

**Whitewater Valley Presbytery -- Stated Meeting -- March 7, 2009**

Pyoca Camp, Conference & Retreat Center  
886 E County Road 100 South  
Brownstown, IN 47220  
866-251-2267

**INDEX – SECOND POSTING**

These postings are the equivalent of a First Class Mailing.

In response to feedback regarding on-line Presbytery papers, all action items are incorporated within the docket. However, all relevant documentation and complete reports are posted as reflected on the Index page.

**It is your choice which reports you print and bring to the meeting,  
Remember that you may simply want to read longer, non-action items on line.  
You have the ability to pick and choose which specific papers you want to print.  
Extra sets of papers are not normally available at the meeting.**

<b><u>PAGE #</u></b>	<b><u>DOCUMENT</u></b>	<b><u>NOTE</u></b>
Numbers are continuous from the First Post		
6-7	Bills and Overtures Recommended Actions	INFORMATION
8-9	Amendments Summary	INFORMATION
10-13	Summary of Regional Amendment Gatherings	INFORMATION
	Mission Focus Units 2009 Amended Budget	INFORMATION

**BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO THE PRESBYTERY**

REPORT

By the Standing Rules of the Presbytery, the Bills and Overtures Committee is comprised of the ministers and elders and the youth advisory delegate the Presbytery elected to the General Assembly. To the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Presbytery elected these commissioners, each of whom is asked to stand:

Elders: Bill Johnson (Boggstown-First)  
Mark Moore (Indianapolis-Northminster)  
Kristy Quinn (Indianapolis-Irvington)

Ministers: Frank Mansell (Indianapolis-John Knox)  
Steve Matthies (Indianapolis-Southport)  
Linda Philabaun (Elwood-First & Tipton-First)

Youth Advisory Delegate: Jenna Gunnoe (Shelbyville First)

Based on the results of the five regional gatherings, where the clear focus of discussion was on Proposed Amendment 08-B, the Bills and Overtures Committee determined to continue that focus this morning, prior to voting on all the proposed amendments this afternoon.

The Bills and Overtures Committee met February 26, 2009 and settled on this process with the desire to limit its role and expand the time available to the commissioners present today to speak for or against Proposed Amendment 08-B. The committee understands that as a procedural matter all the proposed amendments and proposed ratifications are important, and that it cannot compel acceptance of the process it moves today. The committee respectfully asks you to accept its recommendation, recognizing that limited discussion of one or two other proposals jeopardizes the ability of the commissioners to spend an hour discussing 08-B.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Bills and Overtures Committee moves the following:

- A. The Bills and Overtures Committee recommends affirmative votes on all the proposed amendments and proposed ratifications of ecumenical statements, except that the Bills and Overtures Committee makes no recommendation regarding Proposed Amendment 08-B; and

B. The Bills and Overtures Committee recommends concurrence with the following process for discussing Proposed Amendment 08-B.

1. Discussion will be limited to one hour, with speakers alternating for and against the proposed amendment.
2. Speakers are limited to two minutes. The time limit will be strictly enforced by the stated clerk.
3. Speakers are to order themselves at the designated microphone for and against the proposed amendment.
4. The 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly commissioners and youth advisory delegate will have the first privilege of discussing 08-B, again alternating for and against the proposed amendment.
5. No procedural motions will be entertained by the Moderator. In other words, the moderator is asked to rule out of order all motions that would further limit or extend discussion of 08-B.
6. In the event time remains, and only speakers for or against the proposed amendment remain at the designated microphone, the moderator may discern whether or not to continue the discussion.
7. Voting on the proposed amendments and proposed ratifications will occur this afternoon, following worship, lunch and communion. The Bills and Overtures Committee will distribute paper ballots to registered commissioners at that time. Only registered commissioners are entitled to vote. The committee will tally the votes and announce the results as soon as possible.

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)****Summary: Proposed 2008 Amendments to the Constitution and Ecumenical Statements**

**08-A. Vows of Membership** (G-5.0200). The Presbytery of Mission (TX) proposed an amendment that requires that all new members of a church, including those coming by certificate of transfer, answer three questions before the congregation. The Committee on Church Polity recommended approval by a vote of 50/2/0 and it was approved by the General Assembly (GA) by a voice vote.

**08-B. Ordination Standards** (G-6.0106b, G-14.0240 and G-14.0450). The Presbytery of Boston proposed this amendment to delete the current fidelity and chastity requirement and replace it with a different standard of obedience. The Committee on Church Orders and Ministry recommended approval by a vote of 41/11/0 and it was approved by the GA by a vote of 380/325/3 (54% to 46%).

**08-C. Replacing the Word "Sympathy" with the Word "Compassion"** (G-6.0202b and G-6.0401). The Presbytery of Albany (NY) proposed replacing the word "sympathy" with the word "empathy" as regards the role of deacons. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution suggested the word "compassion" as an alternative and the Committee on Church Polity recommended approval as amended 54/3/0 and it was approved by the GA by a voice vote.

**08-D. General Assembly Mission Council Name Change** (Throughout the *Book of Order*). The General Assembly Council proposed that its name changed to General Assembly Mission Council. The Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets recommended approval 57/1/3 and it was approved by the GA by a voice vote.

**08-E. Non-Geographic Presbyteries** (G-11.0102 and G-12.0102k). This amendment originated with the Office of the GA and would allow congregation to join a non-geographic presbytery in another synod. It places new limitations on non-geographic presbyteries which are to be formed only on the basis of language and are to be subject to a sunset clause (end date). The Committee on GA Procedures recommended approval 44/0/1 and it was approved by the GA by a voice vote.

**08-F. Voice for Certified Christian Educators** (G-11.0407 and G-14.0730). This amendment would make it permissive, not required, for a presbytery to grant the privilege of the floor to a Certified Christian Educator who is not an Elder or a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. This amendment originated in the Presbytery of Santa Fe, was recommended by the Committee on Church Polity by a vote of 58/0/0 and approved by the GA by consensus.

**08-G. Nominations** (G-13.0107, G-13.0108, and G-13.0202a). This amendment would strike a provision that would allow each synod to nominate a member to each GA permanent committee. It originated with the GA Assistant Stated Clerk. The Committee on Mission Coordination and Budgets recommended approval by a vote of 58/0/0 and it was approved by the GA by consensus.

**08-H. Ordination Examinations** (G-14.0431). This amendment originated with the Presbyteries' Committee on Examinations. It would require a Committee on Preparation for Ministry to attest that candidates are fully prepared to take ordination examinations. The Committee on Review of GA Permanent Committees recommended approval 39/3/1 and it was approved by the GA by a voice vote.

**08-I. Voice for Certified Christian Educators – Again** (G-14.0730). This amendment would capitalize the first letters of “Certified and Educator” to make it clear that it would not include Certified Associate Christian Educators. If items 08-F and 08-I are approved, they will be merged. The Committee on Church Polity recommended approval with a comment by a vote of 46/12/0 and it was approved by the GA by voice vote.

**08-J. Alternative Forms of Resolution** (D-2.0103 and D-10.0202h). This amendment would make it easier to use alternative forms of resolution in a disciplinary case. It originated with the Advisory Committee on the Constitution. The Committee on Church Polity recommended approval by a vote of 58/0/1 and it was approved by consensus.

**Ecumenical Statements.** Four ecumenical statements originated with the Committee on Ecumenical Relations and were approved by the GA by a voice vote.

**08-K. With the Roman Catholic Church:** This is an agreement with the Roman Catholic Church on mutual recognition of baptism by the “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

**08-L. With the Episcopal Church:** This statement represents a half-step toward the full recognition of ministries between the PC(USA) and Episcopal Church. The sticking point has been and remains accepting each other's ordained ministers since the Episcopalians follow apostolic succession.

**08-M. With the Korean Presbyterian Church in America:** This is an agreement with the KPCA forms a foundation for working together.

**08-N. With the Moravian Church:** This covenant partnership agreement recognizes both denominations and its ministries, seeks to reconcile and invites mutual mission, shared resources and other opportunities.

**Summary of Results from Regional Amendment Gatherings**

A. *Which of the proposed amendments and/or ecumenical statements do you feel most needs to be discussed.*

08-A—18

08-H—14

08-B—122

08-I—6

08-C—5

08-J—3

08-D—3

08-K—4

08-E—15

08-L—9

08-F—3

08-M—7

08-G—1

08-N—5

***The following answers were given in relation to proposed Amendment 08-B:***

***How do you perceive the proposed amendment(s) and/or ecumenical statement(s) named above would impact the life of your congregation?***

- Allows flexibility for congregations, more say given to local congregation over leadership
- Great concern over passage of B with significant exodus of members anticipated
- Perception of abandonment of biblical principles and lowers ordination standards to non-biblical principles, hampers core beliefs, authority of Scripture is undermined
- Good servants are allowed to serve, gain leadership potential
- People are already leaving because the denomination has allowed the discussion to continue
- Presbyterians should not open leadership of the Church to just anyone
- Discussion of this proposed amendment is a waste of time
- New wording allows for emphasis on Christ, Scripture, Confessions—in that order
- Amendment would make attracting new members more difficult
- Pastors should have to abide by fidelity statement
- Changing the rules to make everybody comfortable is not acceptable
- Ordained people should be held to a higher standard
- We should stop feeling good about being bad
- This amendment is a “line in the sand”
- The amendment should be presented in straightforward manner with no tricky language
- Perception of an increasing gap between local congregations and national denomination
- As Presbyterians we have changed our minds about divorce, slavery, women’s roles in the Church—maybe we should think about sexuality as well
- Membership and financial loss, financial suicide
- Congregations choose leaders anyway, so this amendment is not really an issue
- Gets congregations out of the business of policing people’s sexual lives
- Belief that this amendment will not affect choice of church officers, but possible choice of pastors

- Some congregations—both liberal and conservative—choose not to focus on this issue
- Picking out 1 sin to focus attention on as an ordination standard seems wrong
- Trusting in God’s grace and so this issue is best left unlegislated
- Congregation may choose to withhold per capita for General Assembly
- Most in congregation are there for the congregation, not for the denomination or its standards
- Would a standard of obedience to this amendment change the hospitality of a congregation

***Should these amendments and/or ecumenical statements pass, how do you think they will affect our life together as a presbytery?***

- Potential for schism, vote would split current unity of presbytery, division is possible with either outcome
- Need a middle position that all in the presbytery could live with
- Careful discernment would be needed by the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Presbytery should continue dialogue and discernment
- Presbytery should distinguish between doctrine and discipline
- A devastating split awaits us that makes the Grand Canyon look like a crack in the sidewalk
- Too much time and energy has been expended by the presbytery already on this issue rather than on focusing attention on evangelism, mission and outreach
- The presbytery needs real conversations to understand different interpretations of Scripture
- Resolution of an amendment comes closer with each vote—how will we deal with this in the future?
- No one side in the presbytery has the whole truth—if people leave, it limits the perspective for all
- We are destroying ourselves with negative impacts in finances, missions and giving
- Perhaps the dialogue around this matter is a chance for spiritual growth
- This will affect our ordination vows to be colleagues in ministry
- Belief that this will mean a smaller presbytery, but one that is less divided

***As we look forward to the vote on the amendments and ecumenical statements at the March meeting of the Presbytery, what lingering question would you invite other participants to wrestle with?***

- What can unite us at this time?
- Is this the best action for us at this time?
- Is it more important to be judgmental or forgiving?

- Can we highlight the things that hold us together as Presbyterians?
- What do Scriptures say about all issues of sexuality?
- What are the standards of the Church?
- How do we reach those on the margins?
- Will peace and unity disappear?
- Why do we focus only on the issue of homosexuality when that is not the single focus of either the current standard in the Book of Order or the proposed amendment?
- Does everyone know the history of the current fidelity/chastity wording in the Book of Order?
- Have people considered how the Spirit was moving through the work of the Assembly in San Jose?
- Can we continue to be a healthy church that follows biblical principles?
- What would the PCUSA look like if we could get past this issue and focus on mission and discipleship?
- How big is our circle and do we want to increase or decrease our circle?
- How do we handle the minority position that will emerge after a vote at the presbytery level?
- How can we approach this from a more rigorous theological position?
- Is our reparation into like-minded groups really pleasing to God?
- Does our personal guidance come from Scripture or society?
- How can we share love of neighbor and love of Scripture?
- How do we get people to continue talking about these issues?
- Should all people have equal standing in the Church?
- What about the behavior of some straight/married people?
- Do we want our children to be educated by someone who lives an alternative lifestyle?
- If this amendment passes, will we lose our role as a prophetic voice to the culture?
- Should our congregational nominating committees be asking people about their fidelity and chastity?
- Is there one passage in the Bible that shows such activity is acceptable?
- How long will we be doing this before it is settled?
- How does the passage of any of the proposed amendments affect the Form of Government task force?
- Where do we go from here?
- Why does God leave us in this lingering battle?
- What do we need to learn or do?
- Can we be prayerful and discerning of God's will?

***Concerns and questions about other proposed amendments/ecumenical statements:***

**For 08-E**

- This has the potential to affect other congregations in a geographical presbytery
- If we decide this one on the basis of language, what comes next?
- There should be a sunset clause with a 5 year limit to work with these
- Need solidarity between all congregations

**For 08-J**

- Judicial process is time-consuming and costly—mediation and negotiation are better

**For 08-L**

- Could be good for local mission opportunities
- Things we agree on are greater than things we disagree on
- Allows for different ordination standards—Episcopalians ordain gays

Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
Mission Focus Units 2009 Amended Budget

Accounts	2009 Approved Budget	2009 Amended Budget Request	Over/ (Under) 2009 Approved
<b>RESOURCES</b>			
Shared Missions-WVP	342,500.00	301,000.00	(41,500.00)
Banking/Investments	18,700.00	18,700.00	0.00
<b>Total RESOURCES</b>	<b>361,200.00</b>	<b>319,700.00</b>	<b>(41,500.00)</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>			
<b>MISSION PARTNERSHIPS</b>			
Local/Regional Mission			
Camp PYOCA	50,000.00	45,000.00	(5,000.00)
Westminster Neighborhood Ministries	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
Hispanic Ministries	54,500.00	46,500.00	(8,000.00)
Presbytery Resource Center	2,500.00	2,000.00	(500.00)
<b>Total Local/Regional Mission</b>	<b>122,000.00</b>	<b>108,500.00</b>	<b>(13,500.00)</b>
Domestic/International Mission			
Congo Helping Hands	10,000.00	4,000.00	(6,000.00)
Northern Quintana Roo	16,000.00	15,000.00	(1,000.00)
<b>Total Domestic/International Mission</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>(7,000.00)</b>
<b>Total Mission Partnerships</b>	<b>148,000.00</b>	<b>127,500.00</b>	<b>(20,500.00)</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL CARE</b>			
Committee on Ministry	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00
Preparation for Ministry	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
Matching Grants			
Technology/Communications	5,000.00	4,000.00	(1,000.00)
Temp. Supply/Sabbaticals	8,000.00	4,000.00	(4,000.00)
Emergency Assistance	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Seeding/New Opportunities	3,000.00	0.00	(3,000.00)
<b>Total Matching Grants</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>(8,000.00)</b>
<b>Total Congregational Care</b>	<b>28,200.00</b>	<b>20,200.00</b>	<b>(8,000.00)</b>
<b>RESOURCE ALLOCATION</b>			
Leadership	141,500.00	141,500.00	0.00
Office Services	30,250.00	30,250.00	0.00
Reimbursements/Other	13,250.00	13,250.00	0.00
<b>Total Resource Allocation</b>	<b>185,000.00</b>	<b>185,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>361,200.00</b>	<b>332,700.00</b>	<b>(28,500.00)</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(13,000.00)</b>	<b>(13,000.00)</b>
<b>Estimated BOY Fund Balance</b>	<b>49,634.74</b>	<b>49,634.74</b>	
<b>Estimated Resources</b>	<b>361,200.00</b>	<b>319,700.00</b>	
<b>Estimated Investments</b>	<b>361,200.00</b>	<b>332,700.00</b>	
<b>Estimated EOY Fund Balance</b>	<b>49,634.74</b>	<b>36,634.74</b>	
<b>Reserves Utilized</b>		<b>13,000.00</b>	