

APPROVED: September 26, 2006

**MINUTES OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

**Called Meeting
Chicago, Illinois
May 23, 2006**

**As Recorded by the Staff of the
Office of the General Assembly**

The called business meeting of the General Assembly Council (GAC) was held May 23, 2006, at the Marriott Hotel O'Hare in Chicago, Illinois.

Tuesday, May 23

The General Assembly Council met for lunch at 12:30 p.m. in the Chicago Ballroom A/B of the Marriott Hotel O'Hare.

Convene

The General Assembly Council convened at 1:25 p.m. in the Chicago Ballroom D/E/F of the Marriott Hotel O'Hare in Chicago, Illinois. Nancy Kahaian, Chair of the General Assembly Council, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Kerry Clements, Associate Stated Clerk, Office of the General Assembly, called the roll by naming the absentees and reporting requests to be excused.

The Following Members of the General Assembly Council Present for All or Part of the Time Were:

Elder Jonathan N. Abiera, Elder Frank Adams, Elder Carol J. Adcock, Elder Stephen N. Benz, Elder John Bolt, Elder Frances N. Calderwood, Elder Maximo J. Callao (Dr.), Elder J. Michael Castonis, The Reverend George M. Conn Jr., Elder John E. Davison, Elder Jean Demmler, The Reverend Karen E. Dimon, Elder Charles F. Easley Sr., The Reverend B. Gordon Edwards, The Reverend Susan J. Ezell, Elder Issac St. Clair Freeman, Elder Kristen York Gerling, The Reverend Thomas W. Gillespie, The Reverend Lewis Spottswood Graves, Elder Esperanza Guajardo, Elder Carol G. Hylkema, Elder Frances D. Irwin, Elder Mary Jane Jakobsen, Elder Betty C. Jones, Elder LaVert W. Jones, The Reverend Nancy Kahaian, Elder Choong Jeong Kim, The Reverend Mary Marks King, The Reverend James G. Kirk, Elder Carolyn C. Knight,

Elder Michael W. Kruse, Elder Reginald S. Kuhn, Elder Yong Lee, Elder Jacquelin J. Lyman, The Reverend Paul J. Masquelier Jr., Elder Carolyn M. McLarnan, Elder Doug Megill, Elder Ann H. Moe, The Reverend Dale Lindsay Morgan, Elder Kenneth R. Newbold, Elder Alice Okazaki, Elder Manley E. Olson, Elder Ethan R-C Powell, Elder Ellen R. Rexing, The Reverend Joe W. Rigsby, Elder Conrad M. Rocha, Elder Bill Saul, The Reverend Danny K. Schomer, The Reverend Allison K. Seed, The Reverend Gary F. Skinner, Elder Andrew B. Sonneborne, Andrea Catherine Stokes, The Reverend Linda W. Toth, Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, Elder Mary Lynn Walters, Elder Jane Westfall, and Elder Jim Dave Wilson.

Elder Linda Scholl and Elder Gretta M. Simon were absent.

Ecumenical Advisory: Douglas W. Fromm and Douglas E. Theuner were absent.

Corresponding: The Reverend Zane K. Buxton, The Reverend James M. Collie, Elder John J. Detterick, The Reverend Clifton Kirkpatrick (Dr.), and The Reverend Jean Marie Peacock.

The Following Division Directors, the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director, the Deputy for Mission Support Services, Present for All or Part of the Time Were: Elder Joey Bailey, The Reverend Donald G. Campbell, Elder John Detterick, The Reverend Curtis A. Kearns, Jr., The Reverend Helen Locklear, and The Reverend Marian McClure.

The Following Invited Participants, Guests, Observers, and Staff Present for All of Part of the Time Were: The Reverend John Buchanan, The Reverend Kerry Clements, Barry Creech (Mr.), The Reverend David Crittenden, The Reverend Art DeYoung, Debbie Gardiner (Ms.), The Reverend Robert Reynolds, Elder Steve Grace, Leslie Scanlon (Ms.), Elder Jesse Swanigan, and The Reverend Jerry Van Marter.

ACTION 1-506 Approve Excused Absences

Excuses were offered on behalf of the following persons, and upon motion from the floor, the General Assembly Council **VOTED** to excuse these members from this meeting: The Reverend Susan R. Andrews (Dr.), The Reverend Judy A. Angleberger, Elder Pamila Deichmann, Elder Joanne V. Fassett, Elder Alan D. Ford, Elder Edwin A. Gonzalez, The Reverend Linda A. Knieriemen, The Reverend Melvin G. Lowry, and Elder Catherine P. Rasa.

Quorum

A quorum was declared present for the transaction of business.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was convened with prayer offered by Nancy Kahaian.

Paul Masquelier, vice-chair of the GAC, assumed the chair.

Executive Committee Report

Nancy Kahaian presented the report of the General Assembly Council Executive Committee and highlighted the following items of information:

- Correspondence has been received regarding the use of private sessions at the April 2006 meeting of the council. Three persons were appointed to review the correspondence and bring a proposal to the September 2006 meeting of the council: Jacqueline Lyman (chair), Dan Schomer, and LaVert Jones.
- The executive committee ratified the chair's appointment of the following persons to serve on the Implementation Work Group: Steve Benz (chair), Carol Adcock, Mary Marks King, Mike Castronis, Linda Kniereman, Ann Moe, and LaVert Jones.
- The executive committee voted to ratify the chair's appointment of Clifton Kirkpatrick as parliamentarian for the May 2006 called meeting of the council.
- The executive committee voted to revise the 2007 and 2008 Mission Budgets to include the receipt of an unrestricted bequest. This action provides funding to maintain 235 mission personnel.

The report of the GAC Executive Committee to the General Assembly Council is found in Appendix 1.

Review of Process for This Meeting

Kahaian outlined the process that will be followed for the conduct of this meeting. First, the council will hear the report of the search committee followed by the receipt of additional nominations from the floor. The nominee will be given an opportunity to speak followed by a confirmation that other nominees are willing to serve. All nominees will return to platform for a time of questions and answers. The council will then move to executive session to vote on this personnel matter. Nominees will join the executive session for questions, after which the council will proceed with a vote. Kahaian announced that she will entertain a motion to vote by paper ballot.

Executive Director Search Committee Report

Karen Dimon presented the report of the Executive Director Search Committee. Dimon expressed appreciation to the council and for Linda Bryant Valentine's openness to the call. Dimon announced that forty applications were considered in the process.

The search committee placed in nomination the name of Linda Bryant Valentine to serve a four-year term (2006-2010) as executive director of the General Assembly Council.

Address of the Candidate

Linda Valentine addressed the council and thanked members of the search committee. Valentine expressed that she looked forward to working with the council and thanked the "saints of her life."

She outlined her pilgrimage of faith in which she's taken an active role in the mission and work of the church. Valentine spoke about her management ability to work in teams,

most recently with Opportunities International in linking forty-five different agencies in the area of microfinance.

Kahaian asked for additional nominations from the floor. Upon hearing none, Kahaian nominations closed.

Questions and Answers

The council engaged in a period of questions and answers to Valentine.

ACTION 2-506 Approve Moving to Executive Session

The General Assembly Council **VOTED** to move into executive session which was closed to all persons except voting and corresponding members, Kerry Clements, and Linda Valentine.

Executive Session

The council met in executive session beginning at 2:45 p.m.

Public Session

At 3:52 p.m., the council moved back into public session and Kahaian announced that the council had taken the following actions during executive session:

ACTION 3-506 Elect Valentine as Next Executive Director

The General Assembly Council **VOTED** to elect Linda Bryant Valentine as the next executive director of the General Assembly Council.

ACTION 4-506 Dismissal of Executive Director Search Committee

The General Assembly Council **VOTED** to dismiss the Executive Director Search Committee upon conclusion of the 217th General Assembly (2006).

ACTION 5-506 Recommend Confirmation of Valentine to GA

The General Assembly Council **VOTED** to recommend to the 217th General Assembly (2006) the confirmation of Linda Bryant Valentine as the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council beginning July 1, 2006.

Worship and Adjournment

The council participated in a service of worship with the sacrament of communion. In this service new officers of the GAC were installed: Allison Seed, Chair; Charles Easley, Vice-Chair. With the close of the worship service, the council was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry S. Clements
Associate Stated Clerk

**Executive Committee Report
To the
General Assembly Council
May 23, 2006**

The Executive Committee met by conference call at 2:00 p.m. on May 18, 2006 and reports the following actions for information:

1. The Executive Committee received correspondence from four corresponding members and one ecumenical advisory delegate of the General Assembly Council expressing concerns about the use of private sessions during the April 2006 GAC meeting. In response to the correspondence, the Executive Committee:
 - a. **Voted** to authorize the GAC Chair, Nancy Kahaian, to appoint a three member committee to review the May 3, 2006 correspondence and bring a recommended proposal to the September 26-30, 2006 GAC meeting for any necessary action.
In addition, the authors of the May 3 correspondence will be invited to appoint two individual to consult with the committee.
 - b. **Voted** to ratify the Chair's appointments of the following persons to serve on this committee, if the way be clear:
 - Dan Schomer
 - Jaqueline Lyman (Chair)
 - LaVert Jones

2. The Executive Committee **Voted** to ratify the Chair's appointments of the following persons to serve, if the way be clear, on a GAC Implementation Work Group:
 - Carol Adock
 - Steve Benz (Chair)
 - Mary Marks King
 - Mike Castronis
 - Linda Kniereman
 - Ann Moe
 - LaVert Jones

Allison Seed, GAC Chair-Elect, and the Staff Leadership Team will serve as ex-officio members.

Background:

The GAC elected body and staff are in substantial transition in 2006. One part of this transition is the change in the staff leadership of the GAC. It is anticipated the GAC staff leadership will change on October 1, 2006 from a system of an Executive Director, a Deputy Executive Director, three Ministry Division Directors and a Deputy for Mission Support Services to an Executive Director, a Deputy Executive Director for Witness and a Deputy Executive

Director for Support Services. In addition, the newly adopted structure for GAC elected members include a transitioning from Division Committees to coordinating work around Goal Tables. In light of these changes, it is important to establish how the transition will proceed. This Work Group will report to the GAC meeting in September 2006

3. The Executive Committee **Voted** to ratify the Chair's appointment of Cliff Kirkpatrick as the GAC's parliamentarian for the GAC meeting of May 23.
4. Due to the GAC's receipt of an unrestricted bequest, the Executive Committee, acting ad interim, **Voted** to revise the 2007 Mission Budget to include \$315,000 and the 2008 Mission Budget to include \$335,000. Such revision provides funding to maintain 235 Mission Personnel