

# **ADDENDUM**



## **PRESBYTERY MEETING**

### **SEVENTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING**

**JULY 29, 2008**

**THIRD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA**

# ADDENDUM A~2

## OMNIBUS MOTION

*For the purpose of expediting some of Presbytery's decisions which are routine and non-controversial, an Omnibus Motion will be used. These motions are included throughout the packet.*

### PLEASE READ THESE MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY!

*Matters may be removed from the Omnibus Motion when:*

- A. Any member of the governing body requests removal of an item included in the OM, whereupon, that item shall be removed and presented to the governing body as part of the report from which it originated.*
- B. When the Omnibus Motion is presented on the floor, opportunity shall be given for members of the governing body to request, without comment or debate, for removal of specific items from the OM.*

**A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE OM SHALL BE RECORDED AS A FAVORABLE VOTE ON ALL MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE MOTION. THEREFORE, PLEASE READ AND PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ALL MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY.**

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**THAT THE OMNIBUS MOTION, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING  
RECOMMENDATIONS, BE ADOPTED:**

**RECOMMENDATIONS II & III FROM THE  
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

**(See Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report for contents of recommendations.)**

# ADDENDUM B-3

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
STATED CLERK'S REPORT  
James Aydelotte, Stated Clerk**

# July 29, 2008

## FOR INFORMATION:

9. **THAT the following Session Records for 2007 were submitted and approved on July 19, 2008, at a Session Records Review held at the First Presbyterian Church in Morganton.**

Etowah  
Grassy Creek  
Green Mountain  
Jack's Creek

Kenilworth  
Reems-Creek Beech

Southminster  
Tryon  
Vians Valley

10. **THAT the following Session Records for 2007 have not been reviewed and are delinquent in meeting the requirements of the *Book of Order* (G-9.0407.d).**

Bridgewater  
Brittains Cove  
Ellenboro  
Estatoa

Korean Pres. Church  
Mills River  
New Hope, Asheville  
Oakwood  
Old Fort

Pine Street  
Ridgeview  
Robinson Memorial  
Shiloh, Grover

# ADDENDUM K

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY  
THE REVEREND MICHAEL J. POULOS, CHAIR  
JULY 29, 2008**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends the following to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
|           | <p><b>I. THAT</b> Marshall J. Nord, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Lenoir, and a student at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, be enrolled as a candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.</p>  |
| <b>OM</b> | <p><b>II. THAT</b> the Committee on Preparation for Ministry be given standing authority to find and approve persons to read ordination examinations. (Background: This presbytery is requested to provide ministers and/or elders to grade ordination exams. They meet in Raleigh and grade papers for four days, from early morning until late at night in October. Content guidelines are provided.)</p> |
| <b>OM</b> | <p><b>III. THAT</b> John R. Richardson, a member of the Montreat Presbyterian Church, be transferred from Coastal Carolina Presbytery as a candidate.</p>   |

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- Mary Ann Welch, a candidate from the Lowell Presbyterian Church, has been given permission to circulate her Personal Information Form.
- Allen Smith, a candidate from the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, has been given permission to circulate his Personal Information Form.
- Laura Becker, a candidate from the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, has been given permission to circulate her Personal Information Form.

**Of our Inquirers/Candidates:**

- As of June, there are a total of 5 inquirers and 12 candidates.
- Of the 12 candidates, 6 are authorized to circulate their Personal Information Form.
- 2 are from small churches: Green Mountain and Shiloh.
- 6 are from medium sized churches: Lenoir First (2), Lowell, Unity, Waldensian and Warren Wilson.
- 9 are from large churches: Asheville First (3), Belmont First, Black Mountain (4) and Morganton First.
- The following seminaries have recently graduated students or have students currently attending: Columbia, Gordon-Conwell, Harvard, Pittsburgh, Princeton, Union/PSCE in Charlotte, Union/PSCE in Richmond, and Vanderbilt.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is proud of persons who have received a call and/or been ordained:

- Elizabeth Michael, a member of the Newton First Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Associate Pastor with the Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham, North Carolina. Elizabeth will be ordained at Newton First Presbyterian Church on August 10, 2008.
- Nathan Wright, a member of the Clinchfield Presbyterian Church in Marion and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry to the Covenant First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Nathan was ordained and installed at Covenant First Presbyterian Church on June 8, 2008.

# **ADDENDUM GP-2**

## **GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA JULY 29, 2008**

Several people have asked how does business get to General Assembly and if it all comes from Louisville. The answer is that it comes from many sources. Attached is an overview/summary of how business comes to the General Assembly. (Addendum Attachment 2)

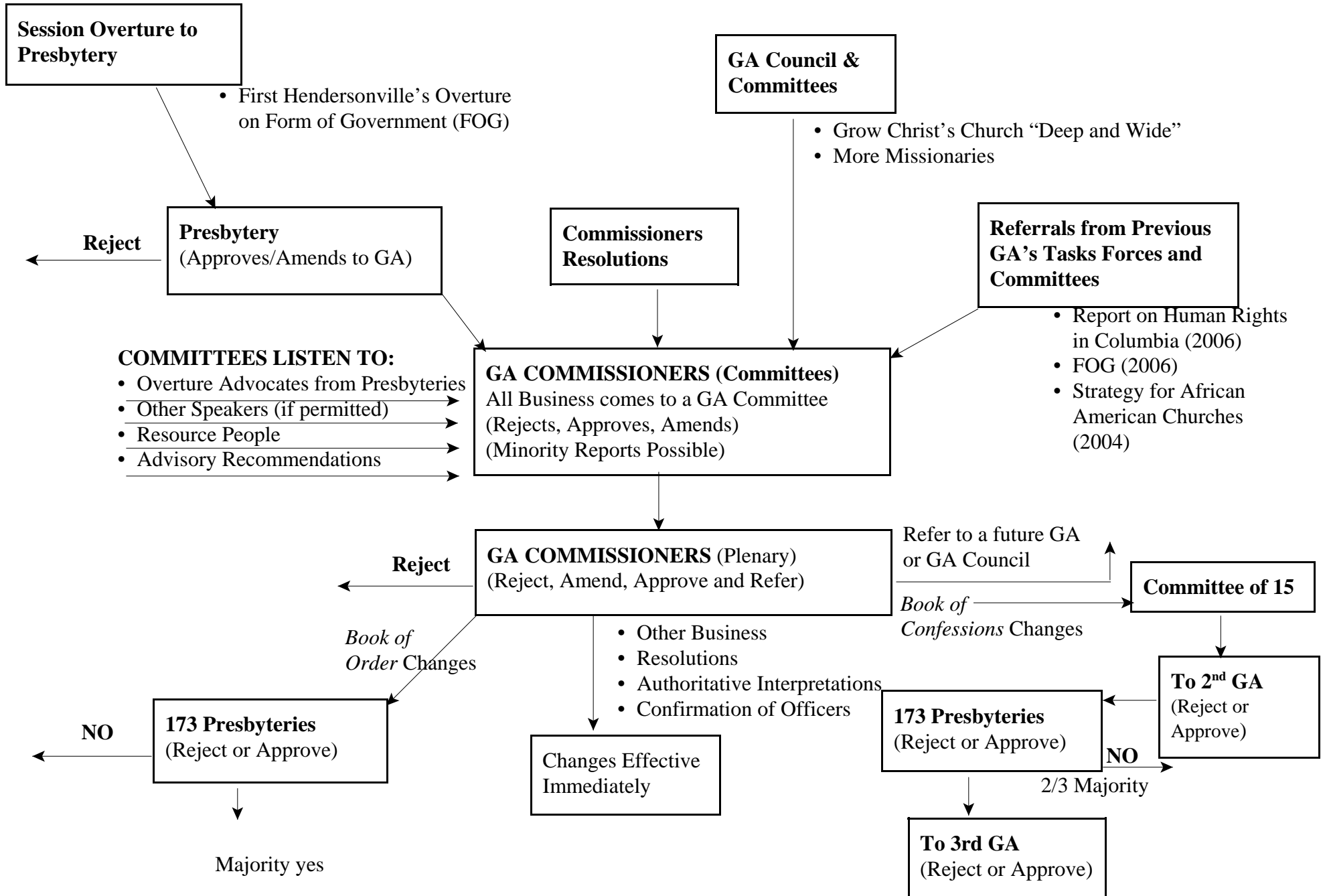
Attached is the first and second letter from Bruce Reyes-Chow, GA Moderator, Linda Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly, and Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. (Addendum Attachment 3 and Addendum Attachment 4) The first letter told of some of the things done at the General Assembly. The second indicates some positive things happening in the denomination. Since we are a connectional church, I think it is important to share correspondence from our denominations office with you.

A summary of General Assembly from the GA office is available for you to pick up near the registration desk to show some of the variety of things that happen at a GA meeting. (One per commissioner)

If your Session has questions about the General Assembly work or would like to just know more about its work, I and others would be glad to come, share, and listen.

# ADDENDUM - GP ATTACHMENT 2

## A SUMMARY - HOW BUSINESS GOES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



# ADDENDUM

## GP ATTACHMENT 3

June 28, 2008

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 218th General Assembly adjourned just a few short hours ago. Even now, 973 commissioners and advisory delegates are making their way back home from San Jose, California, where they worshiped daily, discussed and debated overtures and celebrated the countless ways Presbyterians are engaged in ministry near and very far away — all with a focus on discerning the mind of Christ for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and seeking ways to live out this assembly's theme: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

Beginning today and continuing over the next two years, elected commissioners will be about the task of interpreting the actions they took at this assembly. Already, their decisions have been broadcast across the church and, in this Internet world — with information received in real time, live blogs, and more — many people have already weighed in on the assembly's actions, sharing their thoughts and feelings about the implications of those decisions on our life together in the PC(USA).

The assembly dealt with well over 400 business items. Some items had undivided agreement, including a covenant to join together to carry out mission together and a churchwide commitment to "Grow God's Church Deep and Wide." There was an action to continue to study a revised Form of Government, and one committee devoted its time entirely to youth issues. In addition, we continued our longstanding work toward peace in the Middle East. More information on these and other actions will be coming soon.

A few of the many assembly actions will make, or already have made, headlines across the country. Most likely, you will read about the actions from a number of sources over the next many days and weeks, but we want you to hear about this important gathering directly from the General Assembly. That is why we are writing this letter to you.

Perhaps the subject that will make the most headlines has to do with the ordination standards of our church. It is a subject with which Presbyterians are familiar and one that tends to evoke great debates and deep emotions. With that in mind, we want you to know what the assembly did — in the actual wording — in regard to ordination standards, and what will happen next.

- By a 54 % to 46% margin, the assembly voted to propose an amendment to our *Book of Order* to change one of our current ordination standards. The change is to replace the current language that says officers of the church must live by "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" (G-6.0106b) to this new language: *Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate's sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.*
- In the same vote, the assembly adopted a new Authoritative Interpretation (AI) on G-6.0106b: *Interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 119th General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations thereof, have no further force*

or effect.

- By a 54 % to 46% vote, the assembly adopted a new Authoritative Interpretation (AI) on G-6.0108 which restores the intent of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church report (2006) to allow someone who is being considered for ordination or installation as a deacon, elder or minister to register a conscientious objection to the standards or beliefs of the church and ask the ordaining body to enter into a conversation with them to determine the seriousness of the departure.
- The assembly left unchanged the definition of marriage found in the Directory for Worship (W-4.9000) — “a civil contract between a woman and a man.”

By its actions, the assembly has initiated a new opportunity to focus ordination on primary allegiance and obedience to Jesus Christ, as well as to Scripture and the church’s confessions. The assembly places the responsibility onto sessions and presbyteries for discerning a candidate’s fitness for ordination.

In all of this, it is important to note that the assembly has not removed the church’s standard of “fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness.” For the proposed change — making obedience to Christ the ordination standard — to become part of the *Book of Order*, a majority of presbyteries will need to ratify it over the next year.

We know the assembly actions may do little to ease the anxiety that seems to permeate our life together as a denomination. The debate isn’t new and the future holds difficult challenges. As the Rev. Dan Holloway, moderator of the committee that took up the items on ordination standards, said, “As we move forward, it is essential that we have conversations that are gracious and loving and welcoming, since we are not all of one mind.” Our hope is that none of us will act or react immediately to the decisions, choosing instead to pray and talk with one another about these issues.

During the question-and-answer time for the Stated Clerk election on Friday morning, now Stated Clerk-elect Gradye Parsons spoke of the story of Jesus being in the boat with his disciples in the middle of the lake when a storm arose (Luke 8). If fear could have capsized their boat, the disciples would have found themselves working hard to tread water in the midst of the wind and waves. Yet, Jesus calmed the storm and proceeded to question them about their faith.

Like the disciples, we, the PC(USA), are in the boat together, sometimes not altogether sure where we are headed. We see the storm approaching and our fears rise with the waves. Yet, as he was with the disciples, so, too, is Christ in our midst — calming the wind, settling the waves — being present and guiding us as we proceed ahead.

Gradye offered the following mantra as a summary of the Luke story: Get into the boat. Go across the lake. There will be a storm. You will not die.

As we move forward from this assembly, we know that storms may come, but we put our confidence and trust in the one who both calms the storms and leads us into God’s future with hope.

**The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow**  
Moderator of the 218th General Assembly

**Elder Linda Bryant Valentine**  
Executive Director, General Assembly Council

**The Rev. Gradye Parsons**  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

**ADDENDUM**

# GP ATTACHMENT 4

July 15, 2008

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In a letter to you on June 28, we began to tell the story of our 218th General Assembly. Our goal was to provide you a timely summary and perspective on issues that we sensed would draw the greatest immediate attention. In that first letter, we outlined the assembly's actions and our church's next steps in a continuing story, the outcome of which is known only to God. Most importantly, we infused our letter with our strong and abiding hope for the future ministry and witness of our Presbyterian Church (USA), because we are a Good News people.

We hope that you will share with us a bold and unabashed hope, firmly grounded in the solid foundation of our faith, that is daily confirmed for us in seeing how God is at work in and through our PC(USA). Every day, we hear story after story of new churches and fellowships, of immigrant and multicultural ministries, of large churches joining with smaller ones to support and encourage each other. Everywhere there is a new and growing hunger to hear and to tell the Good News. The commitment to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" – overwhelmingly approved by the assembly – grew out of that very hunger to say "no" to a climate of decline and say "yes" to declaring a church wide commitment to participate in God's activity in transforming the PC(USA).

With this letter, we invite you to continue to celebrate with us good news of our General Assembly and of our Presbyterian Church. We ask you to join us in giving collective voice to the hope, the passion, and the future that has the power to unite us as Presbyterian Christians:

- As noted, the assembly overwhelmingly adopted a churchwide commitment to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide," encouraging synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the PC(USA) to foster the growth of Christ's Church in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, servanthood, and diversity. This commitment builds on the many initiatives that are already under way in so many places – and calls on all parts of the church to start new congregations and transform existing ones; to nurture immigrant, racial ethnic and multicultural fellowships and congregations; to reach out through mission; and to deepen discipleship.
- In a related action, the assembly also enthusiastically approved a strategy for church growth for African American congregations. We see this as a call to action, and, more importantly, to collaboration. With the previous initiative, this comprehensive strategy invites us all to partner together in growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide in the many ways we are called to achieve great things for God.
- The "Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission," an historic document which emerged from the Worldwide Mission Consultation held earlier this year in Dallas, was boldly affirmed by the assembly. Covenanting to live and serve together, committing to working cooperatively, celebrating diverse Presbyterian approaches to mission, sharing responsibility for educating and preparation of all Presbyterians for mission and seeking and supporting more mission personnel, are among the statements in the invitation. Nearly 200 individuals and groups had endorsed this covenant before it was brought to the assembly and adopted. The committee that recommended it to the assembly, read the text of the invitation aloud, making it a statement of faith, a powerful affirmation of our Presbyterian commitment to mission. We encourage you to do likewise.

- For the first time in 50 years, the assembly voted to increase the number of mission personnel serving as the hands and feet of Christ around the world. The good news is that those who are called to serve will be "saving lives" not just by providing urgent medical care or implementing holistic ministries, but by preaching the gospel, often in places where it has never been heard. With the support of Presbyterians, this commitment will extend our collective outreach in mission around the world.
- Realizing that worship is our response to God's love for us and that we pray for God to "put a new and right spirit within [us]" (Ps. 51:10), Presbyterians also covenanted at this assembly to gather in Solemn Assemblies over the coming years, worshiping God and seeking God's healing for the church.
- Called by Jesus Christ to be peacemakers, the assembly continued to boldly affirm that stance around the world. The assembly called for "responsibly" bringing the troops home from Iraq, continuing peacemaking with Israelis and Palestinians, and supporting human rights in Zimbabwe, the Philippines, North Korea and Colombia.
- 752 commissioners and nearly 3000 other participants in San Jose were joined by more than 13,000 people who logged in and watched on line - a 21st century General Assembly!

As God's story, entwined with ours, continues to unfold following this General Assembly, we find ourselves newly energized for the work to be done in the weeks and months ahead. The Good News, which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, calls us to immediate action. Empowered by the Spirit, we invite you to answer the carry out the work called for by Christ's commands and the Church's actions:

- Recommend gifted people to serve as mission co-workers. We need your wisdom and your help in identifying qualified candidates to fill the new positions that have been created. ([www.pcusa.org/msr](http://www.pcusa.org/msr))
- Hold Solemn Assemblies in your congregation or presbytery. A website with resources will be available soon through the General Assembly Council's Office of Theology and Worship.
- Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide. Visit [www.deepandwide.net](http://www.deepandwide.net) and [www.presbygrow.net](http://www.presbygrow.net) to find ideas for growing the church and contribute your own.
- Support the work of mission around the world. There are countless opportunities for Presbyterians to invest in and pray for the good work the church is doing. ([www.pcusa.org/mission](http://www.pcusa.org/mission))

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. And isn't that Good News?

**The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow**  
Moderator of the 218th General Assembly

**Elder Linda Bryant Valentine**  
Executive Director, General Assembly Council

**The Rev. Gradye Parsons**  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

# ADDENDUM JJ-11

## REPORTS ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY at Presbytery Meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>

### I. Individual Reports (25 minutes)

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| A. Bobbi White     | The General Assembly Process<br>Election of Moderator & Stated Clerk |
| B. Maggie Lauterer | Book of Confessions<br>Heidelberg & Belhar                           |
| C. J. D. Waldrop   | Proposed Revised Form of Government                                  |
| D. Laura Long      | Proposed Fidelity & Chastity Replacement<br>Definition of Marriage   |
| E. Lois Camp       | Worship Services<br>Understanding of Mental Illness                  |
| F. Luke Harkey     | Peacemaking<br>Israel/Palestine & Iraq/Iran                          |
| G. Kathy Parse     | Deep & Wide Evangelism<br>New Social Creed                           |
| H. James Aydelotte | Authoritative Interpretations<br>Next Steps for our Presbytery       |

### II. Questions and Answers (20 minutes)

**Moderator Kantonen**