

LAYMAN'S VOTER GUIDE FOR THE PCUSA  
222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PRE-GA VERSION

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ITEM	Summary of item	Carmen's recommendation of what to do:
04-11 and 04-12	READ THESE FIRST: Report of the Committee to Review the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Report of the Committee to Review the Office of the General Assembly (part of "The Way Forward" process)	Merge and then amend by using favorable parts of 04-07, 04-08 and 04-09: Form commission to merge the PMA and OGA and give the commission a deadline for completion of their work by 2018 GA
04-07, 04-08, 04-09, 11-18	All kinds of ideas for how the PMA and OGA might be merged...	Answer with action on 04-11
06-Info	READ the Advisory Committee on Litigation Agency Summary and the decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission	There's no action to take. But reading this report is a necessity for anyone who wants to understand the current status of the Permanent Judicial Commission and the disposition of cases by the PJC since the last GA.
04-01	Changing meetings of the GA to a cycle where overtures to amend the Constitution can only be introduced every six years. Overtures must come to GA with support of 15% of presbyteries.	No. Good diagnosis of the problem. Treatment plan never resolves what "health" looks like.
04-02	Elevating Presbytery Executives to status of Advisory Delegates to the General Assembly	No.
11-01	Restricting the adoption of divisive, partisan, political Social Witness statements or resolutions; requiring prior support of 1/3 of presbyteries for GA consideration. Taken with 04-01, this could only happen every six years.	Yes.
11-02	Restricting and redefining the role of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)	Amend to include restrictions on Office of Public Witness in DC and the office at the U.N.
11-03, 11-09	Directly oppositional to items 11-01 and 11-02, these two overtures seek to celebrate and advance the progression of the Social Witnes Policy	Answer with action on 11-01 or 11-02
11-04	Express protection for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) globally through advocacy in DC, UN, through international mission and global ecumenical partners. Also includes special resources for LGBT immigrants.	Amend to include affirmation of freedom of conscience for mission personnel, mission partners, not to conform to the PCUSA's affirmation of LGBT lifestyles. Affirm the equality of all people, not all practices.
11-05	Admission of and apology for harms done to the LGBTQ/Q members of the PCUSA, family and friends. Public pronouncements and apologies for the Biblical interpretation, teachings, preaching and actions that forbade LGBTQ/Q ordination and marriage. Confess that all who affirmed fidelity in marriage between one man and woman, or chastity in singleness were in error as was the Constitution and related actions of Permanent Judicial Commissions.	No. This is a direct violation of the freedom of conscience of every person in the PCUSA who holds that marriage is defined by God and is not subject to redefinition of any human institution. This violates the spirit in which the marriage amendment was passed by the last GA which affirmed that the PCUSA would not require affirmation of behaviors that many understand to be biblically abhorrant.
11-06, 11-16	Committing to play an active part in the global response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and, equip and mobilize congregations to better serve those living with HIV/AIDS	Yes if funding is identified, otherwise its an unfunded mandate.
11-08, 11-17	Issue statement of apology to Native Americans, Alaskans and Hawaiians for historic harms; and review the Doctrine of Discovery	Yes
11-10, 11-12, 11-20	Call to Racial Reconciliation, Engagement in a new Civil Rights Movement and renewing the Church's Urban mission	Some combination of all of these?
11-11	Advocacy against Factory Farming and encouraging all Presbyterians and councils to purchase only meat that is "Certified Human raised and handled"	We need to hear from Presbyterian farmers on this overture.
11-13	U.S. election restructuring and campaign finance reform (from ACSWP)	We need input from Presbyterians serving in national elected offices to speak to this issue.
11-14	End of life report with recommendations (from ACSWP)	We will follow the lead of Presbyterians Pro Life on this topic. <a href="http://www.ppl.org">www.ppl.org</a>
11-15	Preferential use of "diverse" suppliers when awarding PCUSA contracts through all agencies at all levels. The substance of this passed by prior GA. This action is simply to agree on a standard definition of supplier diversity.	Yes - because to vote against it is meaningless.
08-01, 08-04, 12-05	Boycott of all HP products until they cease profiting from all non-peaceful pursuits in Israel/Palestine; and call for RE/MAX to stop selling property in West Bank settlements. 12-05 is related but in an entirely different committee. It seeks to "teach" Presbyterians the theology of boycott and divestment as "nonviolent means of resistance against human oppression"	No. If you're not familiar with the anti-Israel BDS movement, visit <a href="http://www.adl.org/israel-international/m/bds/">http://www.adl.org/israel-international/m/bds/</a>
08-02	Advocating for the safety and well-being of all children of Israel/Palestine	Yes. Watch The Green Prince documentary on YouTube.
08-03	Advocating for Christians and other persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East	Yes. Go to <a href="http://IraqiChristianRelief.org">IraqiChristianRelief.org</a> and <a href="http://PhilosProject.org">PhilosProject.org</a> to learn more.
08-05	Reverse divestment mandate against Caterpillar, HP and Motorola Solutions. Encourage positive investment that advances peace and improves lives of Palestinians and Israelis	Yes.
08-06	ACSWP report with recommendations: Israel/Palestine, for human values in the absence of a just peace	We await the analysis of this item by Alan Wisdom. We will post his analysis at <a href="http://Layman.org">Layman.org</a> .
09-09	MRTI recommendation: Fossil Fuels, climate change, creation care and corporate engagement with carbon extraction related companies	Yes.
09-01, 09-02, 09-03, 09-04, 09-08	Addressing climate change; calling for divestment from all fossil fuel related companies; and 09-08 creates the policy upon which future fossil fuel divestment could be built	Answer with action on 09-09
09-05	Celebrating Pope Francis I's encyclical on Climate Change	Yes
09-07	Affirming the theory of evolution by affirming 4.6 billion year old earth, all life "descent with modification from common ancestors," humans emerge as a species over 6 million years of hominin development	No. Affirming creation does not necessitate the denial of the Creation accounts nor the active will of the Creator in making human-kind in particular.
10-01	Seeking to eradicate slavery from supply chains with whom PCUSA does business	Yes.

10-05	Rescind the 1990 GA Mission Program budget policy and procedures. (This entire proposal is based on a lie in the first sentence of the Summary: "On June 30, 2015, PMA had unrestricted assets of \$230 million available for mission and ministry. PMA has additional restricted assets of \$270 million." The truth is that the PMA is one of many entitites - including thousands of individual churches - that have a beneficial interest in those funds. The PMA is entitled to 4.25%/year. There's a huge difference in having a beneficial interest and having assets full and clear.)	No - but ask yourself WHY they want to remove the breaks from spending and why they want to breach the financial floor (required reserves). Look at the report on their unaudited financials and ask yourself why they have \$50 mill in PNC bank accounts when the policy says that they can only hold 6 months of operating cash.
10-07	Affirmative Action plan	No. Ask: why is this necessary? Once you adopt this kind of policy you are legally bound to it.
10-09	Continue to sponsor and provide support for racial ethnic women's leadership development	No. This program did not meet measurable metrics set by prior GA. It should not be rewarded with continued staffing and financial support.
10-10	Living Missionally, the theme adopted by the 2014 GA has largely failed and the PMA wants to be released from related directives of measurable metrics	Amend - if the PMA wants to released from accountability then the entire programmatic emphasis and related funding should be scraped. You don't selectively remove accountability directives.
10-12	Resolution to ensure just compensation for outsourced employees working through third party contractors	No.
10-13	On achieving a 5:1 ratio between the highest and lowest paid employee	No. Practical math: If the CEO or Stated Clerk make 250K + benefits then the person cleaning the offices at night must make no less than \$50k + benefits. That's \$20/hour, assuming a full 40 hours/week and 50 weeks of work/year.
12-06	Risking Peace in a Violent world: 5 new Peacemaking affirmations	Amend 10. e. by striking, "to risk calling our nation back from the practices of empire to the highest ideals of our heritage, and to take part in social movements for a domination-free order."
12-07	Cuban-American relations	Yes
12-08	On personally promoting nonviolent resolution to disagreements	Yes
14-01	On restoring the definition of marriage to "one man and one woman"	Yes (pray for those advocating this overture - they will almost certainly be under spiritual attack throughout the GA)
14-02	The Clergy Letter Project - a progressive missive undermining the veracity of the Bible and celebrating evolution	No.
14-03	Removing the requirement of baptism for participation in the Lord's Supper	No.
14-04	Revised Directory for Worship	Yes. The Form of Government has been rewritten, now the Directory for Worship. This assembly is being asked to form a committee to bring a proposed revision of the Book of Discipline.
04-03, 04-10	04-03 taken with Item 04-01, to amend the Constitution an overture would have to win 15% approval prior to GA; 50% vote of GA; 2/3 affirmative vote of presbyteries; and 50% affirmative vote of next GA. 04-10 would add the additional hurdle of a 2/3 vote in plenary of the two successive assemblies	No. First PCUSA should answer the identity, mission and purpose questions. Then what kind of Constitution it needs. Then revise as needed.
04-04	Permit presbyteries to abstain from voting on descending overtures but not have abstentions counted as no votes	No. No vote = a no vote. Robert's Rules.
04-05, 04-06	Amend the Standing Rules identifying the right of presbyteries and synods to submit overtures that seek to change the Standing Rules and Manual of the GA	Yes. The people should have a vote in the way they are governed.
05-01, 05-03, 05-04	Synod Boundaries: the committee will need to decide among overtures seeking very different outcomes.	The outcome should be that Synods are drastically reduced in number and quickly redefined. The process has taken long enough.
05-02	Restoring the boundaries of the Presbytery of the Pacific to pre 2012 status	Yes.
05-05	Requiring all councils to adopt a dependent care policy	Yes. Approve in some form since to be pro life is to be pro-whole life for every life. This is about the affirmation of human dignity from conception to natural death.
05-06, 05-09	On Developing a national child protection policy model	Amend. Good models exist, no need to develop, just need to identify and adopt.
05-07, 05-08	Transfer of racial ethnic or immigrant congregations to non-geographic presbyteries beyond current synod boundary limits	Yes. Should be discussed along with Synod boundaries.
05-10	Requiring expanded family leave policies	No. This burdens congregations beyond what they can reasonably bear.
05-11	Report of the Task Force on Korean Speaking congregations	Yes. Take special note of the "Right of Conscience Protection" section of the Rationale. Item 11-05 would destroy this.
06-01, 06-07, 06-10	Clarification of renunciation of jurisdiction	Approve 06-01 and all other related overtures with the action on 06-01.
06-02	Adding training for practical evangelism to the list of required courses of study for candidates for ordination	Yes.
06-03	Adding "caring for creation" to list of ministry of members	Yes
06-04	Allowing for virtual attendance in Session meeting when appropriate technology is available	Yes - may also require amendments to local church by-laws
06-05	Eliminating the requirement of parity on committees of council higher than the session	No. Reduces the participation and voice of lay people
06-06	Certifying "Administrative Personnel Association," church administrators, giving them permanent status equivalent to ordained members of presbytery	Amend to limit participation at presbytery meeting to voice.
06-08	Restoring the title of "minister of Word and Sacrament" for ordained clergy	Yes. The whole "teaching elder, ruling elder" distinction mandated by the new Form of Government has been ineffective.
06-09	Ruling Elder defined to allow for individually commissioned ruling elders	Yes.
06-11	Clarifying the roles of the Moderator and Clerk or Stated Clerk	Yes.
06-12	Clarifying the roles of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) when constitutional questions are considered by the GA	Yes
06-13	Clarifying discretion given presbyteries to utilize commissioned ruling elders	Yes
06-14	Creating Task Force to revise the Book of Discipline	Yes
06-15	Clarifying forms of certified church service and approve national certifying bodies	Yes
06-16	Extend time limits on abuse reporting in instances of gross negligence	We need some attorneys who work in this area of law to weigh in on this item.