

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 2:00 P.M.

## **BUSINESS MEETING V**

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was reconvened by Co-Moderators Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann in Hall 5 of the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

### **OPENING GREETINGS AND PRAYER**

Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri recognized Miriam Foltz, a Young Adult Volunteer alum who served in Northern Ireland in 2010 and 2011, and now serves as the organizing pastor of UKirk in St. Louis, who brought greetings and offered prayer.

### **GUEST SPEAKER CHAPLAIN MARGARET KIBBEN**

Co-Moderator Kohlmann recognized Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, who spoke to the assembly about chaplaincy. Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II, presented Chaplain Kibben with a gift.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri introduced the Wednesday Consent Agenda, found in PC-Biz as the Wednesday Consent Agenda. The Wednesday Consent Agenda includes recommendations from committees that have been approved by 75% or more of the committee members. Items that were approved by less than 75% will be voted on individually in plenary. In addition, items which do not have constitutional implications or, in the judgment of the committee leaders, do not represent business requiring discussion by the full assembly are included in the consent agenda. When the consent agenda is presented to the body for a vote you will be voting for all the items included, without any alterations, in a single vote.

Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri recognized Cheni Khonje, Moderator of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures, who led the assembly through the consent agenda process. Moderator Khonje moved the agenda. Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri announced that if a commissioner wished to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda, they should go to one of the microphones.

Items removed from Wednesday Consent Agenda:

**08-12 On Supporting Carbon Pricing—From the New Covenant Presbytery On Supporting Carbon Pricing**

**Approve as Amended**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 44/6/0**

**09-06 A Resolution on Global Order and National Purpose—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.**

**Referral with Comment**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 57/0/0**

**11-02 On Calling for an Immediate Moratorium on All Executions—From the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.**

**Approve as Amended**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 49/0/0**

**11-18 Responding to Racist Nationalism**

**Approve as Amended**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 31/6/1**

**11-23 Commissioners' Resolution: On Appointing Commission to Consider Social Impact of Automation**

**Approve as Amended**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 30/8/2**

**12-10 Commissioners' Resolution On Gaza Violence Approve as Amended**

**Counted Vote**  
**Committee: 33/4/0**

**14-12 Commissioners' Resolution: On Supporting the Reclaiming Jesus Statement with Prayer and Study Referral with Comment**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 34/8/0**

Having removed items as requested from the Wednesday Consent Agenda, the assembly voted on all of the remaining items.

#### **Wednesday Consent Agenda**

**00-01 General Assembly Nomination Committee 2018 Nominations**

**No Committee Action**

**00-02 Co-Moderators' Nominations to GANC**

**No Committee Action**

**03-02 Associate Stated Clerks—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 51/1/0**

**03-03 Amendment to Organization for Mission—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0**

**03-04 2024 Site Recommendation—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0**

**03-05 Approval of National Certifying Bodies—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**  
**Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0**

**03-10 Amending Standing Rule A.6.h. to Make Clear What Happens if Assembly Overturns Bills and Overtures Decision Not to Refer an Item of Business—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0**

**03-12 Amending Standing Rule E.2.f.(3) Regarding Privilege to Speak—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0**

**03-13 Amending Standing Rule E.5.a. Reviewing the Rules for Who Can Appropriately Use the Public Hearings to Address the Committee—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0**

**03-14 Amending Standing Rule F.1.d. Reviewing Response to Requests for Docket Time to Address Assembly—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0**

**03-15 Amending Standing Rule F.5.d. Review How ACC Is Consulted During Plenary Session—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 51/1/0**

**03-16 Amending Standing Rule K.1.b. Regarding Commissions and Special Commissions—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0**

**03-17 Amending Standing Rule A.4.b. Regarding Making Clear the Role of the Assembly in Reviewing Agency and Entity Minutes—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 53/0/0**

**03-18 Amending Standing Rule A.5. to Reflect Book of Order, G-6.04e—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 53/0/0**

**03-20 Amending Standing Rule A.2.d. Regarding the Length of Reports to General Assembly—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0**

**03-21 Amending Standing Rules by Deleting A.3.d. and Inserting a New A.1.c. Regarding Language on Distributing Overtures Reflecting PC-biz—From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0**

**04-01 On Appointing a Team to Review the Current Per Capita Based System of Funding the Ministry of Councils Higher Than the Session—From the Presbytery of Newton.**

**Approve as Amended**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 60/0/0**

**05-01 On Realigning the Border Between the Synod of the Northeast and the Synod of the Trinity so the Village of Waverly, New York, Shall Be Within the Synod of the Trinity and the Presbytery of Lackawanna—From the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley.**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0**

**05-02 On Changing the Name of Eastern Korean Presbytery—From the Synod of the Northeast.**

**Approve**

**Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0**

- 05-05 On Changing the Boundaries within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies—From the Synod of Lakes and Prairies**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0
- 05-07 On Changing the Name of Midwest Hanmi Presbytery—From the Synod of Lincoln Trails.**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0
- 05-08 Commissioners' Resolution: On Transferring Fruitland Presbyterian from the Presbytery of Olympia to the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 53/0/0
- 07-02 Churches to Invite to send Ecumenical Advisory Delegates to the 224th General Assembly (2020)—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 56/0/0
- 07-03 Report of the Reformed Churches and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Dialogue Referral**  
Counted Vote - Committee: 48/0/4
- 07-04 Report of the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Dialogue**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 53/0/1
- 07-05 Prospectus for the Third Round of Dialogue Between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 55/1/0
- 07-06 Prospectus for the Ninth Round of Dialogue Between Reformed Churches in the United States and United States Conference of Bishops—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/1/2
- 08-06 The Earth Is the Lord's—Not Ours to Ruin: Priorities for a New Moral Era—From the Presbytery of Monmouth.**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 54/1/0
- 08-09 On Advocacy for Climate Change Action and a Thriving Lower-Carbon Economy—From the Twin Cities Area Presbytery.**  
Answer with Action on another Resolution  
Counted Vote - Committee: 41/10/0
- 08-11 Regarding the Use of Products Made of Polystyrene—From the New Covenant Presbytery On Regarding Use of Products Made of Polystyrene**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 55/0/0
- 09-03 On Support of Peace Churches in the PC(USA)—From the Presbytery of San Jose.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 54/3/0
- 09-05 A Resolution to Advocate for the Human Rights of All Citizens of Yemen—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 57/2/0

- 09-07 On Promoting Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development in Madagascar. On Promoting Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development in Madagascar—From the Presbytery of New York City.**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 58/0/0
- 09-08 On Seeking God’s Peace Through Nuclear Disarmament in the 21st Century—From the Presbytery of New Hope**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 59/2/0
- 09-13 Commissioners’ Resolution: On Prayer for the People of Nicaragua**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 54/3/0
- 09-15 Commissioners’ Resolution: On Denouncing Violence and Injustice in Nicaragua**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 60/0/0
- 10-05 Institutional Relationship Agreement Between GA of PC(USA) and Historically Racial Ethnic Institutions**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 10-06 Institutional Relationship Agreement between Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. and the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 10-10 Approve List of Presbyterian Related Schools and Colleges**  
Approve as Amended with Comments  
Counted Vote - Committee: 48/1/0
- 10-16 Cuba Mutual Mission Agreement**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 45/0/0
- 11-04 On Clarifying the Position of the PC(USA) Regarding Appropriate Boundaries of Religious Liberty—From the Presbytery of Boise.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 46/0/5
- 11-05 Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns Name Change**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/3/0
- 11-08 A Report with Recommendations on Drug Policy: Putting Healing Before Punishment—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 45/6/0
- 11-12 On Affirming and Celebrating the Full Dignity and Humanity of People of All Gender Identities On Affirming and Celebrating the Full Dignity and Humanity of People of All Gender Identities—From the Presbytery of New Castle.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 43/3/4
- 11-13 On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 40/3/5

- 11-15 A Resolution on Religious Freedom Without Discrimination—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 47/0/4
- 11-16 A Resolution on Honest Patriotism—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 48/2/0
- 11-17 Declaration on Where We Stand Regarding Concerns About Direction Towards Autocracy That This Country Is Taking**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 33/7/0
- 11-19 Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Self-Study**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 50/0/0
- 11-20 Commissioners' Resolution: Suicide Prevention Resolution**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 11-21 Commissioners' Resolution: Responding to People Impacted by Opioids and Other Addictive Substances**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 11-24 Commissioners' Resolution: On the Degradation of Civil Discourse**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 37/11/1
- 12-01 On Opposition to Congressional and State Anti-BDS Legislation—From the Synod of the Covenant.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 50/2/0
- 12-03 On Creating a Task Force to Examine NCCOP's Call to Ecumenical Solidarity for Justice for Palestinians—From the Presbytery of Grace.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/3/0
- 12-04 On Responding to the Open Letter from the National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine (NCCOP) to the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Movement—From the Presbytery of San Francisco.**  
Answer with Action on another Resolution  
Counted Vote - Committee: 54/0/0
- 12-06 For the Protection of the Children of Israel and Palestine—From the Presbytery of Philadelphia**  
Disapprove  
Counted Vote - Committee: 48/8/0
- 12-08 A Resolution on the Status of Jerusalem—From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0
- 12-09 On Responding to the Current Syrian Crisis—From the Presbytery of the Cascades.**  
Approve as Amended with Comments  
Counted Vote - Committee: 55/0/0
- 12-12 Commissioners' Resolution: On Ending the Classification of Israel as a "Colonial Project"**  
Disapprove  
Counted Vote - Committee: 48/4/0

- 12-13 Commissioners' Resolution: On Opposing and Disengagement from Iran**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0
- 13-01 On Creating an Administrative Commission to Work with the Synod of the Northeast Regarding the Jarvie Commonweal Endowment Fund—From the Presbytery of Huntingdon.**  
Approve Alternate Resolution  
Counted Vote - Committee: 44/6/0
- 13-02 Confirm Individuals to PILP Board of Directors.**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0
- 13-03 Confirm the director of New Covenant Trust Company, N.A.—From the Presbyterian Foundation**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0
- 13-06 Continue the Churchwide Gifts Program for the Benefit of Churches**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0
- 13-07 On Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Launch of the Jarvie Program.**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 49/3/0
- 13-08 On Creating a Special Committee to Conduct an Administrative Review of the Governance of the Jarvie Commonweal Service On Creating a Special Committee to Assure Compliance with Donor Restrictions on the Administration of the Jarvie Commonweal Service—From the Presbytery of New York City.**  
Answer with Action on another Resolution  
Counted Vote - Committee: 46/2/0
- 13-10 Living by the Gospel: A Guide to Structuring Ministers' Terms of Call--From the Board of Pensions**  
Approve as Amended  
Counted Vote - Committee: 53/0/0
- 13-11 Commissioners' Resolution: On Issuing A Jubilee Declaration for Church Mortgage Grants**  
Approve Alternate Resolution  
Counted Vote - Committee: 52/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 01**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 02**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 03**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 04**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 05**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 06**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0

- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 07**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 08**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 09**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-02 On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Rec. 10**  
Referral  
Counted Vote - Committee: 51/0/0
- 14-07 Approve New Trustees Elected by PC (USA) Theological Institutions**  
Approve with Comment  
Counted Vote - Committee: 49/3/0
- 14-08 Grant Permission to Theological Institutions to Serve the Lord's Supper**  
Approve  
Counted Vote - Committee: 53/0/0

Consent Agenda Approved.

## **REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS**

Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri recognized Moderator Scott Prouty and Vice-Moderator Susan Etherton of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, for the committee report.

Moderator Prouty presented Co-Moderators Cintrón-Olivieri and Kohlmann with pocket prayer crosses.

Moderator Prouty moved Item 07-01 as amended. It was approved.

Vice-Moderator Etherton called on Mienda Uriarte, Area Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, to speak briefly on Item 07-07. Vice-Moderator Etherton moved Item 07-07 as amended. It was approved.

Vice-Moderator Etherton recognized Executive Secretary Carlos Malave of Christian Churches Together who addressed the assembly.

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. A summary of the report is as follows:

**Assembly Committee on Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations**



Wednesday Consent Agenda items indicated by an asterisk.

There are no items with financial implications in this report.

## I. Plenary Action

**Item 07-01. *On America's Interfaith Context and the Church's Challenge—From the Presbytery of Carlisle.***

That the recommendations be approved with amendment.

“The Presbytery of Carlisle respectfully overtures the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

“1. Affirm and embrace the religiously diverse nature of the United States of America and the call of the Christian faith to love all of our neighbors—including those of other faiths—as we love ourselves.

“2. Condemn all religiously inspired and motivated violence, prejudice, discrimination, and hate speech[; ~~in particular, those actions based upon anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim behaviors and language~~].

“3. Affirm our positions as stated in “The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),” 221st General Assembly (2014); [and] “Toward a Christian Understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations,” 219th General Assembly (2010)[; ~~“A Theological Understanding of the Relationship Between Christians and Jews: A Paper Commended to the Church for Study and Reflection, 199th General Assembly (1987); A Study on Islam approved by the 199th General Assembly (1987)~~].

“4. Call upon all Presbyterians to [continue to] live repentantly by seeking reconciliation with all religious groups who have been hurt by unjust actions and words of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [and with those who have hurt Presbyterians and ecumenical partners in the United States and overseas].

“5. Encourage presbyteries to [~~create~~] [promote] interfaith relations [~~committees or task forces to promote interfaith relations, dialogue, and understanding~~] [, dialogue, and understanding by creating committees, task forces, or something of a similar nature].

“6. Encourage congregations to engage in interfaith conversations and partnerships in their communities.

“7. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to encourage congregations to utilize the resources of the Office of Interfaith Relations to promote education about other religions and interfaith dialogue.”

**\*Item 07-02. *Churches to Invite to send Ecumenical Advisory Delegates to the 224th General Assembly (2020)—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.***

That the recommendation be approved.

**\*Item 07-03. *Report of the Reformed Churches and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Dialogue—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.***

That the recommendations be referred to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

**\*Item 07-04. *Episcopal Church and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Dialogue Report—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.***

That the recommendation be approved.

**\*Item 07-05. *Prospectus for the Third Round of Dialogue Between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.***

That the recommendations be approved with amendment.

Amend the third bullet of Recommendation 3 as follows: [Text to be stricken is shown with brackets and with a strike-through; text to be inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline.]

- ~~[Recognizing we are in a post-Christendom world, and using]~~ [Using] a historic and socioeconomic lens, explore and examine how our ecclesiological identities, doctrines, systems, and institutions have been used with prejudicial power to “other-ize” and exclude people from our denominations, especially in the areas of class and race. What “idols” do we have that prevents us from fully participating in God’s mission and reconcile all things, including our two denominations, to God (relating, again, to Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 7, and 10 of the agreement)?

*\*Item 07-06. Prospectus for the Ninth Round of Dialogue Between Reformed Churches in the United States and United States Conference of Bishops—From the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.*

That the recommendation be referred to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

*Item 07-07. Commissioners’ Resolution. On Covenant Agreement Between the Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa (GMIM) and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

That the recommendation be approved with amendment.

“That the 223rd General Assembly (2018) ask that the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, in partnership with the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, ~~[develop]~~ [explore the possibility of developing] a covenant relationship with GMIM. This covenant relationship will be developed in consultation with presbyteries having significant Indonesian and Minahasan-speaking members. A ~~[final]~~ report is to be presented to the 224th General Assembly (2020).”

## II. Committee Final Action and Report to Assembly

*Item 07-A. Minutes, General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations*

Approved with comment.

Comment:

Receive GACEIR 2017 Minutes, with one comment:

Page 8—Refers to presidential campaign of 2017 [sic], should be 2016.

Receive GACEIR 2016 Minutes, with one comment:

Page 13—Executive Committee did not adjourn with prayer.

**Item 07-Info**

A. *Items Pulled from Consent Agenda*

B. *Christian Churches Together Ministry and Activities Report 2016–2018*

C. *National Council of Churches of Christ Report to PC(USA)*

D. *World Communion of Reformed Churches Report to PC(USA)*

E. *World Council of Churches Report to PC(USA)*

## REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL AND CHURCH GROWTH ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONS

Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri recognized Moderator Anne H.K. Apple and Vice-Moderator Miriam Foltz of the Assembly Committee on Theological and Church Growth Issues and Institutions.

Vice-Moderator Foltz introduced a video on the new worshipping community initiative in Kalispell, Montana, the skateboard ministry Serious Juju.

Vice-Moderator Foltz and Moderator Apple introduced Item 14-09. Vice-Moderator Foltz called on Tom Trinidad, Chair of the Committee on Theological Education, who recognized the two winners of the Award for Excellence in Theological Education, Douglas Oldenburg and Katie Geneva Cannon, and introduced a video tribute to the honorees. Moderator Apple moved Item 14-09. It was approved.

Moderator Apple moved Item 14-10. It was approved.

Moderator Apple moved Item 14-06. A motion was made to amend paragraph 1.a. The amendment was approved. Item 14-06 was approved as amended in plenary.

Vice-Moderator Foltz moved Item 14-11. It was approved. Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III, then addressed the assembly.

Moderator Apple moved Item 14-01. A motion was made to amend number 2 to strike the word “unfair” and replace with “unjust.” The amendment was approved. A motion was made to amend number 2 to strike the word “near.” The amendment was approved. The assembly approved Item 14-01 as amended.

Moderator Apple moved Item 14-03 with comment. It was approved.

Moderator Apple moved to disapprove Item 14-04. The assembly voted to disapprove Item 14-04.

Moderator Apple moved Item 14-12 with referral as amended. A motion was made to amend the referral to include language that: “[The assembly calls for an examination by members, congregations, and presbyteries of what it means to be a people ‘Reclaiming Jesus,’ the Jesus of scriptures. We commend for study, comment, and prayer the resources that the ‘Reclaiming Jesus’ movement gives, including the Reclaiming Jesus statement and its summary, its Bible studies and its Civil Discourse Curricula.]” The amendment was approved. Item 14-12 to refer was approved as amended in plenary.

Moderator Apple moved an alternative resolution as Item 14-05. The alternative resolution was approved.

This concluded the report of the Assembly Committee on Theological and Church Growth Issues and Institutions. A summary of the report is as follows:

**Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions**

Wednesday Consent Agenda items indicated by an asterisk.

Recommendations with financial implications indicated with a \$ sign.

**I. Plenary Action**

**\$Item 14-01. *On Developing a Letter to Accompany the Confession of Belhar—From the Presbytery of New Castle.***

That the recommendation is approved with amendment.

Amend 2. to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with brackets, with a strike-through, and with shading; text to be added or inserted is shown with brackets, with an underline, and with shading.]

“2. Include within the development of this U.S. accompanying letter such topics as ~~unfair~~ unjust land acquisition; ~~heav~~ genocide of native peoples; the enslavement of African men, women, and children; and a system of white privilege that unfairly discriminates against people of color.”

[Financial Implications: Per Capita Annual \$13,364. Total—\$26,728]

**\*Item 14-02. *On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe.***

That the recommendation be referred to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship, and be brought back to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

**Item 14-03. *On Amending W-4.0202 Concerning Participation in the Lord’s Supper by Baptized Children—From the Presbytery of Grace.***

That the recommendation be approved with comment.

Comment: The Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions recommends that the 223rd General Assembly (2018) approve Item 14-03, directing the Stated Clerk to send the proposed amendment along with the rationale and comments from the ACC and PMA, and advice from the ACC to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes.

**Item 14-04. *On Amending W-4.0404 by Adding Constitutional Questions to the Installation of Ministers of Word and Sacrament to Be Answered by Members of the Presbytery—From the Presbytery of Wabash Valley.***

That the recommendation be disapproved.

**\$Item 14-05. *On Adopting the “Letter from Birmingham City Jail,” Written by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as a Contemporary Statement of Faith (But Not with Constitutional Standing)—from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.***

In response to Item 14-05, that the 223rd General Assembly (2018) approve the following alternative resolution:

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) commends the “Letter from Birmingham City Jail,” written by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to the church for study, as a resource that provides prophetic witness that inspires, challenges, and educates both church and world, and furthermore, to begin the process outlined in G-6.03 to include it in the *Book of Confessions*.

[Financial Implications: Per Capita Annual \$20,540. Total—\$41,080]

*\*Item 14-06. Special Committee to Study the Reformed Perspective of Christian Education in the 21st Century.*

That the recommendation be approved with amendment.

Amend Item 14-06 as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with brackets and with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline.]

“The General Assembly’s Special Committee to Study the Reformed Perspective of Christian Education in the 21st Century recommends that the 223rd General Assembly (2018) do the following:

“1. Encourage the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to adjust to a shift in Christian education paradigms and practices over the last several decades and therefore

“a. support the restructuring, resourcing, and staffing of the ministry area of Christian formation, working to [~~deemphasize~~] [include and expand upon] age and stage Christian education[~~—and instead focus on~~] [by developing] lifelong Christian education and faith formation, especially intergenerational ministry;

“b. encourage the newly structured ministry area of Christian formation to dedicate resources to be focused on supporting local congregations (facilitating the networking, coaching, and training of local leaders).

“2. Direct that curriculum and/or resources produced by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and [~~Congregational Ministries Publishing~~] [Geneva Press] shall be in consultation and collaboration with the ministry area[s] of Christian Formation [and Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries] of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. [Moreover, PPC and Geneva Press should make it a priority to hire culturally proficient and multilingual staff to produce culturally sensitive and appropriate resources.]

“3. Direct the [Office of the] General Assembly [to adapt the Session Annual Statistical Report] to collect disaggregated data on certified Christian educators and non-certified Christian educators (employed or volunteer who are functioning as staff).

“[Recommendations 4. through 6. remain unchanged.]”

[Financial Implications: Per Capita Annual \$13,732. Total—\$27,464]

*\*Item 14-07. Approve New Trustees Elected by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Theological Institutions—From the Committee on Theological Education.*

That the recommendation be approved with comment.

Comment: The Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions recommends that the assembly direct the Committee on Theological Education to encourage member theological institutions to actively recruit Native American, Hispanic, and other underrepresented communities, as well as equal and appropriate gender representation, as members for these boards of trustees.

*\*Item 14-08. Grant Permission to Theological Institutions to Celebrate the Lord’s Supper—From the Committee on Theological Education.*

That the recommendation be approved.

**Item 14-09. Recognize Persons for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Theological Education—From the Committee on Theological Education.**

That the recommendation be approved with amendment.

Amend Recommendation 2. as follows: [Text to be inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline.]

“2. Schedule [three minutes each] docket time in plenary session to celebrate with each awardee.”

**Item 14-10. Recommendations from the Committee on Theological Education Self Study Report, Fall 2010–Fall 2017.**

That the recommendations be approved.

**Item 14-11. Approval of Seminary President and Request for Docket Time for President-Elect to Make Brief Remarks—From the Committee on Theological Education.**

That the recommendation be approved with amendment.

Amend Recommendation 2. as follows: [Text to be inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline. Actions taken in plenary are shaded in gray.]

“2. Approve [three minutes of] docket time in the plenary session for Dr. Pollard to make brief remarks.”

\*\$Item 14-12. *Commissioners’ Resolution. On Supporting the Reclaiming Jesus statement with Prayer and Study.*

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

That the recommendation be referred to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship, with comment.

Comment: “The assembly calls for an examination by members, congregations, and presbyteries of what it means to be a people ‘Reclaiming Jesus,’ the Jesus of scriptures. We commend for study, comment, and prayer the resources that the “Reclaiming Jesus” movement gives, including the Reclaiming Jesus statement and its summary, its Bible studies and its Civil Discourse Curricula.” The committee also made an editorial correction to Recommendation 4. to update the number and the year as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with brackets and with a strike-through; text to be inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline.]

“~~[3.]~~ [4.] Encourages the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), through its 224th General Assembly [~~(2018)~~] [2020], to endorse the Reclaiming Jesus movement through signing onto its statement.”

[Financial Implications: Per Capita 2019 Total \$105,000]

## II. Committee Final Action and Report to Assembly

**Item 14-A. Minutes, Committee on Theological Education**

Approved with comment:

Comment: Although it was necessary to involve two different clerks over the course of the past two years, consistency is needed in presentation of the minutes:

1. Persons attending should be referenced by their full name or with title.
2. Care should be exercised in recording actions as motions and votes with less emphasis on recording discussion, especially when discussion notes are unclear, spotty, and incomplete. The minutes from February 21 are more helpful in clarity. Earlier minutes were less clear.

**These comments were also part of the recommendation to approve with comment by the Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016).**

**Item 14-Info**

*Committee on Theological Education Self-Study, Fall 2010–Fall 2017*

*Committee on Theological Education Agency Summary*

**CELEBRATION OF 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS AND CLOSING PRAYER.**

Co-Moderator Cintrón-Olivieri recognized Phillip E. Melberg, President of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters. Melberg reported that the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters launched a celebration of the partnership between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Boy Scouts of America, which began in 1918. The observance of the centennial continued through Scout Sunday this past February, and here at the General Assembly.

Brian Frick, the Associate for Camp and Conference Ministries, presented Melberg with the highest honor in the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters, the Celtic Cross.

Melberg recognized Eagle Scout Patrick Rouff who recited the Boy Scout Oath and offered the closing prayer for this session of the General Assembly.

**RECESS**

The assembly recessed at 4:59 p.m.