

Session Agenda
First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston
Tuesday, June 21, 2011, 7:00 pm

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns
Worship Becky Davison

1) Approval of Agenda

2) Approval of Minutes

Stated Session Meeting May 17, 2011
 Congregational Meeting June 12, 2011

3) Stated Clerk

| Date | School | Worship | Minister |
|--------|--------|---------|--------------|
| May 1 | 30 | 110 | Communion |
| May 8 | 37 | 137 | Mother's Day |
| May 15 | 30 | 88 | Ravi Isaiah |
| May 22 | 33 | 104 | Pentecost |

4) Treasurer

5) Trustees

6) Stewardship

2010 Audit

7) Worship

Heritage Sunday

8) Education

Vacation Bible School
 Youth Mission Trip

9) Mission

Christmas in July

10) Fellowship

11) Care

12) Property

13) Administration

Annual Evaluations

14) Child Development Center

15) Presbyterian Women

16) New Business

Committee Night, August 2
 Committee Reports August 9
 Stated Meeting, August 16
 Worship Pastor

17) Prayer and Home

**First Presbyterian Church
South Charleston, West Virginia
STATED SESSION MEETING
May 17, 2011**

The Stated Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston, was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, 2011, Pastor Gary McGrew. Session members present (marked P) or excused (marked Ex) were:

| | | | | | |
|----------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| P | Gary McGrew, Moderator | P | Becky Davison | P | John Powell |
| P | Doug Calderwood | P | Dave Davison | Ex | Charlie Raines |
| P | Lisa Calderwood | Ex | Pat Kent | P | Malissa Smith |
| P | Barbara Cruickshank | P | Dave Long | P | Susan Smith |
| P | Bob Cruickshank | P | Sandy Melton | P | Greg Smith, Treasurer |
| P | Jan Cole | A | John Metzger | P | Bill Miller, Trustee |

Worship: After Joys and Concerns Pastor Gary McGrew led the evening worship with passages from Exodus and Acts and opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was approved by common consent.

Approval of Minutes: The April 19, 2011, Stated Session Minutes were corrected in the Administration Committee's motion correcting the spelling of "beings" to "begins" and were approved by common consent.

Stated Clerk

| Date | School | Worship | Minister |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| April 3, 2011 | 25 | 126 | Communion |
| April 10, 2011 | 36 | 112 | Gary McGrew |
| April 17, 2011 | 39 | 142 | Palm Sunday |
| April 24, 2011 | 38 | 185 | Easter |

Correspondence: Clerk of Session Becky Davison reported we received two letters from the following congregations letting us know we were on their prayer list: Rome Presbyterian Church of Proctorville, Ohio, and Spring Valley Presbyterian Church of Huntington, WV. We received information about the Presbytery of WV trip to the United Nations, from Mark Miller, Camp Director, announcing Bluestone summer camp information, and the Presbyterian Foundation. We received email information from Forrest Palmer, Interim Executive Presbyter regarding the recent notification from the Office of General Assembly that Amendment 10-A and ordination standards has passed a majority of presbyteries and will become a part of the Book of Order on July 10.

Stewardship Committee, Treasurer's Report, and Trustees Report: David Davison reported the audit for 2008-2009 is completed and expressed his appreciation to Greg Smith and Bill Miller. Bill Miller addressed key concerns were the process regarding collected funds. Specific recommendations and observations on how to fix issues were provided in his written report. Greg Smith addressed the need to get back to a balanced budget. The Trustees report was received as information.

Worship Committee: Doug Calderwood informed Session the Pentecost service will include the hand bells, and Vandalia Sunday is over Memorial Day weekend.

Education Committee: **Lisa Calderwood** informed Session that the Education Committee recommended not conducting Youth Sunday School in June and July, and that they plan to waive the \$100 deposit for the mission trip for this year's adult chaperones. She is also looking for a Summer Sunday Samaritan since she will be attending the summer Youth functions and events as shown below.

June 4 Yard Sale
June 5 Hot Dog sale
June 12-16 "VBS the Movie" will be co-directed by Kim Cobb and Wendy Nelson
June 19-25 Bluestone Camp
June 26 Youth Mission Trip Commissioning and Birthday Luncheon
July 9-17 Youth Mission Trip, Keansburg, NJ

Mission Committee: **Malissa Smith** reported the committee will sell hot dogs on Sunday, June 5, in support of the Youth Mission trip. She informed Session that the seasonal furniture ministry has begun, and although we will participate in Hike for Hunger, we will not be the church to provide the meal at the end of the walk.

Fellowship Committee: John Powell reported that there will be no Church Chat on May 29th, and the Committee is looking for someone to prepare VBS dinner on June 15.

Care Committee: **Barbara Cruickshank** reported that the Care Committee is still sending cards and transporting people to church.

Administration Committee: **Becky Davison** provided the following names for the Nominating Committee to be voted on by the Congregation during the June 12 Congregational Meeting: Becky Davison, Susan Smith, Chris Cobb, David Hoffman, Tom Titus, and Martha Racer. These committee members will seek to fill five elder vacancies. Dave Davison made the motion for the Congregational meeting to be on June 12, 2011, which was so ordered by Session. Annual staff interviews are scheduled and being conducted in May and June.

Property Committee: **Bob Cruickshank** reported several projects are on hold because of the rainy weather. It was recommended that the Property Committee create a formal policy on management of church facility rooms and all buildings.

Child Development Center: **Sandy Melton** reported that they have not yet met this month. Grant funds have been expended for the water fountain.

Presbyterian Women: **Barbara Cruickshank's** report was received as information.

New Business:

Committee Night: June 7, 2011
Committee Reports: June 14, 2011
Stated Meeting: June 21, 2011
Worship Leader: Becky Davison

Closing: Dave Davison moved and Doug Calderwood seconded adjournment. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor McGrew.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gary McGrew, Moderator

Rebecca A. Davison, Clerk of Session

Congregation Meeting

JUNE 12, 2011

The 2011 Summer Congregational Meeting was held on June 12, 2011, for the purpose of electing a Nominations Committee for 2011. The meeting was moderated by Pastor Gary McGrew. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Moderator McGrew requested the slate of nominees from Becky Davison, who reported those to be placed in nomination were Martha Racer, Chris Cobb, David Hoffman, and Tom Titus. Becky and Susan Smith of the Administration Committee will lead the Nominating Committee. Moderator McGrew asked the congregation to approve those named, which passed with a resounding "Aye."

The meeting closed with prayer and the singing of the Gloria Patri.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gary McGrew, Moderator

Rebecca A. Davison, Clerk of Session

Recommendations from the Treasurer, based on consultation with Auditor and Trustees.

To bring accounts back in line with the balances listed by their funds, the treasurer recommends the following money transfers:

Move \$21,030.53 from Unrestricted to Oakhurst.

\$20K was placed in this account when it should have gone to Oakhurst. \$1+K is the remaining Mullen fund dividend monies allocated to operations since 2009 that were deposited to unrestricted before being transferred to checking.

Move \$1,250 from Scholarship to Oakhurst.

One \$250 scholarship was paid out of church checking in 2007, and never reimbursed. The recent set of scholarships (\$1,000) was paid out of Oakhurst, and needs to be reimbursed from Scholarship.

Move \$1,935.52 from Manse to Oakhurst.

This money was transferred from church checking to the Trustees for investment in 2008. The treasurer goofed in late 2010, forgetting the previous transfer and resent that money again to the trustees along with dividend checks money received since 2008 by the church.

Acknowledge that the remaining \$35,815.11 of remodeling collections received went towards the budget shortfall from 2008-present and will not be transferred back to the Oakhurst account.

Merge the Unrestricted Fund into the Oakhurst Fund since the constraints on spending those two accounts are identical.

Worship Committee

May 19, 2011

Doug Calderwood opened the May stated meeting of the Worship Committee with prayer at 6:30 pm on May 19, 2011 in the church Parlor.

The following persons were present: Doug Calderwood, Gary McGrew, Dave Long, Dot Thomas, Mark Nelson, Mark Hornbaker, and Graham Shook.

Open issues

- a) Graham Shook presented and reviewed the status of the Worship budget and Music Transfer Fund.
- b) The sound system sub-committee is still in the formative stages.
- c) It was the consensus of the committee that everything was in place and ready to go for the Vandalia service on May 29th.
- d) Forrest Palmer and Bill Phipps will be contacted to check their availability to fill the pulpit on one of the Sundays (October 9th, 16th and 23rd) during Gary's leave. It was suggested that a lay person fill the pulpit on October 30th, due to the Bluestone retreat. Youth Sunday will be on one of the above Sundays in October and not require a pulpit supply
- e) The cost of the weekly flower arrangements provided by Morris Floral is going from \$15 to \$20. (Which is still an incredible price) This fact, combined with several openings existing in this years flower calendar, has prompted this committee to look at some alternate ways to make memorial arrangements provided for weekly worship. This issue will be readdressed before establishing the 2012 budget.
- f) August 21st will be Bluestone Sunday. This will coincide with the cornbread and beans dinner the same day, and a car wash the previous day. Mark Miller, Director of Bluestone, is currently scheduled to be a part of this service.
- g) The music intern program was discussed at some length. It is the consensus of the committee that the program is working well, is a great addition to the choir and should be continued in the fall. Dr. Hornbaker said that Hannah and Shubba have expressed their willingness to return in the fall. Additional/new benefactors would be welcomed and appreciated.

New business

- h) Dot Thomas reported that the music schedule for the summer is taking shape, but that there are still a few Sundays that are open for any special music that comes forward. Heritage Sunday, June 26th, will feature the women's ensemble and July 3rd will feature the men's group. Christmas in July, July 31st, may also feature the men's group.
- i) Dot also suggested, and the committee readily approved of same, that for this year's Christmas cantata, that a kind of "Best of..." cantata be compiled from some of the previous cantatas performed. This will aid in keeping the committee in budget and the songs familiarity will be a plus for the choir.

- j) There will be no stated meetings in June or July, but the staff will meet and resolve any needs that may arise.

Gary McGrew adjourned the meeting at 8:00 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Doug Calderwood

Administration Committee

May 8, 2011

The Administration Committee met on Sunday, May 8, 2011, after Church Chat in the Parlor.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The committee discussed the annual staff evaluation interview schedule.
The committee will present its recommendations report to Session in August.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca A. Davison

Administration Committee

June 5, 2011

The Administration Committee met on Sunday, June 5, 2011, after Church Chat in the Parlor.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The committee discussed the annual staff evaluation interview schedule.
All Staff interviews were completed on Sunday, June 5, 2011.
The committee will present its recommendations report to Session in August.

The next Administration Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, at 6:30 pm.
The meetings opened and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca A. Davison

Stewardship Committee

June 7, 2011

The meeting was opened and closed in prayer by Dave.

Present: (P) Telephone (T)

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|
| David Davison, | P | Hersha Brown | P | Gary McGrew | P |
| John Metzger | A | Greg Smith | A | | |
| Tom Titus | P | Carol Bryan | P | | |

Routine or Old Business

| Item | Action/Status | Lead |
|--|--|---------------|
| 1. Scholarships | None submitted at this time. | Dave |
| 2. 2008/2009 Audit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete response to recommendations – have received Becky Smith’s responses Report out to session – Greg | Dave Greg |
| 3. 2010 Audit | Check status with Greg & Bill Miller | |
| 4. Support & work with the Shade Tree Fund Committee in promoting stewardship & endowments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule Shade Tree bequests & wills seminar for CDC parents Need to inform Session but does not require a formal motion. (Dave/Gary) | Dave/Tom |
| 5. Keep up the brochure stand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current status Update on “health & wellness” brochures | Tom |
| 6. Church History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates | |
| 7. Capital Campaign - Work with the Long Range Planning sub-committee “The Future is Now” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress to date – fall activity? Develop a long range facilities vision – start with “Dream Management” session to capture some “out of the box” thinking. Continue to work with property to complete Asset Life planning. <i>Need to reschedule vision session – had to postpone 13-Mar-11 because of business travel and need to re-schedule.</i> | Gary/ Dave |
| 8. Stewardship Activities coordinated with 2011 Church Calendar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship Campaign – 2H2011 Long Range Plan – start in 1st half 2011 – update schedule in July Church Chat Dates for Stewardship & Shade Tree 23 October - Stewardship | Dave |
| 9. On-Line “Bill Pay” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay Pal status | Greg. |
| 10. Memorial Gifts | Nothing on agenda | Dave |
| 11. New Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship “what and whys” summary descriptions & publicity – recent activities | |
| | | |

Fellowship Committee

June 7, 2011

Attendees: Pat Kent, John Powell, Jan Powell, Roberta Cooper, Charlotte Raines, Jack Smith

The meeting was opened with prayer Charles Raines

VBS Meals - Pat initiated a discussion about the committee's responsibility as it relates to VBS meals. Lora Hays, Melissa Smith, Becky Davison, and Susan Smith have graciously volunteered to prepare meals for the nights of June 13, 14, and 15. Pat was informed that the Fellowship Committee does the meal for the last night, June 16th. During a recent discussion with Kim Cobb and Wendy Nelson, they mentioned that perhaps Shawn Hawkins would help with a meal on Thursday. Pat will check this out. During some inquiries about VBS it was mentioned that Fellowship is responsible for set up for the meals during VBS. Committee members were not aware of this and have not done this in the past, at least not officially. After VBS Pat will bring up the issue of assignments and coordination of VBS related meals as she is somewhat confused as to who does what and what budget is used for meal expenses. If our committee is to do the meal on the 16th we will do pizzas, salad, drinks, and cookies. Pat will order the pizzas and let other committee members know what else is to be done

Church Chat - We have responsibility for Church Chat on July 3. It is anticipated there will be a relatively small attendance due to the holiday weekend (approx 50 people). We will do subs from Walmart with other picnic-like items.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame - John Powell indicated that Tom Titus asked that we choose a day in July for this event. Looking at the Power schedule we chose July 29th with July 15th as a second choice. John will pass this information on to Tom who is responsible for getting information in the bulletin and making arrangements with Appalachian Power Park personnel.

There will be no committee meeting in July. In August we will need to start planning meals for WOW and the Church picnic on Sept 18.

The meeting was closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Kent

Property Committee

June 7, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eric Hawkins, David Smith, Brad Snyder, George Brown III, Ray Holley, Charlie Raines

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 7:00pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Emergency Exit Door painting schedule. This is completed. The new doors were painted "Bob Cruickshank Red." Good job! Many thanks to Tom Titus, Jim Lowe, Ron Bryant and Joe Cooper.
2. Thermostat upgrade. It is intended that Reger funds be used for upgrades in this effort. No report.
3. Education Building wall parapet wall repairs. Brad Snyder provided a new design for these repairs. He proposed to install 3M marine caulking compound in the seams between the cap blocks. Then use a hot patch or cold patch to cover the caulking compound. These repairs are anticipated to last 6-8 years. Ray Holley moved to let Brad buy the material and use fellows that work for him to accomplish these repairs. The Church will pay Brad's actual expenses for labor and materials. Brad will not charge for his labor; only that of his workers. Property Committee wishes to record that these repairs are not a total fix for the wall repairs needed to prevent further deterioration. Repairs to the lintels and tuckpointing and possibly other repairs are needed, but funds are insufficient for accomplishment at this time.
4. Several projects intended for this spring have been delayed with the numerous spring rains and cold weather. Some include: painting Ed Bldg and B Street entrance steps, repairing sanctuary and Ed Bldg steps, repairing the wood trim at the Ed Building entrance and replacing the front post blocks. George Brown and Brad Snyder agreed to repair the entry steps for the Sanctuary and Ed Building and to repair the wood trim at the Ed Building entrance.
5. Old furniture has been moved from the Youth Area.
6. Property was requested to move the concrete filled, fire resistant, filing cabinet from the Supply Room to the Third Floor file storage room.. This filing cabinet is very, very, very heavy. It was moved to the Fellowship Hall. If someone wants it moved to another location, they can figure out a way to move it.
7. Sound System Upgrade. Eric Hawkins reports that this committee is just getting started.
8. Possible mold in third floor mechanical room. Charlie Raines will talk to a church member who works for EPA in effort to resolve this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Day Care plans to have the new Education Building doors painted by a staff person with a design suitable for children. The Education Building front doors will be painted by the same person. The Day Care reports that a staff person is preparing three designs for the front and rear doors. These will be forwarded to Property for comment.
2. Day Care has requested to Property Committee approval to use the area above the new shelves on the left hand side of the Furniture Building for storage. Property Committee understands that the building was initially constructed for use by the Furniture Ministry. Members present feel that they should get first option on its use. Charlie Raines talked to Della at Heart & Hand, who said that they have more need for furniture storage space since moving to the new location. Charlie has taken a cursory look at the storage space in the church and believes that storage space is an issue for both the Church and the Day Care. He does not believe that there is a sufficient amount of space for proper organization of stored materials. He doesn't think Day Care asked for enough storage for all its current needs.
Brad Snyder motioned and Ray Holley seconded for a Property representative on Session to go to session with a request for each Session Committee to look into its storage space requirements. All committees should determine if there is unneeded material or junk that could be removed from storage. Then, determine how much additional space might be needed. Property will look at storage more closely with its annual inspection in July.
3. Hazardous storage in third floor storage room. The fire alarm inspector recently declared a third floor storage room a fire hazard during a recent inspection. The Education Committee has control of this room. They have acceptably organized the materials present. It appears that they did as well as possible with the space available. These areas still are overcrowded.
4. Day Care says they have been informed that the rails on the loft in the PreK room are too wide. Additional rails or plexiglass is needed. They will provide materials if we will provide the labor. Bob Cruickshank was volunteered to take the lead on this item.
5. The Annual Inspection of all church property was tabled to next month. We should try to do this in July.
6. The committee was reminded that we have Church Chat on July 11th for "Take Me Out of the Ball Park."
7. David Smith has made several repairs around the church; A/C repairs, replacing light fixtures and others. Many thanks David.

8. Any other new business? Or other matter for the Property Committee?
Ray Holley reports that Tom Titus has agreed to pay for lights in the Furniture Building. These could be connected to either a generator or by extension cord to the Church for use as needed. Ray will take the lead on this item.
Eric Hawkins said that the Day Care wants the new walk to the new storage building painted or striped like a road. He will take the lead on this request.

MATTER FOR THE SESSION

Adequacy of storage space is becoming an issue. Session members and the Day Care Center should review the materials in storage at the church and discard everything that they don't need. Each entity with stored materials should also determine if additional storage space or better organization is needed. Additional storage space may well be needed by both the Church and the Day Care. We request that this be accomplished before the next Session Meeting in July.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 7:50pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted;
Charlie Raines

Mission Committee

June 7, 2011

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Malissa Smith, Cathy Johnson, Sandy Melton, Gary McGrew.

After much discussion, we decided not to have a booth at the Mound Festival this year.

Youth yard sale and hot dog sale was June 4th. We sold hot dogs, barbeques, walking Tacos, chips and drinks at the sale to benefit the Youth Mission Trip. The yard sale made around \$1100 and the food sales were \$800 before expenses. Expenses were about \$200. We bought way too much food and donated a lot to Manna Meals. Some of the food we saved to use at Vacation Bible School.

Christmas in July is July 31st. We will have a dinner to help fund the Christmas baskets. We will talk to Ellen or Lora about getting green beans, corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, and watermelons from Alan at the Capitol Market. We will order chicken from Kroger (around 150 pieces). Saturday, July 30 we will meet at 10am to string the beans and shuck corn. We will have ice cream and toppings for dessert. We discussed getting it from Valley Bell or Sam's.

Sandy suggested getting church decals for car rear windows of church members. She spoke with Dustin at Parton Signs. He quoted about \$3 each for regular decals with sun protection. We will also look into the static cling decals online and with other local companies.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Melton

New Form of Government for Presbyterian Churches

It appears that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has approved a new Form of Government. The current 18-chapter Form of Government will be replaced with a new version that is six chapters in length. The Form of Government is one section of the *Book of Order*, which is part of the PC(USA) *Constitution*.

Along with the new Form of Government will be a new section of the *Book of Order* entitled "Principles of Presbyterian Polity," which contains a large majority of the content of the first four chapters of the current Form of Government.

The proposed new Form of Government (FOG) was approved by the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the PC(USA). Two years earlier, a proposed revision had been presented to the 218th General Assembly (2008) by the FOG Task Force. That assembly reconstituted the task force and asked it to present a revised version to the 219th GA based on the feedback received at the 218th GA.

This is the first full revision of the Form of Government since the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America reunited to form the PC(USA) in 1983.

The new Form of Government will take effect July 10, 2011, one year after the adjournment of last summer's assembly. It is anticipated that the transition from the current to the new FOG will take time.

In response to the vote, a letter was issued to all congregations of the PC(USA).

To congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While it is not official until the Office of the General Assembly receives notification from presbyteries that have voted, it appears that, as of June 7, 2011, the proposed new Form of Government (FOG) has been approved by a majority of our 173 presbyteries.

The new FOG will replace the current version within the Book of Order of the church's Constitution on July 10, 2011, one year after the adjournment of the 219th General Assembly (2010). The print edition of the new Book of Order will be available by late July.

The new Form of Government at its core

A new section, Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, which contains the vast majority of the first four chapters of the current FOG, will also be added to the beginning of the Book of Order. Within it are these words:

In the power of the Spirit, Jesus Christ draws worshiping communities and individual believers into the sovereign activity of the triune God at all times and places. As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. (F-1.0401)

The foundational message of the saving love of God through Jesus Christ is timeless. The writer of Hebrews reminds us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (13:8). And yet, when the Spirit has moved the church to respond to “the sovereign activity of the triune God,” the church has, in turn, worked to reshape itself to do so effectively.

While the new Form of Government will help the PC(USA) to be a faithful and responsive church in the 21st century, it also has a dimension of bringing us back to a truly constitutional document that contains broad governing and theological principles and emphasizes function over structure.

What will change?

Many Presbyterians will see nothing suddenly or dramatically different with a new Form of Government. Worship services will go on as usual, and congregations will continue to teach the faith, serve their communities, reach out to those in need, and work to further God’s realm on earth. However, what will be different is that congregations, presbyteries, and synods will have the opportunity to tailor mission and ministry to fit their own particular contexts and challenges.

The new FOG will also usher in changes in terminology. For example, ministers of the Word and Sacrament will be known as teaching elders, partnering in ministry with ruling elders who serve on the congregation’s council (session).

It is a season of much change in the church, and change is often accompanied by anxiety. Making the transition from the current Form of Government to the new one will take time, patience, and grace. We will all be living gradually into these new dimensions of the church’s governance. We commend to you the resources and guides at the Form of Government webpage for assistance, including the “Frequently Asked Questions” document that accompanies this letter. Further resources will be made available over the course of the summer to help with this transition.

The best resources through this transition, however, will be each other. A new Form of Government puts all of us on the same page, as it were. Through conversation, cooperation, and collaboration, we will discover the most effective ways to move forward into this new and exciting chapter of the life of the church.

In the end, as affirmed in the Confession of 1967, “The church ... orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, finances, and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves” (9.40). The mission remains the same: to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and to work for the reconciliation of the world. With God’s help, may this new Form of Government enable us to be ever more faithful to that mission.

In Christ,

Cindy Bolbach

Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010)

Gradye Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly