

COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (COTE)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Minutes

Louisville, Kentucky, October 15 – 17, 2007

1. The meeting of the Committee on Theological Education (COTE) was held October 15 – 17 on the campus of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. The following persons attended:

Members: John Bolt, Brian Blount (Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education), Jeffrey Bullock (University of Dubuque Theological Seminary), Philip Butin (San Francisco Theological Seminary), Cynthia Campbell (McCormick Theological Seminary), Joseph Doh, Terry Holland, Stephen Kaszar, Kenneth Kovacs, Fran Lane-Lawrence, Mark Lomax (Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary), Laura Mendenhall (Columbia Theological Seminary), Ann Moe, Neal Presa, Jo Ann Staebler, Dean Thompson (Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary), Iain Torrance (Princeton Theological Seminary), Theodore Wardlaw (Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary), Joel Weible and Nicholas Yoda.

Corresponding Members: Gary Eller (Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation), Sergio Ojeda-Cárcamo (Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico), Ronald Kernaghan (Fuller Theological Seminary), Alvin Padilla (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary), and Barbara Wheeler (Auburn Theological Seminary).

Staff from the Office of Theological Education: Lee Hinson-Hasty (Coordinator), Rose Eileen Niles (Associate), Rosemary McCutcheon (Program Assistant), and Cynthia Pope (Administrative Assistant).

Adjunct Staff: Lesley Davies (Manager of Examination Services), Marcia Myers (Director of the Office of Vocations), Charles Wiley (Coordinator of Theology and Worship).

Guests: John Burgess (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary), Anthony Ruger (Auburn Theological Seminary), Clifton Kirkpatrick (PCUSA Stated Clerk), Helen Locklear (Board of Pensions), Conrad Rocha (Chair, Mission Funding Task Force, General Assembly Council), David and Iris Wallace, (former Dean and wife) Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

3. Excused: William Carl III (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary), Daniel J. Earheart-Brown (Memphis Theological Seminary), John Herndon, and Laura Aull Johnston, as well as staff to the committee: Joseph D. Small, (Director Theology Worship and Education) and Diane Stephens, Theological Education Advancement Team Marketing Consultant.
4. **New Member Orientation** was held on **Monday, October 15**, for Brian Blount, and Mark Lomax by COTE Chair – Joel Weible, Lee Hinson-Hasty, PCUSA Coordinator for Theological Education and Seminary Relations, and Rose Eileen Niles, PCUSA Associate for Theological Education and Seminary Relations.
5. The **Institutional Review** Committee met on the afternoon of **Monday, October 15**. The **Executive Committee** met at 4:00 PM that same afternoon.
6. A group dinner was held at 6:00 PM in the Winn Center on the seminary campus, for COTE members, and special guests from the General Assembly Council (GAC): **Joey Bailey**, Deputy Executive Director for Shared Services and Chief Financial Officer, **Rhashell Hunter**, Director, Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries / Presbyterian Women, **Eric Hoey**, Director, Evangelism

and Church Growth, **Sara Lisherness**, Director, Peace and Justice, and **Curtis Kearns**, Executive Administrator in the Executive Director's Office, and **Helen Locklear**, Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions.

7. **On Tuesday, October 16, at 8:45 AM COTE** opened their meeting with a Worship service in the Caldwell Chapel led by Rose Eileen Niles.
8. After the Worship service, COTE gathered for Plenary in the Grubbs Room of Laws Lodge at **9:30 AM. COTE Chair, Joel Weible called the full committee to order and opened the session with prayer.**
9. Dean Thompson welcomed the Committee, new members and guests to campus and offered prayer for those members who were not in attendance due to illness. Introductions followed for the whole Committee, including newly appointed Institutional Representatives; Brian Blount (President, Union-PSCE), Mark Lomax (Interim Dean, Johnson C. Smith), and new PCUSA staff members, Rose Eileen Niles, and Cynthia Pope, Administrative Assistant.

10. Weible reported for the Executive Committee (Part I).

Executive Committee Report (Part I)

With the recommendation of the Executive Committee COTE approved the Proposed schedule as distributed and Sub-committee referrals as follows:

- Advocates for Ministry Report to Interschool and Mission Cooperation.
- Draft Reflections on the Purpose of Ordination Examinations to Theological and Church Concerns.

11. The Nominating Committee recommended placement for Brian Blount to serve on the Interschool and Mission Cooperation Sub-committee, and Mark Lomax to serve on the Implementation and Interpretation Sub-committee. **Approved.**

Nominating Committee Recommendations for Sub-Committees Approved

12. Lee Hinson-Hasty gave a Coordinator's report and introduced Conrad Rocha.

Coordinator's Report

13. Conrad Rocha reported on the September 2007 General Assembly Council Mission Funding Task Force Report. Highlighting the "Season for Interpretation for Mission Giving."

Rocha Presents the Mission Funding Task Force Report

14. Anthony Ruger began Part I of his Presentation on *Funding Theological Institutions: Recent History and Trends*. Highlighting the Special Committee on Theological Institutions (CTI) 1986, the Theological Education Allocation Formula, i.e distribution formula, 1989, and the Trends in Funding Theological Education.

Presentation on Funding Theological Institutions: Recent History and Trends

15. Due to the volume of Committee Business, **COTE Voted** to cancel the campus tour and re-convene for Plenary at 3:30 PM for the conclusion of Ruger's report.

16. Stephen Kaszar offered prayer as the Committee took a break at 12:15 PM to join the Seminary Community for lunch in the cafeteria.

17. The Sub-committees met after lunch.

Sub-Committees Met

18. **COTE Voted** to approve an Executive Session beginning at 4:30 PM for Members, Institutional Representatives, and Staff for conversation to respond to a letter from Clifton Kirkpatrick to the Committee regarding Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. Ken Kovacs closed the session with prayer.
19. After the conversation regarding JCS, the Institutional Review Committee reconvened at 5:30 PM.
20. At 6:00 PM a reception was held at the home of Dean and Rebecca Thompson for COTE Members, staff, faculty and guests.
21. A dinner was held in Gardencourt at 7:30 PM to especially honor COTE members who will be rotating off the Committee in June 2008; John Bolt, John Herndon, Laura Aull Johnston, Stephen Kaszar, Ann Moe, Jo Ann Staebler, and Joel Weible. David and Iris Wallace, special invited guests, were both honored for many dedicated years of service to Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and COTE as well.
22. COTE was called to order by Weible at 8:45 AM Wednesday morning, October 17, in the Winn Center. Stephen Kaszar led morning prayer.
23. Weible presented the Executive Committee Report (Part II).

**Executive Session
Approved for
Discussion on JCS**

**Institutional Review
Committee Reconvened**

**Reception Held at
Thompson Home**

Recognition Dinner

**Plenary Wednesday,
October 17**

**Executive Committee
Report (Part II)**

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee **COTE Voted** to approve the COTE Meeting Schedule as follows:

**COTE Meeting
Schedule Approved
Beginning in 2010**

Beginning in 2010 COTE will meet annually in the Fall; Tuesday – Thursday, the week after Labor Day

Beginning in 2011 COTE will meet bi-annually in the Spring; Tuesday – Thursday, the third week of March, and in the Fall; Tuesday – Thursday, the week after Labor Day.

COTE meeting dates are provided through 2017 below.

Year	Date	Host
2010	September 14 –16	TBD
2011	March 22 – 24	TBD
	September 13 – 15	TBD
2012	September 11 –13	TBD
2013	March 19 – 21	TBD
	September 10 –12	TBD
2014	September 9 – 11	TBD
2015	March 17 – 19	TBD
	September 15 – 17	TBD

2016	September 13 – 15	TBD
2017	March 21 – 23 September 12 – 14	TBD TBD

The following COTE Meeting dates for **2008 – 2009** were previously approved.

2008	October 21 –23	Princeton Theological Seminary
2009	April 27 – 29 November 16 – 18	TBD TBD

24. Weible reported for the Nominating Committee. On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee **COTE Voted** to approve the following:

**Nominating
Committee Report**

Officers nominations as submitted and as follows for June 2008 – June 2010:

- COTE Chair – Fran Lane-Lawrence
- COTE Vice-Chair – Phil Butin
- Chair of Institutional Review – Ken Kovacs
- Chair of Interschool and Mission Cooperation - Bill Carl
- Chair of Implementation and Interpretation – Nicholas Yoda
- Chair of Theological and Church Concerns – Cynthia Campbell
- Church at-large Members for Executive Committee – Terry Holland and Neal Presa.

**COTE Officer
Nominations
Approved Through 2010**

COTE Voted to approve Joel Weible and Laura Mendenhall to coordinate COTE’s report to the 218th General Assembly (2008).

**GA Report Coordinating
Committee**

COTE Voted to approve following members to form a Task Force to Coordinate the COTE Self Study Report to the 219th General Assembly (2010): Cynthia Campbell, Ken Kovacs, Neal Presa, and Ted Wardlaw.

**2010 COTE Self Study
Task Force Approved**

COTE Voted to approve the following Institutional Representatives to represent COTE at the General Assembly Council meetings – noting that Iain Torrance was previously elected to serve in this role at the February 13 –15, 2008 meeting:

**Representation at the
General Assembly
Council Meetings**

- a. **Mark Lomax - April 23-25,2008**
- b. **Bill Carl** - September 30-October 3,2008 (Meeting with MGB executives included) 3:00 p.m. to noon
- c. **Brian Blount** - March 25-27,2009 [3:30 p.m.-Noon/ with COGA on the 25th]
- d. **Laura Mendenhall** - September 22-25,2009 (Meeting with MGB executives included)
- e. **Phil Butin** - February 24-26,2010 [3:30 p.m-Noon/ with COGA on the 24th]
- f. **Cynthia Campbell** - May 12-14,2010 [3:30 p.m.-Noon]
- g. **Ted Wardlaw** - September 21-24,2010 (Meeting with MGB executives included)

25. Ken Kovacs reported for the Institutional Review Committee. On the recommendation of the Institutional Review Committee:

**Institutional Review
Committee Report**

COTE Voted to approve the projected 2008 Allocations as follows:

**2008 Projected
Allocations Approved**

Austin:	\$206,753.62
Columbia:	241,182.00
Dubuque:	162,347.30
Johnson C. Smith:	163,095.41
Louisville:	183,022.31
McCormick:	202,049.31
Pittsburgh:	210,828.69
Princeton:	437,354.86
San Francisco:	227,967.97
Union/PSCE:	248,253.45
ESPR:	56,770.08

COTE Voted to approve the remaining 2007 Discretionary Funds in the amount of \$6862.30 to Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

**COTE Approved
Remaining 2007
Discretionary Fund to
Johnson C. Smith**

COTE Voted to grant \$17,000 of discretionary monies to fund a Interschool Cooperative Project, for the first cycle of the “Pedagogies of African American Presbyterians”.

**COTE Approves \$17,000
of Discretionary Funds
to Interschool
Cooperative Project**

COTE Voted to refer issues associated with Johnson C. Smith to the Executive Committee.

**Johnson C. Smith
Issues Referred to
Executive Committee**

26. Fran Lane-Lawrence reported for the Implementation and Interpretation Sub-committee.

**Implementation and
Interpretation
Sub-committee Report**

Fran presented the Theological Education Fund (TEF) Transition Team Report, which included discussion on a “Network” name change to better claim the identity.

**COTE Approves
Transition Team
Moving Forward
with TEF Network
Name Change**

On the recommendation of the Implementation and Interpretation Sub-committee, **COTE Voted** to ask the Transition Team to make a Network name change that included the identifying word “Seminaries.”

27. Cynthia Campbell, Acting Chair reported for the Interschool and Mission Cooperation Sub-committee. On the recommendation of the Interschool and Mission Cooperation Sub-committee:

**Interschool and
Mission Cooperation
Sub-committee Report**

COTE Voted to endorse the Presbyterian AIDS Network’s proposed Seminary AIDS Consultation and instruct the Coordinator for the Office of Theological Education and Seminary Relations to encourage each seminary to send one representative to the consultation.

**Presbyterian AIDS
Network Consultation
Endorsed**

COTE Voted to encourage the Coordinator of the Office of Theological Education and Seminary Relations to invite Michael Jinkins, Academic Dean of Austin Seminary, to write a paper around possibilities of pastoral formation and integrate into pastoral ministry to further the discussion.

Michael Jinkins to be Asked to write Pastoral Formation Paper

COTE Voted to express thanks to Doug Oldenburg for the Advocates for Ministry Program and his gathering of resulting data and encourage seminaries to respond to and cooperate with Oldenburg as he requests the data. Also to notify him that the COTE would be prepared to receive and archive the data.

Thanks to be expressed to Doug Oldenburg

COTE Voted to ask the Institutional Review Committee to create a job description, expectations and orientation of future seminary liaisons.

Seminary Liaisons Job Description

28. Jeffrey Bullock reported for the Theological and Church Concerns Sub-committee. On the recommendation of the Theological and Church Concerns Sub-committee:

Theological and Church Concerns Sub-committee

COTE Voted to receive and commend “A Common Word Between Us and You” to COTE member institutions for study. The document may be viewed at www.acommonword.com.

“A Common Word” Commended to Seminaries

COTE Received a report from the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examination – “Reflections on the Purpose of Ordination Examinations” presented by John Burgess and Lesley Davies. Discussion followed.

Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee Report Responses Invited

COTE Voted to encourage member institutions to respond to the report by writing PCCE by November 15, 2007.

29. Each Institutional Representative that was present provided an update on their particular seminary.

Joel Weible was commended on an outstanding job as Chair of COTE.

Weible Commended as COTE Chair

COTE Voted to adjourn the Meeting at 12:05 PM with prayer offered by Lee Hinson-Hasty.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted on December 7, 2007,

Lee Hinson-Hasty, Coordinator of Theological Education & Seminary Relations

Rosemary McCutcheon, Recording Secretary