

## REPORT H.201

### Executive Committee General Assembly Council March 14-16, 2007

#### FOR INFORMATION

#### Report #1

The General Assembly Council Executive Committee reports its activities since their meeting of September 26, 2006:

#### December 7, 2006 – Conference Call

#### I. Actions of the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee **VOTED** to:

1. **Approve** the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, the General Assembly Council Executive Committee, on behalf of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), hereby confirms Executive Director Linda Valentine's selection and hiring of the Rev. Mr. Thomas F. Taylor to serve as the General Assembly Council's Deputy Executive Director for Mission. The Executive Committee finds the search process was open and fair and that the Rev. Mr. Taylor is suitable for the position.

#### **Background**

At its April 29, 2006 meeting, the General Assembly Council (GAC) approved a staff reorganization that created the new position of Deputy Executive Director for Witness (now Mission). The GAC directed that the Executive Director would select and hire this new position, subject to confirmation by the GAC. Further, the Deputy Executive Director for Witness (now Mission) would be hired without a designated term. At its September 28, 2006 meeting, the GAC approved additional changes to staffing. This included a change in title from Deputy Executive Director for Witness to Deputy Executive Director for Mission. In addition, the GAC authorized its Executive Committee to vote whether or not to confirm the Executive Director's selections for the Deputy Executive Director positions.

2. **Approve** recommendations listed in the report of the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands Campaign as follow:

- a. that the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands Campaign be continued until the close of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) and that the General Assembly Council find a source of up to \$720,000 to cover campaign expenses through June of 2008
- b. that 5% of all monies raised from new gifts and pledges from this point forward be applied toward administrative costs; and
- c. that 5% be used to repay the General Assembly Council
- d. The Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands Campaign 2007 Project Expense Budget of \$728,500.
- e. Affirm Ms. Valentine's appointment of Mr. David York as the Director of the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands Campaign.
- f. Affirm the appointment of Mr. Tom Gillespie as an honorary Chair of the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands Campaign.

3. **Approve** two recommendations regarding the continued reorganization of General Assembly Council Staff as follow:
  - a. Elimination of the following positions:
    - Associate Director, Communication (currently vacant), and
    - Associate Director, Stewardship and Mission Funding
  - b. Authorize the Executive Director to determine and implement reductions-in-force or job eliminations below the Associate Director level.
4. **Approve** the leadership profile prepared by Boardwalk Consulting for the Deputy Executive Director for Communications and Funds Development
5. **Authorize** the appointment of a task force of staff and elected persons to look into the possibility of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation publishing *Presbyterians Today* and to report their findings and recommendations to the September 2007 General Assembly Council meeting.

## **II. Other Information**

The Executive Committee:

1. Heard an information report regarding the Mission Funding Task Force. A draft report will be presented to the March 2007 General Assembly Council meeting.
2. Received information from Ms. Allison Seed, GAC Executive Director, of her appointments to the following groups:
  - a. **Incorporation Criteria Study Team**
    - Kristine Baker, Risk Management
    - Gary Cook, Relief and development Program Area
    - Rob Craig, Ghost Ranch
    - Eric Graninger, Legal
    - Alan Krome, Special Offerings
    - April Mathes, Human Resources
    - Gradye Parsons, Office of the General Assembly
    - Dottie Smith, Finance and Accounting
  - b. **Relief and Development Task Force**
    - Linda Scholl, GAC
    - Reg Kuhn, GAC
    - Karl Travis, Former Special Offerings Review Task Force
    - Eileen Lindner, Non- profits – NCC
    - Laura Mendenhall, Ecclesiology – Seminary
    - Renato J. Suntay, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
    - R. Michael Winters, Hunger Program Committee
    - Joseph L. Johnson, Self-Development of People Committee

**December 18, 2006 – Conference Call**

The Executive Committee **VOTED** to approve the concept of a joint ministry of leadership and vocation within the General Assembly Council and the Office of the General Assembly. A final detailed proposal will come to the March 2007 joint meeting of the General Assembly Council and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly.

**February 21, 2007 – Conference Call**

**I. Actions of the Executive Committee**

1. Approved, on behalf of the General Assembly Council, the following recommendations of the Implementation Work Group:
  - A. The breakdown of the committees to be along the lines of the four goal areas in the Mission Work Plan, with nine GAC elected members assigned to each committee, and twelve assigned to the Shared Support Committee. Shared Support will be further sub-divided into; 1) Finance, 2) Communication and 3) Funds Development committees. This arrangement will be transitional for the period between now and the 2008 General Assembly, and it will be re-examined at that time when the full effect of the new structure is in place. The Chair, Vice Chair and GA moderator will not be included in the committee structure but may include themselves in the work of any mission committee they choose.
  - B. The GAC staff will recommend business to the Executive Committee to be referred to each goal area committee, and recommend which staff will resource each committee. Late arriving business will be recommended for placement by staff, ratified by the chair and vice chair, and reported to the Executive Committee at their meeting prior to each meeting of the GAC.
  - C. The election of officers will remain as currently structured, electing annually. The officers elected by the goal area committees during this meeting will take office immediately and serve on the Executive Committee starting with their next meeting. The chair and vice chair election process will remain unchanged.
  - D. We affirm the importance of existing liaison relationships and recommend that we maintain most of the current relationships until after the next General Assembly. At that time, our membership will shrink further and we will have to revisit this commitment. We do recommend the following changes to our current assignments:
    - change membership in Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns from Executive Committee member to GAC member at large
    - change membership on Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns from Executive Committee member to GAC member at large
    - remove representation from Executive Committee onto the goal area committees
    - reduce representation to Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel from two to one
    - reduce representation to Ghost Ranch (from two down to one), Montreat (five to one) and Stony Point (two to one)

**Report H**  
**Executive Committee**  
**General Assembly Council**  
**March 14-16, 2007**

- reduce the representation to Presbyterian Women's Creative Ministries Offering Committee from three to two
  - appoint board members to New Wilmington Missionary Conference Board and Mission Development Resources Committee to represent the GAC but who are not necessarily currently elected members of the council
- Note:* Each of these changes will be phased in as current membership on these boards and agencies rotates out. No changes will be made immediately.
- E. Invite the Synod Forum Representatives (currently Zane Buxton and Reg Parsons) to continue as Corresponding members until after the 2008 General Assembly.
  - F. We recommend approval for GAC and/or EC to be able to name persons other than elected to serve on ad hoc committees, with special emphasis on past members of the GAC who may bring particular expertise. This practice has always been allowed but it will become more important in the future.
2. Approved the following recommendations regarding the March 2007 GAC meeting:
    - A. The Moderator, Former Moderator, GAC Chair, and GAC Vice Chair will convene the initial meeting of the Goal Area Committee. The former chair of the Mission Support Services Committee (Frank Adams) will convene the Shared Support Committee.
    - B. GAC Staff will assign additional business received to Goal Area Committees with approval of the Chair and Vice Chair of the General Assembly Council.
    - C. Assignment of action items to Goal Area Committees.
  3. Approved the report of the Restricted Funds Oversight Subcommittee for Fund 70047, Training ministers for preaching/teaching Bible, Western US area, as follows:
    - Presbytery of Utah; Salt Lake City, UT -- \$50,000, and
    - Synod of the Southwest, Tucson, AZ -- \$202,8000.Total grants of \$252,800.
  4. Approved a draft report for the General Assembly Council review, Journey to a New Mission Strategy. The Executive Committee will recommend that the GAC approve the report and forward it to the General Assembly Special Committee on Review of the General Assembly Council.

### **III. Other Information**

1. Heard a verbal report on plans for the Joint Meeting of GAC and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly from Allison Seed, GAC Chair.
2. Heard a verbal report on Finance and Budget from Joey Bailey, Deputy Executive Director for Shared Services.
3. Heard a verbal report on the nominations process from Carolyn McLarnan, Chair of the GAC Nominating Committee.