

219 th General Assembly (July 2-10, 2010)

Elder Cynthia Bolbach

Moderator, 219th General Assembly

The Rev. Gradye Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

The Rev. Landon Whitsitt

Vice Moderator, 219th General Assembly

Elder Linda Bryant Valentine

Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

Ordination

The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240;

G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, (local option)needs approved by

presbyteries

Same Sex Marriage

The General Assembly approved both the Final Report and the Minority Report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage and ordered they be sent out for study by the wider church. The vote was 439 in favor, 208 against, **with 6 abstentions.**

NFog

The revised Form of Government must now be considered, and approved by a majority of presbyteries, before July 10, 2011, in order to replace the existing Form of Government.

Caterpillar

Strongly denounces Caterpillar's continued profit-making from non-peaceful uses of a number of its products on the basis of Christian principles and as a matter of social witness;

Middle East

An immediate cessation of all violence, whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians;

The reaffirmation of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders;

The end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories;

An immediate freeze on the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and on the Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land and buildings in East Jerusalem;

Middle Governing Bodies

Presbyteries and synods wishing to realign their structures or boundaries may request such actions from the commission and make those changes without having to wait until the 220th General Assembly (2012) for approval.

HIV/AIDS

Among the items approved by the Assembly was an overture encouraging all Presbyterians, especially pastors and church leaders, to be tested for HIV to help eliminate the stigma associated with such testing

Board of Pensions

Approve Alternate Resolution with Comment

Alternate Resolution: That the 219th General Assembly (2010): 1. Urge the Board of Pensions to adopt amendments to the Benefits Plan to extend eligibility for spousal and dependent benefits under the Plan to Benefits Plan members, their same-gender domestic partners, and the children of their same-gender domestic partners, on the same basis as, and equivalent to, benefits made available to Benefits Plan members, their spouses, and the children of their spouses. 2. Approve an increase in dues for the Benefits Plan of up to 1 percent, effective January 1, 2012, to be allocated among the plans of the Board of Pensions, including but not limited to the Pension Plan, as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems necessary to fund the cost of the additional benefits. Should the Board not implement these benefits for any reason, approval of the increase in dues is rescinded. Comment: That the Board of Pensions be highly urged to provide relief of conscience, to be implemented simultaneously with these actions, for those congregations for whom these actions cause a moral dilemma.

Interim Pastor Succession (disapproved)

An interim associate pastor may become the next installed associate pastor by a two-thirds vote of the presbytery.”

Gracious Dismissal (approved)

4. Instruct the Office of the General Assembly to invite other presbyteries who have established gracious dismissal policies (congregations) to submit their policy to be posted on the middle governing bodies website along with the San Francisco policy.

Baptism Change (disapproved)

“The Baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith ***and God pronounces that he adopts our infants as his children, before they are born.***¹

“1. (John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, IV:15:20)”

Belhar Confession to be sent to presbyteries for approval.