

MINUTES
STATED MEETING OF HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
September 9, 2008
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Enrollment.....	1844
Consent Agenda	1850
Declaration of New Business.....	1850
Stated Clerk’s Report.....	1850
218 th General Assembly Commissioners’ Reports	1851
Treasurer’s Report	1858
Ethical Issues & Human Needs Report.....	1861
Council Report.....	1861
Committee on Ministry Report	1864
Ordination Examination of Candidate Kyle Schmidt	1865
Cedar Creek Request for "Relief of Conscience"	1865
Holston Camp & Retreat Center Committee Report.....	1868
Committee on Representation.....	1872
Church Development & Evangelism Committee Report	1843
Congregational Life Committee Report	1843
Trustees Report.....	1843
Amend the <i>Manual of Administrative Operations</i> for annual meeting	1843
Nominations Committee Report.....	1844
Election of 2009 Presbytery Moderator and Presbytery Vice-Moderator	1844
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Committee Report.....	1844
Position Title Changed to Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.....	1845
Presbyterian Women Report	1848
Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report.....	1848
Administration & Planning Committee Report	1852
Institutions Committee Report	1852
Adjournment.....	1854

MINUTES
STATED MEETING OF HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
Holston Presbytery Camp & Retreat Center – Banner Elk, NC
September 9, 2008

Holston Presbytery met for its stated meeting at Holston Presbytery Camp & Retreat Center, Banner Elk, NC on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 9:12AM. Moderator Robert Lowry welcomed those gathered for the meeting. Rev. John Shuck (First Elizabethton) and Rev. Mark Koenig (Presbyterian Peacemaking Program) opened the meeting with worship and prayer. An offering was received for 5 Cents a Meal in the amount of \$421.35. Commissioners and guests were welcomed with first time commissioners and guests recognized.

Enrollment:

MINISTERS PRESENT/ABSENT:

Name	Present	Absent
Allen, William E.		X
Amstutz, Sharon	X	
Armistead, Robert L.		X
Askew, Catherine Clasen		X
Austin, Richard C.		X
Bement, Gary		X
Brighton, Ike	X	
Brown, Elmon		X
Burkey, Margaret		X
Cagle, David	X	
Campbell, John		X
Cartwright, Gregory	X	
Cave, Payne		X
Chapman, Alan		X
Christian, H. Martin	X	
Clark, Dan	X	
Cobb, Harrell L.		X
Crow, Conrad		X
Donaldson, Dan	X	

Dowling, John		X
Durham, Clarence		X
Echols, Charles W.		X
Fifield, Richard L.	X	
Florence, Kaye		X
Foster, Craig		X
Frederick, Donald		X
Gilmer, G. Barrett	X	
Goforth, Bill S.	X	
Gray, James L.	X	
Gunn, Yale		X
Hale, David L.		X
Hambrick, Jr., David C.		X
Herd, William B.		X
Hollingshead, Glenda	X	
Hopper, Barron	X	
Howard, Ira G.		X
Hutchison, Ralph		X
Hyers, William D.	X	
Jordan, Greg		X
Kelly, R. Gary	X	
Kestner, C. Phillip		X
Knisley, Mark	X	
Lancaster, Lewis		X
Lee, Mun-Gye	X	
Lovell, Arnold		X
Lowry, Robert	X	
Martin, James		X
Martin, John L.		X

Maxey, Dennis		X
Mays, James		X
McClanahan, Jr., James S.		X
Meredith, Tim W.		X
Miller, David		X
Muncie, Don R.		X
Murphy, Charles	X	
Niles, Fred		X
Olson, William		X
Parsons, Gradye		X
Phillips, J. Thomas		X
Prugh, J. Wiley		X
Ray, Richard		X
Rembert, Steve	X	
Rohr, Errol		X
Rolling, George L.	X	
Saunders, Raymond	X	
Scruggs, Glenn		X
Shackelford, Edgar P.		X
Shaw, Angus	X	
Shuck, John A.	X	
Sims, David H.		X
Spence, Jr., Andrew E.		X
Strang, Fred Foy		X
Sutherland, Terry	X	
Sydnor, Charles S.		X
Taylor, Harrison		X
Turnbull, Gordon		X
Wade, Thomas M. L.		X

Walker, Fred		X
Weekley, Russ	X	
Weisz, Stephen R.		X
Welch, David	X	
White, Katherine		X
White, Ray		X
Whitesides, Davis		X
Wing, III, William T.	X	
Wyatt, Brian	X	
Yarborough, Beth		X
Young, William		X

ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Congregation	Principal	Alternate	Other
Amity			
Bethany			
Bethel, Dandridge			
Bethel, Kingsport	Tom Yount		Liz Yount; Harry Bentley
Blountville	Larry Pierce		
Bristol, First	Kevin Buck		
Cedar Creek			
Cedarview	Coy Klepper	Roland Jones	
Chuckey			
Clinton			
Cold Spring			
Colonial Heights	Ted Hagen, Sr.	Charlie Barrett	
Cove Creek			
Covenant	Ann Freeman	Hal Hunter	
Cross Anchor	Fred Malone		

Elizabethton, First	Paul Gabinet		
Erwin	Julian King		Cliff Dameron, CLP
Grays Chapel			
Greeneville, First	Mark Stokes		
Hebron			
Hopewell			
Jefferson City, First			
Jennie Moore			
Johnson City, First	Gilbert Rosenberger		Dick McCray
Jonesborough	Bill Reese	Diana Moore	
Keystone	J. C. Gage	Kate Gage	Spencer Pickel
Kingsport, First	David Garriott, Don Brown	Agnese Goin	Elizabeth A. Hay
Leesburg			
Liberty			
Magill Memorial		Gloria Baird, CLP	Tom Burleson, CLP
Meadowview			
Morristown, First	Ginny Goan		Kyle Schmidt, Intern; Jean Schmidt
Mountain City	Selma Fifer	Betty Sligar	Doris Curd; Teresa Foulke; Ann Peake
Mt. Hermon			
New Bethel			
New Ebenezer			
New Market			
New Providence	Jessie Brown	Mary Jane Brown	
Newport			
Oakland			
Old Kingsport			
Philadelphia			
Piney Flats	David E. Frizzell		

Preston Hills	Jim Bell		
Reedy Creek, Bristol			
Reedy Creek, Kingsport	Mike Culbertson		
Rock Creek	Donald E. Lonon		F. B. White
Rogersville	Shirley A. Price		
Rosemont			
Salem	Freda Donoho		W. R. Donoho
Shady Valley			
Shenandoah			
St. Paul			
Strawberry Plains	Hope King		
Tabernacle	Anna Maddox, CLP		
Timber Ridge	Charles Brumley	Marilyn Brumley	
Tri City Korean			
Walkertown	Debbie Smith	Ruth Dinwiddie	
Watauga Avenue	Jim Foster		Jim Foote, CLP
Waverly Road	David Petke, CLP	Jim Skillen, CLP	Charles Smith
Weaver Union			
West Ridge			Jeff Morelock, CLP
Whitesburg			
Windsor Avenue			
Zion			

PRESBYTERY STAFF: Craig Bell, Kim Fifield, Jim Kirkpatrick, Bob Millard, Susan Smith, Paulette Thompson

CAMP STAFF: Peggy Crump, Patsy Laster-Ford, Wayne Smith, Valerie Taylor, Donna Townsend

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Mary Lee Harmon (Congregational Life); Sue O'Dell (Institutions)

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS: Gloria Baird, Tom Bureson, Cliff Dameron, Jim Foote, Jim Foster, Anna Maddox, Jeff Morelock

CANDIDATES/INQUIRERS: Kyle Schmidt (Candidate, Grand Canyon Presbytery); Pat Willard (Candidate, First, Elizabethton)

VISITING MINISTERS: Mark Koenig (Presbytery of Western Reserve); Tom Bier (The Journey); Ronnie Duncan (Cross Anchor/Walkertown); Tom Peake (Mountain City)

OTHER VISITORS: Jana Dobežova (Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Student Intern); Jim Swinkola (Director, Grandfather Home)

Consent Agenda

The Moderator presented the Consent Agenda which included:

- Approve enrollment
- Declaration of quorum
- Approve requests for excused absences
- Approve giving visiting ministers voice
- Approve Minutes of the June 6, 2008 Stated Meeting
- Appointment of Committee on Thanks: Sharon Amstutz, Diana Moore
- Appointment of the Bills & Overture Committee: Tom Burleson, Dan Donaldson
- And, Adoption of the Docket

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Declaration of New Business: None

Stated Clerk's Report: was given by Rich Fifield

INFORMATION:

1. Received the minutes of the Commission to Ordain Kent Pettit as Minister of the Word and Sacrament on July 13, 2008. (See Attached)
2. Received reports from the Commissioners to the 218th General Assembly. (See Attached)

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION of Holston Presbytery to ordain Kent Michael Pettit as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Commission, according to the appointment of Holston Presbytery, met at First Presbyterian Church in Johnson City, TN on July 13, 2008 at 10:45 a.m. with ministers Baron Eliason, Richard Fifield and James McClanahan present with elders Donald Hart (First, Johnson City), Peg Lincoln (Waverly Road) and Karen Welch (Jonesborough). The Reverend Rich Fifield opened the meeting with prayer and was elected Moderator and Clerk of the Commission. A quorum was declared. Responsibilities and procedures for the Service of Ordination were reviewed. The Commission recessed to be reconvened in the presence of the congregation at 11:00 a.m. and agreed to adjourn at the benediction.

Reverend Fifield reconvened the Commission in the presence of the congregation at the morning worship service. Elder Peg Lincoln delivered the Epistle lesson from 1 Timothy 4:9-16 and Elder Donald Hart participated with the presentation of tithes and offerings to God. Rev. Dr. Baron Eliason delivered the New Testament lesson from Philippians 1:1-11 and a sermon on "Our Partnership in the Gospel." Rev. Fifield delivered the Statement of Purpose, Presentation of the Candidate and asking of the Constitutional Questions. Those being answered in the affirmative, Kent M. Pettit was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) agreeably to the Word of God and the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A Prayer of Ordination was given by Elder Karen Welch. The Declaration of Ordination was made by Rev. Dr. Baron Eliason and the new minister was welcomed by the Commission. The Charge to the newly ordained minister was delivered by Rev. Dr. James McClanahan. A brief statement was made at the end of the service by the Reverend Kent M. Pettit who pronounced the charge and benediction. After

the service, officers and members of the church offered an appropriate expression of cordial reception and affectionate regard.

Signed by Clerk: *Richard L. Fifield*

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) - 218th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 21-28, 2008 – SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

From Elder Commissioner Don Brown, First Church, Kingsport -

The theme was "Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God." The lasting memory was the wide diversity (gender, color, geography, polity) of our denomination and the opportunity for thoughtful, civil deliberations of those in attendance. Considering the location of the meeting, there was, in my opinion, a remarkable lack of public demonstrations.

The Assembly was attended by over 700 delegates plus advisors, visitors, and representatives world-wide.

Commissioners from our Holston Presbytery were Ministers Dan Donaldson, Greeneville, Beth Yarborough, Jonesborough, Elders Don Brown and Gale Manley, Kingsport. Youth Advisory Delegate was Jason Reece, Jonesborough.

Uplifting was the election of the Rev. Gradye Parsons as the General Assembly stated clerk. Gradye was formerly a minister then executive presbyter of our Holston Presbytery. This elected position is the top administrative position in our denomination.

Problematic was a decision to substitute Book of Order G-6.0106b with a new version which would remove the requirement that church officers live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness." The vote was 380-325. The debate now moves to the denomination's presbyteries, which in 1997 and 2000 rejected similar proposals to delete G-6.0106b.

The Assembly chose to leave the definition of marriage as it is between a man and woman and not including same-sex couples.

Recommendations for a major rewrite to our Form of Government was accepted by the General Assembly and referred to a new task force for study and then submittal for in depth study by presbyteries and local congregations and subsequent consideration by the 2010 General Assembly.

Moderator of the General Assembly, leader of the non-administrative church, is Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, aged 39, the grandson of Chinese and Filipino immigrants to California.

The Youth Advisory Delegates between the ages of 17-22 were especially impressive as demonstrated by their open discussion of the issues facing our denomination.

I was assigned to a new Youth Committee consisting of about 60 commissioners. Our task was to recommend actions that would enable improved ministry to the youth of our church. We used a new process called "Guidelines for Communal Discernment", which enabled us to use thoughtful problem solving to reach decisions. We recommended five actions for new business by the General Assembly of which four were accepted:

1. Direct the General Assembly Council's Office of Ministry with Youth to provide each presbytery resource center or resource contact person with a copy of Christian Smith's DVD, "Soul Searching: A Movie About Teenagers and God" for congregational use.

2 & 3. Direct the moderator of the General Assembly to appoint a task force to seek input from youth, young adults and adults to continue the dialogue begun at this Assembly. The task force is also to find and present model

programs, focus on the needs and development of youth ministries and report back to the 2010 General Assembly specific recommendations for designing and conducting various youth ministries under a “new vision” for youth.

4. Change the designation of youth advisory delegate (YAD) to young adult advisory delegate (YAAD).

Serving as a commissioner to the General Assembly requires a great deal of preparation and study. In reflecting back to the experience, I find that my opinions regarding the major issues before the Assembly were not changed during the deliberations, although I did not win all my votes. Thanks for the opportunity!

Submitted by: Donald E. Brown, Elder Commissioner

From Elder Commissioner Gayle Manley, Preston Hills Church

I thought the worship services at General Assembly were very uplifting. The music and the sermons were phenomenal. I was impressed with the overture process in which each overture was given a fair hearing in a committee environment whose members were randomly selected as well with how the committee recommendations on the overtures were handled in the plenary sessions. The plenary sessions to hear, discuss and vote on the committee recommendations were long and tiring. I thought some of the items were over discussed and some were probably under discussed.

I was assigned to the Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee. We were assigned two overtures and were designated as one of two of the committees to try out a communal discernment process. The committee members sat seven to a table. In the table groups, we used a “mutual invitation” process for discussion which is designed to ensure that everyone in the group who wants to share has the opportunity to talk. (Mutual invitation is a process designed by Eric H. F. Law described in *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*: St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1993) “The leader or a designated person shares first. After that person has spoken, she or he invites by name another person to share. This does not need to be the person beside the speaker. The person who has been invited has two options: a) to speak and then invite the next speaker; b) to pass and then invite the next speaker. The mutual invitation process worked very well to promote individual participation in the table groups. In the communal discernment process, we were urged to focus on individual and communal prayer and on waiting in silence to listen for God’s guidance.

We did have plenty of confusion and disagreement when we moved from the table group discussions to attempt to decide on overall committee actions. Some of the committee members were uncomfortable outside the strict parliamentary structure of motions, amendments and voting to get a winner. The communal discernment process is geared toward reaching a group result that all members of the group can at least live with.

Our first overture was from the Presbytery of East Tennessee. It was approved as amended in the committee and approved as amended in the plenary session by the General Assembly. The amended overture was as follows:

Item 16-01

On Reaffirming Our Common Faith in Jesus Christ

Source: Presbytery

Sponsor:

East Tennessee Presbytery

Committee:

[16-01] Worship and Spiritual
Renewal

Type:

General Assembly Full
Consideration

Topic: Unassigned

<http://www.pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=509>

ASSEMBLY ACTION

On this Item, the General Assembly, acted as follows:

Approve as Amended

Voice Vote

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On this Item, the Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee, acted as follows:

Approve as Amended

[Counted Vote - Committee]

Affirmative: 50

Negative: 5

Abstaining: 0

Final Text:

That the recommendation be approved as amended: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“1. affirm as sisters and brother[s] in Christ[L] our common faith in [~~and allegiance to,~~] Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and

“2. request that [at his discretion,] the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) [~~say before every vote~~] [when calling for the vote say:] [~~“As sisters and brothers in Christ,~~] [‘Sisters and brothers,] sharing our common faith in [~~and allegiance to,~~] Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, [and walking humbly with our God,] let us proceed to vote on the question before us.”

RECOMMENDATION

The Presbytery of East Tennessee overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) to

- 1. affirm as sisters and brother in Christ our common faith in, and allegiance to, Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and**
- 2. request that the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) say before every vote, “As sisters and brothers in Christ, sharing our common faith in, and allegiance to, Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, let us proceed to vote on the question before us.”**

RATIONALE

In the PC(USA), individuals professing faith are asked, “Who is your Lord and Savior?” They respond, “Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.”

Persons ordained and installed as officers and ministers of the Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) affirm faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The PC(USA) desperately needs an affirmation of common ground.

Our mutual affirmation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the common ground that allows us to talk about any and all issues.

Without this common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, there is not an issue we can address together.

In fact, the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly did say when calling for votes especially on contentious issues ‘Sisters and brothers, sharing our common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and walking humbly with our God, let us proceed to vote on the question before us.’ I thought this statement helped set the right tone for voting.

Item 16-02

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

Source: Presbytery

Sponsor:

San Joaquin Presbytery

Committee:

[16-02] Worship and Spiritual
Renewal

Type: General Assembly Full
Consideration

Topic: Unassigned

ASSEMBLY ACTION

On this Item, the General Assembly, acted as follows:

Approve with Comment

Voice Vote

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On this Item, the Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee, acted as follows:

Approve with Comment

Realizing that worship is our response to God’s love for us and that we pray for God to “put a new and right spirit within [us]” (Ps. 51:10), we 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, which may include personal and community worship, meditation, confession, forgiveness, fasting, and prayer.

Recognizing the biblical value of solemn assemblies for spiritual renewal, we request the Office of Theology and Worship to make available materials to include rich varieties of worship, Bible study, prayer, Christian meditation, and other spiritual disciplines.

[Counted Vote - Committee]

Affirmative: 29

Negative: 5

Abstaining: 0

Final Text:

RECOMMENDATION

The Presbytery of San Joaquin overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) to 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, following the command of God through the prophet Joel¹.

1. Joel 2:12-17.

RATIONALE

For decades the PC(USA) has attempted to turn the tide of decline in mission and membership, but to little avail. We have also labored to serve as salt and light in a society that appears to be growing darker with the passage of time. It seems that our efforts, as well intentioned as they have been, have been insufficient.

We can point to many causes for the ills of our great church, but we will have little hope of remedy until we embrace the reality that we cannot cure ourselves. But, that does not mean we are beyond hope. A study of history reveals that when churches and nations have fallen upon hard times and the people of God have turned to God for remedy, God has often given a fresh lease on Life².

One means by which the people of God have sought God's remedies has been through Solemn Assemblies. Such gatherings are described frequently in Scripture, including those called by Moses, David, Nehemiah, and Joel, and the meeting of Jesus' disciples in the upper room following His ascension. Solemn Assemblies are simply times for God's people humbly to ask for God's perspective, to listen carefully, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness in Jesus Christ, and to be freed to grow toward the fullness of the grace and truth that characterize our Lord Jesus Christ³.

No matter what our theological perspectives might be, we are united in our common need of God's grace. The call to Solemn Assembly is a call to join as one at the foot of the cross of our Lord and to beseech His mercy, in light of the promise of 2 Chronicles 7, "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (vs. 14).

Further information is available at www.heartrest.org

2. Joel 1ff; "One of the most amazing instances of the fruit of a Solemn Assembly is the Revival of the General Assembly in the Church of Scotland in 1596" ("The Solemn Assembly," R. O. Roberts, p. 7.).

3. John 1:14.

CONCURRENCE

Presbytery of Stockton

The General Assembly tried to save a lot of paper by having all the delegates on laptop computers using the www.pc-biz.org web-site. The site has a good design but the computer servers were overwhelmed when all the delegates selected the same item to browse. Hopefully, by the next General Assembly, the glitches will be resolved. This year the staff had to make a lot of paper copies of the committee reports so that everyone could keep up with the current business item.

Thanks for your thoughts and prayers. Being a commissioner to the 218th General Assembly (2008) was an uplifting and positive experience for me.

In Christ, Gale Manley, Elder Commissioner, August 16, 2008

From Commissioner Reverend Beth Yarborough, Jonesborough Presbyterian Church

Everyone who claims to be Presbyterian should experience General Assembly. It is there in the arena of our government that "connectedness" and "decently and in order" come to life. It is on the floor of GA where everyone can renew and reclaim their heritage as Presbyterians.

Connectedness is a buzzword in our denomination that really translates into community. Community was very present in San Jose as people from around the country and even around the world convened in a very small space to worship God, to meet new friends, and renew old acquaintances. We are all connected on the basic notion of a shared faith in a Holy God who can work wonders and miracles even now in the 21st century, even now in spite of the differences and divisions affecting not only our denomination, but virtually every denomination based on the love of Jesus Christ.

Wonders were evident in the amazing and moving worship services that united us in our great diversity for an hour each day. The miracle of God's grace surrounded us as we sat together – this huge mob of people – in complete awe and silence of the incredible talent, skills and gifts of those responsible for designing and leading our worship. Worship leaders fit the diversity of the membership in the PCUSA: all ages, all colors, all genders, many nationalities. It was an amazing feat of scheduling, timing and logistics that allowed us for an hour each day to sit quietly and marvel in the awesomeness of a great and wonderful God, a generous and magnificent prince who reminds of how small we really are and how incredibly huge God really is.

We were there, of course, to review and renew rules and regulations, but first and foremost we gathered in San Jose because we are a church built on strong and ageless tenets of faith that is reformed and always reforming. There are changes in the air in our denomination. Some will occur sooner rather than later, but change is imminent nonetheless. My committee assignment was church polity. We were charged with several challenging issues, including responding to an overture recommending changes in the language about marriage in the PCUSA Book of Order. The motion failed to receive recommendation from the committee as well as failing necessary votes to pass on the floor of the General Assembly. The process in the committee, however, was handled with extreme respect and honor for all and the many different opinions, views and beliefs about the issue. Arguments were presented both for and against, some with great emotion but all were heard with equal respect and regard for the person presenting.

We will always have differences of opinion and differences in our interpretation of scripture. While some of us may find it annoying and disruptive, it is a fact of life. The challenge emerges in how we respond to our brothers and sisters in Christ when we find ourselves emerged in differences. Scripture leads us to many responses, the first coming to mind being the words of Jesus that instruct only those without sin to cast the first stone. We all think we are right and all are wired with this basic instinct to “win”. In some of the arguments we are faced with in our denomination, there are no real winners and someone is always going to be disappointed in the outcome.

The question then becomes, “How might we live together in our differences as brothers and sisters united by the love of Christ?” The answer is not in leaving the denomination. The answer lies in somehow continuing the journey together, bound together by the basics of our faith – a love for Jesus Christ and a deep need for relationship with our Holy God. The answer lies in scripture that reminds us to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us and do good to those who have hurt us. The answer lies in Jesus' demands to forgive not once or twice but seventy times seven. The answer lies not in creating further divisions by leaving and further weakening this historic body of faith but rather, the answer lies in loving the Lord our God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength and loving your neighbor as you love yourself.

Claiming those truths recorded in scripture leaves us with the ongoing prevailing question of who is my neighbor? Is my neighbor the person who thinks like I do? Or, could it possibly be the person who thinks in a diametrically opposed fashion? “Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8) emerged as the theme for our week together in San Jose. I wear a bracelet given to each commissioner imprinted with the words, justice, kindness, humility. These words inform all we do in all aspects of our lives, even in our lives as Presbyterians, one of the great denominations of Christ's community. How might these words inform us as we enter into a season of voting on changes affecting the government of this body of wonderful people created to be in relationship with God and with each other? Please enter these decisions with thought, care and prayer in an attitude of justice, mercy and humility.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to represent Holston Presbytery at General Assembly. Thank you for your expression of confidence in all of us who went as commissioners.

From Commissioner Reverend Dan Donaldson, First Church, Greeneville –

“Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God” was the theme for the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in San Jose, California. This church-wide gathering for governance, worship and fellowship is packed full of meetings, reports to read and decisions to make. As is the case in the Presbyterian Church, sometimes I voted with the majority, but not always. Overall, it seems to me that the church continues to struggle with its diversity as well as its future direction.

One of the initiatives for the growth of the church is based on the theme to help Christ’s Church Grow Deep and Wide. This initiative is intended to encourage churches to think about growth, not only in numeric terms, but in other ways as well. The report to the assembly noted: “To help churches share stories and best practices as Deep and Wide moves forward, the GAC has already created one Web site and another is under development. The initiative, which calls the PC(USA) to grow congregations numerically, spiritually and with diversity, would be active for two years.”

There was also conversation about the church being more missional. It is in fact that desire to position the church for mission out of which the Form of Government (FOG) grew, in part. If the church is encumbered with undue ecclesiology does it direct more of its energy toward internal governance rather than mission? It is a question worth consideration and one that we will have the opportunity to discuss as we look at the report of the FOG Committee and consider the many facets of its work for the future of the church.

Likewise the church is seeking to make more funds available for mission work and mission workers. It will require the commitment of the church at every level and the generosity of church members to realize this goal. Given that every upper level governing body from the presbyteries to the General Assembly is struggling with diminishing resources, this goal is a challenge for the entire church.

I served on the Mission Coordination and Budgets Committee. While we dealt with many issues, of which the most pressing was a long simmering dispute between the General Assembly Council (now the General Assembly Mission Council) and the Foundation over the issue of fiduciary responsibility. The Committee was able to find a middle ground solution which in the end had representatives from the Council and Foundation at a single microphone working with the committee to affect this compromise.

This year’s Assembly had several Holston Presbytery connections. Our own Gradye Parsons was elected Stated Clerk of the General Assembly on the first ballot. He availed himself well in the question and answer period. We should be pleased and proud that he was elected. The election of Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow, 39, “an energetic new church development pastor in San Francisco and leader in the “emergent church” movement”, also meant the election of Byron Wade, Pastor of the Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina as Vice Moderator. Byron has Holston connections having worked at Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center on the summer staff. So there were many good connections with this Assembly meeting to this Presbytery.

There are a number of proposed changes to the Book of Order which will be before the Presbytery in the coming year. I would encourage ministers and elder commissioners to read them carefully. They are significant and important issues that are worthy of honest, compassionate conversation. One amendment would ask candidates for ordination to “pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church.” We will have the opportunity to vote on this and other issues. These are important questions for all of us.

Finally, for me this Assembly, (my first in three elected opportunities) was a time to renew many old acquaintances and see many friends. The Presbyterian Church is like family in so many ways. We have many friends and even when we go our separate ways, or even disagree with one another, we can still be one in Christ and affirm our unity in him. Thank you for the opportunity to attend this year’s General Assembly.

Treasurer's Report
September 9, 2008

HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
FUND BALANCE
AS OF JULY 31, 2008

	<u>Jul 31, 08</u>
ASSETS	
10000 · CHECKING - CITIZENS BANK (Checking - Citizens Bank)	
10111 · Select Monies (Select Monies)	41,259.11
10170 · Fairmount Property (Fairmount Property)	5,939.00
10211 · Hattie Farthing Fund (Hattie Farthing Fund)	582.45
10320 · Holston Seminary Student Fund (Holston Seminary Student Fund)	127.92
10410 · Global Mission Fund (Global Mission Fund)	1,614.36
10415 · Brazil Mission Trip (Brazil Mission Trip)	-1,945.47
10420 · 5 Cents-a-Meal Local (5 Cents-a-Meal Local)	2,441.12
10421 · 5 Cents-a-Meal International (5 Cents-a-Meal International)	-31.04
10530 · Indian Ridge Payment (Indian Ridge Payment)	500.00
10531 · Youth Ministry Endowment (Youth Ministry Endowment)	1,500.00
10640 · EIHN - Restoring Creation (EIHN - Restoring Creation)	1,425.00
10712 · Ministry - Hawkins County (Ministry - Hawkins County)	5,250.00
10714 · Church Hill - Undesignated (Church Hill - Undesignated)	750.00
10752 · New Church Development/Designated (New Church Development/Design)	33,333.26
10755 · Synod NCD Money (Synod NCD Money)	-0.04
11861 · Williams Capital Fund Interest (Williams Capital Fund Int.)	4,333.02
11862 · Williams Program Fund Interest (Williams Program Fund Int.)	6,951.48
11910 · Honoraria - EP (Honoraria - EP)	1,500.12
15000 · Charitable Gift Annuity (Charitable Gift Annuity)	1,797.62
20000 · Citizens Bank (Citizens Bank)	
20210 · Pastoral Care (Pastoral Care)	298.71
20531 · Youth Triennium (Youth Triennium)	2.76
20710 · Church Development (Church Development)	305.65
20750 · New Church Development (New Church Development)	2,885.26
20780 · Evangelism (Evangelism)	8,803.64
20911 · Equipment Reserve (Equipment Reserve)	682.93
21810 · Devries Scholarship Fund a (Devries Scholarship Fund)	19.62
21820 · Grigsby Scholarship (Grigsby Scholarship)	9,262.66
21830 · Braziel Scholarship (Braziel Scholarship)	284.41

21840 · Dixon Scholarship (Dixon Scholarship)	554.67
21881 · Ninth Street Loan Fund - Hold (Ninth Street Loan Fund - Hold)	-350.63
Total 20000 · Citizens Bank (Citizens Bank)	<u>22,749.68</u>
10000 · CHECKING - CITIZENS BANK (Checking - Citizens Bank) - Other	116,062.21
Total 10000 · CHECKING - CITIZENS BANK (Checking - Citizens Bank)	<u>246,139.80</u>
30000 · PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION (Presbyterian Foundation)	
30211 · Hattie Farthing Fund (Hattie Farthing Fund)	36,244.68
30710 · Church Development (Church Development)	30,712.35
30730 · Small Church Fund (Small Church Fund)	197,401.08
30750 · New Church Development (New Church Development)	85,835.46
31820 · Grigsby Scholarship (Grigsby Scholarship)	80,014.47
31830 · Braziel Scholarship (Braziel Scholarship)	41,442.99
31840 · Dixon Scholarship (Dixon Scholarship)	33,624.34
31870 · Pattie Bushong Fund (Pattie Bushong Fund)	2,061.44
31880 · Robinson Fund (Robinson Fund)	778.21
31881 · Ninth Street Loan Fund (Ninth Street Loan Fund)	12,092.70
31882 · Ninth Street Scholarship (Ninth Street Scholarship)	50,765.45
31883 · Tusculum College Endowment (Tusculum College Endowment)	106,706.04
Total 30000 · PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION (Presbyterian Foundation)	<u>677,679.21</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>923,819.01</u>
Other Current Assets	
40000 · The PFSA, Inc Grant Program	627,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>627,000.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,550,819.01</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,550,819.01</u></u>

HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
GENERAL MISSION BUDGET
JANUARY – JULY 2008

	<u>Jan - Jul 08</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
60160 · Unified Mission Designated Fund	98,739.84	189,612.59	52.08%
60500 · Unified Monies	255,445.72	558,310.00	45.75%
61905 · Interest Income	29,121.11	44,485.00	65.46%
Total Income	<u>383,306.67</u>	<u>792,407.59</u>	<u>48.37%</u>
Expense			
70100 · Presbytery Council/Governing Body	65,752.95	111,578.68	58.93%
70200 · E- Committee on Ministry	583.32	2,750.00	21.21%
70300 · E-Committee Prep for Ministry	4,585.56	11,000.00	41.69%
70400 · WW Mission Committee	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
70500 · Congregational Life Committee	3,819.91	10,000.00	38.2%
70600 · EIHN Committee	620.00	3,500.00	17.71%
70700 · Church Development & Evangelism	43,988.15	71,000.00	61.96%
70800 · Committee on Institutions	38,750.00	52,500.00	73.81%
70900 · Administration & Planning Committee	241,891.44	430,512.24	56.19%
71100 · Stewardship & Budget Committee	0.00	3,500.00	0.0%
71200 · Holston Camp & Retreat Center	30,215.98	62,666.67	48.22%
71300 · Youth & Young Adult Ministry	21,600.69	31,400.00	68.79%
71400 · Trustees	42.00		
Total Expense	<u>451,850.00</u>	<u>792,407.59</u>	<u>57.02%</u>
Net Income	<u>-68,543.33</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

9:55 AM – Break

10: 05 AM – Meeting was reconvened

Ethical Issues & Human Needs Report: John Shuck introduced Mark Koenig to share information about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the General Assembly. Small Group time was devoted to Peacemaking.

INFORMATION:

To: Churches of Holston Presbytery

From: Ethical Issues and Human Needs Committee

Re: **Update on Five-Cents-a-Meal Program**

In the past twenty-plus years, churches within Holston Presbytery have generously given over \$1,000,000 to the Five-Cents-a-Meal Program to help alleviate hunger. Yet, the current needs to both local and international programs have reached beyond the giving by our congregations. Last year the shortfall in receipts resulted in an 11.7% reduction in grant money given to agencies applying for grants.

In an effort to close the gap between requests and giving, Holston Presbytery adopted a change in the program this year. It is now requested that families consider contributing five cents per meal rather than three cents. This change has made a difference, but needs are still exceeding available funds.

The application deadline for Five-Cents-a-Meal Program grants was July 15. The total requested is \$83,200, compared to \$59,050 in 2007. This represents a 41% increase in requests. Please consider communicating to your church members that we again are faced with a challenge of giving money necessary to fully fund the requests for agencies which feed the hungry of our area and of international communities.

In sharing information about Five-Cents-Meal with your congregations, please consider the following so that we will be able to fully fund the requests we have received:

- If your church isn't currently participating, please consider becoming a part of this worthy program.
- Do a Minute for Mission in your worship service to make your congregation aware of the need for increased giving.
- Speak to individuals in your congregation to inform them of the need for increased giving.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Council Report:

The meeting was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008, in the offices of Holston Presbytery and called to order by Robert Lowry, Moderator, at 7:00 p.m. and opened with devotional and prayer by Ike Brighton.

Present were: Ike Brighton, Elmon Brown, Greg Cartwright, Chuck Green, Mary Lee Harmon, Robert Hart, Barron Hopper, Ed Hutchinson, Barbara Kelly, David Light, Robert Lowry, Tom Phillips, Jackie Riddle, John Shuck, Mark Stokes, Gordon Turnbull, Brian Wyatt, Paulette Thompson, Rich Fifield, Susan Smith, Craig Bell.

Reports/Recommendations to Council:

Stated Clerk's Report was noted in the packet by Rich Fifield.

Treasurer's Report was noted in the packet by Rich Fifield.

Moderator's Report: Robert Lowry shared correspondence from First Church, Jefferson City. Motion was approved that Bob Lowry should write and send a letter addressing the issues in the correspondence to the Session of First, Jefferson City.

Vice-Moderator's Report: Mark Stokes reported that Mark Koenig, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, will lead worship thanks to John Shuck.

A motion was approved to commend the Rev. John Shuck and his congregation's ministry in response to the shooting at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville.

The Stewardship and Budget Committee Report was given by Chuck Green.

1. Recommendation to Council:
That the 2009 proposed General Mission Budget be \$771,909. Approved.

2009 Proposed General Mission Budget

Income	\$771,995.49
Congregational Contributions (Asking-\$80,000 increase)	\$638,210.49
Designated Funds	\$89,300.00
Interest	\$44,485.00
Expenses	\$771,909.27
Ministries within Presbytery	\$188,200.00
Church Development & Evangelism	\$34,300.00
Congregational Life	\$10,000.00
Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center	\$60,000.00
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	\$31,400.00
Institutional Support	\$52,500.00
Ministries with Higher Governing Bodies	\$108,578.58
Synod of Living Waters Unified	\$32,000.00
Synod of Living Waters Per Capita	\$29,459.56
General Assembly Per Capita	\$47,119.02
Program Administration	\$27,400.00
Committee on Ministry	\$2,750.00
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	\$11,000.00
Committee on Ethical Issues & Human Needs	\$3,750.00
Committee on World-wide Mission	\$2,000.00
Committee on Stewardship & Budget	\$4,000.00
Committee on Administration & Planning	\$200.00
Committee on Church Development & Evangelism	\$200.00
Committee on Congregational Life	\$200.00
Trustees	\$100.00
Presbytery Council	\$200.00
Officers and Directors Insurance Liability	\$3,000.00
Office and Staff	\$447,730.69
Office	\$31,250.00
Staff	\$416,480.69

Balance	\$86.22
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2009 Proposed General Mission Budget - Comparison Figures with 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Income	\$771,995.49	\$792,407.59
Congregational Contributions (Asking - \$80,000 increase)	\$638,210.49	\$558,310.00
Designated Funds	\$89,300.00	189,612.59
Interest	\$44,485.00	\$44,485.00
Expenses	\$771,909.27	\$792,407.59
Ministries within Presbytery	\$188,200.00	\$227,566.67
Church Development & Evangelism	\$34,300.00	\$71,000.00
Congregational Life	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center	\$60,000.00	\$62,666.67
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	\$31,400.00	\$31,400.00
Institutional Support	\$52,500.00	\$52,500.00
Ministries with Higher Governing Bodies	\$108,578.58	\$111,578.68
Synod of Living Waters Unified	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00
Synod of Living Waters Per Capita	\$29,459.56	\$31,133.75
General Assembly Per Capita	\$47,119.02	\$48,444.93
Program Administration	\$27,400.00	\$27,400.00
Committee on Ministry	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Committee on Ethical Issues & Human Needs	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
Committee on World-wide Mission	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Committee on Stewardship & Budget	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Committee on Administration & Planning	\$200.00	\$200.00
Committee on Church Development & Evangelism	\$200.00	\$200.00
Committee on Congregational Life	\$200.00	\$200.00
Trustees	\$100.00	\$100.00
Presbytery Council	\$200.00	\$200.00
Officers and Directors Insurance Liability	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Office and Staff	\$447,730.69	\$430,512.24
Office	\$31,250.00	\$31,250.00
Staff	\$416,480.69	\$399,262.24

Balance	\$86.22
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- The previously postponed motion regarding the naming of “an ad hoc committee of individuals with recognized professional financial and fiduciary expertise to serve as an "Investment and Finance Committee" to receive and study the results of the audit that is to be done and to meet with the auditor regarding the audit and its conclusions and suggestions. This committee along with the auditor would then make a report to Council regarding the audit's findings and any recommendations regarding improvements to presbytery financial and fiduciary practices.”, and the Stewardship and Budget Committee’s recommendation that the ad hoc committee be composed of three persons: Chuck Green (Stewardship and Budget Committee); one person from Council and one person from the Trustees was tabled.

Chuck Green reported that a draft copy of the 2007 financial audit has been received.

Actions Referred to Council by Presbytery — None

The Draft Copy of Handout Packet for September 9, 2008 stated meeting of presbytery at Holston Camp in Banner Elk, NC including proposed docket and committee reports to presbytery was distributed for review.

There being no other business, Bob Lowry concluded the meeting with a sharing of Concerns and Prayers and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm with prayer by Brian Wyatt.

Future Dates for Council and Presbytery meetings in 2008:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>
	Tuesday, September 9 – Holston Camp, Banner Elk
November 18, 2008	Tuesday, December 2 – Jonesborough

Council Minutes Committee approved the minutes.

Respectfully submitted: Paulette H. Thompson

Committee on Ministry Report: Dan Clark introduced Candidate Kyle Schmidt to preach before Presbytery.

INFORMATION:

- Approved the request by the Presbytery of Savannah of the pastoral call to Holston Presbytery **Candidate Kent Pettit**, as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Douglas, Georgia, effective July 14, 2008 (pending the successful examination for ordination by the Presbytery of Savannah) with the following terms of call: Cash Salary - \$25,800; SECA Allowance - \$2,566; Manse; Utility Allowance - \$3,600; Full Board of Pensions; Deferred Compensation - \$722; Reimbursable Travel Expense - \$3,336; Reimbursable Continuing Education Expense - \$1,000; Vacation – 4 Weeks; Continuing Education – 2 Weeks; and appoint the following Commission to Ordain Kent Pettit as Minister of the Word and Sacrament on Sunday, July 13, 11:00 AM, First Presbyterian Church, Johnson City: Elder Don Hart (First Church, Johnson City); Elder Peg Lincoln (Waverly Road); Elder Karen Welch (Jonesborough); the Rev. Baron Eliason; the Rev. Rich Fifield; the Rev. James McClanahan.
- Approved the request by **the Rev. Jim Gray** to dissolve the pastoral relationship with **Weaver Union Church** and approve the following changes in terms of call with the **Keystone Church** (from 1/3 time to 1/2 time), effective August 1, 2008: Cash Salary - \$ 13,000; Housing Allowance - \$3,900; SECA Allowance - \$1,293; Full Board of Pensions; Reimbursable Travel Expense - \$1,000; Reimbursable Continuing Education Expense - \$250.

3. Approved the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between **the Rev. Baron Eliason** and **First Church, Johnson City**, and approved Rev. Eliason's call as pastor of Westminster Church, Lubbock, Texas and transfer him to Palo Duro Presbytery, effective August 1, 2008.
4. Approved the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between **the Rev. John Everett** and **Blountville Church**, and approved Rev. Everett's call as pastor of Rossville Church, Rossville, Indiana and transfer him to Wabash Valley Presbytery, effective August 1, 2008.
5. Approved the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between **the Rev. Tim Meredith** and **Cold Spring Church**, effective July 15, 2008, with salary continuation and full Board of Pensions for up to twelve months.
6. In accordance with G-14.0620, approved the request of the **Rogersville Church** to elect **the Rev. David Hale** as pastor emeritus.
7. Approved the call of **Candidate Kyle Schmidt** as **Associate Pastor of First Church, Morristown** (pending the approval of his ordination) with the following terms of call: Cash Salary - \$26,000; Housing Allowance - \$7,800; FICA Allowance - \$2,585.70; full Board of Pensions; Continuing Education Reimbursement - \$500; Travel Reimbursement - \$2,000; Annual Continuing Education Leave – two weeks; Annual Vacation – four weeks.
8. Approved the validated ministry **the Rev. Fred Foy Strang** as Chaplain and Dean of the Peeke School of Christian Mission at King College.
9. Postponed the request to approve the Church Information Form for **St. Paul Church**.
10. Approved the Temporary Supply Contract between **Magill Memorial Church** and **the Rev. Martin Christian**, effective September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009, with the following terms: Annual Cash Salary - \$4,212.00; Annual Housing Allowance - \$20,788.00; Annual Continuing Educational Reimbursement- \$500.00; Annual Travel Reimbursement at IRS rate; Annual Continuing Education Leave – two weeks; Annual Vacation – four weeks.
11. Approved the Temporary Supply Contract between **Tri-City Korean Church** and **the Rev. Mun-Gye Lee**, effective September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009, with the following terms: Monthly Cash Salary - \$1,650.00; Monthly Housing Allowance - \$1,00.00; full participation in the Board of Pensions; Monthly Reimbursed Travel - \$350; Continuing Education Leave – one week per quarter; Vacation – one week per quarter.
12. Appointed **the Rev. Dennis Maxey** as moderator of the **New Market Church**.
13. Appointed a Commission of: **Rev. Gary Kelly** and **Rev. Greg Cartwright** (First, Morristown), Elders **Ginny Goan** (First, Morristown), **Charles Brumley** (Timber Ridge), **Pat Patton** (First, Jefferson City) and **Rev. Gerald Kirby** (corresponding member, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia) to ordain and install **Kyle Schmidt** as an Associate Pastor on Sunday, **September 21, 2008**, 10:30AM at First Church (Morristown), pending successful examination by the Presbytery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the examination for ordination of **Candidate Kyle Schmidt** be sustained and that he be approved for ordination by Holston Presbytery, following the request of Grand Canyon Presbytery. (See attached *Faith Journey* and *Statement of Faith*.) Following questions to the Candidate by Dan Clark and from those present, the recommendation was approved.
2. That the request from the session of **Cedar Creek Church** for "Relief of Conscience" to the Board of Pensions, dated April 13, 2008, be approved. Approved.

Relief of Conscience Policy of the Board of Pensions

The Board of Pensions has a process that recognizes differing views among participating employing organizations about the appropriate response to problem pregnancies. The intent is to make sure dues

contributed by employing organizations that object to any medical coverage for abortion-related expenses will never be used to reimburse such expenses.

At the same time, reflecting the Church's affirmation of each woman's right to make a moral choice when confronted by a problem pregnancy, the Medical Plan provides coverage for abortion-related services, funded by the dues of those employing organizations that have not requested relief.

Established in 1992 and revised in 1998, the "Relief of Conscience" process separates the incoming dues stream between employing organizations that have not sought relief and those certified by their presbyteries of jurisdiction to be Relief of Conscience employing organizations. Medical claims for abortion procedures are paid from the non-Relief of Conscience dues stream. A dollar amount equal to the cost of abortion claims from the prior year is set aside from the Relief of Conscience dues stream and helps to fund the Board's Adoption Grant program. Then, the dues streams are merged and all other medical claims and costs are paid from the merged dues stream.

The presbytery of jurisdiction grants Relief of Conscience to the employing organization and notifies the Board of Pensions to implement it. Sessions representing their congregations as employing organizations and minister members of presbyteries who are self-paying Benefits Plan members may seek Relief of Conscience. Relief of Conscience is granted to the organization that pays the dues.

The action continues for any succeeding incumbent of the church granted Relief of Conscience. If the pastor of a Relief of Conscience church changes service, the Relief of Conscience status does not follow to the new position.

The full coverage protection of the Medical Plan is available to all Plan members whether or not the church of service is a Relief of Conscience church.

Kyle L. Schmidt Statement of Faith

I believe in one sovereign and eternal God; a Holy Trinity consisting of Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. I believe God created the world *ex nihilo*—from nothing—and remains all knowing, in all places, and working for good. God created the world perfect and desired a perfect relationship with Adam and Eve, until sin led to their dismissal from the garden and the fall of all humanity. I believe God graciously made a covenant with Abraham, who remained faithful to God, and fathered the Jewish people —God's chosen people.

I believe God's ultimate act of mercy and love came in the correction of humanity's fall from purity—when God incarnate, Jesus Christ, came to earth to restore the relationship between God and humankind. I believe Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and died on the cross, and was resurrected to provide redemption to a fallen humanity. I believe Jesus ascended into heaven and reigns in power with God.

Jesus ascension to heaven has not left us without God. I believe the Holy Spirit to be the indwelling of the Holy Trinity in all God's people. I believe there is a connection between the work of the Holy Spirit and our ethics. The Holy Spirit acts as a moral and spiritual guide to the Truth of God while being our comforter, revealer of mystery and truth giver.

I believe God breathed life into humanity, as humanity was created in God's image. As a result of sin, humanity became separate from God and it is only through a belief in the salvific and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ that we can be reconciled.

I believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God revealed through men and women. Through the Bible we can experience both a historical view of God's interaction with humanity as well as lessons to use in our daily lives. In the Old Testament we find how God's flawless creation fell from perfection and repeatedly turned from God's will. We are able

to trace historically how select people interacted with God—some worshipping God, while many turned from God. We discover how God communicated through and to humanity in the words of the prophets, while also finding heart-felt songs of praise to God. In the New Testament we ascertain the most complete revelation of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The Gospels offer four accounts of the revolutionary teachings of Jesus including his ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. Acts of the Apostles gives us a glimpse into the formation of the early church and precedents for us to follow.

I believe the church to be the continued earthly body of Christ, called to reach out to people in all situations as a beacon of hope and love—a constant reminder of Christ’s love for all people. I believe the church is composed of both a visible contingent of regional congregations as well as an invisible element made up of believers in God’s love and sovereignty since the beginning of time.

I believe during Christ’s ministry on Earth he instituted two sacraments for the church to continue to practice. In baptism we are grafted into the body of Christ through this outward sign of God’s invisible grace. The Lord’s Supper, modeled after the meal Christ had with his disciples, serves as a remembrance of the sacrifice Jesus made for humanity, and sustains our spiritual life. These sacraments serve as visible signs of the continued covenant and promises between God and God’s people. Through prayer we express our adoration for God, confess our sins, give thanks for the countless blessings God has granted us, and make requests of God for our needs and the needs of others. Prayer, whether spoken, thought, or written serves as our primary method of communication with God.

We continue to live in a sinful world, but I believe a day is coming when Christ will return and make things right for all eternity. A day when all humanity will be judged and Christ’s Kingdom will triumph over evil once and for all.

Kyle L. Schmidt
My Spiritual Journey

An overview of my faith journey...not an easy task in one page, but one that I definitely see in distinct segments as I look back upon my life. Before I go any further I must state: I cannot remember a time when I did not believe in God. There were times when I was more (or less) active in my expression of faith, but I have always believed and trusted there is a God.

My faith journey is, in large part, framed around my physical journey through life. Born in the Dominican Republic (DR) to a mother and father that were both raised in the Methodist church, my spiritual journey began with an international flavor that would find itself repeated. While I only lived in the DR for the first two years of my life, and have no specific recollection of my time there, it is the start of my journey—where my roots began. I am told my parents read me stories from a children’s Bible, but no definite memories. We moved to West Virginia where I experienced a similar set of circumstances, having no specific memories at this early age. We then moved to California where the bulk of my early spiritual formation was laid.

I was baptized at Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church in 1980, at the age of 5, and this began my relationship with the Presbyterian Church. With my mother, on church staff as a DCE, I found much of my time during the week spent around the church. I was an acolyte, sang in the children’s choir, and attended church retreats, while participating in youth group and Sunday school. I began to learn stories from the Bible and ask questions about my faith. I attended this church from kindergarten through 9th grade before my family moved to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong I attended an international school founded by the Lutheran church and attended a similar church (Lutheran) due to its English teachings. I spent a total of 2 years abroad, between Hong Kong and Malaysia, before returning to the states.

My family attended the First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach, FL, but this began a point in my life that I now describe as a spiritual drought. I went off to college and drifted from the church. My beliefs remained, but I was not an active member of any church. I would attend service when I was home visiting my family, but my faith became less of a priority in my life. After college I moved to AZ and began almost immediately attending Mt. View Presbyterian Church. I

started volunteering with the youth ministry department as a way to give back and possibly be a positive role-model for young people, but I now see this as the foot-hold God used for bringing me back into the church. I worked as a Financial Analyst, but interacting and ministering to the youth became my passion.

I was frequently asked by respected church members and pastors if I had ever considered seminary; and to be honest, at first, I wasn't even sure what they were talking about. Through increased exposure to the church and mission trips that made my faith more active, I began to question if God could really use a person like me to reach others. I was on the fence, undecided, when my former job was outsourced and I took it as a not-so-subtle hint from God that I needed to make a change. I went to Columbia Theological Seminary scared about what was ahead of me, but confident that if it was meant to be, God would get me through it. Many of my core beliefs and understandings were challenged, knocked down, and rebuilt to make my faith more personal.

I found FPC Morristown as I was not eligible for ordination until March, 2008 and decided an internship would help reaffirm my sense of call and give me more practical experience. God has repeatedly opened and closed doors to get me to where I am today. If one would have asked me 10 years ago, when I was graduating college, if ministry was anywhere on my radar, I would have responded, "no," but the truth is that God has plans for our lives that we do not see and we can try to fight God, but we will always lose. I continue to ask questions in order to strengthen my faith and attempt to discern where God wants me. Looking back on my life I see how God was always present, patiently waiting for me, and using my experiences to shape me into the tool God desired. I look forward, with God's hand, to helping shape today's young people into God's plan for their lives. I believe God has called me to this purpose.

Holston Camp & Retreat Center Committee Report: Valerie Taylor talked about Camp Advocates and Summer Camp. Craig Bell and Greg Cartwright introduced the staff of the Camp. Patsy Laster-Ford and Peggy Crump were recognized for their ministry to the churches of the Presbytery through Holston Camp. Peggy has been with the Camp for 25 years as the Food Services Director. Patsy has been at the Camp for 22 years as their Office Manager.

INFORMATION:

Our summer camp program was the best ever. We had an excellent staff who really cared about the children and helped to make a difference in their lives. There were at least two young senior high campers who now want to be counselors after coming to Holston Camp for the first time.

Lake Lyons was a hit and all campers enjoyed the Sunday open day Hawaiian Luau at the lake with a great supper and lots of fun on the lake with tube slides, zip line and sit on top kayaks. Miller Lyons was able to come out for the opening day as well as coming back in July for our Christmas in July theme day as Santa. Thanks Miller for your generous gift of the lake.

SUMMER CAMP, 2008

Thank you for your generous support to your mission! By volunteering, providing donations, and sending campers, this year was a success!

STAFF ALUMNI REUNION, August 29 - September 1

All past staff of Holston Camp are welcome to join us for a reunion! Please reserve the lodging and meals you would like by registering with our office. Lodging is FREE and assigned by our office on a first come, first serve basis. Meals range from \$6 - \$8.

FAMILY CAMP, September 26, 27, 28

Your family will experience Holston Camp with action and relaxation! For \$100/person you will: rock climb, swim and kayak in Lake Lyons, experience mountain sliding, enjoy s'mores around a campfire, and quality family time. Call or email our office to register.

SUMMER CAMP, 2009

Please look for our program information this fall!

Barn Raising at Holston Camp

Please look for more information about helping to raise the new Pavilion at the Barn field. We will also be looking for help to build two new rustic cabins and a cook shelter in rustic before next spring. If you and your church members would like to help in any of these ways, please contact Craig Bell at 828-898-6611. We hope to find people who can help middle of the week so that we can house them and feed them while we build together.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Holston Camp & Retreat Center Financial Reports

September 9, 2008

Profit & Loss Report

Ordinary Income/Expense	<u>Jan - Jun 08</u>
Income	
40000 - Operating Income	
406000 - Holston Support	27,666.65
406200 - Camp Store & Drinks	690.30
406300 - NC Tax Rebate	5,444.12
406350 - HUB Interest	<u>372.10</u>
Total 40000 - Operating Income	34,173.17
406400 - Retreat Income	
H/A Retreat Sleep	12,167.70
H/A Retreat Food	5,684.95
Other Retreat Sleep	42,368.30
Other Retreat Food	20,562.50
406400 - Retreat Income - Other	<u>12,076.49</u>
Total 406400 - Retreat Income	92,859.94
407000 - Summer Camp Income	
407100 - Camper Fees	59,532.50
407150 - Summer Cd's	345.00
407000 - Summer Camp Income - Other	<u>1,010.00</u>
Total 407000 - Summer Camp Income	60,887.50
407200d - Camper Scholarships	100.00
407300d - Camper Program Restricted Gifts	<u>3,176.75</u>
Total Income	191,197.36
Expense	
60000 - Overhead Expenses	
Utilities	28,490.17
Repair/Maintenance	7,841.16

Vehicle Upkeep	3,211.03
Administration	17,048.27
Board of Pensions	<u>22,214.90</u>
Total 60000 · Overhead Expenses	78,805.53
6560 · Payroll Expenses	87,116.87
64000 · Retreat Expenses	16,508.06
70000 · Summer Camp Expenses	<u>16,639.30</u>
Total Expense	<u>199,069.76</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-7,872.40
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
408000 · Unrestricted Income	10,325.00
408500d · Restricted - Directed Gifts	54,714.31
408500 · PFSA Grant	<u>6,246.42</u>
Total Other Income	71,285.73
Other Expense	
80000 · Unrestricted Expense	8,457.00
80555 · PFSA Grant Expense	1,041.07
85510d · Restricted - Directed Expenses	26,138.83
9910 · Payments to Lake Lyons Loan	<u>1,594.74</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>37,231.64</u>
Net Other Income	<u>34,054.09</u>
Net Income	<u><u>26,181.69</u></u>

Holston Camp Balance Sheet – January 1 - June 30, 2008

	<u>Jun 30, 08</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100000 · Highlands Union Bk	
101000 · Savings Account	3,094.50
106000 · Operations Checking	-4,900.73
107000 · Summer Camp	24,217.56
108000 · Unrestricted Gifts	23,145.24
107000d · Sum. Camp Gifts (Designated)	20,168.43
108500d · Directed Fds (Designated)	95,533.49
109777d · Lake Project Bank Credit Line	-47,576.48
100000 · Highlands Union Bk - Other	<u>234.52</u>
Total 100000 · Highlands Union Bk	<u>113,916.53</u>
Total Checking/Savings	113,916.53
Accounts Receivable	
101200 · Accounts Receivable Deposits	<u>-17,427.83</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	-17,427.83
Other Current Assets	
PFSA Grant Program	
Camp Endowment Restricted	24,343.22
Multipurpose Bldg Gift	34,673.42
Hay Family Cabin Gift	44,933.99
Capital Campaign	88,227.86
Abingdon (Operation Investment)	<u>15,682.02</u>
Total PFSA Grant Program	<u>207,860.51</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>207,860.51</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>304,349.21</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>304,349.21</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Committee on Representation:

INFORMATION: Annual Report to Synod of Living Waters

1. Name of Presbytery: Holston
2. Name and address of Presbytery Committee on Representation chairperson: Brian Dulaney, 920 Cornerstone Court, Cobblestone Place, Kingsport, TN 37660
3. Date when Chairperson's Term Expires: December 31
4. Number of Committee on Representation Meetings held since last report: 0
5. Member makeup of other Presbytery Committees: (See Attachment A)
6. List current year's goals and tell us how well you're doing in accomplishing them:
 - a. See that all committees are fairly represented. Members of this committee meet with Nominations Committee each year to accomplish this.
 - b. Encourage all new ministers coming into presbytery to serve on a committee and continue a more active roll in presbytery work. Nominations Committee is given a list of new ministers along with their interests in serving certain committees. Ministers are approached and encouraged to participate.
7. List future goals and objectives (for next 3 years): Continue the goals set aside in #6
8. What is your Presbytery doing to recruit leaders who have special physical needs? All committees are open to those with special needs. We encourage committees to meet at locations with easy access for those with these needs.
9. How do you evaluate your own committee's effectiveness? (Tell us how you do your evaluation and what you've discovered about your work.) Evaluation: excellent; continuing a history of fair representation
10. How often does your committee report to Presbytery? What is the basic style of presentation—oral, written, visual, all of these? How often? Once a year Style? Written report to Presbytery
11. What are your most significant achievements in accomplishing "fair representation" in your presbytery since your last report to the Synod? Involving more small membership churches and ethnic groups. Continuing to encourage participation by a growing population of Hispanics when they are known to be members of churches. The Afro-American congregations and a Korean congregation are continuing to be called upon to serve.
12. On what date was this report presented to presbytery: The **Presbytery of Holston** heard and received the report of the Committee on Representation on **September 9, 2008** at **Holston Camp & Retreat Center, Banner Elk, N.C.**

Signature: Richard L. Fifield, Stated Clerk

**Report of the Committee on Representation
Presbytery of Holston - 2008**

**Attachment A
July 31, 2008**

Unit	WMC	WFC	WML	WFL	BMC	BFC	BML	BFL	AMC	AFC	AML	AFL	YTH	Spec	*HMC	Total
Administration & Planning	5	1	4	2												12
Church Development & Evangelism	5		4	1				1								11
Committee on Ministry	5		3	3										1		12
Congregational Life	5	1	1	4												10
Ethical Issues & Human Needs	3	1	5	3												12
Holston Camp & Retreat Center	4		6	2												12
Institutions	3			3												6
Nominations	2		2	1												5
Preparation for Ministry	3	1	2	2												9
Representation		1		1			1	1				1		1		6
Stewardship & Budget	4		5	2												11
Trustees			5	1												6
World Wide Missions	3		2	2												8
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	3		5	2												10
Serve on Synod	1		1													2
Serve on GA Board/Comm/Agency			1													1

CATEGORIES:

WMC white male clergy
WFC white female clergy
WML white male clergy
WFL white female lay

BMC black male clergy
BFC black female clergy
BML black male lay
BFL black female lay

AMC asian male clergy
AFC asian female clergy
AML asian male lay
AFL asian female lay
YTH youth

*NEED TO ADD HISPANIC

HMC hispanic male clergy

Spec persons w/disabilities

Church Development & Evangelism Committee Report:

INFORMATION:

The Committee met on August 4 with the following business:

1. The Committee, upon recommendation/request of the Committee on Ministry, approved the expenditure of \$4,000 of committee funds to the Board of Pensions on behalf of the Korean American Presbyterian Church and Rev. Mun-Gye Lee.
2. Considered the request of Bethel Church (Dandridge) for a \$10,000 grant from the Virginia Williams Estate Fund. The request exceeds the parameters and conditions of the "Fund's" stipulations.
3. The Committee authorized the expenditure of \$3,500 to the New Providence congregation for emergency repairs for asset protection – manse roof replacement.
4. The Committee also has the loan request of the Hebron congregation pending. (Up to \$30,000 @ 3% for a 10 year term.)

Recommendations: None

Congregational Life Committee Report:

INFORMATION:

1. The Congregational Life Committee hosted a **CARING FOR OUR AGING** Workshop, August 16, 2008, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Johnson City. There were twenty-one in attendance. There was a Service of Prayer, Scripture, and Hymns. The format showed opportunities for creating worship opportunities for people dealing with some of the challenges of aging. There was a panel discussion—with Tracey Kendall (Alzheimer's Association), Rev. Dr. Katherine White (Caris Healthcare), Rev. Bill Hyers and Alan & Deborah Lewis—and an opportunity to share needs and possible solutions. The evaluations showed a desire for more events like this one. The committee will continue to pursue these topics.
2. There is a workshop planned for January, 2009 with the topic "**Fulfilling Your Baptismal Vows.**" It will be presented by a well-known church educator and minister, **Tom Malone**. More information on dates and times will follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Trustees Report: Rich Fifield presented the following recommendation for second reading and approval to the Manual of Administrative Operations. The following recommendation was approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The following recommendation was presented for its first reading March 1, 2008 and if approved at this meeting, will change the *Manual of Administrative Operations*:

That the presbytery amend §30.2 in the Manual of Administrative Operations, changing the Annual Meeting of the Trustees to from February to September. *30.2 The trustees shall be incorporated and shall be organized as a president, vice-president, and a secretary/treasurer who shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the presbytery. The charter of the trustees shall be*

approved by the presbytery on recommendation of the Council. An annual meeting of the trustees shall be held ~~on the first Tuesday of February~~ in September each year.

Nominations Committee Report: Ike Brighton presented the recommendation for Moderator and Vice Moderator for 2009. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Elder Mark Stokes (Moderator) and Reverend Gordon Turnbull (Vice Moderator) were presented.

INFORMATION:

1. The Nominations Committee has begun their work to fill vacancies for all presbytery committees for the Class of 2011 and other openings. If you would like to serve, or know someone in your church who would be a good candidate to work with the following committees to further the mission of Holston Presbytery, contact Chair, Ike Brighton:
 - a. Administration & Planning
 - b. Church Development & Evangelism
 - c. Congregational Life
 - d. Stewardship & Budget

RECOMMENDATIONS:

2. That **Elder Mark Stokes** (First, Greeneville) elected by the Presbytery to serve as Moderator for 2009. Approved.
3. That **Reverend Gordon Turnbull** (First, Bristol) be elected by the Presbytery to serve as Vice Moderator for 2009. Approved.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Committee Report: Barron Hopper and Jim Kirkpatrick presented information and a power point presentation on Campus Ministry. Jim introduced Jana Dobežova, the Student Intern.

INFORMATION:

The Campus Ministry at ETSU ministers to that university community in many ways. Jim Kirkpatrick recently received the following letter of appreciation (handwritten) from Sammy who had been aided the Council for International Ministry.

Dear Friends [at the Presbyterian Campus Ministry]

May the peace of God be with you. I am Sammy (from Africa) and my life has been a living hell this summer; no job, no money, no food, just nothing at all that one can live for. I thought suicide was the answer.

God opened the eyes of Jim who came in a mysterious way and pulled me out. I was already half way gone.

I am sincerely thankful for your spiritual and financial support that has given life back to me. This is the highest form of love I have ever felt. It is just astounding how your gesture has turned my life all around.

I have not gotten much to say but to kneel and thank God for you all and that he should fulfill all your wildest dreams.

I will show that same love to some other person, and I pray that this chain of love continues. You reward is from above.

Thanks for giving me hope.

Signed, Sammy

In July, following an International Student Fellowship program on suicide at the Presbyterian Student Center at ETSU, Sammy had come to Jim for counsel. Last year Sammy had come to the US to study chemistry. In the spring, he had attempted suicide. Life had been difficult for him here partly due to his inexperience, a different culture and restrictions on his ability to work. Someone stole \$900 from his checking account. He could not afford summer school so he lost his stipend and had no income for the summer. He could not find work and got behind on his rent. To fail in his work in America was too great a failure for him to bear. . . .

After checking out Sammy's story, Jim involved the Council for International Ministry and presented Sammy with a check for \$700. Jim said, "I've never seen anyone stare at a check for so long. All Sammy could say was, "I don't know how to say thanks."" Now Sammy's life seems to be settling down and he is involved in the International Student Fellowship that meets at the Presbyterian Student Center. The funds used to help him are provided by four of our Johnson City congregations.

The Director of Campus/Youth Ministry: At the June 16, 2008 meeting of YYAM Jim provided a handout of his activities. He informed us that the laser printer is obsolete and worn out. The camera is acting up. The total to replace these items is about \$800. Jim also asked that we consider requesting Council change his job title to reflect his responsibilities more accurately.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. In order to keep the Director of Campus/Youth Ministry's job title consistent with how the presbytery refers to his position, it will be recommended to Presbytery Council to change his job title to *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry*. Approved.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Committee Financial Report
January through June 2008

2

	<u>Jan - Jun 08</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Bank	41.12	7.50	33.62	548.27%
Facility Use	2,034.74	2,100.00	-65.26	96.89%
FPC, Johnson City	583.31	499.98	83.33	116.67%
Holston Presbytery	13,083.35	15,699.94	-2,616.59	83.33%
IDS Dividends	12.47	15.00	-2.53	83.13%
Meal Receipts	375.71	499.98	-124.27	75.15%
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,437.74	99.98	4,337.76	4,438.63%
PFSA rate of return	3,732.31	5,384.22	-1,651.91	69.32%
Presbytery of East TN	4,500.00	3,499.98	1,000.02	128.57%
Synod of Living Waters	4,650.00	4,650.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Income	33,450.75	32,456.58	994.17	103.06%
Expense				
Cable TV	1,074.40	829.98	244.42	129.45%
Campus Labor	63.00	199.98	-136.98	31.5%
Cleaning	300.00	499.98	-199.98	60.0%
Electricity	2,298.89	1,999.98	298.91	114.95%
Food/Cleaning Supplies	3,643.61	2,499.98	1,143.63	145.75%
Gas	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous	55.21	124.98	-69.77	44.18%
Office Supplies	1,055.40	900.00	155.40	117.27%
Payroll Expenses	10,334.34	13,051.48	-2,717.14	79.18%
Printing/Postage/Promotion	1,967.30	2,349.98	-382.68	83.72%
Professional Expense/Intern	797.26	450.00	347.26	177.17%
Repairs/Maintenance	1,460.34	2,499.98	-1,039.64	58.41%
Special Events	1,479.76	649.98	829.78	227.66%
Telephone	398.04	399.98	-1.94	99.52%
Triennium	0.00	354.15	-354.15	0.0%

Water	457.26	399.98	57.28	114.32%
Youth Ministry	3,149.99	3,174.88	-24.89	99.22%
Total Expense	28,534.80	30,535.29	-2,000.49	93.45%
Net Ordinary Income	4,915.95	1,921.29	2,994.66	255.87%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Annual carryover	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Total Other Income	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Net Other Income	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Net Income	4,915.95	4,921.29	-5.34	99.89%

Presbyterian Women Report:

INFORMATION:

1. The **FALL GATHERING** will be held on **September 6th** at Strawberry Plains Church. Martin Riley, the Director of Sunset Gap will be our Speaker. Susan Smith will give us a review of the PW Bible Study, Jubilee!!

We will have items on display (for sale) that represent our Fair Trade Market and our offering will be directed to Olivet Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

2. The **RETREAT** will be held **September 26 - 28th** at Banner Elk, North Carolina. Our Spiritual leader will be Mary Hammett from Birmingham, Alabama. During our “free time” we will have a prayer walk led by Marci Cobb, Hiking, Crafts led by Judy Neas and Muriel Freshour and a tour of Lee’s McRae College. We also have a first and second prize for the church with the most members present.

3. On **October 9th** we have **PW DAY AT SUNSET GAP**.

4. **October 25th** will bring our very first meeting of **ISSUES, PEACE & JUSTICE**.

We have three speakers: Dr. Janie Synder from the School Board will speak to us about the effects of bullying in the school system; Lura Meade from Children’s Advocacy Center will speak about child abuse and Dale Fair from Safe Passage will speak about domestic violence. We will meet at 10:00 am and have breakfast, then hear from our speakers and end with a question and answer program. We expect to conclude by noon.

Come hear what they have to say to us – HOW CAN WE HELP IF WE AREN’T AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON AND HOW IT AFFECTS OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR WORLD?

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report:

INFORMATION:

1. Adopted the Guidelines for Inquirers and Candidates as published in the *Preparation for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Advisory Handbook (rev 9/2007)*, Sections 1.V-1.VI for use by Holston Presbytery CPM.
2. Approved the document “Holston Presbytery CPM – Orientation to the Preparation for Ministry Process” outlining the procedures and requirements for Candidates and Inquirers under care of Holston Presbytery (copy attached). This document, along with other relevant internal documentation, can also be found online at <http://holstonpresbytery.org/pastors/ministry-prep>

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

HOLSTON PRESBYTERY CPM

Orientation to the Preparation for Ministry Process

On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of Holston Presbytery, we welcome you to the process of ministerial preparation. What follows is some helpful information on the general requirements for the process and the particular requirements of Holston Presbytery. (Note that additional requirements of Holston Presbytery are denoted with an ‘*’.) In addition to these requirements, Holston has adopted the guidelines of the *Preparation for Ministry Advisory Handbook (rev. 9/07)*, Section 1.V-1.VI (available online at the Holston Presbytery website or by request).

Forms referenced for each stage of the process can be found online at www.pcusa.org/prep4min/cpmform.htm

Please refer to G-14.0400 - 0485 in the Book of Order, and to the PCUSA website at www.pcusa.org/prep4min for a detailed explanation of these requirements.

This document, along with other information, can be found at <http://holstonpresbytery.org/pastors/ministry-prep>

The preparation for ministry process in the PCUSA consists of two stages, Inquiry and Candidacy, each of which begins with the Session of your home church.

Inquirer (G-14.0404):

1. You must be a member of a congregation for a minimum of 6 months before you can petition the Session to begin the process of preparation for ordained ministry. After completing **Form 1 and Form 2**, you will meet with the Session of your home church for endorsement of your inquiry. In order to then schedule your meeting with the CPM, you will need to make sure that all of the following are sent to the CPM Moderator **at least** three weeks prior to the meeting:
 - a. Complete copies of Forms 1 & 2, including the signed endorsement of your Session (Form 1, p.11) and your responses to Questions 1-9 (Form 1, p.5).
2. (*)Your Inquirer year is a good time to make plans to complete a unit of Supervised Ministry (minimum of 400 hours) in a PCUSA Congregational setting or a basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (minimum 400 hours). The report from this supervised ministry or CPE experience must be submitted to the CPM Moderator upon completion.
3. (*)It is also the expectation of the CPM that during the course of your ministerial preparation, you will:
 - a. Maintain regular involvement in the life of a PCUSA congregation
 - b. Complete class work in the areas of Reformed Theology, Presbyterian Polity, Biblical languages and exegesis, and Reformed Worship and Sacraments.

Candidate (G-14.0405):

1. After completing a minimum of one year as an Inquirer, you may apply to the Session of your home church to begin the move to Candidacy. Complete and submit **Form 5** to your Session to schedule the interview. Once approved by your Session, please be in touch with the CPM Moderator to be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. **Before** you can meet with the CPM, you **must** submit all of the following to the CPM Moderator no later than three weeks prior to the meeting.

- a. Complete copies of Form 5, including your responses to Questions 1-6 (Form 5, p.27) and the signed endorsement of the Session (Form 5, p.34)
 - b. **(*)A copy of your psychological assessment.** Each candidate must schedule and complete a psychological assessment and have the report submitted to the CPM Moderator **prior to** the meeting. Please note that this process can often take 6-8 weeks to complete, so plan accordingly. ***The arrangements for this evaluation are the candidate's responsibility. You may obtain a copy of the guidelines and approved testing centers from your liaison or the CPM Moderator.***
 - c. A copy of your supervised ministry evaluation from a congregational field placement or CPE.
2. After meeting with the CPM for your candidacy interview, you will be placed on the agenda for the next upcoming Presbytery meeting to appear on the floor for examination. You will receive details about this at your CPM interview. You should plan to be present all day for the meeting, as the location of the CPM report on the agenda will vary.
 3. **(*)Your Candidacy year is a good time to make plans to complete a basic unit (400 hours) of Clinical Pastoral Education or your congregational supervised ministry (400 hours). Both these reports must be submitted to the CPM Moderator before your Final Assessment can be scheduled.**

Final Assessment (G-14.0450):

1. After at least one year as a Candidate, and not before the spring semester of your final year of Seminary, you may petition the CPM for a Final Assessment. The successful completion of your final assessment will result in your certification as ready to be examined for ordination. **BEFORE** you can be scheduled for a final assessment, your CPM file must be complete, including **ALL** the following items:
 - a. Successfully completed **ordination exams**, consisting of the following:
 - i. Bible Content – taken during the first year of seminary
 - ii. Senior Ordination Exams (Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity) taken only after completion of two years of seminary and completion of a unit of supervised ministry or CPE.
 - b. Submission of an **exegesis and accompanying written sermon**, together with a description of the contemporary need to which it was addressed and an exegetical interpretation of the biblical material out of which the sermon arose. This sermon shall be preached before the calling presbytery or a committee thereof as a part of the appearance of the candidate.
 - c. A final transcript showing conferral of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
 - d. A final transcript from your seminary or theological institution. *You may, with the approval of the CPM, apply for a final assessment in the spring semester of your final year of theological education, prior to the availability of a final transcript. It is then your responsibility to make sure that a transcript is sent immediately upon graduation. This is the only exception to the list of requirement.*
 - e. Final Report from a unit of Supervised Ministry (400 hours) in a PCUSA congregation.

- f. Final Report from a completed unit of CPE (400 hours) at an accredited facility.

Annual Consultation (G-14.0421):

1. In addition to your meetings with the CPM for inquiry, candidacy, and a final assessment, every inquirer and candidate must complete an Annual Consultation for each calendar year you are under care of the committee, until such time as you are removed from the process by:
 - g. Withdrawal by the Candidate (Form 7b)
 - h. Removal by the Presbytery (Form 7b)
 - i. Completion of the Preparation for Ministry process with a call to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

Please note: This includes the time after you are certified ready and prior to receiving a call. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this requirement in the Book of Order, and failure to complete this requirement may result in dismissal from the process.

2. (*)It is expected that inquirers and candidates will fulfill this requirement at the annual retreat in September. Any request to schedule an annual consultation at another time **requires CPM approval. Requests for excusal from the retreat must be submitted through your liaison prior to the August stated meeting.** If you do not attend the retreat, it is your responsibility to schedule a mutually agreeable time to complete this requirement with your CPM liaison and at least one other CPM member.
3. At least three weeks prior to the annual retreat, the following items must be submitted to the CPM Moderator (or to your liaison if you are not attending the retreat):
 - a. Completed copies of **Form 3**
 - b. A transcript from your most recent semester, if applicable.

Time Requirements: It is ordinarily expected that the preparation for ministry process will be completed in no less than two and no more than six years time, with no less than one year and no more than four years spent in either the inquiry or candidacy phase. Exceptions to this require the approval of the CPM **and do not forego the annual consultation requirement.**

_____ (signed) _____ (date)

By signing above, I indicate that I have received a copy of this handout. Furthermore, I understand that compliance with these requirements is my responsibility.

Name of Liaison: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Administration & Planning Committee Report:

INFORMATION:

The Committee approved the following presbytery staff review process for 2008

- August 30 – Staff self-evaluations due to Administration & Planning Chair and Executive Presbyter
- Sept. 15 – Individual staff consultations with Administration & Planning Chair and Executive Presbyter completed
- October 7 – Staff evaluation summary and recommendations shared with Administration & Planning Committee
- November 18 – Staff evaluations and recommendations given to Council for action
Holston Presbytery Staff Self-Evaluation

The purpose of evaluation is to acknowledge positive achievements of staff persons while stimulating constructive dialogue for continuous improvement. A staff self-assessment provides an opportunity for personal reflection and input in the evaluation process, and allows staff to help establish direction for future growth.

Please express your candid comments in the following areas (use additional sheets if necessary):

1. **Ministry Performance:** describe your effectiveness in fulfilling your ministry responsibilities? What goals have you accomplished?
In the future: what suggestions do you have for improving your effectiveness? What future goals do you have?
2. **Work Environment:** describe the quality of your working relationships? What are your contributions to the entire staff?
In the future: what suggestions do you have for improving your working relationships? What resources would assist you in fulfilling your ministry responsibilities?
3. **Personal Satisfaction:** overall, how do you feel about your position with Holston Presbytery? Are you valued as a team-member? Are you challenged? Excited?
In the future: what suggestions do you have for making your position more personally satisfying?
4. **Mission Contribution:** in what ways does your presence on the Holston Presbytery staff further the mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, serving Christ by helping Presbyterian congregations, coordinating the mission of the presbytery, and interpreting the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA)?
In the future: what suggestions do you have for your involvement in making the mission of Holston Presbytery a reality?
5. **Other Comments:** what else would you like to share as a staff member of Holston Presbytery? Any concerns? Frustrations? Joys?

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Institutions Committee Report: Sue O'Dell introduced Jim Swinkola, Grandfather Home for Children, for his report and an update on Wildcat Lake.

INFORMATION:

1. **Jim Swinkola, Grandfather Home for Children**, will give their annual report to the Presbytery.
2. **College Day** in Holston Presbytery will be **September 14**. Representatives of King, Lees-McRae and Tusculum will contact your church about speakers available for that Sunday or for another date.
3. **Evergreen Ministries** reported that grant monies were used for equipment and furniture for those residents under their care. Two ladies, also under their care, have been the recipient of a Habitat House in Greeneville and fulfilled their "sweat equity" responsibilities to be able to move into their home.
4. **Grandfather Home for Children** celebrated Christmas in July thanks to the grant received from the Institutions Committee through the giving of the churches of the Presbytery. In addition to traditional gifts and gift cards, funds were also used to take the children on special outings, such as most children enjoy with families. There are several job openings at Grandfather including Director of Church Relations and Child/Youth Care Worker. Check for details at www.grandfatherhome.org. There will be an annual fundraiser golf tournament, the **Children's Classic** at Hound Ears Country Club in Blowing Rock on **October 12-13**. Golfers may check the website or call Erin Carter (828.898.5465) for information.
5. **King College** announced speakers for their **Buechner Institute Lecture Series** for Fall, 2008 which began August 2 and runs through December 1. Check www.buechnerinstitute.org or www.king.edu for brochure. Mark your calendars for January 24, 2009 for the second Annual Lectureship with **Barbara Brown Taylor**. **World Mission Week** will be **September 15-19** with a focus on challenges to and opportunities for advancement of the Gospel in Africa. **Rev. Benson Lenaiya Loitei Kurarru**, Maasai pastor in the African Inland Church of Kenya, will be their guest for the week. **Dr. Billy Kim and the Korean Children's Choir** will be there **September 24**. October speakers will focus on Relationships with Others and November's on Relationship with Christ.
6. **Lees-McRae College** welcomed around 270 freshmen August 25. **Global Community Week** will be held **October 6-10** "Democracy and the Presidential Election." A new "Spiritual Life Statement: Called to be Faithful" has been written and will be approved by the Board of Trustees. A new logo offers symbols representing their history and commitment to the future. Admissions Open Houses for Fall, 2008 are scheduled for September 6, 20; October 10; November 1, 10, 22 and December 13. Performing Arts productions begin October 1-5 with *Godspell*; November 7-11 *Dead Man Walking*; and, the Christmas Concert December 6-7.
7. **Tusculum College** reports freshmen are on campus and projected student enrollment for Fall, 2008 to be around 800. The Women's Basketball team and the Women's Soccer team traveled recently playing games in Europe. The Presidential Search continues with Dr. Rusty Nichols agreeing to stay for one more year during the process. **Dr. Marian McClure** has agreed to be the **Theologian-in-Residence** speaker for February, 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

New Business: None

Promotions

Adjournment: The Committee on Thanks, Sharon Amstutz and Diana Moore, reported. Session Books are ready thanks to Charlie Smith, Spencer Pickel and Dick McCray. Rich Fifield and Craig Bell led prayers for the adjournment of the meeting and for the meal. The Moderator dismissed the body at 12:08PM.

_____ Robert Lowry, Moderator

_____ Richard L. Fifield, Stated Clerk

_____ Paulette H. Thompson, Recording Clerk