

G.A. News Brief 3—San Jose, CA

June 26, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The highlight of this morning's actions was the election of the Rev. Dr. Meta Cramer, our Stated Clerk, to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC). Congratulations Meta! The PCUSA will be well served by Meta.

Responding to the recommendations of the Committee on Theological Issues and Institutions,

- the Assembly voted 61% to 38% to restore the language of the Heidelberg Catechism to conform to the original German as closely as possible.
- the Assembly approved 76% to 22% to continue exploration of including the Belhar Confession into the Book of Confessions.
- the Assembly commended the Trinity paper from the 217th General Assembly for the study of the whole church along with new interpretive resources.

Elder commission Trella Johnson and I attended a luncheon for presbyteries with mission partnerships on the Iberian Peninsula hosted by Bryce and Phillis Little, PC(USA) Regional Liaisons for Portugal and Spain. Church representatives from Spain and Portugal were present including Dr. Pedro Zamora, President of S.E.U.T., the Evangelical Seminary in El Escorial visited by Eastminster's teams to Spain.

The Form of Government Revision Committee recommended and the Assembly approved deferring action on the new Form of Government for two years so that congregations and presbyteries might study the report. The revised report will be presented for action at the 219th General Assembly in 2010. The vote was 87% for and 12% against the referral.

The Assembly named Clifton Kirkpatrick as Stated Clerk Emeritus of the General Assembly upon his retirement.

The Mission Coordination and Budget Committee recommended and the Assembly approved:

- Changing the name of the General Assembly Council to the General Assembly Mission Council.
- Reinstated the Office of Environmental Justice.
- Approved the report *Funding Christ's Mission Throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* I served on the Mission Funding Task Force that developed this report.
- Approved the creation of A Season of Mission Interpretation (designed by the Mission Funding Task Force).
- Approved the General Assembly Council Mission Work Plan 2009-2012.
- Affirmed *An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission*.



In Christ's service together,
Dan Schomer

Are we done yet?