



Presbytery of Des Moines

REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK
E-MAIL: PBY1@QWESTOFFICE.NET

Dec. 23, 2008

CALL TO THE 475th STATED MEETING

The 475th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Indianola, Iowa. Directions and a map to the church are included in this packet.

As most of you know by now, we will be completing the year of celebrating our 165 years of mission and ministry. **Please do not arrive before 8:30 a.m.** The people preparing the materials and process for registration, and those preparing the refreshments, will not be ready until then. **The Presbytery will convene at 9:30 a.m.**

The *Proposed Docket* is enclosed, along with items for information and action. Commissioners should bring these to the meeting. Limited copies are available at the meeting for visitors only.

As has happened in our previous meetings, much of our “usual” business will be handled in what is called a “consent agenda” process. This means we can handle – in one action – votes to approve or adopt actions or recommendations that do not require debate or conversation. Only items included in this *Call Packet* will be included in the *Consent Agenda*. The proposed *Consent Agenda* appears following the *Proposed Docket* in this packet. You will notice that the reports contain a letter designation with parts of them having numbers for easy identification.

A recent addition to our *Orientation Time* is the Budget and Finance Committee’s offering a “Budget Orientation” for those interested in learning more or talking about our budget. Look for room signs.

As is true every other January, the major focus of our meeting will be on conversations around proposed amendments to the Constitution of our denomination. Materials about these were distributed at the November meeting of the presbytery. Please make sure to have read and prayed about these, as well as had discussions about them, prior to the meeting. This will allow our conversations to be helpful. The Coordinating Council and Bills and Overtures Task Group have designed a process that will help us be thought-full together. The Worship Task Group has planned a special and moving worship time for us. We will also be hearing about a possible alternative examination process for one of our candidates, as well as several other important business items.

The *Minutes of the November 11 Stated Meeting* will be distributed to ministers and commissioners early in January. Please remember to bring these to the meeting in January. You may download them for printing by going online to www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Again, extra copies are at a minimum.

Meeting Format: Under our structure and style of operating in our Presbytery, meetings do not have business as the central focus and purpose for our gathering. Worship, dialogue and fellowship are

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primary reasons for meeting. Worship and dialogue will play an important part in this particular meeting. There is still business – after all, we cannot be Presbyterians if we do not have business – but much of our meeting time is more conversational than parliamentary in nature. It will help our meetings to be carried on in this kind of spirit if members and commissioners come expecting such a spirit to be present.

As you look at the *Proposed Docket*, you will see that this meeting does not begin until 9:30 a.m. and lasts until approximately 3:00 p.m. A full meeting is standard in our structure and design. We meet as a Presbytery only four times per year, so all of our meetings are “all day.” All of the items on the docket require Presbytery attention or fit in with what we have said we want to have happen at our meetings.

Another thing to note as you look at the *Proposed Docket* is that, as usual, it is full. We have a variety of activities and actions that keeps the time moving quickly so we can complete our business by 3:00 p.m. We encourage each commissioner and minister member to be present for the entire meeting. Avoidable late arrivals and early leavings are discourteous to those presenting reports and rob other people of the opportunity to share in work and ministry with those not present.

Participation Guidelines: For a variety of reasons, some members of our Presbytery have asked who may participate in discussions during a Presbytery meeting. *Guidelines for Participation in Presbytery Meetings*, is a helpful guide and is located at the end of this packet.

A reminder about how we handle “Joys and Concerns;” instead of mixing announcements with items for prayer, we now have an announcement time for publicity items after lunch. Prayer joys and concerns will be shared during worship time.

Child Care: Those needing child care should call the Trinity United Presbyterian Church by Noon on Friday, January 16 to let them know, 515-961-6231. You should bring a bagged meal for your child. Milk will be provided.

A/V Equipment: The church has a LCD projector, laptop computer and a screen for projection in sanctuary. The Presbytery has available for use a LCD projector and a laptop computer. **If you need A/V equipment of any kind, contact the Presbytery Office immediately to reserve the equipment for your presentation.**

We will continue the registration process of having **all** attendees sign in. **Remember:** Congregations are not excused from having an elder in attendance. If you plan to bring extra visitors, please call the church to let them know. In case of bad weather, call the Presbytery Office at 515-276-4991, for information about any time, location or date changes.

I look forward to being with all of you on Saturday, January 17.



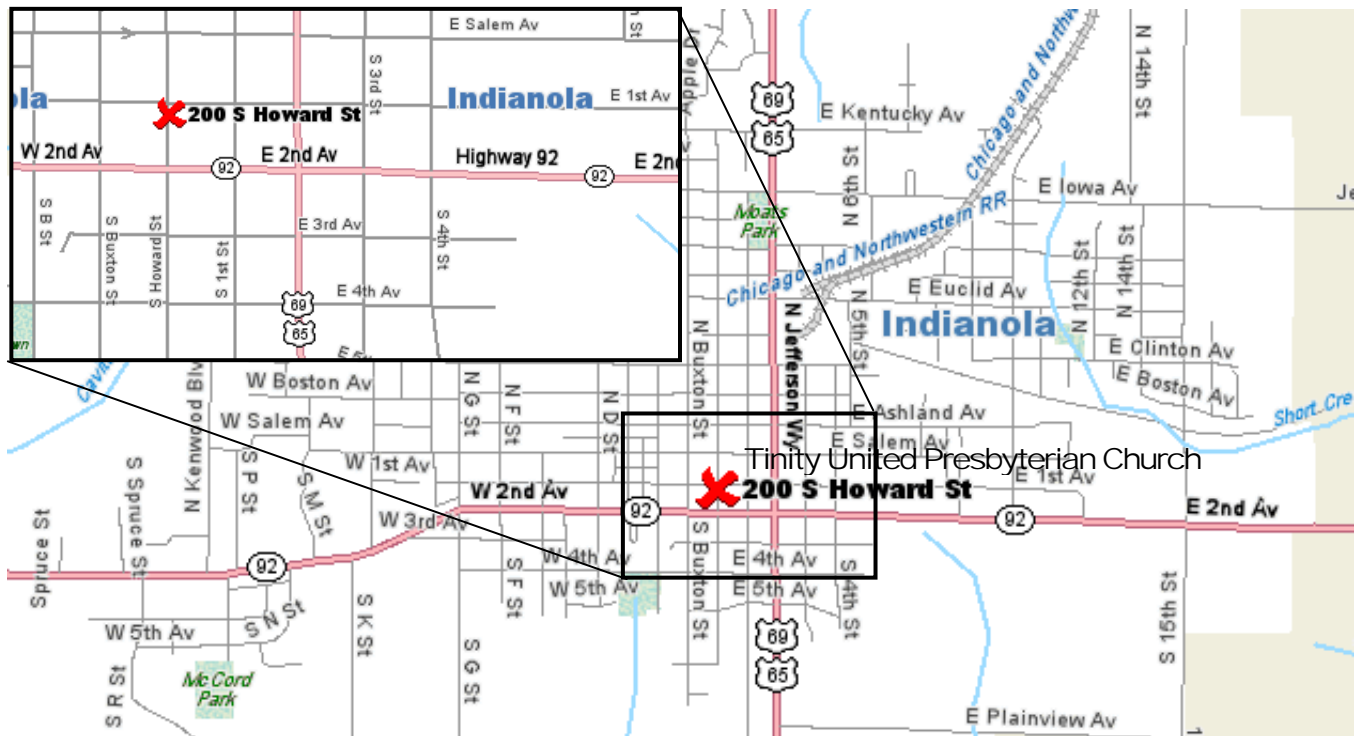
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

Enclosures

PROPOSED DOCKET

January 17, 2009

8:30 a.m.	Registration Begins Coffee and Fellowship	
9:00	Orientation of “First Timers” Budget Orientation	Becky Diebold Pat Aksamit
9:30	Convene Presbytery I – Report of the Stated Clerk	David Endriss Phil Barrett
10:00	Worship	
10:50	A - Congregational Care and Development Committee	Tim Maxa
10:55	K - Social Ministries Task Force	Nancy Lister-Settle
11:00	Table Conversations	
11:25	E-1 – Bills and Overtures Task Group (Part I)	GA Commissioners
11:35	L – Camping and Youth Ministries Task Force	Dennis Britson
11:40	K-3 – Khadamat Sudaniya Report	Phil Barrett
11:45	T-1 – CROSS Ministries Annual Report	Roberta Victor
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00	Announcements	
1:10	E-1 – Bills and Overtures Task Group (Part II)	GA Commissioners
1:25	B – Professional Care and Development Committee Report	Leland Smith
1:30	C – Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report	David Stipp-Bethune
1:50	E – Coordinating Council Report	Ray Peters
1:55	E-1 – Bills and Overtures Task Group (Part III)	GA Commissioners
2:40	J – General Presbyter Report	Phil Barrett
2:50	Other Business	
3:00	Adjourn	

Map to Trinity United Presbyterian Churches in Indianola, Iowa:

Driving Directions: The Trinity United Presbyterian Church is located at 200 S. Howard St., in Indianola, and is on the east side of the street.

- **From the North:** Take Interstate-80 west to Des Moines. Take Altoona Exit 141, ramp is on the right onto US-65 South, loop around and continue south approximately 13.2 miles. Take Exit Indianola 70A, ramp is on the right onto US-65/69 South, loop around and continue south approximately 10.4 miles. Take a right on East First Avenue, go west one block. The Trinity United Presbyterian Church parking lot is on the left (the south side of the street).
- **From the East:** Take IA-Hwy 92 west to Indianola. Take a right on South First Street and go north one block to the Trinity United Presbyterian Church parking lot which will be on the left (the west side of the street).
- **From the South:** Take Interstate-35 north to IA-Hwy 92. Take Exit 56, go right (east) approximately 11.7 miles to South Howard Street. Take a left on S. Howard St. and go north one block to the Trinity United Presbyterian Church which is on the right (the east side of the street). Turn right on E. First Ave. to parking lot behind the church on the right (south side of street).
- **From the West:** Take Interstate-80 east to West Des Moines. Take Exit 123A, go right (south) onto Interstate-35 south approximately 4.6 miles. Take Exit 68, go right and follow ramp around going east on IA-Hwy 5 approximately 11 miles. Take Indianola Exit 70A, ramp is on the right onto US-65/69 south approximately 10.4 miles. Take a right on East First Avenue, go west one block. The Trinity United Presbyterian Church parking lot is on the left (the south side of the street).

Parking: The church parking lot is located behind the church and there is street parking available. If you park on South Howard Street, you may enter through the south door on the street side of the building.

Building Accessibility: The Trinity United Presbyterian Church is fully handicap accessible.

CONSENT AGENDA

January 17, 2009

C Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- C-I-1 Cyndy Ripperberger Steps Completed
- C-I-2 Ekram Kachu Becoming an Inquirer

D Budget and Finance Committee

- D-1 Financial Statement
- D-2 Restricted Funds

E Coordinating Council

- E-A-1 Reviewed November Presbytery Meeting
- E-A-2 Planned January Presbytery Meeting
- E-A-3 Initial Plans for May Presbytery Meeting
- E-A-4 Set 2009 Council Meeting Dates

I Stated Clerk's Report

- I-I-1 Reports Filed and Correspondence Handled
- I-I-2 Synod Racial Ethnic Scholarship Awarded
- I-I-3 Balance of Ministers and Elders
- I-I-4 Quorum for Permanent Judicial Commission
- I-I-5 Presbytery Insurance Coverage
- I-I-6 Need for Host for November Presbytery Meeting

**C – COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
(CPM) REPORT
January 17, 2009**

The committee presents the following items for information:

- C-I-1 Candidate Cyndy Ripperberger (Creston, First) has completed all of the required ordination exams and will graduate from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in May. Cyndy will be meeting with CPM soon for her final assessment, after which CPM anticipates certifying Cyndy “ready for examination for ordination pending a call.”
- C-I-2 CPM met with Ekram Kachu and voted to receive her as an Inquirer under care.
- C-I-3 CPM has met with Candidate Cindy Ray, reviewed the results from the latest round of ordination exams, affirmed her continuing sense of call to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament, and voted to recommend to Presbytery an alternate process for completing the Ordination Exam requirement in the areas of Theology and Biblical Exegesis (see recommendation below).

The Committee presents the following recommendations for adoption:

- C-R-1 Pursuant to Section G-14.0472 of the *Book of Order*, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Des Moines approve an alternate form of examination for the Theology and Biblical Exegesis ordination exams for Candidate Cindy Ray. (See attached proposal).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David Stipp-Bethune
Moderator

C – Proposal for Alternate Ordination Exams

The Presbytery of Des Moines and its Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) recognizes its responsibility to assess and assist candidates in preparing for ordination for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament, ensuring that each candidate is fully prepared to be ordained and begin ministry.

In working with one particular candidate, Cindy Ray, the CPM has determined that the regular process for standard ordination exams does not fit the needs of this candidate. While Cindy has satisfactorily completed all of her other preparatory work—including seminary education that included Hebrew and Greek, exegesis, field education, post-graduate internships, and the successful completion of the Bible Content, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity exams—Cindy has not been able to satisfactorily pass the theology or biblical exegesis exams.

It is not unusual for candidates to need several opportunities to pass ordination exams, particularly the theology and exegesis exams. Recent changes to the *Book of Order* acknowledge that some candidates need special arrangements for exams due to disabilities or other extraordinary circumstances.

The current *Book of Order* provides in Section G-14.0472 that after a candidate has failed on two attempts to receive a satisfactory grade, the examination requirements of Section G-14.0431 may be waived and an alternate form of examination may be approved by the Presbytery. In addition, if a candidate has a documented disability which affects the individual's test-taking ability, the examination requirements may also be waived in favor of an alternate form of examination approved by the Presbytery.

In Cindy's case, the CPM has approved each of her attempts to write the standard ordination exams, in each case, allowing for additional time for her to complete assignments based on her disability (blindness). In order to complete assignments the way sighted people do, Cindy has to work with a computer and test-materials (and any additional resources, open or closed book) translated into Braille. In addition to the stress that every candidate encounters with ordination exams, Cindy relies completely on her computer working in good order and all the translated materials being accurate and correct.

With regard to the Theology Exam, since Cindy has been unsuccessful in the required two attempts, the CPM feels that it is appropriate to provide Cindy with an alternate means to demonstrate her skills with theological concepts, doctrines, and their application to ministry situations. This alternate exam should focus on a presentation that is not hindered by her disability.

With regard to the Biblical Exegesis Exam, the CPM feels that the standard ordination exam format and requirements are almost completely impossible for Cindy to meet successfully. The Exegesis exam presumes candidates will demonstrate abilities to work with Greek/Hebrew texts and English translations. Since Cindy is blind and uses Braille, this greatly hinders her ability to work with Greek/Hebrew and English texts, lexicons, standard English textbooks, and commentaries; many of which are unpublished in Braille. The list of materials available to her on short notice is extremely limited, and requires much more of her than a normal, sighted candidate. The CPM worked closely with Cindy in her first attempt at the exam, but found the standard exam to be inadequate for effectively assessing her skills. Based on her academic work both with Greek and exegesis, the CPM feels that Cindy has the necessary skills to carry out competent, insightful ministry using sound biblical exegesis.

Therefore, based on her disability (blindness), the CPM is seeking the Presbytery to grant her the option to complete this requirement based on an alternate form of examination.

Therefore, affirming the promise of Candidate Cindy Ray for ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament, the Committee on Preparation of Ministry (CPM) recommends that the Presbytery of Des Moines adopt Alternate Examinations in Theology and Biblical Exegesis for Candidate Cindy Ray:

- That the Presbytery elect a Special Committee (SP) of the Presbytery to be responsible for these examinations. The committee would have six members including two appointed from the CPM, two appointed from the Congregational Care and Development Committee (CCD) of the Presbytery, one from the Professional Care and Development Committee (PCD), and one, to be a representative from the Presbytery at large who has previous experience reading ordination exams. The moderator of the CPM would moderate SP meetings, but would not vote.
- The SP would request Diana Barber of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies staff to help draft a theology exam for Cindy that would address her abilities by providing both written and verbal responses for the SP to use as a basis for evaluating Cindy's abilities and readiness for ministry.
- The SP would also request Diana to help draft a Biblical exegesis exam for Cindy that would allow her to present information and materials in a format more suitable to her skills, abilities, and particular limitations, for the SP to use as a basis for evaluating Cindy's abilities and readiness for ministry.
- At appointed times, Cindy would be given the opportunity of writing written portions of the exams, using a similar process to the regular ordination exam procedure (particularly with regard to the requirements of working with the Book of Confessions for the theology and other appropriate resources for biblical exegesis). Upon completing the written portions of the exams, the SP would read Cindy's responses and engage her in further examination in a format that better enables Cindy to demonstrate her theological and exegetical skills.
- The SP would grade Cindy's responses to each format as a whole and issue one grade each for the Theology and Exegesis exams. A passing grade will be the favorable determination of four or more of the six voting members of the SP.

If the SP gives Cindy a passing grade, the CPM would consider that Cindy has successfully completed all the exam requirements in G-14.0431.

By completing these requirements, Cindy would be evaluated by the CPM, and upon successful preaching of a sermon and final requirements, would stand to be certified "ready for examination for ordination pending a call." It is the CPM's intent to offer Cindy every reasonable opportunity to demonstrate her readiness for ordained ministry; but also holding her and every other candidate to the requirements for ordination set forth in the *Book of Order*.

ACTION ITEMS:

C-R-2 The CPM believes this process is a reasonable alternative that meets the intentions of the *Book of Order*. Therefore, the CPM recommends that the Presbytery of Des Moines approve the use of this process for Cindy.

(This action requires a three-fourths vote of the members of Presbytery present at this meeting.)

C-R-3 If the first item is approved, the CPM recommends that the Presbytery grant the Moderators of the CPM, CCD, and PCD to select active members of each of these committees as representatives to the Special Committee (SP); and that the Presbytery elect (a person to be named) as the at-large member of the Special Committee.
(The at-large member of the Special Committee is intended to be the Presbytery's representative from outside the committee structure, but who has experience reading ordination exams.)

E – COORDINATING COUNCIL REPORT

January 17, 2009

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Des Moines met on Friday, December 19, 2008, in a combined face-to-face meeting and conference call.

The Council took the following actions:

E-A-1 Reviewed the November 11, 2008, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

E-A-2 Planned the January 17, 2009, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to include conversations about Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and a special time of worship.

E-A-3 Made initial plans for the May 19, 2009, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to include a focus on presentations and thoughts from the Congregational Care and Development Committee about pastoral leadership, transition times, temporary relationships and other related topics. The Council also made an initial decision for this meeting to be held from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

E-A-4 Set its meeting dates for 2009 to be held on the following Thursdays:

April 23
July 23
October 8
December 10

The Council presents the following item for information:

E-I-1 We are still awaiting an invitation from one of our congregations to host the November 10, 2009 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Peters,
Moderator

E-1 – BILLS AND OVERTURES TASK GROUP REPORT

January 17, 2009

The Bills and Overtures Task Group met at the Presbytery Office on December 17, 2008.

Part I

The Bills and Overtures Task Force recommends the following actions on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

(The Proposed Amendments A, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J will be handled in a single or omnibus motion.)

08-A Vows of Membership – on Amending G-5.0200 YES

Brief Description

The Presbytery of Mission proposed an amendment to G-5.0200 that contained three questions to be asked of new members and specific answers to these questions. The Assembly Committee on Church Polity produced an alternate recommendation which was sent to the General Assembly and was approved. The Directory for Worship presently contains language that largely accomplishes the goal of the original overture. The amendment makes reference to those questions contained in W-4.2003.

Rationale for Recommendation

1. The *Book of Order* needs to be explicit about requirements of membership. Membership is in a congregation, but reflects entrance into the larger church.
2. This expands and standardizes the core questions and vows as entry to membership.
3. This keeps questions from becoming too narrow and legalistic.
4. No one should be admitted into membership of the Church without a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

**08-C Replacing the Word “Sympathy” with the Word “Compassion”
on Amending G-6.0202b and G-6.0401 YES**

Brief Description

This amendment came from the Presbytery of Albany and proposed to replace the word “sympathy” with the word “empathy” in G-6.0401. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) saw little difference between these two words and suggested the word “compassion” as a preferred alternative. The ACC also suggested that G-6.0202b be amended as well as it refers to the work of the deacons as a “ministry of sympathy.” The Assembly on Church Polity adopted the recommendation of the ACC.

Rationale for Recommendation

“Compassion” is more appropriate, since “sympathy” can imply condescension.

08-D General Assembly Mission Council Name Change – on Amending throughout the *Book of Order* YES

Brief Description

Amendment 08-D proposes that the name of the General Assembly Council be changed to General Assembly Mission Council throughout the *Book of Order*. This proposal came from the General Assembly Council as it would better indicate the work and direction of the Council.

Rationale for Recommendation

The name change more clearly identifies the work of the General Assembly Council.

08-E Non-Geographic Presbyteries – on Amending G-11.0102 and G-12.0102k YES

Brief Description

This amendment expands on G-12.0102k which allowed for creation of non-geographic presbyteries within a synod by allowing a congregation to join a non-geographic presbytery in another synod with the approval of the General Assembly, the synod to be joined, and the geographic and non-geographic presbyteries affected. The amendment further provides for the formation of such presbyteries based upon language only and that a sunset date should be added at the formation of any such non-geographic presbytery.

Rationale for Recommendation

1. This amendment moves the goal of multi-cultural churches forward.
2. This is an alternative to creating specific ethnic language denominations.
3. There should be a sunset provision for a specific period of time in order for first-generation immigrants to belong to a church where their native language is utilized.

08-F Presbytery Membership of Certified Christian Educators – on Amending G-11.0407 and G-14.0730 YES

Brief Description

This amendment (along with 08-I) would answer questions posed by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Santa Fe about presbytery membership for Certified Christian Educators: (1) “Is there any input requested from presbytery such as a review, reference checking, and/or examination prior to certification?” and (2) “Is certification, once conferred, permanent?”

Rationale for Recommendation

The amendment clarifies the historic right of presbyteries to determine their own membership including who speaks at its meetings and limits the privilege to Certified Christian Educators in active service.

08-G Synod Membership on Permanent Committees – on Amending G-13.0107, G-13.0108, and G-13.0202a YES

Brief Description

This amendment came as a request for constitutional clarification from the Assistant Stated Clerk, Manager for General Assembly Nominations and Moderatorial Staff Services. The amendment to G-13.0107 of the *Book of Order* offered by the General Assembly Council to the 217th General Assembly (2006-Birmingham) was intended to only affect membership on the General Assembly Council. However, the approval of the 2006 amendment called into question

whether all the permanent committees of the General Assembly are now required to have representation from and be populated directly by each of the synods. This amendment seeks to clarify the intent of the original amendment.

Rationale for Recommendation

1. This allows committees to be formed to meet the needs of the committee charge.
2. It saves money by allowing smaller committees than those requiring 16 minister members.
3. The amendment fixes an unintended consequence of previous actions by the GA.
4. This frees synods from having to nominate for each and every committee, especially when each requires three names to be submitted to the General Assembly Nominating Committee to allow for appropriate and required diversity and representation.

08-H Five Ordination Examinations – on Amending G-14.0431 YES

Brief Description

This proposed amendment came as a result of the Self-Study of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates. The amendment increases the flexibility of the presbyteries' committees on preparation for ministry in determining when such examinations are appropriately taken.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Committee should do what needs to be done to define the examinations as recommended by the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations.

08-I Certified Christian Educators – on Amending G-14.0730 YES

Brief Description

See 08-F.

Rationale for Recommendation

1. This restricts the right of the floor at Presbytery meetings to Certified Christian Educators.
2. It also clarifies that other important privileges extend to Certified Christian Educators as well.

08-J Alternative Forms of Resolution – on Amending D-2.0103 and D-10.0202h YES

Brief Description

These amendments came from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution in response to two of the questions asked by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of National Capital: "What is the meaning of 'all parties' in D-2.0103 and D-10.0202h?" and do the Rules of Discipline give the accuser in disciplinary proceeding veto power over and Alternative Form of Resolution (AFR)?" These amendments clarify that the use of the term "parties" in the Rules of Discipline is specifically and intentionally limited to those persons representing the governing body (i.e., the investigating committee or prosecuting committee) and the accused. No veto power over an AFR is accorded to an accuser.

Rationale for Recommendation

1. This is a helpful clarification of a sometimes difficult procedure.
2. The amendment makes clear that the accuser does not have veto power over an AFR.

Part II

The Bills and Overtures Task Group recommends the following actions on these proposed Ecumenical Statements of Agreement between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the faith traditions noted:

Background

From time to time the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) enters into agreements with other churches; these are called Ecumenical Statements. In 2008, there are four such statements to be considered. Each particular statement will go into effect when the appropriate bodies have ratified it. When approved by the requisite General Assembly and a majority of the presbyteries, each will be published as a Received Ecumenical Statement of Guidance.

(These Ecumenical Statements will be handled in a single or omnibus motion.)

08-K Ecumenical Statement with the Roman Catholic Church on Ratifying a Common Agreement on Baptism **YES**

Brief Description

This ecumenical statement came from the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. This statement affirms what is already the PC(USA) practice of recognizing the baptism of persons who have been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church. It will not go into effect until it is ratified by a majority of the presbyteries.

Rationale for Recommendation

The ecumenical statement represents incremental steps toward the unity of the Church universal.

08-L Ecumenical Statement with the Episcopal Church on Adopting an Agreement **YES**

Brief Description

This proposal must be ratified by a majority of the PC(USA) presbyteries as well as by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2009; it will not be in effect until all parties have approved it. This agreement is not a covenant nor a full communion agreement. It does make provision for temporary or occasional service of ministers of both denominations in congregations of the other.

Rationale for Recommendation

This is an important step toward reconciliation with the Episcopal Church.

08-M Ecumenical Statement with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America on Adopting a Covenant Relationship Agreement **YES**

Brief Description

If approved this proposal will provide the same authority for the Korean Presbyterian Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to explore and carry out shared ministries that the "Formula of Agreement" provides for the four partner churches that adopted it.

Rationale for Recommendation

U.S. Presbyterian missionaries planted the seeds for the Presbyterian Church in Korea, but as Koreans immigrated to America, language, culture, and other differences prevented their integration into existing congregations. This will enable the sister churches to begin bridging the gap.

08-N Ecumenical Statement with the Moravian Church on Adopting a Covenant Partnership Agreement**YES****Brief Description**

This statement would create a covenant partnership with the Moravian Church. The Moravian Church and the four Reformed bodies which entered into the “Formula of Agreement” in 1998 see no obstacles, present or past, to covenant partnership. All five churches have histories of cooperative and ecumenical commitments. The General Synods of the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church will meet in 2010 to vote on this proposal; the agreement cannot be effective until after they have met and ratified it. Assuming approval at each step, a Process of Orderly Exchange (similar to that of the “Formula of Agreement” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ) will be jointly developed, detailing how the process will work.

Rationale for Recommendation

In addition to Jesus’ desire for unity the agreement allows the PC(USA) to draw closer to a denomination that holds love and the Lordship of Jesus Christ in high esteem.

(See the October 12, 2008 Issue of the *Presbyterian Outlook* for an article written by Bill Lancaster for further information on the analysis of all of these statements.)

Part III

The Bills and Overtures Task Group recommends that no action be taken on the following Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

08-B Ordained Officers – on Amending G-6.0106b, G-14-0240, and G-14.0450

Brief Description

The amendment proposes to strike the language in G-6.0106b and to insert new text and to add text to G-14.0240 and G-14.0450. The amendment was proposed by the Presbytery of Boston and seeks to remove G-6.0106b and substitute new language that (1) reflects the church's understanding of where its authority is found, and (2) affirms the church's reliance on the examination of candidates by its governing bodies as the principal means by which to ensure the commitment of its ordained officers to the duties of faith.

Rationale for Recommendation

1. The process of debate and vote that has been used to deal with this topic has not helped the church to find a consensus, and has served to harden positions, identify persons narrowly by positions, and has increased divisions within and among presbyteries. Any process that allows persons to persuade, argue or coerce others is deemed to be useless in terms of bringing about any kind of growth, movement or change of anyone's position, and would likely be harmful rather than helpful.
2. The Church will not likely arrive at a consensus concerning homosexuality as an orientation, lifestyle, or prohibition to ordination for a long time, therefore community building and preservation during a time of differences is more important than the vote, since differences will remain after any vote.
3. The discernment process must include responsible Bible exegesis of relevant texts.
4. The presbytery's process for considering the issue and voting (as required) must be "life-giving" rather than "death-dealing."
5. The presbytery need *not* be about persuasion, but of building community.
6. There must be a desire to recognize that this issue exists within a larger context of mission, that there is an urgency to focus on mission, to somehow deal with this issue without detracting from the presbytery's and the Church's greater mission.

The "Analysis of Amendments to the Constitution Proposed by the 218th General Assembly (2008)" provided by the Association of Stated Clerks has been very helpful in preparing this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

2008 General Assembly Commissioners:

Rev. David Endriss

Elder Nancy Lister-Settle

Rev. Jan Scott

Elder Paul Walther

I – REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

January 17, 2009

- I-I-1 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date, and all correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred or answered.

- I-I-2 The Synod of Lakes and Prairies has notified the Presbytery that a Racial Ethnic Scholarship has been awarded to Esther Chol.

- I-I-3 As required by Section G-11.0101b of the *Book of Order*, I have ascertained the number of resident ministers who are members of the Presbytery and the number of elders which churches are entitled to send to a Presbytery Meeting or who are members of the Presbytery by virtue of their office or elected position. I also followed the criteria set out in Section G-11.0421b of the *Book of Order* which allows presbyteries to elect additional elders to keep a proper balance between elders and ministers when honorably retired ministers are active in a presbytery. Some of the honorably retired minister members of this Presbytery do not live within the bounds of the Presbytery, and of those who do, some are not active in the Presbytery. A count of ministers and elders shows that there are 78 resident or active retired minister members and 78 elders eligible to attend presbytery meetings as commissioners or members. Therefore, it will not be necessary to assign particular churches to provide extra elders to correct any imbalance for 2009.

- I-I-4 In accordance with Section D-5.0206b of the Rules of Discipline in the *Book of Order*, the following former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission constitute the roll of those available to serve on the Commission if necessary to constitute a quorum:
 - Class of 2008** – Elder T. Polk Davison (Des Moines, Westminster)
Elder Margaret Swanson (Des Moines, Union Park)

 - Class of 2006** – Rev. Harold Butz (Honorably Retired)
Rev. Claude Jones (Honorably Retired)

 - Class of 2004** – Rev. Sara Speer Palmer (Honorably Retired)
Rev. Lynn Williams (Grimes, First)

- I-I-5 The Presbytery has the following insurance coverage for 2009 through a Master Policy with the GuideOne Insurance Company:

Property	Each church and the Presbytery Office are covered by a specific amount		
General Liability	\$3,000,000	General Limit	
	1,000,000	Each Occurrence	
	1,000,000	Personal Liability	
	1,000,000	Legal Liability	
Medical	5,000		
Sexual Misconduct Liability	250,000	Each Occurrence	
Employee Benefits Liability	1,000,000	Each Claim	
	3,000,000	Annual Aggregate	

Directors, Officers and Trustees Liability	\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence
Employment Practices Liability	500,000	
Crime		
Employee/Officers Dishonesty	10,000	
Forgery	10,000	
Theft	5,000	
Ministers Personal Business Property	5,000	
Shared Umbrella Policy	5,000,000	
Workers Compensation		
Bodily Injury	100,000	Each Accident
Bodily Injury by Disease	100,000	Each Employee
Presbytery Office		
Building Limit	124,000	
Personal Property	61,000	

I-I-6 We are still in need of a church to host the Presbytery for its November 10, 2009 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

I present the following recommendations for adoption:

I-R-1 That the following churches be granted permission to pay their 2009 Per Capita Assessment in monthly, quarterly or other regular installments:

- Corning, First Presbyterian Church
- Grimes, First Presbyterian Church

I-R-2 That the Session Records for the following congregation be approved Without Exception:

- Des Moines, Knox United Presbyterian Church

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Meetings of our Presbytery are always special because it is a time for the Presbytery family to gather for conversations, business and fellowship. Many different people come to a Presbytery meeting for many different reasons.

When our Presbytery meets, we welcome and encourage participation. There are times, however, that participation is limited. Those times are ordinarily when our Presbytery is conducting its formal business. Because our Presbyterian structure calls for elected Commissioners to determine direction and act on business, only those who are elected Commissioners or are members of our Presbytery are allowed to participate in discussions or voting. Visitors and guests become observers of the process at that time.

At other times in our meetings, each person present is invited to participate in dialogues, conversations, or other activities. Such times include worship, special thematic presentations and small group discussions.

If you are not sure when you may participate in what is happening in the meeting, please talk to the Moderator or Stated Clerk individually.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AT-A-GLANCE

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS:	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE?	WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?
Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Complain about noise, room temp, etc.	"Point of privilege."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required ³
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move we table it."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not Debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
End debate	"I move the previous question."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not Debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Have something studied further	"I move we refer this matter to a committee."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
¹ The motions or points above are listed in established order or precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below it. But you may introduce another that is listed above it. ² In this case, any resulting motion is debatable. ³ Chair decides						
Object to procedure or to a personal affront	"Point of order."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required, chair decides
Request information	"Point of information."	If urgent, may interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	"I call for a division."	May not interrupt speaker ²	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required unless someone objects ³
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable if original motion is debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Vote on a ruling by the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
¹ The motion, points, and proposals listed above have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time – except when the meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed in the above chart (motion to adjourn, motion to recess, point of privilege). ² But division must be called for before another motion is stated. ³ Then majority vote is required.						

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