

APPROVED: September 27, 2003

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

Seventy-second Stated Meeting

Louisville, Kentucky

April 3-5, 2003

**As Recorded by the Staff of the
Office of the General Assembly
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202**

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**Minutes of the
General Assembly Council
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

April 3-5, 2003

The seventy-second stated business meeting of the General Assembly Council (GAC) was held April 3-5, 2003, at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. **Seventy-second meeting of the GAC**

Pre-meeting events, held April 2 and 3, 2003, are noted for information. **Pre-meeting Events**

Wednesday, April 2

The Personnel Subcommittee met at 5:00 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room.

**Wednesday,
April 2, 2003**

Thursday, April 3

The Executive Committee of the GAC met in Mezzanine Room A/B of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch in the Mezzanine Room C at 12 noon.

**Thursday,
April 3**

The council convened at 3:35 p.m. in a plenary meeting with the in the Grand Ballroom of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Barbara A. Renton, Chairperson of the General Assembly Council, called the meeting to order and offered the opening prayer. **Convene**

The council heard a presentation on the preparation of the proposed 2004 mission budget. The following persons participated in the presentation: John Detterick, Kathy Lueckert, Helen Morrison, Don Campbell, Thomas Hood, Curtis Kearns, Winnie Drape, Marian McClure, Kaye Hirt Eggleston, Joey Bailey, and Barbara Renton. (See Appendix 1.) **2004 Budget Presentation**

The council met in assigned committees from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **Committees Meet**

Friday, April 4, 2003

The council met for breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom East of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Friday,
April 4**

At 8:30 a.m. in the Medallion Ballroom A/B of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel, Dr. Barbara A. Renton, Chairperson, reconvened the council. The meeting was opened with morning worship led by members of the Congregational Ministries Division Committee. **Reconvene**

Kaye Eggleston presented a report from Mission Support Services Committee on the 2004 budget. **Report From MSS on 2004 Budget**

The council **VOTED** to approve the proposed 2004 General Assembly Mission Budget and Program in the total amount of \$126,938,897 to be forwarded to the 215th General Assembly (2003) for adoption (Appendix 2). After the vote on the budget, Renton led the council in prayer. **ACTION 1-403**
Approve 2004 Mission Budget

Renton recognized Fahed Abu-Akel, moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002), for a report. **Moderator's Report**

At 10:00 a.m. the council was recessed with prayer led by Dr. Renton. **Recess**

The council met in assigned committees from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The council gathered for lunch in the Grand Ballroom East from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. The council continued to meet in assigned committees from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Committees Meet/Lunch**

At 3:20 p.m. in the Medallion Ballroom A/B of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel, Dr. Barbara A. Renton, Chairperson, reconvened the council. Gerardo Lopez-Vigo opened the meeting of the council with prayer. **Reconvene**

John Detterick outlined a six-step process for the council in which a strategic framework could be established for 2005 mission budget: **Framework for 2005 Budget Process**
1) Preliminary identification of priorities, 2) test priority areas "back home," 3) prepare to: confirm priorities, weight priority areas, identify three essential resources for each priority area, 4) in September: confirm priorities, weight priority areas, identify three essential resources for each priority area, 5) instruct staff to prepare 2005 budget reflecting the priority decisions in step four, and 6) in January: review preliminary 2005 budget compared to the priority decisions made in September (step four).

Berit Lakey of BoardSource led the council in a process that looked at the results of the self-assessment process that the council participated in as a result of its last meeting. **Strategic Visioning**

At 5:30 p.m. Renton announced the recess of the council. **Recess**

The GAC Appreciation Dinner was held in the Grand Ballroom East beginning at 6:00 p.m. **GAC Appreciation Dinner**

Saturday, April 5, 2003

Saturday, April 5

The council met for breakfast beginning at 7:00 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom East, followed by report reading that continued until 8:45 a.m.

Morning worship was held from 9:00 a.m. until 9:20 a.m. in the Medallion Ballroom ABC led by members of National Ministries Division Committee.

From 9:20 a.m. until 11:05 a.m. in the Medallion Ballroom ABC, the council engaged in a GAC Strategic Visioning Self Assessment process.

**Strategic Visioning
Process**

At 11:20 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2003, in the Medallion Ballroom ABC of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel, Dr. Barbara A. Renton, Chairperson, who extended a welcome to all gathered for the meeting, convened the council. Horacio Valdez II opened the meeting of the council with prayer.

Reconvene

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

Roll Call

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

Members Present

The Reverend Fahed Abu-Akel, Elder Frank Adams, The Reverend Judy A. Angleberger, The Reverend Raymond A. Anglin, Elder John A. Bolt, Elder Frances N. Calderwood, Dr. Maximo J. Callao, Elder Marj Carpenter, Elder Vernon Carroll, The Reverend George M. Conn, Elder John E. Davison, The Reverend Karen E. Dimon, Elder Winifred A. Drape, Elder Charles F. Easley, Sr., The Reverend B. Gordon Edwards, Elder Kaye Hirt Eggleston, The Reverend Robert J. Elder, Elder Isaac St. Clair Freeman, Elder Marie C. Galloway, Elder Kristen York Gerling, Elder Edwin A. Gonzalez, The Reverend Lewis Spottswood Graves, Elder Raymond M. Greenhill, Elder Dorothy J. Henderson, Elder Bruce C. Hendrickson, Elder Thomas L. Hood, Elder Carol G. Hylkema, Elder Mary Jane Jakobsen, Elder Eddie R. Johnson, The Reverend Nancy Kahaian, The Reverend Dr. Adelia D. Kelso, Elder Charles W. Kim, The Reverend Mary Marks King, The Reverend Linda A. Knieriemen, Elder Reginald S. Kuhn, Elder Yong J. Lee, The Reverend Gerardo Lopez-Vigo, The Reverend Melvin G. Lowry, Elder Lillian Magruder, The Reverend Paul J. Masquelier Jr., Elder Ann H. Moe, The Reverend Dale Lindsay Morgan, Elder Helen Morrison, Elder Paul Gregory Neel, Elder Kenneth R. Newbold, Elder Manley E. Olson, Elder Neal D. Presa, The Reverend John C. Pruitt, Elder E. Dolores Register, The Reverend Barbara A. Renton, The Reverend Syngman Rhee, The Reverend Joe W. Rigsby, Elder Donald W. Robinson, The Reverend Dr. Jack B. Rogers, Elder Bonnie J. Ruggiero, Elder Bill Saul, The Reverend Allison K. Seed, The Reverend Gary F.

Skinner, Andrea Stokes, The Reverend Linda W. Toth, Elder John E. Tracy, Elder Horacio Valdez II, Elder Jane Westfall, Elder Hazel F. Whitney, and Elder Emily S. Wigger.

Corresponding: Elder John J. Detterick, The Reverend Janet M. DeVries, Mary C. Baskin, and Elder Earle V.S. Robbins.

The Following Members of the General Assembly Council Staff--Office of the Executive Director, Present for All or Part of the Time Were: Elder Beth Basham (Dr.), Wanda Fuller (Ms.), Nancy Hamilton (Ms.), Sandra F. Hill (Ms.), and Alejandra Sherman (Ms.).

The Following Division Directors, the Deputy Executive Director, the Deputy for Mission Support Services, and the President of the Board of Pensions Present for All or Part of the Time Were: Elder Joey Bailey, The Reverend Donald G. Campbell, Reverend Curtis A. Kearns, Jr., Elder Kathy Lueckert, Elder Robb Maggs, and The Reverend Marian McClure.

The Following Invited Participants, Guests, Observers, and Staff Present for All or Part of the Time Were: John H. Adams (Mr.), The Reverend Tony Aja, Elder Walter Baker, The Reverend James D. Berkley, The Reverend Robert Brashear, Elder Alice Broadwater (Ms.), The Reverend Edward Brogan, The Reverend Will Browne, The Reverend Vernon Broyles, Sylvia Carter (Ms.), Teresa Chrappa (Ms.), Martha Clark (Ms.), The Reverend Kerry Clements, The Reverend James M. Collie, The Reverend Gary Cook, Barry Creech (Mr.), Mary Lou Davies (Ms.), The Reverend Arthur DeYoung, Steven Flytre (Mr.), Elder Ann Gillies, Angela Gowdy (Ms.), Eric Graninger (Mr.), Pamela Green (Ms.), The Reverend David Hackett, C.J. Haysley (Mr.), Elder Dottie Hedgepeth, The Reverend Elenora Giddings Ivory, Elder Clifford Kraus, Berit Lakey (Dr.), Jennie Lamb (Ms.), The Reverend Helen Locklear, Elder Gary Luhr, Ron Lundeen (Mr.), The Reverend Marcia Myers, The Reverend Floyd N. Rhodes, Jr., Joan Richardson (Ms.), James Rissler (Mr.), Elder Conrad Rocha, The Reverend Lucy Rupe, The Reverend Leslie Sauer, Leslie Scanlon (Ms.), Evan Silverstein (Mr.), The Reverend Bill Simmons, The Reverend Joseph Small, The Reverend Alexa Smith, Elder Mary Elva Smith, Elder Sandra Moak Sorem, The Reverend Peter Sulyok, Nagy Tawfik, The Reverend David L. Van Arsdale, The Reverend Jerry Van Marter, Elder Artence Walton, The Reverend Douglas Wilson, and Keith Wulff (Mr.).

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: Elder Pamila G. Deichmann, Elder Karen S. Fritsch, Elder Frances D. Irwin, The Reverend James G. Kirk, Elder Gwendolyn Laurel Martin, Elder Catherine P. Rasa, and The Reverend Dan K. Schomer; ecumenical advisory member: Garland F. Pierce; and corresponding members: The Reverend Robert W. Bohl, Elder Ruy O. Costa, The Reverend Judy R. Fletcher, The Reverend Clifton Kirkpatrick (Dr.), Elder Patricia Hew Lee, The Reverend Joanne Sizoo, and Elder Kathleen R. Walker.

ACTION 2-403
Approve Excused Absences

A quorum was declared present for the transaction of business.

Quorum

The General Assembly Council reviewed the agenda for this meeting and **VOTED** to approve the amended agenda.

ACTION 3-403
Approve Agenda

Renton announced the appointments of Neal Presa as parliamentarian and Adelia Kelso and Frank Adams as the new business committee.

Appointments

The council **VOTED** to approve the minutes of its January 14-18, 2003, meeting. Typographical errors discovered after the minutes have been printed have been corrected in the official record.

ACTION 4-403
Approve January 2003 GAC Minutes

Bill Saul presented a report on the Mission Initiative, which has been renamed: Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands (A Campaign to Renew the Church for Mission).

Mission Initiative

Renton announced that Judy Angleberger, Gerardo Lopez-Vigo, and Yong Lee had been appointed to work on the mission statement with Berit Lakey.

GAC Chair Report

The council recessed at 12:15 p.m. with prayer offered by Jan DeVries. The council met in small groups until 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch in the Grand Ballroom East.

Recess and Lunch

Renton reconvened the meeting with prayer at 1:30 p.m.

Reconvene

After discussion the council agreed to move forward with the following preliminary purpose statement: The GAC provides leadership in the development and implementation of GA mission and directives and acts on behalf of the PCUSA between General Assemblies. Formal adoption of a purpose statement will be presented to the council meeting in September 2003.

Preliminary Purpose Statement

Kaye Eggleston, Chairperson, presented the report of Mission Support Services (MSS). **Report of MSS**

The council **VOTED** to approve the following consent agenda items:

ACTION 5-403
Approve MSS
Consent Agenda

- The allocation and classification of additions and new funds received in November and December 2002, as set forth in the listing contained in Appendix 3 and refer them to the Foundation for their concurrence;
- The following allocations and designations:
 1. The designation of \$2,185,123 (representing a bequest received) from Presbyterian Mission Program Fund and the allocation of \$900,000 of that designation for funding Mission Initiative for 2004.
 2. The allocation of \$390,000 from Presbyterian Mission Program Fund to balance the 2004 budget.
 3. The allocation of \$1,093,000 from PMPF for the Independent Committee of Inquiry (ICI) as follows:

2004	\$447,250
2005	\$215,250
2006	\$215,250
2007	\$215,250;
- An allocation of \$37,980 for a request from the Office of Information Services, Human Resources, and the Controller’s Office from the Capital Reserve Fund (Appendix 4);
- Recommend to the 215th General Assembly that the Assembly express its appreciation to the members and congregations of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. for the faithful financial support given to General Assembly Mission causes in 2002; and that the Assembly recognize the following presbyteries for their leadership in giving:

<u>Category of Gift</u>	<u>Total Dollars Given</u>	<u>Per Member Giving</u>
Total Mission Giving	Philadelphia	Alaska
Basic Mission Support	Donegal	Donegal
Churchwide Special Offerings	National Capital	Alaska
Presbyterian Women’s Giving	Pittsburgh	Alaska
Other Specific Appeals*	Pittsburgh	Cimarron

*Other Specific Appeals includes gifts to Disaster Assistance, the Theological Education Fund and Extra Commitment Opportunities.

- The 2002 year-end financial reports, budgets and other reports for the 215th General Assembly (2003):

- A. Relating to Budgets for General Assembly Mission and Program
 1. That the 215th General Assembly (2003) incorporate into the *Minutes* the report of the 2002 General Assembly Mission Program receipts and Expenditures Actual Compared to Budget for 2002 (Appendix 5).
 2. That the 215th General Assembly (2003) receive the report of the 2003 General Assembly Mission Budget and Program in the total amount of \$128,166,553 (Appendix 6).
 - B. Relating to Reserved or Committed Funds
 1. That the 215th General Assembly (2003) receive the report of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation regarding unrestricted and committed funds as of December 31, 2002 (Appendix 7).
 2. That the 215th General Assembly (2003) incorporate into its *Minutes* the following list of contingent liabilities:
 - (a) Contingent liabilities which have been guaranteed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for educational institutions as of December 31, 2002; \$433,501.66 mortgage for Barber Scotia College, and \$182,000 letter of credit for Mary Holmes College.
 - (b) Reserve funds are required to cover self insurance for General Assembly-owned property. A separate Self Insurance Fund has been established, the balance of which was \$4,959,190 as of December 31, 2002.
 - C. Relating to support for General Assembly Mission
 1. That the 215th General Assembly (2003) allocate the annual income realized in 2002 in the amount of \$42,536.00 from the John C. Lord And Edmund P. Dwight Funds in support of the budget for the general mission work of the General Assembly.
 2. That the 215th General Assembly (2003) incorporate into its *Minutes* the summary of receipts from Special Offerings for the year 2002 (Appendix 8);
- The 2002 year-end financial reports, budgets and other reports for the 215th General Assembly (2003):
 - A. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council recommend that the 215th General Assembly (2003) incorporate into the *Minutes* the 2002 Per Capita Apportionment Budget and Statement of Activities, and the Comparative Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2002 (Appendix 9).

- B. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council recommend that the 215th General Assembly (2003) approve a proposed 2004 Per Capita Apportionment Budget totaling \$14,708,259 (Appendix 10).
 - C. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council recommend that the 215th General Assembly (2003) approve a per capita apportionment rate of \$5.49 per active member for 2004 (Appendix 11).
 - D. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the General Assembly Council recommend that the 215th General Assembly (2003) approve the attached allocation of designated funds for OGA, and GA task forces totaling \$2,310,104 for 2003 and \$2,146,285 for 2004 (Appendix 12).
- The following model to be followed in future cases of loans made by the General Assembly Council to church-related schools:
 - A. A business plan approved by the Board of Directors of the school which details the school's primary mission and its plan for financial stability that demonstrates the ability to service the GAC and any other debt incurred as a result of operating the school.
 - B. Annual independent audits will be furnished to the GAC within 120 days of the end of each school year.
 - C. Monthly balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flow shall be provided to the GAC starting by the end of the next month after loan closes.
 - D. The right of the GAC to make periodic inspections of the property, financial records, and periodically attend meetings of the school's Board of Directors, as deemed necessary by GAC in its sole discretion.
 - E. School shall maintain accreditation with the Association of Colleges and Schools (or applicable accrediting agency) in school's area.
 - F. The Board of Directors must meet annually with their CPA immediately upon receipt of the audit report and management letter with an invitation extended to Mission Support Services for a representative to attend.
 - G. The annual audit report and management letter will be sent by the CPA directly to the relevant Synod Executive, Director of National Ministries Division, and Deputy for Mission Support Services.

- H. The board will send its response to the CPA's management letter to the relevant Synod Executive, Director of National Ministries Division, and Deputy for Mission Support Services along with a written statement certifying the Board of Directors meeting referenced in F (above).
 - I. If any of the above requirements are not continually met during the term of the loan, the loan will be considered in default; and
- The response to Overture 03-35 on Directing the General Assembly Council with regard to the Mission and Per Capita Budgets from the Presbytery of San Diego for the 215th General Assembly (2003) (Appendix 13).

Marie Galloway reported that the Audit Committee reviewed and approved the Internal Audit Report of the International Evangelism work area.

Audit Committee Report

Thomas Hood, Chairperson, presented the report of the National Ministries Division (NMD).

Report of National Ministries Division

The council **VOTED** to approve and forward to the 215th General Assembly (2003) for action the recommendation from Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to remove Talisman Energy from the General Assembly's divestment list.

**ACTION 6-403
Approve Recommendation from MRTI**

The council **VOTED** to endorse the five concerns regarding humanitarian relief for the people of Iraq, as they were outlined for the UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan, by the Presbyterian and ecumenical delegation that met with him on March 28, 2003 and that these concerns be communicated to the members, congregations, and governing bodies of the PC(USA) (Appendix 14).

**ACTION 7-403
Endorse Concerns For Humanitarian Relief for Iraq**

Winnie Drape, Chairperson, presented the report of the Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD).

Report of Worldwide Ministries Division

The council **VOTED** to

- A. affirm the Worldwide Ministries Division Committee's adoption of *Gathering for God's Future* as the basis for planning the work of the Worldwide Ministries Division, and
- B. affirm that *Gathering for God's Future* will guide the Council's approach to living out the General Assembly's four priority goals --

**ACTION 8-403
Affirm *Gathering for God's Future***

evangelism, justice, partnership and spiritual formation -- in its international work.

C. recommend to the General Assembly that it

1. affirm the adoption of *Gathering for God's Future* as the basis for planning the work of the Worldwide Ministries Division;
2. affirm that *Gathering for God's Future* will guide the General Assembly Council's approach to living out the General Assembly's four priority goals -- evangelism, justice, partnership and spiritual formation -- in the Council's international work; and
3. urge all Presbyterians to use *Gathering for God's Future* as they discern the ways in which they will participate in God's mission worldwide.

The council **VOTED**

A. that the General Assembly call the people of our church to listen to partner church voices as they seek, in the midst of the Iraq and other international crises, to be knowledgeable about: (see Appendix 15)

1. How U.S. Government actions may be seen internationally, especially in Muslim majority countries, as a conflict between the "Christian West" and the "Islamic nation;"
2. The plight of Christian people in situations, including the current Iraq and other less publicized crises, that endanger their continuing existence or place them under great duress especially in Pakistan, Lebanon-Syria, Palestine-Israel, Indonesia; Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Congo.
3. The concerns of partners in non-Muslim majority parts of the world about unilateral U.S. action in which many people perceive the U.S. War on Terrorism causing great danger to them;
4. The need for special prayer and concern for Christians who are identified with us as "American" and therefore as substitute targets for anger and acts of violence against the U.S.; and
5. The need to grow in understanding about the dynamics at large in the world and international church that are in contrast to those of the U.S. and of the PC(USA), specifically how issues of identity and values affect perceptions about particular crises.

B. that the Worldwide Ministries Staff be directed to make available reports on partners' views and expressions of concern related to current crises.

C. that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) be called to continue in prayer for all persons affected by war, violence, oppression, disease and

ACTION 9-403

**Approve Listening
to Partner
Churches**

estrangement, especially remembering our sisters and brothers in Christ who share with us ultimate loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and Head of the Church, but whose national identity and loyalty and perceptions are different than our own.

The council **VOTED** to affirm the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy's (ACSWP) "Resolution on Africa" and forward the following comments for transmission to the 215th General Assembly:

ACTION 10-403
**Approve Comment
on Resolution on
Africa**

- A. that in the publication of this Resolution editing tools such as sidebars highlighting major points be used in order to make it more accessible and easily understood.
- B. that a précis for the paper be written and made the first part of the paper.

The council **VOTED** to affirm the ACSWP "Resolution on Israel and Palestine: End of Occupation Now" and forward the following comments to the 215th General Assembly:

ACTION 11-403
**Approve Comment
on Resolution on
Israel and Palestine**

- A. that in the publication of this document editing tools such as sidebars highlighting major points be used in order to make it more accessible and easily understood.
- B. that in the publication of this document a hard copy be sent at a minimum to each governing body.
- C. that a précis or summary for the paper be written and made the first part of the paper.

The council **VOTED** to affirm the paper "A Joint Statement on Peace and Reunification of Korea" by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), the Presbyterian Church Republic of Korea (PROK) – as approved by their respective Offices of the General Assembly, and forward to the 215th General Assembly:

ACTION 12-403
**Affirm Paper on
Peace and
Reunification of
Korea**

- A. WMD expresses gratitude to our Korean partner churches for joining with the PC(USA) in speaking on these important issues with one voice that, with a pastoral tone, seeks dialogue leading to a peaceful and just resolution of the issues now working to divide Korea and threatening conflict.
- B. WMD commends this Resolution as a timely word in the current crisis afflicting the Korean peninsula which is made worse as the war in Iraq is perceived as increasing the threat of possible intervention by force of arms in Korea.

C. WMD reminds the church that:

1. only the Prince of Peace can bring lasting resolution in this crisis;
2. the peace and reunification for which we pray will bring need for a mission of reconciliation, restoration, gospel proclamation, and healing;
3. mission must be undertaken in dialogue with all the churches and peoples affected and no church, least of all the PC(USA), ought to impose a solution on any partner;
4. we are invited to offer ourselves as colleagues on the path to fullness of life in Christ even as we invite and respect the collegial presence of the Korean Christian voice in our journey and in our mission endeavors with others all around the world;
5. this hoped-for opportunity to walk as colleagues requires us to remain prepared with persons of language skill, cultural understanding and passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ in all its fullness and with resources properly developed for the time of God's choosing.

The council **VOTED** to transmit to the 215th General Assembly regarding the ACSWP Draft Reflection paper on "Iraq and Beyond":

ACTION 13-403
Approve Comment
on Iraq and
Beyond

WMD is concerned with the following implications for mission:

- A. Attitudes of resentment and hostility growing within Muslim societies toward the United States would affect, in the first instance, the relations between Christians and Muslims, especially the relations of our partner churches with their neighbors in the region, and their long-term efforts toward mutual trust-building. Partners in Pakistan and Indonesia, for example, have already experienced such tensions.
- B. Security of our mission personnel may suffer, as well as the effectiveness of their work in the present and their recruitment in the future. Several of our mission personnel have had to be temporarily evacuated, and are understandably anxious about the future of their ministries. The very integrity and credibility of our partnership relations in vast regions of the world may be in jeopardy.
- C. The witness of our partner churches and ecumenical bodies in the entire region, will long be affected by the Iraq crisis. At the heart of continuing strife in the Middle East is crisis in the land of Christ's birth, life and ministry, death and resurrection. Christian Witness has continued unbroken for two millennia, but now faces the severe challenge of survival in the face of massive Christian emigration

caused by political and economic exigencies and the unrelenting suffering of Palestinians under military occupation. Concern for the continuing Israeli-Palestinian strife, and its urgent need for a just and enduring resolution, cannot be overemphasized and will require even more programmatic attention. (A separate more detailed Resolution is before the Assembly on the Israel/Palestine situation.)

- D. Worldwide Ministries Division, because of a long historic working relationship and a deep love for the peoples of the region, is constrained now more than ever before, to lift up Iraq as a special focus for renewed commitment in mission partnership, as well as ministry with Iraqi Christians outside Iraq who, in the providence of God, may receive and share the gospel and new life in new ways, faithfully and with integrity.
- E. Already, the Division, through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, has responded to the urgent humanitarian needs resulting from the war, through an initial emergency grant followed by a wider appeal. It is anticipated that the scope of involvements will expand and may involve organizations of other faiths.
- F. The Division recognizes that in initial stages after the war mission may take primary forms of disaster assistance and restoration of services. In the long term, to which we must also be committed, there is a need to be colleagues on the journey with Presbyterian and other Christians who may have a new opportunity to be the church in mission. We will need people with language and cultural skills and passion for the gospel of Christ in all its fullness. In a climate where our work may continue for some time to be inaccurately seen as a projection of U.S. power, we will need a spirit of humility and patience, willingness to trust and accompany partners, and the guidance of the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Drape noted that WMD elected the following committee members as subcommittee chairs for year 2003-2004: George Conn as the Ecumenical Partnership Subcommittee Chair, Frances Calderwood as the Global Service and Witness Subcommittee Chair, and Frances Irwin as the People In Mutual Mission Subcommittee Chair.

**Item of
Information from
WMD**

Helen Morrison, Chairperson, presented the report of the Congregational Ministries Division (CMD).

**Report of the
Congregational
Ministries Division**

The council **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items:

ACTION 14-403
Approve CMD
Consent Agenda

- A. approve the 2005 list of “Special Days and Seasons,” with the deletion of “Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday” (Appendix 16).
- B. that the CMD portion of the GAC report to the 215th General Assembly (2003) be amended by adding the following information to the Recommendations noted:
- Recommendation “D” (approval for celebrations of the Lord’s Supper)
- Meetings of the General Assembly Standing Committees (Commissions).
- Recommendation “J” (election of Montreat Trustees)
- Mountain Retreat Association Trustees of Stock/Board of Directors: Class of 2006, Ivan Lebrón, Synod of Boriquén, Puerto Rico.
- C. that the comment on Overture 03-20 (Appendix 17) be approved and referred to the 215th General Assembly (2003).
- D. that the General Assembly Council endorse the five concerns regarding humanitarian relief for the people of Iraq, as outlined for the U.N. Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, by the Presbyterian and ecumenical delegation that met with him on March 28, 2003, and that these concerns be commended to the members, congregations and governing bodies of the PC(USA).
- protection for Iraqi civilians,
 - access for Humanitarian Aid Organizations,
 - coordination of humanitarian policy in relief and rebuilding efforts,
 - establish mechanisms for monitoring human rights,
 - seek alternatives to the current violence.

Renton presented the report of the Executive Committee.

Executive
Committee Report

The council **VOTED** to approve and forward to the 215th General Assembly the following changes to the *GAC Manual of Operations* (changes are in ***bold italic***, deletions are shown with a ~~strike-through~~):

ACTION 15-403
Approve Changes
in Manual of
Operations

- A. Page 1, II. Constitutional Mandate and Composition of Council, third sentence, delete the words, “3 moderators (one current and two most recent living predecessors)” and add the words, “the moderator of the General Assembly and the moderator’s most recent living

predecessor” so that the sentence reads:

The elected membership will include ~~3 moderators (one current and two most living predecessors)~~ ***the moderator of the General Assembly and the moderator’s most recent living predecessor; . . .***

B. Page 3, IV. Citation of Major Policies, A. *Mission Policy Guide*, delete the word “annually” from the second sentence, so that the sentence reads:

The guide is prepared ~~annually~~ by the General Assembly Council.

The council **VOTED** to amend the report of the General Assembly Council to the 215th General Assembly (2003) as follows:

ACTION 16-403
Amend GAC
Report to GA

“III. Reports without Recommendations, A. Report of the General Assembly Council on Current Task Forces, Work Groups, and Ad Hoc Committees, d. Racial Ethnic Ministries Program Area, add a new number 5, National Middle Eastern Caucus, and renumber remainder of the group so that it reads:

- d. *Racial Ethnic Ministries Program Area*
- (1) National Asian Presbyterian Council
 - (2) National Black Presbyterian Caucus
 - (3) Native American Consulting Committee
 - (4) National Hispanic Presbyterian Caucus
 - (5) National Middle Eastern Caucus
 - (6) National Cross Caucus
 - (7) On-going responsibilities:”

The council **VOTED** to disapprove changing the May 2004 Executive Committee meeting currently scheduled for May 7-8, to a May 6-8 General Assembly Council Meeting and to set a GAC Executive Committee meeting date for June 24, 2004 in Richmond, VA.

ACTION 17-403
Disapprove Change
in Dates of 2004
GAC Meeting

The council **VOTED** to offer to engage the session of Second Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA in dialogue regarding the issues mentioned in the letter they sent regarding the Taco Bell boycott.

ACTION 18-403
Offer to Engage in
Dialogue with
Second Church,
Staunton, VA

The council **VOTED** to approve the following comment on Overtures 03-05 and 03-11 and forward it to the 215th General Assembly (2003):

General Assembly Council Comment on Overtures 03-05 and 03-11:
The General Assembly Council welcomes the interest of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and the Presbytery of San Gabriel in instituting a new offering to support mission. The General Assembly Council suggests that the overtures be answered by convening the Special Offerings Review Task Force, to report back to the 216th (2004) General Assembly. This group would consider the merits of instituting a fifth special offering.

The Presbyterian Church (USA.) has four special giving opportunities each year: the Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Peacemaking offerings. From time to time a task force is convened to review the special offerings and how they are used. This group makes recommendations about any needed changes to the offerings, and considers whether or not new special offerings are to be implemented. The Special Offerings Review Task Force currently is scheduled to complete a review in time for a report to the 217th (2006) General Assembly. However, because of Overture 03-05 and 03-11, and because of the move to biennial assemblies, the recommendation is to begin the Special Offerings Task during 2003, so that it can report to the 216th (2004) General Assembly.

This group would consider the merits of instituting a new offering for support of mission work, and make a recommendation. The group would also review the existing special offerings, and make recommendations for any needed changes; the changes would not be implemented until the 217th (2006) General Assembly.

Renton announced that the council will meet September 21-25, 2004, in Louisville, Kentucky.

ACTION 19-403
Approve Comment
to Overtures 03-05
and 03-11

Item of
Information from
Executive
Committee

At 2:40 p.m., the General Assembly Council **VOTED** to convene as the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, and Its Constituent Corporations until 2:50 p.m. The record of these proceedings has been produced in a separate document.

ACTION 20-403
Convene as Board
of PCUSA, A
Corporation

John Tracy presented a report of the Nominating Committee.

Nominating
Committee Report

The council **VOTED** to endorse for nomination by the General Assembly Nominating Committee and election by the 215th General Assembly (2003) to the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, Class of 2005: Hazel Whitney.

ACTION 21-403
**Endorse Whitney
for Election to
ACSWP**

The council **VOTED** to elect the following person to the Personnel Subcommittee of the General Assembly Council Executive Committee, class of 2005: Charles Easley.

ACTION 22-403
**Elect Easley to
Personnel
Subcommittee**

The council **VOTED** to:

elect the following persons to at-large positions on the General Assembly Council Executive Committee, class of 2004:

Judy Angleberger, Nancy Kahaian, and Emily Wigger;
appoint as its representative on the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations, class of 2005:

Frances Calderwood; and

elect as a corresponding member of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Board of Directors, class of 2006:

Ann Moe.

ACTION 23-403
**Elect Persons to
Executive
Committee, Moe to
PPC; Appoint
Calderwood to
CER**

Earldean Robbins presented a brief report on the work of the Board of Pensions.

**Report of the
Board of Pensions**

James Rissler presented a brief report on the work of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc.

**Report of
Presbyterian
Investment and
Loan Program, Inc.**

The council **VOTED** to elect the individual listed below to the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc., for the class and category set forth below, and that the General Assembly Council recommend this individual to the 215th General Assembly (2003) for confirmation.

Nominated by the Foundation:

Marcy M. Moody Class of 2004 (Foundation)*

*Initial term to complete an unexpired term.

ACTION 24-403
**Elect Moody to
PILP Board**

The council **VOTED** to concur with the election of the individuals listed below as officers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program Inc., for the positions set forth below. All officers of the Corporation except the President are elected annually.

ACTION 25-403
**Concur with
Election of PILP
Officers**

Elected by the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc.:

- James G. Rissler Vice President and Assistant Treasurer
- Ben W. Blake Vice President
- Joey B. Bailey Treasurer
- Martha E. Clark Secretary
- Eric Graninger Assistant Secretary

The council **VOTED** to elect the individual listed below to the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Mortgage Corporation for the class and category set forth below.

ACTION 26-403
Elect Puryear to Board of Mortgage Corporation Board

Nominated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc.:

- Alvin Puryear Class of 2005*
- *Renominated for additional term

The council **VOTED** to approve the bylaws of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Mortgage Corporation (Appendix 18).

ACTION 27-403
Approve Bylaws of Mortgage Corporation

The council **VOTED** to adjourn at the conclusion of the worship and installation service.

ACTION 28-403
Adjourn At Conclusion of Worship

The council recessed for a 15-minute break at 3:15 p.m.

Recess/Reconvene

The council participated in a service of worship that included the sacrament of communion and the installation of the new chair (Vernon Carroll) and vice-chair (Neal Presa).

Worship

The council was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry S. Clements
Associate Stated Clerk