



G.A. News Brief 2—San Jose, CA

June 25, 2008

A full afternoon and evening of reports, debates, and actions kept commissioners on their toes today. Highlights of today's meeting included:

- A celebration of 100 years of Presbyterian camping.
- A report that General Assembly per capita will be going up in 2009-2010. How much will be determined by the actions of the commissioners.
- I was disappointed that the Pleasant Grove Church's youth video was not one of the three selected for a \$25,000 grant, but am still impressed that they made it to the top 25.
- Approve the *Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations* within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Approved *Growing God's Church Deep and Wide*—a recommitment to evangelism and a call to action and collaboration.
- Re-elected Jay Hudson as President of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.
- After repeated amendments and considerable discussion, approved directing the General Assembly Council to produce *Adolescent Human Development Resources* by a vote of 73-27. Discussion by members of the Committee on Church Growth and Christian Education indicated that long debates took place in Committee to produce language that was acceptable to the vast majority of Committee members.
- The Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations presented several action items. One in particular was debated long and hard and included the dreaded amendment to an amendment. The carefully worded action affirmed the commonalities among Christians, Jews, and Muslims grounded in their shared belief in the God of Abraham. In addition, a request to investigate the actions and conduct of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was referred to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations. The Assembly took action to clarify the appropriate criteria for the transfer of ministers and churches to other denominations. The Assembly approved covenants with the Roman Catholic, Moravian, Korean Church in America, and the Episcopal Church.
- An audio visual tribute to retiring Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick was presented along with commendation for his ecumenical work as President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Until tomorrow...

In Christ's service together,
Dan Schomer