

Approved – January 20, 2011

**Minutes of the Executive Committee of the  
General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC)  
Of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Conference Call  
November 18, 2010 – 1 p.m. EST**

CALL TO ORDER Mr. Michael Kruse, Chair of the GAMC Executive Committee called the meeting to order with prayer at 1 p.m.

ATTENDANCE Those present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

*Members*

Clark Cowden – Chair, Vocation Mission Committee  
Alan Ford – Chair, Stewardship Mission Committee  
Roger Gench – Chair, Justice Mission Committee  
Thomas Gillespie – Chair, Discipleship Committee  
Michael Kruse – Chair, General Assembly Mission Council  
Carolyn McLarnan – Vice-chair, General Assembly Mission Council  
Matthew Schramm – Chair, Evangelism Mission Committee  
Linda Valentine – Member ex-officio

*Executive Leadership Team*

Joey Bailey - Deputy Executive Director, Shared Services  
Roger Dermody - Deputy Executive Director, Mission  
Vince Patton – Executive Administrator  
Karen Schmidt - Deputy Executive Director, Communications and Funds Development

*Members Excused*

Aleida Jernigan – Member-at-large  
Joyce Smith – Member-at-large

*Recorder*

Susan Abraham - GAMC Staff, Office of the Executive Director

*Others*

Martha Clark - GAMC Staff, Legal Services  
Barry Creech – GAMC Staff, Communications and Funds Development

REVIEW OF GAMC/MBG  
AND GAMC MEETINGS

The Executive Committee reviewed the evaluations of the October 2010 GAMC meeting prepared by Research Services.

Following are comments offered by the Executive Committee in relation to the generative thinking sessions:

- Council members did not have a sense of what happens next with comments made in generative thinking. They were looking for outcome of conversations.
- Most effective use of time
- IARP Report dampened possible discussions
- Format was good. Just didn't have significant issues to work with because it was the first post Assembly meeting.
- Need to add "So what? How does this affect our work?" How can we capture the discussions deliberately?
- What is the "upshot" of generative thinking? Is there a point to this? If we don't have a clear point, we ought to question the intention of generative thinking.
- How does generative thinking tie into the work of the Council?
- Mix groups up from conversation to conversation.

MGB ADVISORY GROUP  
MEETING REPORT

Mr. Kruse reported that according to feedback received at the Middle Governing Body (MGB) Advisory Group Meeting this was one of the best meetings so far.

There was open discussion around various topics including conversations about the Repurpose Driven Church as a way to talk about congregations that are in their final stages. Tom Taylor gave a presentation on a process the Foundation has been exploring in partnership with the GAMC on "How do you celebrate their ministry?" It is a process by which churches would find ways in which their legacy could live on, and for identifying means to transition assets related to their ministry to different uses.

Mr. Kruse mentioned that Deborah Bruce from Research Services presented a portion of the Congregational Life Survey which provided helpful information about Presbyterian congregations.

MGB staff expressed a desire to have more face to face time conversation with staff as opposed with board members which opened up a discussion on the pattern of the Joint MGB/ GAMC meetings.

Mr. Roger Dermody reported that while there was great affirmation that relationships have improved, they were more hopeful for more collaboration between MGB and GAMC.

Philip Lotspeich, Coordinator for Church Growth, talked about a program through Evangelism and Church Growth called "New Beginnings." The program provides assessment, and consulting and helps congregations that are struggling with sustainability and are at the tail end of survival, identify possible future choices for their ministry.

Ray Jones, Coordinator for Evangelism, talked about a new resource called *Engaged*. Designed to connect evangelism with disciple making, *Engage* emphasizes both the importance of social justice and faith sharing.

Mr. Dermody commented that there was energy around practical ways the GAMC and MGB can collaborate to the benefit of the churches.

Mr. Patton added that attendees liked the idea of having the meetings immediately after the Board of Pensions Regional Benefits Meetings.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS TASK  
FORCE

The Executive Committee agreed to honor a request from Karl Travis for two hours during plenary of the March GAMC to do a presentation of the Special Offerings Task Force. GAMC members will have an opportunity to give input to critical questions related to Special Offerings, including:

- PC(USA) Special Offerings are a unifying manifestation of our faith in Christ in action and impact the lives of thousands of people all over the world. What could our

denomination do to increase participation in, and financial support for, Special Offerings?

- What makes Special Offerings special? Special Offerings have historically connected Presbyterians in identity and mission. How is that happening in your context?
- How can we imagine ways that would encourage greater participation and increased dollars being raised from congregations in Special Offerings?
- What are the key motivators for participation in Special Offerings? What are the biggest challenges that impact the effectiveness of Special Offerings?
- What are the things that could be done to more actively engage participating and non-participating congregations & parishioners in the Special Offerings?

The discussion in small groups will be facilitated by the PC(USA)'s outside consultants, The Alford Group. The Task Force conducted similar focus groups with Middle Governing Bodies at the General Assembly in Minneapolis.

JOINT GAMC /COGA MEETING  
– MARCH 2011

Mr. Vince Patton reported that there is a staff planning team consisting of Loyda Aja and Tom Hay from OGA and Mr. Patton from GAMC to plan a joint meeting of GAMC and COGA in March 2011. The planning team is proposing a joint luncheon that includes a presentation by Eileen Lindner who is a Presbyterian pastor, researcher and member of COGA on the pressures that Middle Governing Bodies from across mainline Protestant churches face from congregations and denominational offices, and how MGBs are responding to and coping with the pressures.

Mr. Patton commented that there will be an opportunity for Mr. John Wilkinson, COGA Moderator, and Mr. Mike Kruse to facilitate the question and answer period.

The Joint Meeting is expected to only include the GAMC Executive Committee members and COGA.

2013-2014 MISSION WORK  
PLAN (MWP)

Ms. Valentine reported that staff is beginning to think about the 2013-2014 Mission Work Plan. They are working on a process for reporting the strategic directions within the context of the MWP Goal Areas. Staff is also working on a process internally to determine if goals have been met, and to make regular reports in committee meetings.

The lay out and plan for the design of the next MWP will be presented at the March 2011 GAMC meeting.

PARTICIPATION OF  
OBSERVERS AT GAMC  
MEETINGS

Mr. Kruse informed the Executive Committee about an email from Brian Ellison of MRTI asking if there was a special status that would permit him to speak to issues in the Justice Committee as well as in plenary.

The Executive Committee directed the Procedures Subcommittee to formalize a policy related to the status of representatives from GAMC

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related bodies that attend GAMC meetings and could speak to issues before the Council. The Procedures Subcommittee was asked to bring a proposal back to the meeting of the GAMC Executive Committee in March 2011.

GAMC MEETING IN KOREA

Ms. Valentine gave an update on the invitation from the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) to the GAMC to hold its September 2012 meeting in Korea. Ms. Valentine informed the Committee that we had proposed terms that would make the meeting in Korea cost neutral for us, and are still waiting to hear back from the PCK.

ACTION 1-EC-111810  
*Closed Session*

The Executive Committee **VOTED to move** into closed session at 1:50 p.m. as the Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) a Corporation to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

GHOST RANCH WATER  
STORAGE

For the closed session, Executive Committee members and the following staff were invited to attend: Linda Valentine, Roger Dermody, Vince Patton, Joey Bailey, Martha Clark, and Susan Abraham.

ACTION 2-EC-111810  
*Rise from Closed Session*

The Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) a Corporation **VOTED to rise** from closed session at 2:11 p.m.

ACTION 3-EC-111810

The Executive Committee reconvened as an open meeting and announced that the following actions were taken in closed session:

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly Mission Council Executive Committee of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation hereby agrees to engage counsel through its Legal Services Office and pay legal fees on behalf of Ghost Ranch Conference Center for fees and costs relating to the value of water storage in Abiquiu Lake by the Water Utility Authority of the City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County, said payments to be made upon submission of legal bills to the General Assembly Mission Council's (GAMC) Legal Services Office for review and approval; and

**Further Resolved**, that the payment of such legal fees will be reimbursed to the appropriate GAMC account from proceeds from the lease or sale of water storage rights or acreage.

IARP RETREAT

Ms. Valentine reported that the IARP Retreat with victims and family members will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2010. She asked the Committee to hold those affected in their prayers.

Ms. Valentine read handwritten notes from IARP members thanking GAMC members for the gifts and for the manner in which the investigation had been handled.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed business, the Executive Committee was closed with prayer by Mr. Kruse at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Michael Kruse  
Chair, General Assembly Mission Council

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Ms. Linda Valentine  
Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

