A Report on the 47th General Assembly of the PCA

The 47th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met June 25-28, 2019 in Dallas, TX. The following is my brief report of the General Assembly.

First, I am grateful to the Lord for the Presbyterian Church in America. The PCA broke away from the southern branch of the Presbyterian Church (PCUS) in 1973 because they wanted to be “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed faith, Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.” Though the PCA is not a perfect Church (there is no such Church!), I am glad to be in a denomination that is committed to the Word of God, and has for its constitution The Westminster Standards and the Book of Church Order. However, fidelity to the Scriptures and the constitution must be conscientiously preserved by each generation of communicant members, particularly as we live in a secular culture.

Second, the General Assembly elected a friend to serve as Moderator. Ruling Elder Howie Donahoe was elected to serve as Moderator for the 47th General Assembly. I have known Howie for more than twenty years. We have served as Stated Clerks of our respective Presbyteries and also on a number of General Assembly committees. Howie moderated this General Assembly with a fair and firm hand.

Third, I was delighted that Ruling Elder Ed Jordan was again a commissioner at this year’s General Assembly. Since the start of the PCA (in 1973) there has been a desire for parity of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders at each General Assembly. However, over the years, and especially in recent years, the number of Teaching Elders has far exceeded the number of Ruling Elders in attendance at General Assemblies. That is why I was so pleased that RE Ed Jordan (along with his wife, Debbie) could attend this year’s General Assembly.

Fourth, forty-eight overtures were presented to the General Assembly. An overture is ordinarily a request of a Presbytery for the General Assembly to take an action. The overture that received the most time and attention was an overture to declare the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood’s “Nashville Statement” on biblical sexuality as a biblically faithful declaration. After much debate, this overture was approved. In addition, the General Assembly approved an overture to establish an ad interim study committee on the topic of human sexuality with particular attention to the issues of homosexuality, same-sex attraction, and transgenderism. I am glad for the approval of these two overtures as they address an important issue in our current culture.
Fifth, the penultimate highlight of this year’s General Assembly was listening to Teaching Elder Peter Dishman speak at the MTW lunch. Mission to the World hosts a lunch each year at General Assembly. I knew that Peter (our son-in-law) was speaking at the MTW lunch; I did not realize until the lunch, however, that he was the main speaker! So, it was a great joy to hear him speak about what God is doing through the ministry of Reformed University Fellowship at the National University of Colombia in Bogota.

And finally, the ultimate highlight of this year’s General Assembly did not actually take place during the assembly. Eileen and I flew out to Dallas the Saturday before the General Assembly so that we could attend our grandson Samuel Patrick Dishman’s baptism on Sunday, June 23 at Town North PCA in Richardson, TX. Although our flight was delayed by more than 12 hours, we made it out in time for the baptism. It was wonderful to witness God’s covenant promises being given to our grandson.

Let us continue to pray that the Lord will bless this branch of his Church.
Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,
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Adult Bible Fellowship
Ed Jordan

Children
Christy Almonte

EmptyNesters
Sandy Neal

Greeters & Welcome Table
Brian Carrier

Hospitality
Lesley Schmidt

Men’s Bible Study
Jeff Beams

Men’s Ministry
Brian Carrier

Missions
Karen Guest

Music
Millie Myers

NTCA
Morgan Uhl

Nursery
Marianne Cali

Outreach
Vacant

Pastoral Care
Rev. Freddy Fritz

Ushers
Lenny Chew

Women’s Bible Study
Eileen Fritz &
Debbie Jordan

Women’s Ministry
Suzanne Swenson

Youth
Richard Hunter
Christmas Brunch Planning

This is the time of the year when the Women’s Ministry begins detailed planning for its Christmas brunch. We have a speaker, a topic, and a general plan; now we can focus on the details. Our WM15 meeting is on Sunday, August 11 in the Youth Room immediately following the worship service. Ladies, please plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer vacation. Praying for travel mercies, relaxation, refreshment, and renewal for all.

Blessings.

WM15 Meeting
Sunday, August 11, 2019
Youth Room
Immediately following the worship service
The English as A Second Language Program volunteers are having a planning meeting on Wednesday, August 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Church. If you are curious about this program, please come to the meeting and see what our plans are for the coming year! There are new education materials for all language levels available to review for both the English Class and the accompanying Bible Study.

We are very excited about the Program and are anxious for the new year to begin! If you are unavailable on August 7, please contact Karen Cross directly at 813-714-9921 and she will set up a meeting at an alternative time. We hope you can join us!
Missions
Karen Guest

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA
Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

Military Chaplains are similar to civilian pastors. A PRCC Military Chaplain is seminary educated and an ordained minister who preaches sermons, administers the sacraments, provides comfort, teaches Bible studies, provides counseling, conducts weddings and funerals, and leads people to Christ. The Military Chaplain is ecclesiastically endorsed by his denomination and he meets the high standards for service within the PRCC. He is fully integrated into his unit and serves side by side with soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. He is present at times when service personnel are hurting and most receptive to the Gospel message. He is present to honor the fallen, spiritually nurture the living, and care for the wounded. PRCC Military Chaplains serve in the Active Duty and Reserve Components of the military as well as the Chaplain Candidate program while in seminary.

Our church provides prayer support to two PRCC Chaplains: CPT (US Army) Ted Hamm, located at the Northeast Chaplain Recruiting Center in Columbia, Maryland; and CPT (US Army) James Cochell, located at the Air Defense Artillery School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Both are included in the Missionary of the Week section of the weekly Intercessor prayer list, in the rotation along with our financially supported missionaries. Besides praying for the Missionary of the Week, you and your family can also encourage CPT Hamm and CPT Cochell through cards, letters, and occasional care packages to extend your support and appreciation for their service. Our pastor regularly communicates with every one of our missionaries. You can, too.

Regarding financial support, your personal financial contributions to the PRCC Ministry are deeply appreciated and used to minister to military personnel and spread the Gospel of Christ around the world. This support enables pastoral care visits to Chaplains and helps to organize spiritual retreats and training for Chaplains and their families. It also helps insure religious freedom so that PRCC Chaplains are always able to preach Christ and the salvation that is ours by faith alone.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible gift to this ministry, please go online to www.prcc.co or mail your contribution made payable to Mission to North America (MNA), designate it to Chaplain Ministries, and mail to: MNA, P.O. Box 890233, Charlotte, NC 28289-0233.

As Christian Americans, we can be thankful for the PRCC Chaplain Ministry and the work all Military Chaplains do to boldly proclaim Christ in a fallen, broken world. Paul said, “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22). This example of setting aside personal preferences in order to further the Gospel’s reception by others and the Gospel’s work in them reflects the type of character inherent in our country’s PRCC Military Chaplains as they serve in the Armed Forces.
Presbyterian Purgatory?

What could the Moderator, Dr. Roy Taylor, mean by such a heretical-sounding moniker as “Presbyterian Purgatory” for an official gathering at HQ of the Presbyterian Church in America? What ever goes on anyway during the last week in May every year in Atlanta among this little-known group of leaders in the PCA. Members of his own congregation have little information about why their pastor disappears from his study at this time. Is he also part of this rather clandestine group that huddles in a room for days, shuffling papers, reading big monitors, and discussing them at a rapid-fire pace?

(Confidentially, aside… Secretly trailing the pastor, I have verified that he is indeed very deeply involved as the Vice-Secretary of this apparently rogue group. “Vice” does not give the impression of an upstanding position. However, the issue of “vices” is not the focus of this current investigation... Not touching that one about him.)

Having obtained an exclusive interview, made on-site inquiries, and taken photos, my file is growing thicker, even if it is more puzzling. Terry Elniff, Ruling Elder in the Western Carolina Presbytery, has identified the name of the group as the Committee on Review of Presbytery Minutes. He apparently believes the group is quite legitimate. According to RE Elniff, the minutes of every meeting are submitted by every presbytery in the PCA denomination. The CRPM is looking for “exceptions” in the minutes that need to be corrected in two categories. Such as…

1. Exceptions of Format. Mistakes in procedure, mizzpellings, and such…
2. Exceptions of Substance. Ops! Forgot to give a pastoral candidate his exam.

Testimony from Joel Belz, the 2003 Moderator of the 31st General Assembly in 2001, a man highly regarded for his leadership, humility, and integrity, affirms that the CRPM will refer the matter of corrections back to the presbyteries to be corrected within the year. Should the CRPM discover “exceptions” which may need the attention of the General Assembly in June in Dallas, it will forward those “exceptions” to the GA for discussion with majority and minority recommendations. The GA may then take action by voting on a position, or in rare cases over the years, set up a study committee to report back to the GA the following year.

Case still open…In as much as it appears that this case will require an eternity to resolve, readers may wish to find some hot leads on this nether world place of torment at …
https://byfaithonline.com/the-committee-on-review-of-presbytery-records-important-but-misunderstood/

Aforesaid PCA HQ, Lawrenceville, GA.
Nursery Ministry

Marianne Cali

Reasons to Volunteer in The Nursery

❤️ It is fun, it is rewarding, and you get lots of hugs and wet kisses!

❤️ You will not miss worship—your act of service to God’s people is an act of worshipping God.

❤️ You will plant seeds of God’s love, and care for his children, that will bear fruit that you may never see.

❤️ It is the only place in church where you can sit in a rocker and read cardboard books during the service!

❤️ You will be helping babies and toddlers learn that their parents always return; that they can trust others to take care of them, just as God takes care of and loves us; and help them begin their socializing skills.

❤️ If you are over 40, you will mentor young parents and share your wisdom.

❤️ If you are under 40, you will meet others in the same place in life as you and will be able to share stories, make play dates, and make friends.
NTCA is excited to begin our 24th year as a ministry of Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church. We currently have 60 children enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. I am looking forward to partnering with NTCA to shine a light into our community for Jesus. Our teachers have already started to set up their classrooms to welcome the children and our calendar is filling up with fun activities.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please feel free to contact Morgan Uhl at director@ntcafamily.org or at 813-973-2443.
Friday Fun Night

Join us the first Friday of every month at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church for a meal, prayer, family focused devotional activities, and fun! Open to all church members and attendees! Families with children are highly encouraged to attend. Great opportunities for volunteers are available for games, crafts, and food setup.

Dates:
August 2
September 6
October 4
November 1

What to expect…
6:30 - 7:00 p.m.: Meal time and opening prayer
7:10 - 7:45 p.m.: Family devotional activity
7:45 - 8:25 p.m.: Fellowship and arts and crafts
8:30 p.m.: Closing

Please RSVP so we can prepare appropriately.
If you are interested in helping please contact:
Christy Almonte 813-484-9771.
The regular Worship Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. I am very thrilled to begin another exciting year of great choral music that honors our God and Savior. I hope to see everyone back from a nice summer vacation and ready to dig in, and work, and sing beautifully.

The Worship Choir rehearsal kick-off is scheduled for Saturday, August 24. All are welcome to join us as we begin with an extended rehearsal. The men will rehearse at 10:00 a.m. and the ladies will rehearse at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon for all who attend. Regular Worship Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Please contact Millie Myers for any questions or additional details at 813-417-2157.
Happening in August

Friday, August 2, 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Friday. Join us the first Friday of every month for a meal, prayer, family focused devotional activities, and fun! Open to everyone! Families with children are highly encouraged to attend. Great opportunities for volunteers are available for games, crafts, and food setup. Please write “FFF” on your Welcome Card so we can prepare appropriately. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Christy Almonte 813-484-9771.

Saturday, August 3, 8:00 a.m. NTCA Needs Your Help! There is so MULCH to do before the arrival of our new students for the 2019-2020 school year! Please bring your shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and a little muscle to help us make our playground a safe place for the kids to play! You can sign up by writing “Mulch” on your Welcome Card, calling our NTCA office at 813-972-2443, or emailing Morgan Uhl at director@ntca-family.org. We will have drinks and refreshments for you! Thank you for helping make NTCA a wonderful place to share Jesus in our community!

Saturday, August 3, 9:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast. All men are invited to join us for breakfast at the church. The cost is $8.00, which will be collected at the breakfast. A short devotional time with Reverend Richard Gainer will follow the breakfast. RSVP by writing “Men’s Breakfast” on your Welcome Card. For more information contact Brian Carrier at 813-841-9146 or brian@bcaflorida.com.

Wednesday, August 7, 9:30 a.m. English as A Second Language planning meeting. Please see page 5 for more information.

Sunday, August 11, WM15 Meeting in the Youth Room immediately following worship service. See page 4 for more information.

Saturday, August 24. Worship Choir Rehearsal Kick-off. All are welcome to join us as we begin with an extended rehearsal. The men will rehearse at 10:00 a.m. and the ladies will rehearse at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon for all who attend. Regular Worship Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Please contact Millie Myers for any questions or additional details at 813-417-2157.

Sunday, August 25, 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. State of The Church Address (SOCA). Lunch and childcare. Our annual State of the Church Address will follow lunch at 1:00 p.m. All communicant members are expected to attend. We will receive ministry reports, adopt the 2019-2020 budget, and learn what we believe God is leading us to accomplish for the expansion of his kingdom. Please signup in the narthex to bring a dish to share.
August Birthdays

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason Skopp</td>
<td>August 01</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Adawonu</td>
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<td>Joanne Campbell</td>
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<td>Lillian Ordahl</td>
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<td>Deborah Osibodu</td>
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<td>Lilly Porter</td>
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<td>Averil Massie</td>
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<td>Emily Connell</td>
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<td>Haley Beams</td>
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<td>Olivia Chew</td>
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<td>Lenny Chew</td>
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<td>Kim Cozzolino</td>
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<td>Peter Dishman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy Jeffries</td>
<td>August 21</td>
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<td>Wicke Egbert</td>
<td>August 24</td>
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<td>Justice Powe</td>
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<td>Wes Mollard</td>
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<td>Madison Powe</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Peterson</td>
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<td>Don Vander Ploeg</td>
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<td>Peter Wu</td>
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<td>Joe Burns</td>
<td>August 27</td>
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<td>Robert Barber</td>
<td>August 29</td>
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<td>George Noel</td>
<td>August 31</td>
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<td>Suzanne Swenson</td>
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August Anniversaries

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan &amp; Averil Masie</td>
<td>August 01, 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry &amp; Barbara Hess</td>
<td>August 06, 1966</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Bob &amp; LeeAnn DeStefano</td>
<td>August 14, 1971</td>
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<td>Ken &amp; Betty Pothoven</td>
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<td>Bill &amp; Sandy Neal</td>
<td>August 16, 1960</td>
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<td>Rod &amp; Andrea Proctor</td>
<td>August 20, 2015</td>
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<td>John &amp; Bonnie Hutton</td>
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<td>Craig &amp; Meghann Nickoloff</td>
<td>August 21, 2004</td>
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<td>Craig &amp; Jane Tyler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim &amp; Linda Childers</td>
<td>August 28, 1971</td>
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Trumpet Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz, Editor-in-Chief
Andrea L. Proctor, Co-editor

It is the goal of the Trumpet staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation. The views and opinions expressed in the Trumpet have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, pictures, ministry reports, and calendar items for the next edition of the Trumpet to andreaproctor@tcforce.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.