

Whitewater Valley Presbytery -- Stated Meeting -- March 3, 2007

Calvary Third Presbyterian Church, 1701 Capitol Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46806
260-456-4137

INDEX – FIRST 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.**

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**DIRECTIONS TO CALVARY THIRD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1701 CAPITOL AVENUE, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

FROM SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA:

Take I-69 north to exit 99,
Bear right at exit 99 onto Baer Field Express Way (east)
(Baer Field Express Way eventually becomes "Paulding")
Follow Baer Field Express Way (Paulding) 9 miles to South Anthony Blvd.
Turn left (north) on South Anthony Blvd. Pass through one stop light one block
to Capitol Ave.
Turn left on Capitol Ave. the church is there on the northwest corner.

FROM NORTH OF FORT WAYNE:

Take I-69 south to exit 99,
Bear right at exit 99 onto Baer Field Express Way (turn east).
(Baer Field Express Way eventually becomes "Paulding")
Follow Baer Field Express Way (Paulding) 9 miles to South Anthony Blvd.
Turn left (north) on South Anthony Blvd. Pass through one stop light one block
to Capitol Ave.
Turn left on Capitol Ave. the church is there on the northwest corner.

FROM SOUTH EAST INDIANA (TWO OPTIONS)

- 1) Take S.R. 27 north to Fort Wayne
After reaching the southern edge of Fort Wayne two miles north of the 469 bypass,
turn right on South Anthony Blvd. (north).
Continue north on South Anthony through stoplights at Tillman, Paulding, and Petit
Avenues.
After passing through the stoplight at Petit Avenue, proceed north one more block to
Capitol Avenue.
Turn left on Capitol Avenue. The church is there on the northwest corner.
- 2) Take S.R. 3 north to Markle, Indiana.
In Markle, follow signs to I-69 and merge right (north).
Take I-69 north to exit 99.
Bear right at exit 99 onto Baer Field Express Way (east).
(Baer Field Express Way eventually becomes "Paulding Ave")
Follow Baer Field Express Way (Paulding) approx. 6 miles to South Anthony Blvd.
Turn left (north) on South Anthony Blvd. Pass through one stop light one block
to Capitol Ave.
Turn left on Capitol Ave. the church is there on the northwest corner.

NEED HELP WITH DIRECTIONS? CALL THE CHURCH 260-456-4137

History of Calvary Third United Presbyterian Church

As the Civil War came to an end and families were once again being reunited, Third Presbyterian Church came into being. Seen as a mission development in 1865, a simple wood frame chapel was erected and for two years was an extension of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church for the proclamation of the gospel on the city's growing south side. Thirty-five members of First Church requested dismissal to organize the Third Presbyterian Church on December 3, 1867. The small chapel soon became inadequate for the growing needs of the expanding congregation. An imposing brick structure was built at Harrison and Taber Streets in 1900 and remained a Fort Wayne landmark until 1975 when it was destroyed by fire.

Just as the founding of Third Church was initiated by First Church, the Calvary Presbyterian congregation (originally named Anthony Boulevard Presbyterian) was initiated by members of Third Church. As early as 1923, the need for a Presbyterian congregation in the southeast section of Fort Wayne had been recognized. It was not until 1926, however, that a suitable meeting place was located. At that time, thirty-five members of Third Church transferred their membership to establish the new congregation.

Following World War II, the southeast area of the city became heavily industrial and housing developments sprung up overnight to accommodate war veterans who had come to work in the numerous factories and plants. In 1950, local Presbyterian businessman Dale W. McMillen offered financial assistance to the congregation in order to build the current facility to better serve the neighborhood.

In 1995 members of both Third and Calvary Presbyterian Churches recognized that their futures would be brighter together than separately. The congregations merged in 1996 to become Calvary Third United Presbyterian Church. During the time of the merger, members of Calvary worshiped at the Third Church facility during a major renovation of the Calvary building. Following the renovation, the sanctuary now includes the hand-carved nineteenth century communion table and baptismal font, two of the few furnishings to survive the 1975 fire of the Third Church facility.

Since the time of the renovation, the congregation has applied for and been approved to receive a Church Redevelopment Grant from the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. The pastor, Alan Thames, served the Calvary congregation beginning in 1988 and has been the only pastor of the merged congregation.

Whitewater Valley Presbytery
PROPOSED DOCKET – STATED MEETING – SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007
Calvary Third Presbyterian Church, 1701 Capitol Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46806
Phone: 260-456-4137

THESE ITEMS NEED YOUR ATTENTION1. ONLINE 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 whether or not to print the reports and bring them to the meeting with you.***

2. MEALS Meals are **\$6.00 per person.**3. ELECTRONIC PRESENTATIONS AT THE PRESBYTERY MEETING

Please note that the time prior to the Call to Order and during the lunch break is reserved for scrolling **announcements** and other previously approved presentations.

4. MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- Martha McDonald, Christian Education Certification
- Katherine Rieder, Ordination Examination
- Jason Huff and Alisa Ferlicca, Examinations to move from Inquirer to Candidate
- Bills and Overtures Report

5. WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB HOME PAGE www.whitewatervalley.org**DOCKET**

9:00 AM New Commissioner Training (Elders & Ministers) – Rev. Kim Leech, Stated Clerk

9:30 AM Registration

10:00 AM Call To Order – Moderator, Elder Betty-Alice Almeida

Call to Worship - Presbytery constituted with prayer - Opening Hymn

Establishment of Roll by registration and establishment of quorum

Introduction of new pastors by COM, Rev. Alan Thames

Placing Calls in the hands of New Ministers

Introduction of new Elder Commissioners

Seating of Corresponding Members

Moderator's Report on Installation/Ordinations

Welcome by host church & Church History **[FIRST POST, PAGE 2]**

Joys & Concerns of the Presbytery

APPROVAL OF DOCKET [FIRST POST, PAGE 3-5]

[Requests to place additional items for discussion or action on the Presbytery docket must be submitted to the Stated Clerk prior to approval of the Docket on the day of Presbytery; a two-thirds vote of Presbytery, as determined by enrollment at the beginning of the meeting, is required to suspend this rule. All such items will be presented to the Presbytery for inclusion as 'New Business' at end of the docket. [9/93]

ACTION Presentation of CONSENT AGENDA MOTION (BY STATED CLERK)

Mr. Moderator, I MOVE that for all reports with more than one action recommendation, all recommendations we taken as a single vote unless specific items are pulled from the motion.

10:15 We Celebrate the Abundance of Ministry

- Proclamation honoring the work of Rev. Ramon Celis **[FIRST POST, PAGE 6]**
Rev. Felipe Martinez, Associate Executive Presbyter
- Elder Martha McDonald – Christian Education Certification – Rev. David Lee
Martha's home church: Indianapolis-Irvington
- Habitat for Humanity – Missions Committee, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

10:30 Coordinating Council Report – We celebrate the abundance of work that moves our mission forward.

(The Coordinating Council has all the powers provided by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and may act as a Commission of the Presbytery between Presbytery meetings. They have general oversight of the programmatic and mission work of the Presbytery and recommend each year's budget. They nominate the Nominating Committee for election by the Presbytery, assure an orderly review of Session records and establish teams, networks, task forces, partnerships and committees.)

Guidelines for Discernment Task Forces – Rev. Glen Bell

These Guidelines for Discernment Task Forces were approved by the Coordinating Council Feb. 7, 2007 and are for your information **[FIRST POST, PP 7-9]**

Personnel

Finance – Bill Howell

- Review & Receive Finance Reports **[FIRST POST, PP 27-28]**

Administrative Commission Report – Indianapolis Washington Street

Report of Council Actions **[FIRST POST, PAGE 10]**

Looking to the Future: The Presbytery's Standing Rules are being revised to reflect the Presbytery's new staffing patterns. The First Reading will be presented in June.

10:45 Presbytery Visioning – Rev. Robert Anderson, Interim Executive Presbyter

Mission Study Update and PERCEPT at a Glance

11:00 Committee on Ministry – Rev. Alan Thames

(This is an ecclesiastical committee and an administrative commission of Presbytery authorized to act regularly on behalf of the Presbytery in matters permitted by the Book of Order that includes approving pastoral calls, examinations, receiving and dismissing pastors, ordinations & installations, transferring and receiving ministers, establishing Terms of Call, recommending Honorable Retirements and working with individual churches as needed.)

Katherine Rieder – Ordination Exam -- Statement of Faith **[FIRST POST, PAGE 11]**
Guidelines for Examination **[FIRST POST, PP 12-14]**

- 11:30 Committee on Preparation for Ministry
(This is an ecclesiastical committee and administrative commission of Presbytery authorized to act regularly on behalf of the Presbytery in matters permitted by the Book of Order that include the care of inquirers and candidates for ordination to the office of minister of the word and sacrament.)
- Jason Huff – Westfield, CrossRoads Examination move from Inquirer to Candidate
[FIRST POST, PAGE 15]
- Alisa Ferlicca – Indy-Second Examination to move from Inquirer to Candidate
[SECOND POST]
- 12:00 **LUNCH** - \$6.00 per person
- 12:45-1:30 Conversation Clusters -- Sharing our Abundance of Mission (remain at lunch tables)
- 1:30 Break – Return to sanctuary
- 1:45 An Abundance of Spirit and Celebration of Gifts - Worship
Today's offering, One Great Hour of Sharing
- Thanks to Rev. Glen Bell, 2006 Moderator – Elder Jean Dodds
- Install Elder Donna Madewell, 2007 Vice Moderator of Presbytery
(Home church: Anderson-First)
- 2:10 Stated Clerk's Report **[FIRST POST, PAGE 16]**
- 2:15 Bills & Overtures Committee **[FIRST POST, PP 17-26]**
Elder Hitch Learned (Shelbyville-First) & Elder Donna Madewell (Anderson-First) –
GA Commissioners
- 2:45 Other Business
- 2:45 An Abundance of Spirit – Closing Worship
- 3:00 Adjourn

THE NEXT STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6
Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

Whereas the Reverend Ramón Celis Gamboa is a respected and beloved member of the *Presbiterio del Norte de Quintana Roo*, located in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, and on both sides of the border he has the respect of all those who have been privileged to work with him, and

Whereas, from the earliest days of his life, Rev. Celis Gamboa has been deeply committed to Jesus Christ, his Savior and Lord, consistently demonstrating in his personal life and ministry those qualities attributed to the Holy Spirit, and

Whereas Rev. Celis Gamboa has been involved in the partnership between Whitewater Valley Presbytery and the *Presbiterio del Norte de Quintana Roo* since its inception in 2001, and has served as the Mexican coordinator of said partnership since 2004, and

Whereas Rev. Celis Gamboa has enriched the partnership with wisdom rooted in his decades of experience in ministry, mission, and new church development, and

Whereas Rev. Celis Gamboa has pastorally supported the church planters involved in said partnership, by mentoring, encouraging and equipping both the planters and their families, and

Whereas Rev. Celis Gamboa has worked tirelessly as a gracious host to help make all the mission trip workers traveling from Whitewater Valley Presbytery feel at home while conducting Vacation Bible Schools, construction projects and dental clinics in Cancun, Cozumel, Playa del Carmen, Puerto Aventuras, Puerto Morelos, and Tulum, and

Whereas Rev. Celis Gamboa is retiring from the position of coordinator at the end of 2007,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, meeting at the Calvary Third Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne Indiana on March 3, 2007**, wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to God for the faithful witness of the Reverend Ramón Celis Gamboa, for the service he has given the Church of Jesus Christ throughout his ministry, and for his lasting contribution to the vision and work of the partnership between Whitewater Valley Presbytery and the *Presbiterio del Norte de Quintana Roo*.

**Guidelines for Discernment Task Forces
The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley
2007**

The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley affirms the joy of Christ and the importance of a deep commitment to preserving the unity of our presbytery.

Guiding Principles

Unity in Christ is a hallmark of the church. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to live together to the glory of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Presbyterian Church (USA) is a demonstration of that common witness.

The congregations of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley are not separate entities occasionally joined in faith and mission, but rather one organic whole. We are one community and members of one another. Together we celebrate the commonwealth of God's grace.

Even in our unity, we acknowledge that our demonstration of God's purposes is provisional, and we recognize that our life together does not fully reflect God's intention. The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley acknowledges that a local congregation may question whether, if in good conscience, it may continue to participate as a part of this unity. In such an instance, our presbytery shall commit itself to participate in a discernment process with a local congregation. If the presbytery and congregation together conclude that a substantial majority of the congregation are determined to separate from the Presbyterian Church (USA), the presbytery shall commit itself to a faithful and equitable process through which the congregation may be dismissed to another denomination.

This discernment process will seek to be deeply collegial, offering sensitivity, respect and care to all. It will attempt to avoid adversarial positioning, but rather, seek to be mutually affirming. Through this process, we will trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The presbytery will strive to offer pastoral care, both to those members who believe themselves called to depart and those who believe themselves called to remain.

If a session realizes a need for such discernment, the Committee on Ministry will create a task force to guide the process, in consultation with the Presbytery's Coordinating Council and the Board of Directors. The task force will address all relevant issues, including concerns related to property and finance.

In all our discussions and actions, we will strive to glorify Jesus Christ. Throughout discussions or even disagreement, we will seek to demonstrate the unity that God intends.

Process Design

If a session realizes a need for such discernment, the Committee on Ministry will create a task force to guide the process, in consultation with the presbytery moderator, executive presbyter, and stated clerk.

The task force will seek to discover all possible relevant information, carefully considering a wide variety of perspectives.

One of the first and foremost responsibilities of the task force is to listen

- to those in favor of separation
- to those who wish to remain a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- to those who are uncertain of their perspective
- to the pastor(s)
- to the church officers and informal leaders of the congregation
- to a broad representation of congregation members

The task force will work with the congregation to seek discernment and the leading of the Holy Spirit. This process will include

helping the congregation understand the task force cares for everyone in the church and to assist in finding the best possible outcome for all members

making clear that the task force is to gather information and to make recommendations, but any decision to dismiss a congregation will be made only by the presbytery assembly

providing opportunities for expression by any minority of the congregation and to build processes that offer care and affirm their hopes and concerns

securing the full cooperation of the congregation in discernment. This includes the congregation providing all requested information to the task force, including contact information for all active and inactive members, and contact information for all church officers currently serving on the session and the board of deacons.

As the task force and the congregation seek discernment together, the task force will be mindful of its relationship with the presbytery. The task force will

consult with presbytery entities, officers, leaders and staff as needed

consider possible responses to a potential request for dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA) by the congregation and its impact on the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

consult with neighboring churches, including their perspective on the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as the possibility of providing pastoral care.

Findings and Recommendations

The task force shall communicate regularly its findings with appropriate entities and leadership persons in the presbytery. The task force shall share its recommendations with the Committee on Ministry, which will summarily transmit a complete report with recommendations to the appropriate presbytery entities and leaders.

Throughout the processes of discernment, all parties shall maintain an attitude and goal of striving to glorify Jesus Christ. Throughout discussions and even disagreement, the parties will seek to demonstrate the unique unity that God intends.

**Support for Discernment
The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley
2007**

Discernment Task Forces will be the heart of our relationship with any congregations that may question whether they can continue as a part of our presbytery.

To support our presbytery in this important time, the Presbytery Coordinating Council also recognizes the following:

An ongoing *Conversation and Education Group* is needed to create opportunities for sharing and listening with the goals of greater respect, deeper relationships, and a clear understanding of the peace, unity and purity to which we are called. We hope that grace, clarity, and mutuality about examination expectations might emerge from those conversations as concerns are allayed. At best, this group may also serve to assist sessions with their questions or concerns about peace, unity and purity. This group will be established by the Presbytery Coordinating Council, under the leadership of Bob Anderson, our Interim Executive Presbyter.

In the event that a congregation approaches the presbytery, an immediate *Response Team* will be necessary. Before the Committee on Ministry is able to appoint a Discernment Task Force, an initial group will serve to respond to any questions or issues from a congregation. The Response Team will include the Interim Executive Presbyter, Bob Anderson; Stated Clerk, Kim Leech; Moderator of Presbytery, Betty-Alice Almeida; Moderator of Presbytery Council, Glen Bell; and Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, Alan Thames.

Although we hope subsequent events will not demonstrate any need, an *Administrative Commission* (G-9.0503) remains an option of our polity. While our approach to any congregations that may question whether they can continue as a part of our presbytery should always be directed by our guiding principles (trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, offering sensitivity, respect and care in deeply collegial and mutually affirming ways), we recognize that precipitous action by a congregation (such as seeking a court order against the presbytery) may lead to the need for an Administrative Commission.

REPORTED ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 7, 2007:MINUTES APPROVAL

The Coordinating Council Minutes of November 1, 2006 were **APPROVED**.

The Presbytery Minutes of October 21, 2006 and December 6, 2006 were **APPROVED**.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Council received the report of the Executive Committee from their Jan. 13, 2007 meeting and APPROVED the following recommendations:

1. The Council **APPROVED** a motion to adopt the 'Support for Discernment' process and it will be distributed at the March 3, 2007 Presbytery meeting.
2. The Council **APPROVED** a motion to provide Homeward Bound, a non-profit homelessness awareness organization, display space at the March 3, 2007 Presbytery meeting.
3. The Council **concurred** with the Executive Committee recommendations for the Presbytery's three year priorities:
 - a. Stewardship
 - b. Mission Development
 - c. Development of Networks
 - d. Congregational Development

Mission Support Grants

The Council **APPROVED**, by recommendation of the Mission Support Unit, the following matching grants from Peacemaking Funds:

1. Congo Helping Hands, \$150.00
2. Indianapolis-Fairview, \$1,500 for interfaith concert

OTHER ACTIONS APPROVED BY COUNCIL

1. That Synod Moderator, Robert Shaw, will be invited to attend a Presbytery or Council meeting and that time be docketed for him to speak (Kim Leech will follow up with Mr. Shaw).
2. That the Presbyterian Women be given permission to serve Communion during their retreat Feb. 24, 2007 at Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis with Rev. Rachel Wann serving as celebrant.
3. That the Executive Committee, with the assistance of the executive staff, prepare the March 3, 2007 Presbytery docket.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER REPORTSFinance Committee Report

Summarized Statements of Revenues and Expenditures for missions and operations. The Finance Committee reported they have approved up to \$4,500 for MIP training that will encourage maximum use of the software and increase our reporting capabilities.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee will meet February 12. They will review their annual schedule, how staff reviews are conducted and discuss some possible additions to the Personnel Policies.

Hispanic Ministries Lead Team -

1. A resolution thanking Ramone Celis for his service to the Presbytery will be read at the March 3 Presbytery meeting.
2. Evangelism Workshops have been scheduled for Feb. 27, Indianapolis-John Knox and March 2, Fort Wayne-Grace. The workshops will be led by the NQR Commission members but the content is not limited to Hispanic ministry outreach.

Missionary to Visit Presbytery

Felipe Martinez reported that, in conjunction with the PC(USA)'s Mission Challenge '07, a missionary will be visiting Presbytery in October 2007. The exact date will be determined. For more information regarding this challenge, visit the following website: www.pcusa.org/missionchallenge07/

Katherine L. Rieder
Whitewater Valley Presbytery
January 31, 2007

Statement of Faith

I have faith in God—the Triune God—One God in three Persons. In this God I put my trust—to this God I give my loyalty. I believe in God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I trust in Jesus the Christ, the surest revelation of God—God Incarnate, God Made Flesh, God With Us. In God's time, Christ came to earth and took human form. Through his earthly life and ministry, Jesus revealed to us God's true nature, and taught us how our human lives are meant to be lived. Through his death, Jesus brought us the means of salvation. Through his resurrection, Christ demonstrated God's sovereignty, and our hope for this world and the next.

I trust in God, the Creator, Maker of all things—God whom Jesus called, "Abba." God who reached out in love and brought the world, and us, into existence. God, who Holy Scripture teaches us reached out in covenant to people throughout history. God, mysterious and present, all-powerful and all-loving, who reaches out to us in grace even today.

But in spite of God's creative and caring love, we continue to turn away. We put our trust in our own structures, our own strength, our own creations. We participate in systems that destroy God's good creation—the very creation of which we are called to be stewards. We allow ourselves to be blind to our own sin—our rebellion and our inaction, our pride and our despair. For this reason Jesus Christ came among us. It was for our salvation that Christ lived, died, and was resurrected—the proof of the amazing, painful, and costly love given by a gracious God to an undeserving people. It was for us that the risen Christ sent his Spirit so that he would be with us always.

I trust in God's Holy Spirit, who was present at creation, and is our continuing source of God's teaching, vision, guidance, reproof, and comfort. It is this Spirit that allows us to pray, hear God's voice, understand scripture, navigate the difficulties of life, challenge injustice, and reach out to other human beings in loving relationship.

I believe that the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were established for us by Jesus Christ in order that we may know, experience, and better understand the gift of love and grace that God extends to us through the Holy Spirit.

In Baptism we are welcomed into the Body of Christ. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ. The water symbolizes God's faithfulness, being sealed in the Spirit, and death and new life in Christ, the Living Water. In the Lord's Supper, Christ invites us to come together at the table to remember Christ's dying, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and look forward in joy to Christ's coming again. In the sharing of the bread and cup, we draw closer to Christ and each other. We celebrate the love and forgiveness that is extended to us, and that we are called to extend to one another. This Holy Communion is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice, a time of fellowship of believers, and a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet to come.

I believe that The Bible is Holy Scripture and is the authoritative source of the revelation of God. Written down by people of faith, inspired and interpreted by the Holy Spirit, it is a reliable record of God's work, a testimony of God's actions, evidence of God's love, and proof of God's faithfulness.

I believe that Jesus Christ established the church to be the visible presence of God on earth. The church is commissioned to nurture the people of God, that through worship—prayer, preaching, and the sacraments—believers will become true disciples of Christ. As true disciples we will each show forth the love of God in our lives—our words and our actions. As Jesus called the disciples, taught them, and sent them out, so the church is called to gather in, equip, and send out messengers of the Gospel, to a world that hungers and thirsts for God.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Final Examination of Candidates for Ministry

Purpose for Questioning Candidates for Ordination

The examination of a candidate should be for the purpose of assessing the knowledge and information he/she possesses, to stimulate the candidate's thinking, and to determine the candidate's level of maturity in preparation for the ministry. It is a time to verify his/her understanding of the foundational truths of our faith, the identification and understanding of the importance or relevance of the three written components supporting our faith (Bible, Book of Confessions, and Book of Order). It is also an opportunity to reinforce the candidate's self concept by allowing and encouraging him/her to fully participate in, and contribute to the ongoing discussion of our faith. This means that the questions used need to be adapted to fit the purpose.

Given the time constraints, and in the realization that this is the last of the candidate's formal preparatory steps, while all forms of questioning are probably legitimate, it would seem to me that it would be most appropriate to limit questions to those which allow the candidate to demonstrate the ability to draw upon and apply the knowledge and understanding of the tenets of the Presbyterian faith acquired by his/her training, study, and life experiences. -- that the "rightness" or "wrongness" of answers can be determined through the logic, rationale and insight demonstrated in the candidate's responses.

We need to consider the quality of the questions we ask. Take time to read/study the candidate's Statement of Faith --carefully formulating questions clearly stated and avoiding ambiguity (What about the resurrection? Yeah, what about it?!) Questions also need to be singular in subject.

Avoid questions that are so complicated and detailed that they only serve to confuse the candidate when he/she attempts to identify what type of thinking operation the question calls for. Then there are the Gotcha' questions -- tricky or divisive. It is also a time to avoid questions that are too clinical, too intellectually detailed, deep philosophical/theological in nature. And above all, avoid speculative questions with little or no religious relevance.

Examples of Types of Questions to Consider

Yes/No type are not very productive unless they also expect words of affirmation, denial/rejection, elaboration on choice of response: (“Do you believe the Holy Spirit resides within all men?” “Is abortion wrong?”)

Construction type which requires information (scenario) from which the respondent is to construct an answer: (Young couple (strangers) want to have baby baptized. Mother was baptized and attended church up to age ten. Father has no religious background. What would be an appropriate response /course of action?)

Convergent type which stimulates explanation, association, iscrimination, formulation, and illustration.

Factual Recall type depends on the level of thinking required.

(NOT “Who was John Calvin?” BUT “What is the impact of John Calvin’s life on the reformed church?”)

Open type: Often gives opportunities for a wide range of responses that are considered acceptable.

(“If you wanted to establish an alternative form of worship, what elements would you include in it?)

Closed type: Using acquired information and/or knowledge.

(What must a man do to receive God’s forgiveness?)

Divergent type: Allowing the candidate to generate his/her own steps, processes, procedures.

(“How can a man modify his heart in order to...make it a suitable home for the Holy Spirit ...to allow him to express love for God -- his wife?)

Evaluative type: To explain a situation, propose a possible outcome

(may lead to justifying a position)

(Why would you say that a terminal illness/disease did not come from God.? What are some of your reasons for calling drug abuse a sin?)

Final Thoughts: Keep in mind when questioning a candidate it is appropriate to:

- Ask the candidate to expand on responses if he/she provides short or fragmentary answers.
- Ask the candidate to repeat and amplify if the response needs clarification.
- Ask the candidate to theologically justify a previous response. (“Upon what basis did you form this conclusion?”)
- Be willing to wait for thinking to take place. Allow the candidate to take the amount of time required for him to respond to the best of his ability.
- Avoid repeating the question unless the candidate requests it.

List of Possible Reformed Theology Questions for Candidates

1. What is your understanding of mission?
2. What is your understanding of the authority of scripture?
3. What is your understanding of grace?
4. What is your understanding of judgment?
5. What is your understanding of what it means to be “Reformed always reforming”?
6. Share three ways reformed tradition views atonement and share which one you prefer.
7. What do you value about John Calvin?
8. What do you value most in the reformed tradition?
9. What does your understanding of _____ have to do with your day-to-day care for the people of God?
10. What does baptism signify and share your understanding of the sacrament?
11. What would you include in a Eucharistic Prayer?
12. If God is sovereign, why does evil take place in the world?
13. What do Presbyterians mean when we say God is sovereign?
14. What do you believe about predestination/election?
15. Are human beings inherently good or inherently bad? Explain.
16. Why do Presbyterians engage in social ministry?
17. What does it mean that human beings are stewards of God’s creation?
18. What is your definition of the Church?
19. How does reformed theology deal with non-Christian religions?
20. If the chief end of God’s people is to glorify and enjoy God forever, how do we do that?
21. What’s the difference between the ordinations of elders, deacons, and ministers of Word and Sacrament?
22. How is Christ present in the Lord’s Supper and share your understanding of the sacrament?
23. Why is the Trinity monotheistic?
24. Why do Presbyterians value the Old Testament even though Jesus is not mentioned in it?
25. What is your understanding of the virgin birth?

SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY
JASON HUFF

Who am I? Before anything else, I am a sinner saved by grace. My world is colored by the knowledge that God's grace alone has made me who I am—I would be nothing without that grace. Though I have been a believer as long as I can remember, I know how easy it is to become entangled in the world and its cares. Who I am and how I act springs from my identity in Christ and my growing desire to serve him rather than myself.

I was born in 1974 in Marion, Indiana. After a few years of traveling with my father's jobs, we settled in Greenwood when I was six years old. Soon we joined Southport Presbyterian Church—the first church I remember. In these earliest years, my parents served as gentle guides to everyday Christian life, as did Clyde and Fern Weber, my second grade Sunday school teachers. I still remember them because of their great love for God and for those of us in their care. Not long after that class, I asked my mom what it meant to be a Christian and how to become one. I was nine years old. Although I don't remember the exact date, I remember telling my mom that it was "better than macaroni and cheese!"

Later, Southport's ministry team showed me the value of relationships in growing the Kingdom of God. I first related to Doug Garrard, whose smile was contagious. Later, I appreciated Henry Date, whose wisdom about God and way of expressing God's majesty and sovereignty really influenced me. Bob Amon challenged me to think through faith more thoroughly, and Kevin Bausman's evangelical spirit encouraged me. I also give credit to Barbara Kane and Paul Gearhart whose wit, charisma, and love made clear to me that God was real and that he was worth serving. My spiritual life would not be the same without the influence of these godly people.

Southport's youth group convinced me that I was loved and appreciated and showed me the truth of the gospel in action. It helped me grow in the faith and practice it in service, whether on a two-week mission trip to Mexico, helping with a VBS in Morris Fork, Kentucky, or playing with children at a women's shelter. These opportunities began to confirm my spiritual gifts in counseling, preaching, and teaching.

Although I had long felt the pull to Christian service, I resisted the idea of becoming a full-time pastor. I attended Taylor University planning to serve God through radio ministry; though that never materialized, what I learned in their communications program has helped me in many unexpected ways. After graduating with a Bible minor, I served as a missionary for a year in Rybinsk, Russia. This difficult trip challenged my faith, as I was separated from my fiancé and discouraged by a number of "closed doors." Nevertheless, the experience has had an enormous effect on my ministry since.

Shortly after my return, I married my wife Catha in 1996. I worked at Cellular One's Indianapolis call center, trying a "normal" career. However, ministry still beckoned. In 1999, we became a part of CrossRoads Church at Westfield; I led the worship team there until 2004 and was involved in its early development. My giftings in teaching, vision, and discernment were affirmed, and I was gently pushed to pursue the call to full-time pastoral ministry.

For several years, Catha and I considered how I should pursue my calling. Our son Jackson was born in 2003, and for a time I worked both for CrossRoads and for OMS International. After a long and difficult seminary search, we visited Asbury and immediately felt that the Spirit had led us there. We moved to Wilmore, KY in August 2004; I anticipate graduating this December.

On one level, I feel called to educate the people of God "within the pews" and to encourage them to fulfill the Great Commission, becoming disciples who make disciples. While this is my desire, God has led and matured me spiritually in small steps. I have often said that if I had known all of God's plans from the beginning, I doubt I would have followed them! So rather than insist that I must be a pastor in any given place, I want to serve the Lord wherever I am led in whatever tasks I am called to do, knowing that God safely holds my future.

Stated Clerk's Report

Items of Information

1. The Office of the General Assembly's legal department is encouraging all churches that engage in a mission work trip that involves transportation by van or car to carry insurance of a minimum of \$10 million. In the case of an automobile accident that results in death or a person being disabled for life, the liability costs would soar.
2. The question has arisen by several churches as to whether the clerk of session should be remunerated. Whereas this is a noble and generous intention, it simply is not a good idea due to conflict of interest issues. However, all churches are encouraged to identify meaningful and joyous ways to honor its paid staff and lay volunteers, who are the heart and soul of the typical congregation. A church that routinely praises and affirms its staff and members tends to be a happy church.
3. Ministers and sessions are reminded that a very high figure of housing allowance for the minister can be a red flag for the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS has stipulated that the lowest of these three categories should be the amount claimed on the tax return: 1.) The amount approved by the presbytery. 2.) The fair rental value of the house, with furnishings. 3.) The actual cost of maintaining the house, including mortgage and utilities; and expenses related to the upkeep of the house such as repairs and renovations. Contact Kim Leech if you have questions.

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
AS APPROVED BY THE 217TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2006)

REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY
MARCH 3, 2007

Attached are the recommendations of the Bills and Overtures committee for **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as Approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006)**

Unless otherwise noted, the Bills & Overtures Committee vote was unanimous.

Any Commissioner or Minister may pull any Proposed Amendment from the Consent Agenda by requesting debate on that specific Proposed Amendment.

Complying with action taken at the February 10, 1993 meeting of Presbytery and the Policy Manual of the Presbytery (Revised for New Design):

- 1) Bills & Overtures is requesting any group affected by a proposed amendment to submit its comments to the Presbytery meeting.
 - 2) Bills & Overtures is presenting a brief description of the proposed amendment and the rationale for its recommendation to approve or not approve the proposed amendment.
 - 3) ALL proposed amendments are motioned in the affirmative
- 06-A. Revision of Form of Government, Chapter XIV with Additional Amendments to Book of Order Preface and G-6.0500, G-6.0600, G-6.0700, G-9.0405, G-11.0405, G-11.0408 and G-11.0504
- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Item 05-11 A.1. | YES |
| Item 05-11 A.2. | YES |
- 06-B. Additional Proposed Amendments to Form of Government, Chapter XIV
- 06-B.1. Moving Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning Questions and Service Information to the Directory for Worship—On Amending G-14.0206 - .0209, G-14.0405, G-14.0510-.0511, G-14.0801g & h, and W-4.4000 (Item 05-11, B.1.)
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | YES |
|--|-----|
- 06-B.2. Adding Licensure of Candidates—On Amending G-14.0309 (Item 05-11 B.2.)
- | | |
|--|----|
| | NO |
|--|----|
- 06-B.3. Removing Synod Approval of Extraordinary Exam Process—On Amending G-14.0313b. (Item 05-11 B.3.)
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | YES |
|--|-----|
- 06-C. Enabling New General Assembly Council Structure—On Amending G-9.0703, G-13.0107, G-13.0201 and G-13.0202 (Item 08-08)
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | YES |
|--|-----|
- 06-D. Opening COM to Access by Commissioned Lay Pastors—On Amending G-11.0503 (Item 05-05)
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | YES |
|--|-----|
- 06-E. Members of the Synod—On Amending G-12.0101 (Item 05-01)
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | YES |
|--|-----|
- 06-F. Naming Certified Christian Educators as Mandated Reporters—On Amending G-14.0701 (Item 12-03)
- | | |
|--|----|
| | NO |
|--|----|

Kim's Meandering Comments as a Preface for the Report To Assist the Presenters of the Bills and Overtures Committee

One of the most valued aspects of the polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the process of presbytery ratification of the proposed amendments to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The proposed amendments before this presbytery were approved by 217th General Assembly; and all of the members of this committee were commissioners to that assembly. It takes a simple majority of the presbyteries on each proposed amendment for adoption. Currently there are 172 PC(U.S.A.) presbyteries.

The proposed amendments of the 217th General Assembly (2006) are before this presbytery for its votes. I hope that all commissioners have come prepared by studying not only the booklet of amendments, but also the very helpful resource provided by the Association of Stated Clerks. This year's amendments are a rather different lot compared to the past. To everyone's relief, there is an absence of controversial amendments about the standards for ordained office. However, the most dramatic and somewhat confusing amendments are regarding a major revamping of Chapter 14 of the Book of Order. Currently Chapter 14 is the product of an almost endless array of amendments over the years and has become a complicated and sometimes confusing multitude of laws and stipulations. Because Chapter 14 was in dire need of simplification and being more "user friendly", the Assembly felt that this set of amendments—'tho not perfect—is a good product. Please note that the General Assembly vote was a strong signal that Chapter 14 must be modified. The major theme and purpose of the proposed amendments to Chapter 14 are to grant more flexibility and authority to presbyteries to design the processes, in the form of a presbytery handbook, for carrying out its work. For example, the section regarding temporary pastoral relationships, —currently in G-14.0513—would have greater clarity about presbytery policy.

As you will note from the committee's recommendations, there are two proposed amendments which the committee thinks are cause for concern. Amendment 06-B-2, Adding Licensure to Candidates, raises some issues that are not immediately observed at first reading. Whereas the amendment 06-F, Naming Certified Christian Educators as Mandated Reporters, seems to be quite logical and appropriate, but the committee holds a view that it simply is not a necessary addition to the Book of Order.

ASSOCIATION OF STATED CLERKS

***Analysis of Amendments to the Constitution
Proposed by the 217th General Assembly (2006)***

November 2006

INTRODUCTION

As in prior years, the Association of Stated Clerks is publishing this *Analysis of Amendments* to assist presbyteries in studying and acting on the amendments proposed by this year's General Assembly.

Our effort has been to present all arguments made in favor of and against each amendment both in meetings of the assembly committee that considered the overture leading to the amendment and in the floor of the General Assembly. It is not our role to make a recommendation either in favor of or against any amendment.

Many presbyteries provide copies of this booklet to their committees responsible for making a recommendation on presbytery action, and we have been told that this has assisted those committees as they have done their work. We are glad that these materials are used in that way. Please note that you are free to use them as you wish. We assert no copyright and do not require advance approval of their use.

2006 has been remarkable for the absence of partisan debate on any of the proposed amendments. We hope this spirit of tranquility will persist.

Thanks to the ASC members who diligently attended committee meetings and provided information about what the pros and cons of each amendment were.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Frank B. Baldwin
Presbytery of Philadelphia

Amendment 06-A
Revision of Form of Government, Chapter XIV
with Additional Amendments to Book of Order Preface
and G-6.0500, G-6-0600, G-6.0700, G-9.0405,
G-11.0405 G-11.0408 and G-11.0405

Background

The 216th General Assembly (2004) directed the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) to engage in consultations across the denomination about the desire for revisions to the Form of Government. These consultations led to a recommendation by the 217th General Assembly (2006) that a task force be appointed to draft a proposal for a simplified Form of Government, a proposal for an immediate simplification of Chapter XIV, which is Amendment 06-A.1, related amendments to other parts of the Form of Government, which are amendment 06-A.2, and a proposal for six other amendments to Chapter XIV, which are Amendment 06-B.

Amendment 06-A.1

Brief Description

Amendment 06-A.1 proposes a simplification of Chapter XIV of the Form of Government to provide more flexibility to presbyteries in candidacy and minister placements. It is not intended to make any substantive change in Chapter XIV or the practices that have grown up under it.

Amendments 06-A-2.a adds provisions relating to advisory handbooks "to guide synods and presbyteries in procedures related to the oversight of ministry." These are to be developed by GA agencies, in consultation with the OGA and middle governing bodies. Their use is commended, but not mandatory

Amendment 06-A.2.b moves language relating to dissolution of the relationship of elder or deacon to a new section G-6.0500.

Amendment 06-A.2.c moves provisions relating to release from the exercise of ordained office to a new section G-6.0600.

Amendment 06-A.2.d moves provisions relating to employment of a minister of another denomination in a temporary relationship to a new section G-11.0405c.

Amendment 06-A.2.e makes existing section G-11.0408 subsection a of G-11.0408 and moves provisions relating to a call to a validated ministry to new subsections b and c of G-11.0408.

Assembly Action

The proposed amendments were considered by the Assembly Committee on Church polity, which approved them by a vote of 40/6/1. The committee's recommendation was approved by the General Assembly by a show of hands.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- The amendments within 06-A make no substantive change in existing provisions and practices.
- The proposed amendment responds to the call of the Church for simplification and condensation of Chapter XIV.
- The revision allows flexibility and restores much of the decision making to presbyteries.
- The revision consolidates provisions relating to certification and makes them uniform.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

- Rather than developing their own policies and procedures, presbyteries would become dependent on "“advisory handbooks”" written by GA entities. This would give the GA entities authority to make changes that are implemented by governing bodies without approval by any governing body.
- Presbyteries need the standardized processes and procedures that the current Chapter XIV provides.

Amendment 06-B.1

Brief Description

Amendment 06-B.1 moves ordination, installation and commissioning questions to a new section W-4.0400 of the Directory for Worship, noting that all of the questions, except the final one which is office-specific, are identical. It also states in a uniform manner other provisions relating to the service of ordination and installation.

Assembly Action

This amendment was referred to the Assembly Committee on Church Polity, which approved it by a unanimous vote. The General Assembly approved the committee's recommendation by a show of hands.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- Placing this material in the Directory for Worship embodies the theological teaching that ordination and installation of officers must always occur in the context of worship.
- Ordination is to function, and everyone being ordained answers the same questions, except for the final one, which is directed to each office individually.
- Having all of the information concerning ordinations, installations and commissioning in one location would simplify planning the services.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

None were expressed.

Amendment 06-B.2

Brief Description

Amendment 06-B.2 reinstates the old concept of licensure, but restricts it to licensure of candidates who have the preparation process, except for passing all ordination examinations.

Assembly Action

The proposed amendment was referred to the Assembly Committee on Church Polity, which unanimously recommended approval. The General Assembly approved the committee's recommendation by a show of hands.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- Licensure allows candidates to have hands-on experience while preparing to finish their exams outside the academic setting. Since the exams are designed to test assimilation of academic training with pastoral sense, this experience may aid them in passing the exams.
- This amendment allows presbyteries to allow qualified candidates to administer the sacraments. This will allow candidates to pastor small congregations, where they may remain for a few years even after they are ordained.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

None were expressed.

Amendment 06-B.3

Brief Description

Amendment 06-B.3 removes the requirement of synod approval of a presbytery's alternate examination procedures for candidates who have failed one or more examinations twice or have a documented disability.

Assembly Action

The proposed amendment was referred to the Assembly Committee on Church Polity, which unanimously recommended approval. The General Assembly approved the committee's recommendation by a show of hands.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- The amendment restores final approval of alternate ordination exams to presbyteries, where it belongs.
- The requirement of synod approval creates a bureaucratic delay in a candidate's progress, without being a safeguard of the process.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

None were expressed.

Amendment 06-C

Enabling a New General Assembly Council Structure **On Amending G-9.0703, G-13.0107 and G-13.0202**

Brief Description

The General Assembly Council (GAC) completed a self-evaluation in 2003, reaching the conclusion that the GAC needed a closer relationship with middle governing bodies and congregations and that its size was too large. In addition, the move to biennial assemblies has changed terms of office and altered the functions of the GAC. This amendment proposes changes in the structure of the GAC that are responsive to the conclusions of the self-evaluation.

Background

The amendment seeks to make the GAC more responsive to middle governing bodies and congregations by reducing its size and emphasizing cooperation and communication with presbytery and synod executives. The new structure also is intended to support the four goal areas that are now the structure of the General Assembly's Mission Work Plan. It removes from the GAC its oversight and coordination responsibilities and redirects it toward providing resources to support the work of middle governing bodies. Specifically, G-9.0703 is amended to remove the requirement that the GAC concur in the election of executives of General Assembly agencies; G-13.0201 is amended to provide that each synod will name a member of the GAC and all the GA permanent committees and to eliminate GAC responsibility for coordinating the work of GA agencies and lower governing bodies, GAC review of the work of GA agencies and bodies, budget preparation, and matters relating to administrative staff, compensation, and personnel policies at the GA and middle governing body levels. It amends G-13.0202 to grant to the General Assembly responsibility for the membership, terms of office, and officers of the GAC, eliminating the specification of voting members previously in this section and moving them to a GAC Manual of Operations.

Assembly Action

The proposed amendment was approved by a show of hands in the Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination. The General Assembly approved the committee's recommendation by a show of hands.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- The amendment realigns the GAC's role consistently with the move away from a top-heavy denominational structure toward a structure centered in the presbyteries.
- The reduced size of the GAC will enable it to work more efficiently and with greater accountability.
- The amendment eliminates the role of the GAC in the election of executives of General Assembly agencies, as well as its responsibilities for administrative staff, compensation, and personnel policies.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

- The amendment takes away GAC responsibilities without assigning them elsewhere. It is likely that the responsibilities will be assumed by the Louisville staff, rather than by elected officers.
- By removing the requirements that govern the composition of the GAC from the *Form of Government* to a Manual of Operations, these requirements will no longer be subject to review and approval of the presbyteries.
- It is not clear that each GA committee needs a representative from each synod.

Amendment 06-D Opening COM to Access by Commissioned Lay Pastors On Amending G-11.0503

Brief Description

Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP) serve the function as minister to a particular congregation. The CLP, although an elder, may not be a member of the session of the church he or she is serving. The amendment provides access by the CLP to the committee on ministry on the same basis as elders who are members of sessions and ministers.

Assembly Action

The proposed amendment was approved by a show of hands in the Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination. The General Assembly approved the committee's recommendation by a show of hands.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- The amendment corrects an oversight that was made when CLP provisions were added to Book of Order.
- It is appropriate for the Committee on Ministry to have the same relationship with commissioned lay pastors and ministers serving a particular congregation.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

None were expressed.

Amendment 06-E Members of the Synod On Amending G-12.0101

Background

The *Book of Order* permits presbyteries to enroll officers, committee chairpersons and council members during their respective terms of office. The synods have lacked this authority. This amendment allows persons in the specified positions to have voice and vote at synod meetings.

Assembly Action

The proposed amendment was approved by unanimous vote of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity and as part of the consent agenda of the General Assembly.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- The amendment grants authority to synods to enroll officers, committee chairpersons and council members as voting members of the synod during their terms of office.
- This measure gives voice and vote to a group of ministers and elders who are actively engaged in the work of the synod.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

None were expressed.

Amendment 06-F
Naming Certified Christian Educators as Mandated Reporters
On Amending G-14.0701

Brief Description

Amendment 06-F would mandate certified Christian educators and certified associate Christian educators in the course of their service to report to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities harm or risk of harm, abuse, or neglect of a minor or of an adult who lacks mental capacity, "when such information is gained outside of a privileged communication" or when the reporting person "reasonably believes there is risk of future physical harm or abuse."

Background

In the shadow of public revelations of clergy abuse in the national media, the 216th General Assembly (2004) approved, as did a majority of presbyteries, the inclusion in Form of Government Chapter VI sentences mandating ministers of Word and Sacrament, elders, and deacons to report abuse or neglect of a minor or of an adult who lacks mental capacity. Amendment 06-F would extend that mandated reporting responsibility to certified Christian educators and certified associate Christian educators. The inclusion of certified Christian educators and certified associate Christian educators as mandated reporters recognizes that it is ethically consistent for them to adhere to the same reporting standards as church officers in that they serve in the same environment and often have more contact and supervision of the children, minors and adults who lack mental capacity than many church officers.

Assembly Action

The Assembly Committee on Church Growth and Christian Education recommended approval of this amendment by a vote of 36/6/4. The General Assembly approved the committee's recommendation by a vote of 440/18/4.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- Once the tragic damage that can flow from abuse and neglect by even one person was more widely seen, the church through amendment of its Constitution responded by mandating minister of Word and Sacrament, elders and deacons to report "... *harm, or risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when (1) such information is gained outside of privileged communication; or (2) he or she reasonably believes that there is risk of future physical harm or abuse.*" This reporting responsibility should be extended by amendment 06-F to include Certified Christian Educators and certified associate Christian educators for the same reasons.
- The church's ministry of love in Christ's name minimally includes the protection from harm of children and others who are at risk of abuse and neglect in the community.
- This amendment gives structure and responsibility to persons called and employed in congregations and governing bodies to report suspected wrongful behaviors thus extending the care of the church to the most vulnerable of God's children and making the church's intent to do so more visible.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

- Many states already have laws that require persons working with children, minors, or adults who lack mental capacity to report suspected abuse or neglect to a state authority thus making this amendment redundant and unnecessary.
- All citizens have the right and responsibility to report suspected child or mentally limited adult or elderly adult abuse or neglect to civil authorities. Similarly, church members and officers may report suspected abuse or neglect to church authorities.
- The targeted group, certified Christian educators and certified associate Christian educators, includes some persons who are not Presbyterians and are, therefore, not under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the PC(USA).
- Certified Christian educators, unlike other mandated reporters, are not officers of the church by reason of such a position and are not bound by ordination vows. They have no argument that a communication with them is privileged.

Whitewater Valley Presbytery**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures***From 1/1/2006 Through 12/31/2006***Missions**

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> | <u>Total Budget</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance | 108,242 | | | |
| <u>Mission Income</u> | | | | |
| Interest Income | 31,407 | 20,000 | 11,407 | 20,000 |
| Shared Missions | 310,503 | 326,000 | (15,497) | 326,000 |
| Extra Commitment Gifts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Advocate - FS | 19,500 | 24,000 | (4,500) | 24,000 |
| Bridge Builder - FM | 10,000 | 16,000 | (6,000) | 16,000 |
| Mission Reserves | 0 | 40,000 | (40,000) | 40,000 |
| Total Income | 371,410 | 426,000 | (54,590) | 426,000 |
| <u>Mission Programs</u> | | | | |
| Executive Staff | 226,793 | 265,922 | 39,129 | 265,922 |
| Presbytery Missions | 116,882 | 111,000 | (5,882) | 111,000 |
| Mission Partnerships | 24,550 | 24,440 | (110) | 24,440 |
| Service Delivery Teams | 4,057 | 8,000 | 3,943 | 8,000 |
| Networks | 583 | 1,500 | 917 | 1,500 |
| Congregational Development | 4,644 | 7,000 | 2,356 | 7,000 |
| Committee on Ministry | 4,404 | 3,500 | (904) | 3,500 |
| Preparation for Ministry | 4,325 | 4,500 | 175 | 4,500 |
| New Church Development | 0 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Total Mission Programs | 386,238 | 428,862 | 42,624 | 428,862 |
| Net Income/Expense | (14,828) | (2,862) | (11,966) | (2,862) |
| Ending Fund Balance | 93,414 | | | |

Whitewater Valley Presbytery**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures***From 1/1/2006 Through 12/31/2006***Operations**

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> | <u>Total Budget</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance | (42,480) | | | |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| Per Capita | 319,024 | 327,000 | (7,976) | 327,000 |
| Interest Income | 14,323 | 13,500 | 823 | 13,500 |
| Total Income | 333,347 | 340,500 | (7,153) | 340,500 |
| <u>Expense</u> | | | | |
| Administrative Staff | 169,117 | 167,819 | (1,298) | 167,819 |
| Office Space | 32,935 | 34,272 | 1,337 | 34,272 |
| Office Operations | 44,036 | 38,800 | (5,236) | 38,800 |
| Ecc/Comm/Pby/Council | 10,327 | 18,050 | 7,723 | 18,050 |
| Stated Clerk/Treasurer Dept. | 39,709 | 24,500 | (15,209) | 24,500 |
| Executive Travel | 18,859 | 26,500 | 7,641 | 26,500 |
| AEP/Stated Clerk | 11,941 | 17,000 | 5,059 | 17,000 |
| Total Expense | 326,924 | 326,941 | 17 | 326,941 |
| Net Income/Expense | 6,423 | 13,559 | (7,136) | 13,559 |
| Ending Fund Balance | (36,057) | | | |