

## ACTIONS OF THE 218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008) FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 218th General Assembly (2008) addressed some actions to various parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): governing bodies, synods, presbyteries, sessions, congregations, the whole church, and PC(USA) related seminaries and theological institutions.

The following statements do not contain the entire action. Please refer to the *Minutes* of the General Assembly for an in-depth review of these actions, which will soon be posted to the following website (as a pdf file): <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/publications.htm>. Scroll down to the middle of the page where it says “Minutes of the General Assembly.” You can also click on the link in each section to go to that item in PC-biz, the electronic system for accessing GA business.

If you have questions, please send an email to [kay.moore@pcusa.org](mailto:kay.moore@pcusa.org).

### GOVERNING BODIES, MIDDLE GOVERNING BODIES

#### Item 07-02

##### ***On Response to an Invitation to Interfaith Dialogue. (Item 07-02)***

Support *A Common Word Between Us and You*, an invitation to dialogue and cooperation from 138 Muslim clerics, and to commend this document to our congregations, governing bodies, and seminaries for study and consideration as a primary source for engaging in substantive interfaith dialogue.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1469>

#### Item 07-07, recommendation 5

##### ***On Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities.***

Encourage PC(USA) governing bodies at all levels to advocate for human rights and civil rights protections for Muslims; identify areas where the civil rights of Muslims may be violated and work to counteract such violation.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1725>

#### Item 08-20

##### ***An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission. (Item 08-20)***

Invite sessions, middle governing bodies, seminaries, General Assembly Council ministries areas, and all PC(USA)-related mission organizations to affirm and adopt the invitation.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1617>

#### Item 09-20, recommendation 3

##### ***Affirming the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture, and Cruelty.***

Encourage individuals, congregations, and middle governing bodies to lift up our commitment to human rights, the elimination of torture, and to ethical standards in interrogation.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2127>

#### Item 10-05, recommendation 15

##### ***Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness.***

Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, stated clerks of the middle governing bodies, stated clerks of the local sessions, and individual Presbyterians to do items listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1619&promoID=23>

#### Item 13-07

##### ***Resolution to Study the Belhar Confession for Inclusion in the Confessional Documents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)***

Urge all Presbyterians in congregations, middle governing bodies, and other entities related to the PC(USA) to engage in study, prayer, reflection, and discernment, of the Belhar Confession and the Report of the Task Force to Study Reparations.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1641&promoID=35>

### **Item 13-11**

#### ***Participate in the Calvin Jubilee (Item 13-11)***

Call upon the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and all of its governing bodies and congregations to actively participate in the Calvin Jubilee in 2009

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1911&promoID=87>

## **SYNODS**

### **Item 04-28, recommendation 2**

#### ***Commissioners' Resolution. On Urging a Gracious, Pastoral Response to Churches Requesting Dismissal from the PC(USA).***

Urges congregations considering leaving the denomination, presbyteries, and synods to implement a process for dismissal using principles listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2137>

### **Item 09-07, recommendation 2**

#### ***From Homelessness to Hope: Constructing Just, Sustainable Communities for All God's People***

Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, and other church-related entities to pursue comprehensive responses to the crisis of homelessness and affordable housing.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1623&promoID=25>

### **Item 09-08, recommendations 2.n. and 3.c.**

#### ***God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation.***

That Presbyterian retirement centers review criteria for residence to assure that women are not disadvantaged; urge synods, presbyteries, congregations, and individuals to advocate for local, state, and federal legislation that support these policies.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1639&promoID=32>

### **Item 09-09, recommendation 6**

#### ***A Social Creed for the Twenty-First Century and Recognition of the Centennial of the "Social Creed of the Churches" of 1908.***

Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, seminaries, and colleges related to the church to study and discuss the "Social Creed," and to do so jointly when possible with ecumenical partners.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1629&promoID=27>

### **Item 09-10, recommendation 3.a.**

#### ***The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming. (Item 09-10, recommendation 3.a.)***

Urges synods and presbyteries to become models of energy-efficient institutions and proponents of renewable energy.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1537&promoID=10>

### **Item 09-14, recommendations 1.a.(3) and 2.c.(3))**

#### ***Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform.***

Urge presbyteries, synods, and ecumenical ministries—national, regional, and local—to advocate and support the positions in this resolution as well within their witness for the common good in a democratic society; support and encourage presbyteries and synods in monitoring local and state election laws, registration laws, and the use of voting machines.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1631&promoID=28>

### **Item 09-15, recommendations 4.f. and 10**

#### ***Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future.***

Commend the synods of the impacted areas for administering funds raised by PDA for pastor and church staff salary support; urge individual Presbyterians, congregations, presbyteries and synods, as able, to support these and other equitable reconstruction policies on all levels of government, especially state and local.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1767&promoID=44>

**Item 09-21, recommendation 7**

***Commissioners' Resolution. On Local Enforcement of National Immigration Laws that Adversely Affect Local Congregations.***

Call upon churches, presbyteries, and synods to closely work with youth who are living with a sense of hopelessness due to lack of a legal status.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2139>

**Item 11-14, recommendation 3**

***On Endorsing the "Publish What You Pay" Campaign***

Call synods, presbyteries, and congregations to advocate for the mandatory disclosure of net taxes, fees, royalties, and other payments made by extractive industry companies.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=525>

**Item 11-19, recommendations 1, 5, and 6**

***Commitment to Peacemaking***

Commends those sessions, presbyteries, synods, and other entities that have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking;" urges presbyteries and synods also to consider adopting the "Commitment to Peacemaking" in forms appropriate to those governing bodies and commends those governing bodies that have done so; commends the sixty-four presbyteries and six synods that have 50 percent or more of their congregations whose sessions have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking."

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1553>

**Item 12-01**

***Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations. (Item 12-01)***

Encourage presbyteries and synods to help the church to reach the goals established by the 1998 Racial Ethnic Immigrant Evangelism Church Growth Strategy.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1557>

**Item 12-02**

***Grow God's Church—Deep and Wide (Item 12-02)***

Encourage synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit to foster the growth of Christ's Church Deep and Wide in the listed areas.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1561>

## **PRESBYTERIES**

**Item 04-28, recommendation 2**

***Commissioners' Resolution. On Urging a Gracious, Pastoral Response to Churches Requesting Dismissal from the PC(USA).***

Urges congregations considering leaving the denomination, presbyteries, and synods to implement a process for dismissal using principles listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2137>

**Item 05-03**

***On Directing the Stated Clerk to Collect and/or Develop Models of Examination Procedures (Item 05-03)***

Commend presbyteries and sessions that have incorporated serious theological reflection and prayerful discernment into their examination procedures, as recommended by the 217th General Assembly (2006).

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1431>

**Item 05-09**

***On Deleting G-6.0106b and Substituting a New Paragraph in Its Place; on Amending G-14.0240 and G-14.0450; and on Providing a New Authoritative Interpretation.***

Interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 119th General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations

thereof, have no further force or effect. *Comment:* Presbyteries are strongly encouraged to consider this overture using a process of listening and discernment.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1461>

#### **Item 05-12**

##### ***On Adopting an Authoritative Interpretation of G-6.0108 to Ensure Proper Application of Ordination Standards.***

Affirms the authoritative interpretation of G-6.0108 approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006); interprets the requirements of G-6.0108 to apply equally to all ordination standards; requires examining bodies to give prayerful consideration to any departure from an ordination standard; the examining body is not required to accept a departure from standards, and cannot excuse a candidate's inability to perform the constitutional functions unique to his or her office (such as administration of the sacraments).

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1497>

#### **Item 07-07, recommendation 4**

##### ***On Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities.***

Encourage and provide resources to presbyteries and local congregations to improve good relations and mutual understanding between Presbyterians and Muslims at the local level for the same reasons.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1725>

#### **Item 07-13**

##### ***Transfer of Ministers and Congregations to Transitional Presbyteries.***

1. Advise the presbyteries that they must satisfy themselves concerning the conformity with this denomination of a transitional presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) in matters of doctrines and order; Presbyteries may facilitate the exploration of conformity by means of an administrative commission; 2. Presbyteries may dismiss minister members to transitional presbyteries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) under the provisions of G-15.0202, provided that they have determined that such transitional presbyteries properly have jurisdiction over the work to which the dismissed minister is called; presbyteries should honor their pastoral obligation to the minister requesting dismissal by informing him or her of the General Assembly's grave concerns over the uncertainty and impermanence of the transitional presbyteries of the EPC.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1871&promoID=72>

#### **Item 09-01, recommendation 3**

##### ***On the Church Addressing Intergenerational Injustice in America (Item 09-01, recommendation 3)***

Call on Presbyterians, sessions, presbyteries, and agencies of General Assembly to study, pray, and speak words of justice and morality into the present situation and to defend future generations who have no defense.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=511>

#### **Item 09-07, recommendation 2**

##### ***From Homelessness to Hope: Constructing Just, Sustainable Communities for All God's People.***

Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, and other church-related entities to pursue comprehensive responses to the crisis of homelessness and affordable housing.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1623&promoID=25>

#### **Item 09-08, recommendations 2.b., 2.n., and 3.c.**

##### ***God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation.***

That presbyteries participate in the PC(USA)'s goal of assuring gender equity in pay by doing items listed; that Presbyterian retirement centers review criteria for residence to assure that women are not disadvantaged; urging synods, presbyteries congregations, and individuals to advocate for local, state, and federal legislation that support these policies.

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##### ***A Social Creed for the Twenty-First Century and Recognition of the Centennial of the "Social Creed of the Churches" of 1908.***

Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, seminaries, and colleges related to the church to study and discuss the “Social Creed,” and to do so jointly when possible with ecumenical partners.

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***The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming.***

Urge synods and presbyteries to become models of energy-efficient institutions and proponents of renewable energy by doing items listed.

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***Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future.***

Commend the synods of the impacted areas for administering funds raised by PDA for pastor and church staff salary support; urge individual Presbyterians, congregations, presbyteries and synods, as able, to support these and other equitable reconstruction policies on all levels of government, especially state and local.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1767&promoID=44>

**Item 09-19, recommendation 3**

***Response to Smithfield Food Labor Situation.***

Commend the representatives of the presbyteries and the management and labor representatives for their willingness to engage in dialogue and provide information in order to obtain a better understanding of each other’s perspectives and that of the church.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1935&promoID=93>

**Item 09-21, recommendation 7**

***Commissioners’ Resolution. On Local Enforcement of National Immigration Laws that Adversely Affect Local Congregations.***

Call upon churches, presbyteries, and synods to closely work with youth who are living with a sense of hopelessness due to lack of a legal status.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2139>

**Item 10-05, recommendations 6, 7, and 8**

***Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness***

Urge the presbyteries to do items listed; urge committees on preparation for ministry (CPMs), in consultation with the Office of Vocation of the General Assembly Council (GAC) and the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), to do items listed; encourage committees on ministry (COMs) to do items listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1619&promoID=23>

**Item 11-09**

***Regarding Assistance for Iraqi Refugees.***

Encourage churches and presbyteries to welcome Iraqi refugees within their region, sponsoring and assisting in their resettlement.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1417>

**Item 11-10, recommendation 14**

***On Building Peace in Iraq.***

Call upon all presbyteries, congregations, and members within the PC(USA) to intentionally, personally, and concretely work to bring healing, peace, justice, and care to all affected by the war in Iraq.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1473>

**Item 11-11, recommendation 3**

***On Addressing the Violence and Suffering Inflicted on Iraqi Women During the Current Prolonged War.***

Encouraging all sessions and presbyteries, as well as women's and men's organizations within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to engage in study, prayer, and dialogue about the issues of violence against and suppression of women in Iraq.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1523>

**Item 11-14, recommendation 3**

***On Endorsing the "Publish What You Pay" Campaign***

Call synods, presbyteries, and congregations to advocate for the mandatory disclosure of net taxes, fees, royalties, and other payments made by extractive industry companies.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=525>

**Item 11-19, recommendations 1, 3-8**

***Commitment to Peacemaking.***

Commends those sessions, presbyteries, synods, and other entities that have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking;" requests stated clerks of presbyteries who receive the certificates for sessions that have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking" to present them at a stated meeting of presbytery; urge presbyteries to find ways to share and celebrate the experiences of congregations where sessions have adopted and implemented the "Commitment to Peacemaking;" urges presbyteries and synods also to consider adopting the "Commitment to Peacemaking" in forms appropriate to those governing bodies; commends the sixty-four presbyteries and six synods that have 50 percent or more of their congregations whose sessions have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking;" commends the five presbyteries that have 75 percent or more of their congregations whose sessions have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking;" urges peacemaking committees of the presbyteries to contact the sessions in their presbytery that have not adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking" to express the importance of this commitment and to urge their adoption of it.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1553>

**Item 11-22, recommendations 2.b. and c.**

***On Supporting Those Who Feel Called to Seek Status as Conscientious Objectors.***

Encourage presbyteries to provide education opportunities for ministers, military chaplains, and sessions on how to fulfill their responsibility of educating young people about issues of faith, conscience, and war; encourage presbyteries and sessions to create a structure to document and support those who feel called to seek status as conscientious objectors to participation in the armed forces, or war; encourage the Stated Clerk, presbyteries, and sessions to extend this ministry to non-confirmed baptized members (G-5.0201) and to attending non-members of the church

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1731>

**Item 12-01**

***Strategy for Church Growth for African American Congregations.***

Encourage presbyteries and synods to help the church to reach the goals established by the 1998 Racial Ethnic Immigrant Evangelism Church Growth Strategy.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1557>

**Item 12-02**

***Grow God's Church—Deep and Wide***

Encourage synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit to foster the growth of Christ's Church Deep and Wide in the listed areas.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1561>

**Item 16-02**

***A Call to Seek God for Spiritual Renewal of the Church.***

Call upon each congregation and presbytery of the PC(USA) to gather in Solemn Assemblies within the next two years, to seek God for spiritual renewal of the Church of Jesus Christ; invite each congregation

and presbytery of the PC(USA) to gather in times each sets aside for spiritual renewal through intentional gatherings such as spiritual assemblies.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1499>

## SESSIONS

### **Item 04-13, recommendation 3**

#### ***On Equal Rights for Families of Same-Gender Partners***

Support congregations, sessions, and ministers of Word and Sacrament who are seeking to extend pastoral care as well as outreach and evangelism to same-gender couples and their nontraditional families who are more and more our neighbors on our streets and our fellow members in our pews.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1601>

### **Item 04-14**

#### ***Moderator Discretion***

Encourage all members to exercise mutual forbearance toward one another, respecting the conscience of those who disagree with the decision of the body; incumbent on the session to respect the conscience of the moderator and authorize the invitation to another minister to preside, as it is incumbent upon the moderator to fulfill the responsibilities of moderator on behalf of the whole church.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1817&promoID=59>

### **Item 05-03**

#### ***On Directing the Stated Clerk to Collect and/or Develop Models of Examination Procedures***

Commend presbyteries and sessions that have incorporated serious theological reflection and prayerful discernment into their examination procedures, as recommended by the 217th General Assembly (2006).

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1431>

### **Item 05-12**

#### ***On Adopting an Authoritative Interpretation of G-6.0108 to Ensure Proper Application of Ordination Standards.***

Affirms the authoritative interpretation of G-6.0108 approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006); interprets the requirements of G-6.0108 to apply equally to all ordination standards; requires examining bodies to give prayerful consideration to any departure from an ordination standard; the examining body is not required to accept a departure from standards, and cannot excuse a candidate's inability to perform the constitutional functions unique to his or her office (such as administration of the sacraments).

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1497>

### **Item 08-20**

#### ***An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission. (Item 08-20)***

Invite sessions, middle governing bodies, seminaries, General Assembly Council ministries areas, and all PC(USA)-related mission organizations to affirm and adopt the invitation.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1617>

### **Item 09-01, recommendation 3**

#### ***On the Church Addressing Intergenerational Injustice in America (Item 09-01, recommendation 3)***

Call on Presbyterians, sessions, presbyteries, and agencies of General Assembly to study, pray, and speak words of justice and morality into the present situation and to defend future generations who have no defense.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=511>

### **Item 09-05, recommendation 1.c.**

#### ***On Addressing the Tragedy of America's Gun Violence.***

Encourage pastors and sessions of local churches and their communities to organize interfaith groups that will visit sites where there have been shootings and/or killings and lead brief worship services to demonstrate the concerns and hopes of the faith community in pursuing peace in our neighborhoods.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1693>

**Item 10-05, recommendations 9 and 15**

***Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness***

Urge sessions and congregations to do items listed; direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, stated clerks of the middle governing bodies, stated clerks of the local sessions, and individual Presbyterians to do items listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1619&promoID=23>

**Item 11-11, recommendation 3**

***On Addressing the Violence and Suffering Inflicted on Iraqi Women During the Current Prolonged War.***

Encouraging all sessions and presbyteries, as well as women's and men's organizations within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to engage in study, prayer, and dialogue about the issues of violence against and suppression of women in Iraq.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1523>

**Item 11-19, recommendation 1**

***Commitment to Peacemaking***

Commends those sessions, presbyteries, synods, and other entities that have adopted the "Commitment to Peacemaking."

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1553>

**Item 11-22, recommendation 2.c.**

***On Supporting Those Who Feel Called to Seek Status as Conscientious Objectors.***

Encourage presbyteries and sessions to create a structure to document and support those who feel called to seek status as conscientious objectors to participation in the armed forces, or war; encourage the Stated Clerk, presbyteries, and sessions to extend this ministry to non-confirmed baptized members (G-5.0201) and to attending non-members of the church.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1731>

**Item 12-02**

***Grow God's Church—Deep and Wide***

Encourage synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit to foster the growth of Christ's Church Deep and Wide in the listed areas.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1561>

## CONGREGATIONS

**Item 04-03, comment**

***On Amending G-10.0101, G-10.0401, and D-10.0401b Regarding Accounting Practices of the Church***

Comment: It is expected that the accounting practices of a church shall minimally conform to the standards of not-for-profit organizations for their state.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1427>

**Item 04-13, recommendation 3**

***On Equal Rights for Families of Same-Gender Partners***

Support congregations, sessions, and ministers of Word and Sacrament who are seeking to extend pastoral care as well as outreach and evangelism to same-gender couples and their nontraditional families who are more and more our neighbors on our streets and our fellow members in our pews.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1601>

**Item 04-28, recommendation 2**

***Commissioners' Resolution. On Urging a Gracious, Pastoral Response to Churches Requesting Dismissal from the PC(USA).***

Urges congregations considering leaving the denomination, presbyteries, and synods to implement a process for dismissal using principles listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2137>

**Item 07-01, recommendation 4**



***On Calling for Tolerance and Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities***

Commend the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway and other Presbyterian congregations that have initiated dialogue with Muslim and Jewish communities, and to encourage other congregations to initiate three-way dialogues among Jews, Christians, and Muslims consistent with the Presbyterian Principles for Interfaith Dialogue.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=519>

**Item 07-02**

***On Response to an Invitation to Interfaith Dialogue.***

Support *A Common Word Between Us and You*, an invitation to dialogue and cooperation from 138 Muslim clerics, and to commend this document to our congregations, governing bodies, and seminaries for study and consideration as a primary source for engaging in substantive interfaith dialogue.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1469>

**Item 07-07, recommendation 4**

***On Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities.***

Encourage and provide resources to presbyteries and local congregations to improve good relations and mutual understanding between Presbyterians and Muslims at the local level for the same reasons.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1725>

**Item 09-02**

***On the Use of Non-Disposable Food Service Items***

Request congregations and individual members to highly encourage the use of non-disposable food service items, and to refrain from the use of disposable food service products, particularly styrofoam and other non-biodegradables; to use non-disposable bags for packing items purchased in the commercial market, and to refrain from using plastic bags; to choose tap or home or church-filtered water instead of bottled water or soda, and to refrain from purchasing those liquids in plastic bottles. Even though this represents only a part of what we can do to live in a more environmentally just manner, it is extremely important in beginning to live sustainable, healthy lives.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1521>

**Item 09-05, recommendation 1.b.**

***On Addressing the Tragedy of America's Gun Violence.***

Commend those persons, congregations, organizations, and agencies who work to stop gun violence and dedicate their time, financial resources, talents, energies, and prayers to find viable solutions to this domestic and international plague and to applaud them for their courage in unmasking the idolatries of our time.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1693>

**Item 09-07, recommendations 1 and 2)**

***From Homelessness to Hope: Constructing Just, Sustainable Communities for All God's People.***

Commend the ongoing witness, commitment, ministry and advocacy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the more than 3,500 Presbyterian congregations reporting hands-on engagement in housing and homeless ministries; encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, and other church-related entities to pursue comprehensive responses to the crisis of homelessness and affordable housing.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1623&promoID=25>

**Item 09-08, recommendations 2.a. and 3.c.**

***God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation.***

That local congregations participate in the PC(USA)'s goal of assuring gender equity in pay by doing items listed; urge synods, presbyteries, congregations, and individuals to advocate for local, state, and federal legislation that support these policies.

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**Item 09-09, recommendation 6**

***A Social Creed for the Twenty-First Century and Recognition of the Centennial of the "Social Creed of the Churches" of 1908.***

Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, seminaries, and colleges related to the church to study and discuss the “Social Creed,” and to do so jointly when possible with ecumenical partners.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1629&promoID=27>

**Item 09-14, recommendation 2**

***Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform.***

Approve practical actions for individual members and congregations (see items listed).

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1631&promoID=28>

**Item 09-15, recommendation 10**

***Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future.***

Urge individual Presbyterians, congregations, presbyteries and synods, as able, to support these and other equitable reconstruction policies on all levels of government, especially state and local.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1767&promoID=44>

**Item 09-20, recommendation 3**

***Affirming the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture, and Cruelty.***

Encourage individuals, congregations, and middle governing bodies to lift up our commitment to human rights, the elimination of torture, and to ethical standards in interrogation.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2127>

**Item 09-21, recommendation 7**

***Commissioners’ Resolution. On Local Enforcement of National Immigration Laws that Adversely Affect Local Congregations.***

Call upon churches, presbyteries, and synods to closely work with youth who are living with a sense of hopelessness due to lack of a legal status.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2139>

**Item 10-05, recommendation 9**

***Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness***

Urge sessions and congregations to do items listed.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1619&promoID=23>

**Item 11-01, recommendation 5**

***On Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel.***

Encourage Presbyterian individuals, congregations, and councils to take pilgrimages and trips to Israel and Palestine that are in harmony with our principles.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=507>

**Item 11-06, recommendation 1**

***On the 218th General Assembly (2008) Being a Voice for the Victims of Violence in Israel and Palestine.***

Ask PC(USA) members, congregations, committees, and other entities to become nonpartisan advocates for peace. As such, we will not over-identify with the realities of the Israelis or Palestinians. Instead we will identify with the need for peacemaking voices in the midst of horrific acts of violence and terror.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1691>

**Item 11-09**

***Regarding Assistance for Iraqi Refugees.***

Encourage churches and presbyteries to welcome Iraqi refugees within their region, sponsoring and assisting in their resettlement.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1417>

**Item 11-10, recommendation 14**

***On Building Peace in Iraq.***

Call upon all presbyteries, congregations, and members within the PC(USA) to intentionally, personally, and concretely work to bring healing, peace, justice, and care to all affected by the war in Iraq.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1473>

**Item 11-14, recommendation 3*****On Endorsing the “Publish What You Pay” Campaign .***

Call synods, presbyteries, and congregations to advocate for the mandatory disclosure of net taxes, fees, royalties, and other payments made by extractive industry companies.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=525>

**Item 11-18, recommendation 1*****Report on Human Rights in Colombia.***

Call on the members and congregations of the PC(USA) to study the situation in Colombia, diligently pray for the work of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, and advocate with senators, representatives, and the president of the United States to lay down the weapons of violence.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1625&promoID=26>

**Item 11-31, recommendations 1 and 4*****Commissioners’ Resolution. Concerning Human Rights Violations in the Philippines.***

Calls upon the members and congregations to become more aware of the suffering endured by the leaders of churches and other civil society groups at the hands of elements of the Philippine military, and to pray faithfully for the safety of the leadership of the Philippine churches; calls upon the members and churches to help provide for the material needs of church leaders and their families who suffer because of human rights violations.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2123>

**Item 13-07*****Resolution to Study the Belhar Confession for Inclusion in the Confessional Documents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)***

Urge all Presbyterians in congregations, middle governing bodies, and other entities related to the PC(USA) to engage in study, prayer, reflection, and discernment, of the Belhar Confession and the Report of the Task Force to Study Reparations.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1641&promoID=35>

**Item 13-11*****Participate in the Calvin Jubilee (Item 13-11)***

Call upon the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and all of its governing bodies and congregations to actively participate in the Calvin Jubilee in 2009.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1911&promoID=87>

**Item 16-02*****A Call to Seek God for Spiritual Renewal of the Church. (Item 16-02)***

Call upon each congregation and presbytery of the PC(USA) to gather in Solemn Assemblies within the next two years, to seek God for spiritual renewal of the Church of Jesus Christ; invite each congregation and presbytery of the PC(USA) to gather in times each sets aside for spiritual renewal through intentional gatherings such as spiritual assemblies.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1499>

**Item 17-4 New Business*****On Referring Matters to the Youth Ministry Task Force .***

That congregations increase their efforts at fulfilling their commanded responsibility to nurture youth and young adults in their calling as disciples of Jesus Christ; and that congregations set as their goal the nurture of youth and young adults, confirmed as active members of the church, to become full partners in the life and mission of the Church.

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2169>

**WHOLE CHURCH**

Encourage all members to exercise mutual forbearance toward one another, respecting the conscience of those who disagree with the decision of the body; incumbent on the session to respect the conscience of the moderator and authorize the invitation to another minister to preside, as it is incumbent upon the moderator to fulfill the responsibilities of moderator on behalf of the whole church.

***Response to Study of Inappropriate Use of Judicial Process. (Item 04-27)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1953>

Remind individuals that the Rules of Discipline cannot be used to mediate intrinsic differences of theology, policy, polity, power, or trust. These broader issues of conflict should be addressed by individuals within the church and by administrative processes within the church such as mediation, administrative review committees, or administrative commissions.

***On Calling for Tolerance and Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities (Item 07-01, recommendation 1)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=519>

Commend to the church for study the actions of previous General Assemblies calling for tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful relations between the Christian and Muslim communities.

***On Responsible Purchasing. (Item 08-17, recommendation 9)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1471>

Request all Presbyterians to practice responsible consumerism, beginning with simplicity and non-acquisition whenever possible and responsible purchasing, including sweatfree and ecologically sound products where purchase is necessary. This would include a preference for locally produced products and food.

***On the Church Addressing Intergenerational Injustice in America (Item 09-01, recommendation 3 and 4)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=511>

Call upon individual Presbyterians, sessions, presbyteries, and agencies of General Assembly to study, pray, and speak words of justice and morality into the present situation and to defend future generations who have no defense; call on the nation for a day of prayer on this issue.

***On the Use of Non-Disposable Food Service Items (Item 09-02)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1521>

Request congregations and individual members to highly encourage the use of non-disposable food service items, and to refrain from the use of disposable food service products, particularly styrofoam and other non-biodegradables; to use non-disposable bags for packing items purchased in the commercial market, and to refrain from using plastic bags; to choose tap or home or church-filtered water instead of bottled water or soda, and to refrain from purchasing those liquids in plastic bottles. Even though this represents only a part of what we can do to live in a more environmentally just manner, it is extremely important in beginning to live sustainable, healthy lives.

***On Instructing PDA to Continue to Work on Nurturing Partnerships with Presbyteries Affected by the Storms of 2005. (Item 09-04)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1531>

Thank Presbyterians throughout the denomination for their generous giving, prayers, and volunteer services in recovery efforts working not only with PDA but also in partnership with local congregations.

***From Homelessness to Hope: Constructing Just, Sustainable Communities for All God's People. (Item 09-07, recommendation 6)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1623&promoID=25>

Request that all PC(USA) members forgo one meal per week (if one is able) as an act of worship and humility. The value of that meal is to be pledged (in a manner of the donor's choice) to feeding those in need.

***God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation. (Item 09-08, recommendation 3.c.)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1639&promoID=32>

Urge synods, presbyteries, congregations, and individuals to advocate for local, state, and federal legislation that support these policies.

***The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming. (Item 09-10, recommendation 2.)***

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1537&promoID=10>

Urge individuals and families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to do items listed.

***Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform. (Item 09-14, recommendations 1a.(2), 2.)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1631&promoID=28>

Encourage all members and friends of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to study and take actions suggested, including, above all, to vote their consciences; approve practical actions for individual members and congregations (see items listed).

***Struck Down, But Not Destroyed: From Hurricane Katrina to a More Equitable Future. (Item 09-15, recommendation 10)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1767&promoID=44>

Urge individual Presbyterians, congregations, presbyteries and synods, as able, to support these and other equitable reconstruction policies on all levels of government, especially state and local.

***Affirming the Declaration of Principles for a Presidential Executive Order on Prisoner Treatment, Torture, and Cruelty. (Item 09-20, recommendation 3)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2127>

Encourage individuals, congregations, and middle governing bodies to lift up our commitment to human rights, the elimination of torture, and to ethical standards in interrogation.

***Commissioners' Resolution. On Local Enforcement of National Immigration Laws that Adversely Affect Local Congregations. (Item 09-21, recommendation 9)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2139>

Encourage Presbyterians to advocate for the fair and humane treatment of all persons by law enforcement officials in their local and state governments.

***Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness. (Item 10-05, recommendations 2.c., 15)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1619&promoID=23>

Approve the report as a whole for churchwide study and use; direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, stated clerks of the middle governing bodies, stated clerks of the local sessions, and individual Presbyterians to do items listed.

***On Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel (Item 11-01, recommendation 5)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=507>

Encourage Presbyterian individuals, congregations, and councils to take pilgrimages and trips to Israel and Palestine that are in harmony with our principles.

***On the 218th General Assembly (2008) Being a Voice for the Victims of Violence in Israel and Palestine. (Item 11-06, recommendation 1)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1691>

Ask PC(USA) members, congregations, committees, and other entities to become nonpartisan advocates for peace. As such, we will not over-identify with the realities of the Israelis or Palestinians. Instead we will identify with the need for peacemaking voices in the midst of horrific acts of violence and terror.

***On Building Peace in Iraq. (Item 11-10, recommendations 1-3, 11-12, and 14)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1473>

Encourage all Presbyterians to be in intentional and regular prayer for everyone in and of Iraq; encourage all Presbyterians to participate enthusiastically in peacemaking efforts to end the occupation of Iraq; commend and thank members of the armed forces for their service and sacrifice; commend "To Repent, Restore, Rebuild, and Reconcile" for study throughout the church; commend to the church the call of the 216th General Assembly (2004) for the church to express its pastoral concern for and offer pastoral care to members of the United States armed forces serving their country; call upon all presbyteries, congregations, and members within the PC(USA) to intentionally, personally, and concretely work to bring healing, peace, justice, and care to all affected by the war in Iraq.

***Report on Human Rights in Colombia. (Item 11-18, recommendation 1)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1625&promoID=26>

Call on the members and congregations of the PC(USA) to study the situation in Colombia, diligently pray for the work of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, and advocate with senators, representatives, and the president of the United States to lay down the weapons of violence.

***Commissioners' Resolution. On Mobilizing Presbyterians for a Significant Response to the Global Food Crisis. (Item 11-30, recommendations 1 and 3)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2113>

Appeal to all Presbyterians to donate to a special fund set up by the General Assembly Council to enable the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide better support to and accompaniment of our overseas partners trying to step up their response to the global food crisis; invite all Presbyterians to join in the churchwide practice of spiritual disciplines which may lead to meaningful coordinated actions to accompany those who are poor and hungry around the world.

***Commissioners' Resolution. Concerning Human Rights Violations in the Philippines. (Item 11-31, recommendations 1 and 4)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=2123>

Calls upon the members and congregations to become more aware of the suffering endured by the leaders of churches and other civil society groups at the hands of elements of the Philippine military, and to pray faithfully for the safety of the leadership of the Philippine churches; calls upon the members and churches to help provide for the material needs of church leaders and their families who suffer because of human rights violations.

***Grow God's Church—Deep and Wide (Item 12-02)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1561>

Encourage synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities, and networks of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit to foster the growth of Christ's Church Deep and Wide in the listed areas.

***Resolution to Study the Belhar Confession for Inclusion in the Confessional Documents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Item 13-07)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1641&promoID=35>

Urge all Presbyterians in congregations, middle governing bodies, and other entities related to the PC(USA) to engage in study, prayer, reflection, and discernment, of the Belhar Confession and the Report of the Task Force to Study Reparations.

## SEMINARIES, COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES, CONFERENCE CENTERS

***On Response to an Invitation to Interfaith Dialogue. (Item 07-02)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1469>

Support *A Common Word Between Us and You*, an invitation to dialogue and cooperation from 138 Muslim clerics, and to commend this document to our congregations, governing bodies, and seminaries for study and consideration as a primary source for engaging in substantive interfaith dialogue.

***An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission. (Item 08-20)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1617>

Invite sessions, middle governing bodies, seminaries, General Assembly Council ministries areas, and all PC(USA)-related mission organizations to affirm and adopt the invitation.

***God's Work in Women's Hands: Pay Equity and Just Compensation. (Item 09-08, recommendations 2.k.)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1639&promoID=32>

That seminaries, Presbyterian colleges, universities, and schools (as listed in Item 12-06) participate in the PC(USA)'s goal of assuring gender equality by implementing a pay equity study for seminary employees and by developing educational opportunities, including curricular content and continuing education programs, to prepare women clergy to serve at all levels of church leadership.

***A Social Creed for the Twenty-First Century and Recognition of the Centennial of the "Social Creed of the Churches" of 1908. (Item 09-09, recommendation 6)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1629&promoID=27>

Encourage congregations, presbyteries, synods, seminaries, and colleges related to the church to study and discuss the "Social Creed," and to do so jointly when possible with ecumenical partners.

***The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming. (Item 09-10, recommendation 3.g. and h.)*** <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1537&promoID=10>

Urge presidents of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities to consider becoming a signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which obligates these schools to become carbon neutral in the future and to integrate sustainability into the curriculum; urge Presbyterian-related seminaries and conference centers to make environmental education on global climate change and energy a part of their curricula.