Council shall include members from each of the synods of the church.*” (Minutes, 2006, Part I, p. 644)

The General Assembly Nominating Committee supports the 2006 advice of the ACC and suggests that the 218th General Assembly (2008) consider approving it.

Therefore, the 218th General Assembly (2008) directs the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

1. Shall G-13.0107 be stricken.
2. Shall G-13.0108 be amended as follows: [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“The General Assembly shall establish a permanent Committee on Representation as required by G-9.0105, which shall advise the General Assembly Nominating Committee of any need for nominations in particular categories needing increased representation. The Committee on Representation shall report to each meeting of the General Assembly (other than special or adjourned meetings) regarding progress toward fair representation of the categories of persons listed in G-4.0403. *The committee shall consist of members equal in number to the synods of the church, each member resident in a different synod, and members distributed so that there are one third ministers (both women and men), one third laymen, and one third laywomen.*”

3. Shall G-13.0202a be amended as follows:

“The membership, terms of office, and officers of the General Assembly Council shall be approved by the General Assembly as provided for in the Manual of Operations of the General Assembly Council. *The Council shall include members from each of the synods of the church.*”

\*Item 04-19. W-4.4003, “Minister” or “Moderator”—Approved. (See page 272.)

\*Item 04-20. G-7.0304, Presbytery and Quorum for Congregational Meeting—Approved. (See page 272.)

\*Item 04-21. Member/Church Officer Renounces Jurisdiction—Approved. (See page 274.)

\*Item 04-22. D-10.0202h(3), Settlement Agreement—Approved. (See page 276.)

\*Item 04-23. Clarification regarding Certification of Christian Educators—Approved. (See page 277.)

\*Item 04-24. Discretionary Powers of Presbytery Regarding Formula of Agreement and Orderly Exchange—Approved. (See page 279.)

\*Item 04-25. On Transferring Shalom Presbyterian Church from Hanmi Presbytery to the Presbytery of Riverside—From the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii—Approved. (See page 281.)

**\*Item 04-26. On Transferring Faith Presbyterian Church from Hanmi Presbytery to the Presbytery of the Pacific—From the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii—Approved with Comment. (See page 281.) *Comment:* It is understood the effective date is 1-1 2009.**

**\*Item 04-27. Response to Study of Inappropriate Use of Judicial Process—Approved. (See page 282.)**

**Item 04-28. Commissioners' Resolution. On Urging a Gracious, Pastoral Response to Churches Requesting Dismissal from the PC(USA)—Approved as Amended. (See page 284.)**

## II. 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 04-A. Minutes, Synod of Alaska-Northwest—Approved as follows:

1. The minutes from 2006 are approved with no exceptions.
2. The minutes from 2007 are approved with exceptions and with comments:
  - a. Exceptions
    - (1) There is no report of the committee on representation.
    - (2) The minutes were not signed.
  - b. Comments
    - (1) The title page does not show attestation that the minutes of the most recent previous session or sessions have been reviewed by General Assembly and shall give page references to action or exceptions, if there be such.
    - (2) The minutes were presented for review before they were approved.

Item 04-B. Minutes, Synod of the Covenant—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

Item 04-C. Minutes, Synod of Lakes and Prairies—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

Item 04-D. Minutes, Synod of Lincoln Trails—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

Item 04-E. Minutes, Synod of Living Waters—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

Item 04-F. Minutes, Synod of Mid-America—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with the following exceptions:
  - a. There is no indication that either set of minutes has been approved.
  - b. The record of nominations from the floor or that the nominations were voted on was not clear.
  - c. In Volume II, The Journal, page 63 is missing.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with the following exception and comment:
  - a. Exception—That the corresponding member indicated does not show the presbytery membership.
  - b. Comment—Even though there was a certification of both sets of minutes, both sets of minutes still needed to be signed.

Item 04-G. Minutes, Synod of Mid-Atlantic—Approved as follows (no synod meeting in 2006):

The 2007 minutes are approved with the following exception and comments:

- a. Exception—The minutes do not contain an index.
- b. Comments
  - (1) The stated clerk shall report the outcomes of remedial cases, not the moderator.
  - (2) The committee on representation report was too limited in scope.

Item 04-H. Minutes, Synod of the Northeast—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with the following exception and comments:
  - a. Exception—The treasurer’s full annual review and a report of the results of the audit are not included.
  - b. Comment—Each appendix shall be separately identified.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with the following exception and comment as follows:
  - a. Exception—The treasurer’s full annual review and a report of the results of the audit are not included.
  - b. Comment—At times the minutes were detailed but unclear.

Item 04-I. Minutes, Synod of the Pacific—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exception.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exception.

Item 04-J. Minutes, Sinodo Boriquen En Puerto (Synod of Puerto Rico)—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with the following exception and comment:
  - a. Exception—There is no report of the committee on representation.
  - b. Comment—The minutes do not contain an index.
2. The 2007 the minutes are approved with the following exceptions:
  - a. The minutes do not contain an index.
  - b. The minutes do not indicate if it is a “stated,” “adjourned,” or “special” governing body meeting.

Item 04-K. Minutes, Synod of the Rocky Mountains—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

Item 04-L. Minutes, Synod of South Atlantic—Approved as follows (no synod meeting in 2006):

The 2007 minutes are approved with the following exceptions and comment:

- a. Exceptions—
  - (1) The reviews of the records of presbyteries, including any exceptions taken were not complete,
  - (2) The minutes do not contain an index.
- b. Comment—A statement that a quorum was present, including an indication of the number specified as a quorum in the synod bylaws or standing rules were not identified.

Item 04-M. Minutes, Synod of Southern California and Hawaii—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

Item 04-N. Minutes, Synod of the Southwest—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with the following comment:

The actions taken on some reports and recommendations were not consistently recorded in the minutes.

2. The 2007 minutes are approved with the following comment:

The financial report is unclear.

Item 04-O. Minutes, Synod of the Sun— Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with the following comment:
  - a. There is no specific report showing that insurance was reviewed for this year.
  - b. There needs to be more thorough/complete information about insurance coverage for this year.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with the following exception:

The rosters of the committee on representation and the nominating committee are missing.

Item 04-P. Minutes, Synod of the Trinity—Approved as follows:

1. The 2006 minutes are approved with no exceptions.
2. The 2007 minutes are approved with no exceptions.

### **Dissent**

The following commissioners filed a dissent from the action taken on Item 04-08 of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity: William James Hardy, Presbytery of Western New York; and Eric Ledermann, Presbytery of Western New York.

A motion to reconsider Item 05-09 was defeated.

### **REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES**

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Kim Warner, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Social Justice Issues, for a report from the committee.

The assembly approved Items 09-01, 09-02, 09-03 and 09-19 on the committee's consent agenda.

The assembly approved Item 09-06 with amendment. In response to Item 09-07, the assembly approved an alternate resolution, which included the following floor amendment: insert paragraph 6 to read: [“6. Request that all PC(USA) members forgo one meal per week (if one is able) as an act of worship and humility. The value of that meal is to be pledged (in a manner of the donor's choice) to feeding those in need.”].

In response to Item 09-04, the assembly approved an alternate resolution, which included the following floor amendment: insert the words “working not only with PDA but also in partnership with local congregations” following the words “recovery efforts” in paragraph 1.

The assembly answered Item 09-17 with the action taken on 09-04. The assembly approved Item 09-15.

The assembly approved Item 09-05 as amended and with the following floor amendment: strike the word “clips” and insert the word “magazines” in paragraph 1.f.(2) and to strike the existing language in paragraph 1.f.(5).

The assembly approved Item 09-14 as amended.

Warner introduced the committee recommendation on Item 09-09. A minority report was introduced. The main motion was perfected. The minority report was perfected. Moderator Reyes-Chow put the question to the assembly, “Shall the minority report become the main motion?” The minority report was defeated. The assembly approved Item 09-09 as amended.

The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator Betsy Straeter. Vice-Moderator Byron Wade assumed the chair.

The assembly approved Items 09-11 as amended, approved Item 09-21 as amended, approved Item 09-20 as amended and with comment, and approved Item 09-10 as amended.

The report of the committee was continued by Moderator Warner.

The assembly approved Item 09-08 with the following floor amendment: insert the words “Presbyterian Colleges, Universities and Schools (as listed in Item 12-06)” following the words “That seminaries” in paragraph 2(k).

The assembly approved Item 09-16, approved Item 09-13, and approved Item 09-12.

The assembly viewed a brief video on the “Living Waters for the World” project. Warner reported that the committee had taken final action on Item 09-A–B.

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Social Justice Issues and the committee report is as follows:

**Assembly Committee on Social Justice Issues**

[Consent agenda items are indicated by an asterisk. Items with financial implications are indicated by a dollar sign (\$).]

**\*Item 09-01. On the Church Addressing Intergenerational Injustice in America—Approved. (See page 851.)**

**\*Item 09-02. On the Use of Non-Disposable Food Service Items—Approved. (See page 853.)**

**\*Item 09-03. On Requesting that the 218th General Assembly Celebrate the Mission “Living Waters for the World” and View a Video Describing that Ministry—Approved. (See page 855.)**

**Item 09-04. On Instructing PDA to Continue to Work on Nurturing Partnerships with Presbyteries Affected by the Storms of 2005—Answered with an alternate resolution and with floor amendment. (See page 857.) Alternate Resolution:**

**In response to this recommendation, that the 218th General Assembly (2008) approve the following resolution:**

**[This item of business was generated by combining Items 09-04 and 09-17.]**

**Whereas Presbyterians throughout the General Assembly have been generous and gracious in responding to the 2005 Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma with gifts of time, resources, and prayers; and**

**Whereas Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been and continues to be abundantly helpful in providing leadership and resources in the affected areas and in coordinating relief efforts throughout the denomination; and**

**Whereas PDA and the presbyteries and synods involved in recovery efforts recognize that the work of rebuilding is far from complete and have worked together to develop a long-term financial response plan, therefore, be it**

**Resolved, that the 218th General Assembly (2008)**

- 1. Thanks Presbyterians throughout the denomination for their generous giving, prayers, and volunteer services in recovery efforts working not only with PDA but also in partnership with local congregations;**
- 2. Thanks and commends the staff and volunteers of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, who, working under extremely difficult circumstances, created a framework for a continued and faithful response to the storms of 2005.**
- 3. Instructs Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to continue the work of nurturing partnerships with the presbyteries affected by the storms of 2005, including regular consultations concerning volunteers and resources.**
- 4. Affirms and commends the long-term recovery plan for the Gulf Coast, which was developed jointly by PDA and the synods and presbyteries impacted by hurricanes Rita, Katrina, and Wilma. This plan, approved by the GAC, funds recovery efforts on the Gulf Coast through 2011 and allows for continuing evaluation and adjustments as circumstances change.**

**\$Item 09-05. On Addressing the Tragedy of America’s Gun Violence—Approved as amended, with floor amendment. (See page 859.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$5,660; (2009): \$24,650; (2010) \$5,240 (Per Capita-GAC)]**

**\$Item 09-06. Public Education in the 21st Century—Approved as amended. (See page 865.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$170; (2009): \$20,940; (2010) \$11,655 (Per Capita-GAC)]**

**Item 09-07. Homelessness to Hope: Just, Sustainable Communities for All People—Answered with an alternate resolution, with floor amendment. (See page 866.)**

**In response to this recommendation, that the 218th General Assembly (2008) approve the following resolution:**

**The 218th General Assembly (2008) approves the recommendations below and receives the study paper that was attached to the original item of business, which provides rationale and resources for social policy, social service, and education:**

The purpose of these recommendations is to provide information and guidance for governing bodies and direction for denominational advocates. These recommendations affirm the complexity of issues surrounding homelessness and the need for a holistic approach that (1) addresses ministry to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and (2) the structural components necessary for a comprehensive solution.

The historical witness of the PC(USA) affirms the following principles, as foundational to faithful ministry with persons who are homeless:

- Universal access to safe, decent, accessible, affordable, and permanent housing is a measure of a just society and a sign of the coming Reign of God.
- The church is called to create communities of hospitality that assure all members of society, including persons experiencing homelessness, a right to basic economic and social well-being, including safe, affordable housing.
- The church is called to honor God's gift of the earth and to create, through personal lifestyle choices and the structures of society, sustainable communities where people can be securely housed in just relationship with one another and the earth.
- The church is called to challenge society to provide safe, decent, accessible, affordable, and permanent housing for all persons who cannot secure such housing through their own means.

1. Commend the ongoing witness, commitment, ministry and advocacy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), its General Assembly and agencies, the Presbyterian Washington Office, the Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness, and the more than 3,500 Presbyterian congregations reporting hands-on engagement in housing and homeless ministries. We commend previous Presbyterian commitments to actions aimed at preventing poverty, e.g. education, job development, day care, living wage, health care, and gambling toward strengthening individuals and families and individuals in their efforts to avoid homelessness.

2. Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, and other church-related entities to pursue comprehensive responses to the crisis of homelessness and affordable housing. The General Assembly Council ministries of Compassion, Peace and Justice will develop and provide resources (including this report) to help these entities in this task, covering such actions as:

- Shelters, transitional housing programs, mixed-income communities, and affordable housing in their communities;
- Links with service providers in the community;
- The impact of employment practices, including sustainable wages and benefits, employment of youth and adults reentering the workforce after being homeless or institutionalized;
- Links with local, regional, and national coalitions that advocate for worker justice and sustainable wages, green design in homes and communities, permanent affordable rental housing;
- Supporting residents of public housing in their efforts to organize and have voice in their communities;
- The application of stewardship strategies in the area of homelessness, such as allocating physical space for services for persons in need of housing assistance, tithing capital campaign proceeds;
- General Assembly resources available to congregations, such as the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, Inc. (PILP).

3. Affirm that the church is called to offer its diverse resources in response to the crisis of homelessness and affordable rental housing, but also insist that faith communities cannot and should not be expected to address this crisis in isolation from governmental and private sector partnerships. Therefore, we advocate initiatives such as:

a. *Policy Affecting Housing and Housing Services*

(1) Preservation and development of housing programs at all governing levels that target households with low incomes and persons with special needs, especially the federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

(2) Restoration and expansion of "Project-Based Section 8" and other federal subsidy and incentive programs that promote the construction of affordable housing, and revitalization of the 2.5 million units of affordable housing funded under this program.

(3) Development of Housing Trust Funds at municipal, state, and national levels, to make significant funding available to both urban and rural communities for the development of permanent, "green," affordable housing.

(4) Enactment of inclusionary zoning policies and support for other strategies to achieve mixed-income communities, with attention to replacing housing units for persons with extremely low income when dis-

placed through community development initiatives.

(5) Improved enforcement of existing nondiscrimination laws with regard to housing and home financing.

*b. Policy Affecting Services for Persons Experiencing Homelessness or at Risk of Homelessness*

(1) Revision of municipal zoning codes to include the temporary housing of persons (e.g. shelters, transitional housing, or supportive housing) as a permitted use, to facilitate the development of affordable rental housing, and to prohibit discrimination against persons based on their housing status.

(2) Increased funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other departments to progress toward the goal of ending chronic homelessness, such as:

(a) Expansion and adequate funding for Supportive Housing (housing plus services) for all people who have little or no income, are disabled, are formerly homeless, or are living with mental illness, to aid them in living independent, healthy, and fulfilling lives, and to prevent persons from recycling among the streets, the shelters, the jails, and the prisons.

(b) Continuation of and increased investment in the McKinney-Vento Act and related legislation, which provide funding for many services for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including amendments that would increase flexibility in program administration and make programs more performance-based.

(c) Expansion of Veterans Administration (VA) programs for veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to include funding for permanent housing and the creation of innovative new models for service, including programs to help reintegrate returning veterans into the community, encourage partnerships between the VA and community-based organizations, and link permanent housing for veterans and their families with supportive services.

(d) Renewal and expansion of federal funding to help communities prevent homelessness among youth and young adults, as well as persons with special needs as they reenter communities from jails and prisons, and to provide housing and supportive services.

(e) Restoration of funding for mainstream programs that have been utilized by states, cities, and counties to provide housing and services as part of their comprehensive plans to prevent and end homelessness. These include but are not limited to HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program, the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program (Section 202), and Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Section 811) as well as Medicaid, and other grants to states and localities.

*c. Policies Affecting Lending Practices*

(1) Development of foreclosure prevention strategies and programs to benefit households at risk.

(2) Restrict predatory and abusive lending practices, in consultation with the 217th General Assembly (1996)'s recommendations regarding "A Reformed Understanding of Usury in the 21st Century" (*Minutes*, 2006, Part I, p. 805).

*d. Policies Affecting Taxation*

(1) Support of fiscally responsible federal budget priorities and adequate revenues to ensure long-term funding for critical housing assistance and other safety net programs for families with low income.

(2) Advocacy for budget priorities at all levels of government that utilize incentives and tax credits to encourage "smart growth" and the development of sustainable communities.

(3) Increase tax benefits for those living at lower income levels, so as to achieve a more equitable distribution of tax benefits for the purpose of achieving greater economic stability for individuals and families at risk of homelessness such as:

- expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit to include workers not raising children
- expansion of the refundable Child Tax Credit by making it available to more low-income workers, and
- development at the state or federal level of a refundable tax credit targeted to low-income renters, similar to the subsidy provided to homeowners through the federal mortgage interest deduction.

4. That the General Assembly urge the Presbyterian Foundation, in collaboration with the General Assembly Council, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, and the office on Mission Responsibility Through Investment, to expand its Creative Investment Program to invest meaningfully in the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to create a revolving loan fund available to Presbyterian congregations, presbyteries, synods, and coalitions in which church entities are involved, for predevelopment loans to support the construction and

rehabilitation of permanent rental housing for individuals and families with low income and/or a history of homelessness.

5. Direct the communication and distribution of this resolution:

a. Direct the Office of the General Assembly, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, to publish this report in its entirety online and in hard copy, making copies available to each presbytery, resource center, synod, and requesting session, as well as colleges and seminaries related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and for distribution throughout the church through Presbyterian Distribution Services; and to notify the church of its availability through the PC(USA) Website.

b. Direct the General Assembly Council to facilitate the development of a portion of its website to make information, resources, and advocacy suggestions related to this resolution easily accessible to the church at all levels.

c. Urge the Office of Small Church and Community Ministries, in collaboration with the Presbyterian Washington Office and other church entities, to develop and/or make available resources to educate individual Presbyterians and congregations on the nature and extent of the crisis in homelessness and affordable housing, the types of housing that can address the needs of those caught in the cycle of homelessness, and ways to respond to and advocate for public policy directives.

6. Request that all PC(USA) members forgo one meal per week (if one is able) as an act of worship and humility. The value of that meal is to be pledged (in a manner of the donor's choice) to feeding those in need

**\$Item 09-08. God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation—Approved as amended. (See page 897.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$0; (2009): \$3,000; (2010): \$0 (Mission) for Recommendation 2.h.] [Financial Implications: (2008): \$6,565; (2009): \$12,960; (2010): \$3,220 (Per Capita-GAC) for Recommendation 2.i.]**

**Item 09-09. Social Creed for the 21st Century—Approved as amended. (See page 924.)**

**Item 09-10. U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming —Approved as amended. (See page 934.)**

**Item 09-11. Resolution to Study Immigration Detention in the U.S. —Approved as Amended. (See page 958.)**

**\$Item 09-12. Resolution to Study Status of Women in PC(USA)—Approved. (See page 961.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$0; (2009): \$19,345; (2010): \$16,000 (Per Capita-GAC)]**

**\$Item 09-13. Declare a Decade of "Hearing and Singing New Songs to God"—Approved. (See page 964.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$0; (2009): \$3,060; (2010): \$3,060 (Per Capita-GAC)]**

**Item 09-14. Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform—Approved as amended. (See page 977.)**

**\$Item 09-15. Hurricane Katrina—Approved. (See page 994.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$1,800; (2009): \$0; (2010): \$0 (Per Capita-OGA)] [Financial Implications: (2008): \$0; (2009): \$5,000; (2010): \$0 (Mission)]**

**\$Item 09-16. Creating a Climate of Change—Approved as amended. (See page 1009.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$0; (2009): \$12,960; (2010): \$12,960 (Per Capita-GAC)]**

**Item 09-17. On the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Their Contributions in Recovery Work—Answered by action taken on Item 09-04. (See page 1055.)**

**Item 09-18. Withdrawn.**

**\*Item 09-19. Response to Smithfield Food Labor Situation—Approved. (See page 1056.)**

**Item 09-20. Commissioners' Resolution. Affirming the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture, and Cruelty—Approved as amended and with comment. (See page 1062.) Comment: The 218th General Assembly (2008) commends the 217th General Assembly (2006) for their action in approving "Human Rights in a Time of Terrorism and Torture (Minutes, 2006, Part I, pp. 867ff).**

**Item 09-21. Commissioners' Resolution. On Local Enforcement of National Immigration Laws That Adversely Affect Local Congregations—Approved as amended. (See page 1064.)**

## II. Committee Final Action and Report to Plenary

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008

[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 09-A. Minutes, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy—Approved with comment. (See page \_\_.) *Comment:* That the minutes are approved with minor exceptions of inconsistencies.

Item 09-B. Minutes, General Assembly Committee on Representation—Approved. (See page \_\_.)

### REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ISSUES

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Cinda Gorman, moderator of the Assembly Committee on Health Issues, for a report from the committee.

The assembly approved Item 10-02 as amended and with comment and answered Item 10-01 with the action taken on Item 10-02.

The assembly answered Item 10-03 with an alternate resolution and answered Item 10-04 with the action on Item 10-03.

The report of the committee was continued by Vice-Moderator William McIvor.

The assembly approved Item 10-05 as amended.

The report of the committee was continued by Gorman.

Gorman introduced the committee recommendation on Item 10-06. A minority report was introduced. The minority report was perfected. The main motion was perfected. Moderator Reyes-Chow put the question to the assembly, “Shall the minority report become the main motion?” The minority report was defeated. The assembly approved Item 10-06 with amendment. Gorman reported that the committee had taken final action on Item 10-A.

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Health Issues and the committee report is as follows:

### Assembly Committee on Health Issues

**There are no items for the consent agenda. There are recommendations contained in this report that have financial implications and are indicated with a “\$” sign next to the item.**

**Item 10-01. On Directing the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to Develop a New Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Policy for the Church—Answered with action on taken on Item 10-02. (See page 1077.)**

**\$Item 10-02. On Directing the General Assembly Council to Develop and Fund a Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Policy for the PC(USA)—Approved as amended and with comment. (See page 1078.) [Original Financial Implications: (2008): \$5,660; (2009): \$24,650; (2010): \$5,240 (Per Capita-GAC)] *Comment:* That those appointed to this study represent a broad range of folks theologically, since policies might be formed from this study.**

**\$Item 10-03. On Directing PC(USA) Entities to Reflect Balance in Advocating Both Sides of the Abortion Issue—Answered with an alternate resolution. (See page 1082.) [Financial Implications: (2008): \$8,378; (2009): \$65,437; (2010): \$32,686 (Mission)] Alternate Resolution Approved:**

**In response to this recommendation, that the 218th General Assembly (2008) approve the following resolution:**

**The 218th General Assembly (2008) directs the appropriate PC(USA) entities to redevelop congregational resource materials, on the subject of reproductive options, to more adequately reflect the full spectrum of biblical, theological, and pastoral counsel, while remaining consistent with the policy of the 1992 report of the Special Committee on Problem Pregnancies and Abortion and the 2006 policy on Late-Term Pregnancies and Abortion. The General Assembly Council will report back to the 219th General Assembly (2010).**

**Item 10-04. On Advocating and Funding Either Both Sides of the Abortion Issue or Neither—Answered with action taken on Item 10-03. (See page 1087.)**

**\$Item 10-05. Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness—Approved as Amended. (See page 1088.) [Financial Im-**

plications: (2006): \$0; (2009): \$10,800; (2010): \$10,800 (Mission)]

**\$Item 10-06. On Supporting Single Payer Universal Healthcare Reform—Approved as Amended. (See page 1133.) [Original Financial Implications: (2008): \$0; (2009) \$25,000; (2010): \$0 (Mission)]**

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

**Item 10-A. Cameron House Presentation—Approved as Amended. (See page 1136.)**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick announced the details of meetings of the Assembly Committee on General Assembly Procedures and the Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets that took place immediately following the business meeting.

#### **RECESS**

Moderator Reyes-Chow recognized Robert Austell, commissioner from the Presbytery of Charlotte, who led the assembly in prayer. The assembly recessed at 11:35 p.m. to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 28.