

N E W  H O P E
Presbyterian Church

46TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY | *Highlights, June 2018*

1,484 commissioners (1,172 Teaching Elders, 312 Ruling Elders)
meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

The theme of the Assembly was “Love God and Neighbor.” The Assembly continued for another year electronic voting, though the use of the keypad continues to be something of a challenge to commissioners, especially early in the Assembly. Video recordings of sessions can be found here:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/8521918/events/8226818>

WEDNESDAY

Opening Worship

- Outgoing moderator, Dr. Alexander Jun, ruling elder of New Life Mission Church, Fullerton, CA, offered a meditation on “Gospel Neighboring” from the parable of the good Samaritan.

New Moderator

- Dr. Irwyn Ince, a teaching elder in Potomac Presbytery and the director of the GraceDC Network Institute for Cross-Cultural Mission, was elected as Moderator. He is the first African-American elected to the position. Dr. Ince led the Assembly with poise, humility and good humor.

Report of the Stated Clerk

- The proposed BCO amendment (proposing to increase the quorum of a congregation meeting called to consider a proposal to withdraw from the PCA) sent down by the 45th GA for consideration failed to gain the requisite 2/3 support of the Presbyteries (for, 44; against, 30).
- Statistics reported:
 - * total membership, 374,736 (increase of 575);
 - * churches, 1,568 (increase of 23);
 - * ministers, 4,882 (increase of 212); and
 - * presbyteries, 86 (adding 1).

Interchurch Relations

- The Assembly was introduced to Fraternal Delegates, Corresponding Delegates, and Ecclesiastical Observers. Unfortunately, though these brothers were physically present, their greetings were conveyed through a video. The problem verbose guests should not lead us to confine all to a pixelated prison.

Review of Presbytery Records

- Potomac Presbytery’s minutes passed without exception.
- All of the recommendations proposed by CRPR were approved. However, a recommendation with respect to the minutes of Georgia Foothills, concerning a judicial case, and a recommendation with respect to the minutes of Calvary, concerning a presbytery’s right to forbid the teaching of an approved exception to the doctrinal standards, were debated vigorously, the latter through a Minority Report from the Committee.

THURSDAY

Assembly-wide Seminar

- “*Ad Interim* Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation.” In a well-filled hall a panel consisting of the members of the Committee provided a detailed review of the Committee’s work, discussing

the issues considered, summarizing the narrative portion of the Committee's report, and offering an explanation of the recommendations the Committee made to the Assembly. There was ample time for questions from the audience and responses from the committee. See "Selected Acts & Deliverances," APPENDIX 2: "Ad Interim Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation".

A list of all Assembly seminars can be found here:

<http://www.pcaac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Seminar-Schedule-5-25-18.pdf>

and recordings can be purchased here:

<http://www.barkerproductions.net/shop.asp?action=cat&catID=30123>

Committee on Constitutional Business

- CCB reported that it had examined the minutes of the Standing Judicial Commission and they were found to be in order without exception or notations.

Nominations Committee

- Almost all Committee nominations prevailed.

Standing Judicial Commission

- 21 matters before the court this year ('16, 7 cases; '17, 13 cases; '18, 1 case). The SJC found 4 cases out of order; 2 cases were withdrawn; 1 case was abandoned; 13 cases were reported. There were no minority reports. The Assembly approved 6 amendments to the Operating Manual of the SJC.
- Dr. Carl Ellis was elected to the SJC, the first African-American to serve on the Commission.

Overtures Committee

- The committee reported on 30 Overtures, enjoying leadership from TE Bruce O'Neil, senior pastor of Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, MD. There was one minority report filed favoring the Overtures seeking to make Chapter 59 of "The Directory for the Public Worship of God" constitutional. However before the report could be heard the whole matter was recommitted, and thereafter the Committee returned recommending a much-abbreviated affirmative answer that had been adopted by the Committee 100-1. The Assembly approved of the new proposal by a large margin. All other recommendations were approved. For more on the Assembly's actions on the Overtures see "Selected Acts & Deliverances".

Mission to the World

- Approved November 4 as a day of prayer for the persecuted church worldwide and November 2018 as a month of prayer for global missions.¹

Mission to North America

- All presbytery boundaries Overtures were approved.

Administrative Committee

- Approved all budgets, "partnership shares," and "ministry asks".

Worship

- TE Joe Novenson, Sr. Teaching Pastor of Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church, preached on the theme "The Help We Need to Love Like Jesus Might Hurt Us Like Heaven" from Eph. 4:17-24.

FRIDAY

Devotional

- TE Randy Pope, founding pastor and lead teacher of Perimeter Church in Johns Creek, Georgia.

Committee on Thanks

- Continued a tradition of long-standing: without peer, the best report of the Assembly!

¹ Resources for participation in both of these events will be found on the MTW website.