

## Report on the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PCA

1. One of the unique features of Presbyterianism is its graded order of church courts:
  - Session: local church
  - Presbytery: regional church
  - General Assembly: entire church
  - Biblical basis: Acts 15. See also Acts 16:4: “As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.”
  
2. Business of the General Assembly:
  - Committees of commissioners review the work of the permanent committees and agencies.
  - Overtures committee with one RE and one TE from every presbytery.
  - Three worship services and several informative seminars.
  
3. Highlight: report of the Ad-Interim Committee on Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church
  - That sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly recognize that, from the founding of the PCA, there has been a variety of views and practices regarding the ways in which women may serve the Lord and the church within scriptural and constitutional parameters, without ordination, and that such mutual respect for said views and practices continues.
  - That sessions, presbyteries and the General Assembly strive to develop, recognize, and utilize the gifts, skills, knowledge, and wisdom of godly women in the local, regional, and national church, and particularly consider overtures that would allow qualified women to serve on appropriate committees and agencies within the church.
  - That sessions, if possible, establish a diaconate of qualified ordained men. Though *The Book of Church Order* does not specifically prohibit the practice of going without ordained deacons, it seems poorly aligned with the spirit of the principle of the two church offices outlined in *The Book of Church Order*.
  - That sessions consider how to include non-ordained men and women in the worship of the church so as to maintain faithfulness to Scripture, as well as utilizing the gifts God has poured out to His entire church (see exegesis of 1 Corinthians 14:26 in Chapter Two).
  - That sessions and presbyteries select and appoint godly women of the congregation to assist the ordained leadership; these godly, unordained women have often historically been referred to as deaconesses.
  - That presbyteries and the General Assembly consider an overture that would establish formally the right of sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly to establish the position of commissioned church worker within the PCA for qualified and gifted unordained men and women.
  - That sessions, presbyteries and the General Assembly consider how they can affirm and include underprivileged and underrepresented women in the PCA.

## REPORT FROM THE PUBLISHING MINISTRY OF GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Great Commission Publications (GCP) is the official publishing ministry of the PCA and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). This joint publishing ministry was established by the respective General Assemblies in 1975. GCP publishes high-quality Reformed and covenantal curriculum for all ages. This full-orbed system of curriculum is based upon the Bible as the Word of God.

GCP is governed by a twelve-member board of trustees, all teaching or ruling elders. Six are elected by the PCA CDM and six by the OPC Committee on Christian Education (CCE). Additionally, the PCA CDM Coordinator and the OPC CCE General Secretary serve as *ex officio*, non-voting trustees. Currently the GCP Executive Director and the Associate Executive Director are PCA teaching elders. The GCP Director of Business Operations is a PCA ruling elder. The President of the board of trustees for 2017 is OPC minister Dr. Alan Strange.

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