

2014 General Assembly PRE GA Issues Report and Voting Guide

Coverage: Follow us on Twitter @preslayman, read stories and watch our “Today at GA” news round-up video each day at www.layman.org. The PLC will also be available throughout in our booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Action by the Assembly
that would help the Church

Business Item Proposal

Voting Guide Key:

“X” Indicates a clear choice in how the business currently appears.
“some” Indicates a mixed bag of recommendations, some good, some not.
“?” Indicates that it is unclear how the Assembly will define terms and the definition of those terms is crucial to how a commissioner ought to vote.

Marriage

Approve Reject

10-03, 10-04	Seek to redefine marriage by asking GA to issue an authoritative interpretation allowing PCUSA ministers to perform and PCUSA property to host same-sex weddings (like an executive order, no ratification by presbyteries is necessary; immediately effective at close of GA)		X
10-01, 10-02	Seek to redefine marriage by amending the BoO to replace ‘man and woman’ with ‘two people’ (if approved by GA, would go to presbyteries for vote; implementation July 2013). It is noteworthy that no overtures propose changing the passages of the <i>Book of Confessions</i> where marriage is defined as between one man and one woman.		X
10-06	Seeks to rescind the 1991 authoritative interpretation that prohibits PCUSA pastors from performing and sessions from allowing facilities to be used for same-sex weddings		X
10-07	Seeks to create a task force to identify common ground and reconcilable differences on same-sex marriage		X

Israel and the Palestinians

Approve Reject

04-01, 04-03, 04-06	Reviewing GA policy on the Two-State solution with an eye toward “liberation from all Israeli rule”; seek to position the PCUSA to side exclusively with the Palestinians		X
04-02, 04-05, 04-07, Rec 009	Seeking divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Motorola Solutions Seeks boycott of all products from HP		X
04-04	Seeks affirmation of the current occupation-free investment in Palestine	X	
07-01	Seeks to abandon Old Testament “covenant” affirmation of Israel as the people of God		X
Com 018	“Resolution on Equal Rights for All Inhabitants of Israel and Palestine and on Conversations with Prophetic Voices”		X

The politics of religion: highly political “church” business

Approve Reject

09-01, 09-07	Advocacy for gun violence prevention (accept) and gun control (reject)	?	?
09-05	2 year study on how to advocate for effective U.S. drug policies		X
09-06	Advocacy for reform to the U.S. financial and political systems		X
09-08	Advocacy for inclusivity of girls and LGBTQ leadership in the Boy Scouts of America		X
09-09	Advocacy for “food sovereignty” (approve Rec 001-004 and 007; reject Rec 005 and 006)	some	some
09-12	Provision for trauma crisis counseling training to care for survivors related to homicide victims		X
11-03, 11-05, 11-06	Advocacy for the normalization of relations with Cuba		X
11-04, Com 015	Advocacy related to U.S. drone policies, war and surveillance	some	some
15-01, 15-05	Divestment from supply-side fossil fuel companies (oil, gas and coal)		X
15-02	Advocacy for sustainable development and the “precautionary principle”		X
15-03	Commission study of the impact of coal export projects on human health and well being		X
15-06	Advocacy against factory farming		X
Rec 008	Adding for-profit prisons to the “sin list” of proscribed investments; targeted divestment		X
Rec 015	Making a test case of international law out of the situation in the Western Sahara		X
Com 010	Advocacy for Dominicans of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic	some	some
Com 011	Advocacy for hotel and hospitality workers; adopting a new PCUSA policy with \$\$ implications	some	some
Com 016	Resolution on sexual violence in the U.S. military	some	some
Com 017	“Fairness in Ministerial Compensation: Incentives and Solidarity”		X
Com 019	“Risking Peace in a Violent World: Affirmations for presbytery consideration”	some	some
Com 031	“Tax Justice: a Christian Response to a New Gilded Age” is a series of recommendations for re-writing the U.S. tax code with the goal of redistribution of wealth through progressive taxation, the elimination of deductions for mortgage interest and charitable contributions and the elimination of the clergy housing allowance.		XX

Visit www.Layman.org for articles on the business of interest to you.

This Voter Guide will be continually updated as Item numbers become available on www.pc-biz.org. It will also be updated once Assembly committees report out with recommendations to the General Assembly plenary. The actions of the Assembly will be reported during the Assembly at Layman.org and in the post-GA edition of **The Layman**.

Theology and Worship

		Approve	Reject
Com 001	Amending the “Interreligious Stance of the PCUSA” paragraph in the Book of Order (this is incredibly weak on Christology, the exclusive claim of Christ unto salvation, and never mentions the Church’s primary calling to evangelism and discipleship)		XX
	Watch for “all-faith-inclusive” business related to Stony Point Conference Center	?	?
Rec 021, Rec 022	Revisions to churchwide plan for equal employment opportunity and affirmative action and revisions to PMA manual of operations that eliminate the criteria of Christian faith for employment by the denomination		X
Rec 003	Reintroduction of <i>The Belhar Confession</i> for inclusion in the <u>Book of Confessions</u>		X
Rec 006	<i>1001 New Worshipping Communities</i> church-wide initiative	some	some
Rec 007	First reading of proposed new Directory for Worship for study and comment		

Ordination, representation and decision making

		Approve	Reject
03-03	Seeks to give non-ordained young people voice and vote; make them full commissioners at GA		X
06-08	Allowing presbyteries (not only congregations) to elect and ordain commissioned ruling elders	X	
06-09	Clarifying what is meant by “Essentials of the Reformed Faith”	?	?
06-10	Allowing for affiliate congregational membership for Teaching Elders	X	
Rec 025	12 recommendations for changes to preparation for ministry process and ordination exams	some	some
Rec 041	9 recommendations from Biennial Assembly review committee addressing “processes” at GA meeting that are not governed by <u>Robert’s Rules of Order</u>	some	most

Life & Death issues

		Approve	Reject
09-02	2 yr study on the plight of unwanted children and special committee on abortion review	X	
09-03	Advocacy for use of “Code of Conduct” for the protection of children from sexual exploitation	X	
09-04	Advocacy for national moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty	X	
09-10	Study on End of Life issues	X	
11-07	On commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide	X	
12-03	On publishing the current list of churches certified as “Relief of Conscience” by the BOP	X	
Com 012	Advocacy for comprehensive social witness policy on human trafficking as human rights issue	X	
Com 013	Resolution to address child/youth protection policies and resources in the PCUSA	some	some

Racial/Ethnic concerns

		Approve	Reject
15-04	Advocacy of the Presby. Immigrant Defense Initiative to promote rights of illegal immigrants	some	some
Com 020	“The Gospel from Detroit: Renewing the Church’s Urban Vision”	some	some
Com 030	Advocacy funding to educate against and help prevent voter suppression	some	some
Rec 005	National Racial Ethnic ministries task force report	some	some
Rec 013	Institutional relationship agreement with historically Presbyterian racial ethnic institutions	X	
Rec 018	Racial Ethnic & New Immigrant church growth consultation committee report	some	some
Rec 025	Special Committee to review the preparation for ministry process and ordination exams	some	some
Com 007	Resolution to define and interpret standards for PCUSA Racial Ethnic schools and colleges	some	some
Com 008	Resolution to develop a churchwide antiracism policy	some	some
Com 009	Review of efforts toward cultural proficiency and creating a climate for change in the PCUSA	some	some

Organizational reconfiguration, Review, Per Capita, Property and Pensions

		Approve	Reject
03-01, 03-02	Requesting TE’s to pay per capita; allowing presbyteries to limit per capita payments	X	
Rec 011	Mid Council Commission II Report	some	some
05-01, 05-02	Reorganization/reconfiguration of Synods (related to Rec 011)		X
06-02	Regarding sale or encumbrance of property given to a local congregation as a gift	X	
06-011	Allowing churches to realign with other presbyteries within the PCUSA	X	
12-01	Requiring participation in the Board of Pensions Plans	X	
12-02	Directing Board of Pensions to distribute Plan benefits to plan members leaving PCUSA		X
12-04	Directing BoP to study allowing small membership churches to participate in Plans based on 1/2 of current median salary formula	X	

Evangelism & churchwide programs you can support!

		Approve	Reject
Ovt 070	Seeks to require all PCUSA related seminaries to make coursework in evangelism a requirement for all M.Div. programs	X	
08-02	Spiritual and material support for the persecuted Church	X	
11-02	Turning attention to the plight of the Church that is suffering in Egypt and elsewhere	X	
Com 012	Developing a comprehensive social witness policy on Human Trafficking	X	
Com 013	Addressing Child/Youth protection policies and resources in the PCUSA	X	
Rec 020	"Educate a Child, Transform the World" proposal from the Presbyterian Mission Agency	X	
Rec 034	“Living Missionally” proposal from the Presbyterian Mission Agency	X	

The assembly will vote on additional business (election of Moderator, etc). Visit www.Layman.org for daily articles and a nightly video round up of the day’s business. Follow the business on Twitter @preslayman