

Presbyterian. Church in America

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**TO: Sessions and Friends
Presbyterian Church in America**

*What shall I render to the Lord
For all His benefits toward me?
I will take up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord
Psalm 116:12-13*

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This will be my last letter as I complete ten years as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. The Lord has blessed me, answered many prayers, and has given us a great General Assembly to conclude my service (in this capacity), that I must exclaim with the Psalmist: "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits towards me?" There are so many things for which to give thanks, not the least of which was the wonderful expression of love and appreciation from the General Assembly.

DR. L. ROY TAYLOR ELECTED AS NEW STATED CLERK

There were no names submitted for the Office of Stated Clerk so the Administrative Committee's nomination of Dr. L. Roy Taylor was received by the General Assembly without dissent. How grateful we are that the Lord has given us such a gifted man, with a pastor's heart, to serve in this important position. Dr. Taylor and his family moved into their new home in Buford at the end of July. As he begins his service to the Lord and to the General Assembly, let us pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will be faithful and His church edified.

26TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS HISTORY

Our hearts were blessed as we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the PCA at the General Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri. How good it was to hear how the Lord moved in the hearts of our founding fathers to establish a "continuing Presbyterian Church" that would be true to the Scriptures and to the Confession, and obedient to the Great Commission. The past, present and future aspirations were presented to us in the afternoon sessions while in the evening services we heard of our commitments to the Word, Reformed Faith, and the Great Commission. The program committees and agencies reminded us of what the mighty works of God accomplished through these 25 years.

"... for the WORD of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged SWORD, piercing even to the division of the soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the HEART."

STUDY COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The 26th General Assembly, after considerable discussion, established two ad interim committees. Both these committees are to be funded through designated gifts. One of these will study and review the issues surrounding the interpretations of Genesis 1 and 2 - i.e. the question of "the days of creation." Moderator Kennedy Smartt has appointed the following to the committee: TEs Will Barker, Jack Collins, J. Ligon Duncan, Douglas Kelly, William Smith, and Morton Smith; REs Mark Belz, Sam Duncan, Mark Wardell, Stuart Patterson, and John Dishman

The second ad interim committee is to address the issue of Women in the Military. The moderator has appointed the following elders to this committee: TEs Charles Morrison, Peter Lilback, Beryl Hubbard, and Steve Leonard; REs Keith Stoeber, Donald Weyburn and Bentley Rayburn.

In order for these committees move forward with their work, please send your designated contributions to the PCA Administrative Committee designated for "Creation" or "Women in Military".

NEW PRESBYTERY AUTHORIZED

Central Florida Presbytery overtured the 26th General Assembly to divide and establish a new North Florida Presbytery. Dr. Hugh Cunningham has been appointed to convene the new presbytery sometime in October. Already there are 12 churches with 4 or 5 new mission projects. We rejoice in the growth of the church and wish God's richest blessings on those churches in the Jacksonville and Gainesville areas, and the 16 counties that are now part of our newest presbytery.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON INTERNET WEB CAST

We were given a last minute opportunity by Jeff Bone, a deacon at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, who volunteered his time and expertise working with Dale Carrell, of Media Visions, to have a WebCast site during General Assembly. They gave the PCA General Assembly excellent world wide exposure on the internet. The response exceeded our expectations, with more than 4,300 people visiting the WebCast site, and over 1,800 listening to the live audio broadcasts. An average of more than 350 people listened to the nightly worship services, giving a 20% increase in those participating corporately in worship.

Mail was received from at least 8 foreign countries and from throughout the U. S. Just one response that touched our hearts and shows the value and impact of having this capability is from one of our MTW missionaries on the field.

"Thank you...for all your work in making this possible. As a missionary in Santiago, Chile, I have felt involved with what is going on at the General Assembly in St. Louis. The archive files I have been able to record onto an audiocassette for my wife and other missionaries to hear.... Thank you very much."

*In His Kingdom Building here in Chile
Richard Crane*

We believe it is important to continue to use this medium to expand our capabilities to spread the work about the PCA and what God is doing, by His grace.

TRANSITION REALITY CHECK

As we are involved in the transition process in the office, I want to express my deep appreciation for the manner in which you have supported the work of the Administrative Committee over the years. Without your partnership with us the service of this Committee could not continue.

However, I would be remiss at this time if I did not bring to your attention several pressing needs which exist, asking for your prayers and faithful financial support:

First, this time of transition has required additional financial outlay, both in bringing Dr. Roy Taylor on board and during the period of overlap in the office. **Second**, during this Fall there will be a change in Business Administrator. This also will involve a period of overlap as Ross Cook departs and the new man comes in. **Third**, as noted above, two study committees were erected by General Assembly. For the committees to begin their work we must have funds in hand. It is estimated that the total requirement will be \$18,000. **Fourth**, the 25th Anniversary Committee did a wonderful job in leading us in celebration of God's goodness over the years. However, the expenses have exceeded the income to date. Additionally, our records indicate that some churches which normally contribute to the AC redirected some or all of their funds to the 25th Committee. **Finally**, upon the recommendation of the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to the World, the General Assembly approved a meeting between the Capital Building Fund Committee and the Administrative Committee to "develop an amicable solution to the request of MTW to vacate space in the PCA Office Building..." The anticipated cost of this required meeting is \$8,000.

All of this to say that we have some significant expenditures in the coming months. I wanted to bring these needs to your attention and ask your prayerful consideration and response.

IN CONCLUSION

Once again, let me express our genuine appreciation for your prayerful support through these years. May God's richest blessings be poured down upon you.

Your Servant in Christ,



Paul R. Gilchrist

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