



- C. The Procedures Subcommittee approved the following amendments to the *GAC Manual of Operations*, concerning the descriptions for the new Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry and for World Mission Ministry, due to the elimination of the former Relief and Development Ministry, and realignment of its functions, as approved by the GAC in February. The Procedures Subcommittee was authorized by the GAC to make the appropriate changes to the *GAC Manual of Operations*:

Appendix 2, Section 2. General Assembly Ministries

2. Compassion, Peace and Justice

The Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry seeks to support, assist and involve congregations and governing bodies in ministries of compassion, justice, and peacemaking. It responds to disasters, provides support for sustainable community development, and works to alleviate hunger and poverty nationally and around the world. It also addresses injustice in all arenas of life and advocates for just and peaceful solutions to situations of violence, conflict and oppression.

This work is done in collaboration with middle governing bodies, partner churches, ecumenical partners and community-based organizations. Work areas and offices carry out this ministry in a variety of ways, providing resources, supporting networks, sponsoring events that equip congregations to witness to God's healing and reconciling activity in the world.

7. World Mission

The World Mission Ministry carries on our 170-year Presbyterian tradition and calling of sending missionaries, sharing and living out the gospel, and supporting partner Christian ministries around the globe. Work areas and offices in this ministry include supporting dozens of partner churches in many countries, working with international ecumenical bodies, and sending hundreds of full time, part time, and volunteer mission personnel to over 60 countries around the world. World Mission supports mission involvement throughout the PC(USA) by providing mission education, networking opportunities, interfaith resources, opportunities to volunteer nationally, and leadership development for young adults serving nationally and internationally.

- D. Contingent upon action of the GAC Executive Committee and the GAC during this April meeting, the Procedures Subcommittee approved the following changes to the *GAC Manual of Operations*:

Changes to Appendix 1:

1. Section II, Officers of the Council, A., Chair, add a new #5, and renumber current numbers 5. – 8. as 6 - 9:

“5. Appoint 2 GAC voting members to the Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee, for a four-year non-renewable term.”

2. Section IV., 3. General Assembly Council Nominating Committee, 14.:

“Nominate four members, at least one of whom shall be a current GAC voting member, to a three-year term with eligibility for one additional term, to the Board of Directors of the Mountain Retreat Association, Inc.”

**1. Comment from the GAC on “A Resolution to Study Immigration Detention in the US” – From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns**

The General Assembly Council acknowledges the concern raised by ACWC for the church to respond to reported treatment of detained immigrants, especially incarceration of women and their accompanied children in such centers. The Resolution offered, recommends the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly direct the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) to study and monitor detention of immigrants in the United States, focusing upon experiences of women and their children. The 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2004) created the Office of Immigration, located in the Office of the General Assembly to coordinate, communicate and provide advice and counsel to the church regarding immigration questions or issues. The Office of Immigration’s duties include, among others, serving as *“a resource for the church throughout the denomination on local and national levels. This Office will coordinate information and action around such issues as detention, trafficking, immigration law, asylees, refugees, border issues, and immigration and social services through networks and training events and partnership with the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Coordinating Team’s Justice and Peace Committee (August 15-18, 2007) reported “on just immigration will continue through identifying detention centers and exploring ways to support women incarcerated in them.”* The General Assembly Council believes the General Assembly had addressed this important concern by creating, funding and staffing the Office of Immigration. This office and work undertaken by Presbyterian Women’s Justice and Peace Committee are actively responding to the matters raised by this resolution. Although this is an important justice issue, the ability to “monitor” detention experiences throughout the United States requested in recommendation 1, given the layers of local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions involved in this matter, becomes a task that is both impractical and cost prohibitive for the church. Since the Office of Immigration coordinates its work throughout the denomination and its agencies, as well as, other interfaith organizations as our partnership with Church World Services, recommendations 2 and 3 of the resolution are duplicative and unnecessarily redundant to work already ongoing. Therefore, the General Assembly Council suggests the General Assembly receive the resolution from ACWC and refer it to the Office of Immigration thereby informing that office of the General Assembly’s continued advocacy of this issue.

**2. Comment from GAC on “Resolution: Costly Lessons of the Iraq War” – From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy**

The General Assembly Council suggests that the General Assembly receive this resolution as an information and study document and that it be amended as follows:

- § Delete the goals from the document. While the goals are laudable, they are international in scope and beyond the purview of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- § Modify recommendation 1 as follows: ~~“Approve this recommendation and receive it as the information and study paper, and direct that both it be posted for study and action on the website of the Office of the General Assembly and be given limited printing for councils, peacemaking and educational programs and educational institutions related to the church.”~~ **“Receive it as the information and study paper, and direct that both it be posted for study and action on the website of the Office of the General Assembly and be given limited printing for councils, peacemaking and educational programs and educational institutions related to the church.”**

It is also suggested that this report be commended to the church for information and study of its implications to the current situation of the Iraq war.

**3. Comment from the GAC on the Resolution “Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future”– From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.**

The General Assembly Council commends the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC) and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) for its response to the affirmation of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2006), which called for

exploration of ways to address issues resulting from the Katrina disaster. “Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future” reflects an even broader scope than the devastation that afflicted the Gulf Coast region in 2005. It explores issues *revealed by*, not just *resulting from*, Katrina and looks at the economic, social, educational, cultural, and spiritual realities of race, class, and gender, not just in the Gulf Coast but across the nation, and decries these realities as sin.

Further, the GAC joins with ACREC and ACSWP in applauding those members and bodies within the PC(USA) that have modeled a constructive and compassionate response to the tragedies of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, including, but certainly not limited to, the volunteers and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

The paper proposes many creative ways to fulfill the GA mandate. Many require expenditures of time (which *is*, as we all know, *money*); a few, while commendable, raise concern. One of these calls for the Presbyterian Foundation to “make a loan, of \$4 million to Local Initiatives Support Corporation” for a five-year period, calling it a “secure investment for the PC(USA)” as it would accrue interest. However, it *would* tie up money needed elsewhere and so requires careful study. Further, there is a call for the development of a resource for pro-active ministry and preparation for disaster. It is suggested that the work be done ecumenically and be built on existing resources. Similarly, there is a suggestion to identify and make available resources to equip and empower local leaders to help in identifying critical needs that may be addressed through local public policy. These possibilities, again ideal, would *probably* require some expenditure and so also require careful scrutiny.

Therefore, the GAC suggests the GA receive this report but carefully assess its many commendable suggestions before implementation.