

Significant Actions of the Twenty-sixth General Assembly

L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration

A major aspect of the 1998 assembly was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the PCA. The special events, services, committee reports, etc. all had that milestone in view. One of the early leaders of the Continuing Church Movement, Dr. Don Patterson, was elected Honorary Moderator. Dr. Kennedy Smartt, who was also deeply involved in the formation of the PCA, was elected as Moderator. Dr. Paul Gilchrist completed ten years of service as the second Stated Clerk of the PCA.

Ad Interim Committees

The Assembly erected two study committees to address issues of concern. A seven-man Committee on Women in the Military was formed with a budget of \$7,500. An eleven-man Committee on Creation was formed with a budget of \$12,000.

PCA Trademark

The Assembly forbade the Board of Directors or any other committee or agency to take any legal action against any member or congregation of the PCA relative to the use of the PCA trademark until every ecclesiastical means has been exhausted (1998 *Minutes*, p. 69, 26-18, III, 31).

Interchurch Relations

The NAPARC proposal that the Christian Reformed Church be suspended from NAPARC membership was approved (1998 *Minutes*, p. 73, 26-22, III, 7).

MNA

The Assembly answered in the negative Overtures 17 (CGAP) and 28 (GP) entitled "Investigate Worship Practices in Mission Churches in Utah" (1998 *Minutes*, p. 176, 26-44, III, 16).

Reformed University Ministries

The Assembly continued the study of whether Reformed University Ministry is to become a separate permanent committee. The Campus Ministries Study Committee is to report no later than the 29th General Assembly (1998 *Minutes*, p. 174, 26-44, III, 12).

PCA Foundation

The Assembly approved the concept of the PCA Foundation's becoming self-supporting in the year 2000. This was initiated by PCAF (1998 *Minutes*, p. 221, 26-65, III, 8).

Special Judicial Commission

The Special Judicial Commission to retry Case 95-11, Landrum et al. V. Mississippi Valley Presbytery, came in with a unanimous report. Their judgement was that the views of the minister in question regarding tongues were within acceptable bounds but his views on prophecy were ambiguous. The minister in question has left the PCA and joined the EPC.

BCO Amendments

BCO 13-6 and 38-3 were amended by the Assembly following the approval of the previous Assembly and approval of Presbyteries. *BCO* 13-6 now requires a more thorough examination of ministers coming into the PCA from other denominations. *BCO* 38-3 deals with a member or minister's joining another ecclesiastical body deemed by a PCA court not to be an ecclesiastical body which maintains the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity, "he is deemed no longer to be a member in a body which rightly maintains the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity" (1998 *Minutes*, pp. 55-58, 26-17).

Administrative Committee

The Assembly approved the AC recommendation to amend the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA, Article VI, Section 5, to change the membership of the Board of Directors of the PCA Foundation to ten members, six of whom would be elected "at large" and the remaining four from CC, CTS, MNA, and MTW. The Chairman of the PCAF Board would be an "at large member (1998 *Minutes*, p. 63, 26-18)

The Assembly referred to the AC and Stated Clerk the issue of the Overture 8 from Heritage Presbytery, "Cease Publication of private Information in the Yearbook" (1998 *Minutes*, pp. 63-64, 26-18). The Clerk has consulted with legal counsel and is making a recommendation to the AC at the October meeting.

Action on CEO Compensation was deferred until a study could be completed. The study has been done and will be reported at the October AC meeting (1998 *Minutes*, p 67, 26-18).