



Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant
 Saturday, February 7, 2009 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)
 Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas

Registration Form

Please complete this form and bring it with you to the meeting. Thank you

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Church/City: _____

Are you a first-time commissioner? ____ Yes ____ No

CHECK ONLY ONE BOX BELOW

VOTING (check only one)

- Minister Member
- Elder Commissioner
(Elected from session of church listed above)
- Commissioned Lay Pastor
- Certified Church Educator
- Associate Certified Church Educator
- Elder with Privilege by Virtue of Office
(Currently in a Presbytery leadership position, designated for this privilege)
- Former Moderator of Presbytery
- Elected Presbytery Staff
- Fellow – NACBA (National Association of Church Business Administrators)

NON-VOTING (check only one)

- Corresponding Minister-Member from _____
- Visitor from _____
- Presbytery Staff
- Inquirer/Candidate under care
- Commissioned Lay Pastor *(without voting privileges)*
- Other Church Professional
(Non-certified Educator, Youth Director, Business Administrator, Music Director, other)

CALL TO THE STATED MEETING
The Presbytery of New Covenant, Synod of the Sun
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Saturday, February 7, 2009 9:00 am
Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX
10221 Ella Lee Blvd.
Houston, TX (713-781-7615)

This meeting of the presbytery will be called to order at 9:00 am.

There is an **Orientation Session for first-time commissioners at 8:15 am.**

The **2009 Meeting Tool Kit** is available on the website (<http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org>), as are additional materials for the meeting. Each commissioner is responsible for obtaining these materials and bringing them to the meeting. There will be **NO** copies at the meeting other than Addenda .

No response is required for lunch, but childcare reservations **must be made directly to Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston (contact information is listed above).**

Complete the registration form in the Presbytery Packet *prior to the meeting*, and turn it in at the registration table.

Each minister and elder-commissioner is urged to check the website three days prior to the meeting for additional meeting materials that may be posted (to include any New Business).

Requests for Excused Absences (from ministers and churches) must be submitted to the Stated Clerk's Office by fax 713-526-8814, by USPS, or e-mail (jschessler@pbyofnewcovenant.org or dprevary@pbyofnewcovenant.org).

Directions to Grace Presbyterian were sent as part of the letter of invitation from the church. You can also obtain directions from www.mapquest.com.

January 22, 2009

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! A Blessed New Year to All!

Our first meeting in 2009 will focus on our denominational connections as we add our votes to those of 172 other presbyteries across the country on the "Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order." The theme of the meeting, "*Connected: Through Discernment and Decision*" suggests the expectation that we have all been engaged in a time of discernment leading up to this meeting, and now the time has come for decision. You will find materials in the PACKET related to this important responsibility which we will fulfill on February 7. The full text of the proposed amendments can also be found at www.pcusa.org/generalassembly/amend.htm. There will be no hard-copies of the amendments at the meeting, as we have distributed all we received from the Office of the General Assembly.

Our worship, which has been planned by the worship staff at Grace, will be led by The Rev. Jack Lancaster (H.R.), retired pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Houston. Jack will bring us God's Word as we prepare to vote our consciences on weighty matters.

In the course of the day, we will also handle the business of ministry here in New Covenant. Congregations and ministers are linked to each other in this community of faith call "*Presbyterian*" here in Southeast Texas. Come join your brothers and sisters in Christ on February 7, at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Serving Christ and the Presbytery of New Covenant, I am

Faithfully,

Diane

[Diane K. Prevary, Stated Clerk]

STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

SATURDAY, February 7, 2009

Grace Presbyterian, Houston, Texas

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For Information

Letters assigned for report organization:

- General Presbyter (A)
- Stated Clerk (B)
- Administrative Division (C)
 - Committees (C.1, C.2, etc.)
- Committee on Ministry (D)
- Committee on Preparation (E)
- General Council (F)
- Ministries Division (G)
 - Committees (G.1, G.2, etc.)
- Nominating Committee (H)
- Communications (I)
- Other Entities (J)

The Presbytery of New Covenant
“Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.”
Stated Meeting
Saturday, February 7, 2009
Grace Presbyterian Church, 10221 Ella Lee Blvd.
Houston, TX (713-781-7615)

Theme: Connected Through Discernment and Decision
Offering: Our Partners in Ministry in the Presbytery of Juan Calvino, Lima, Peru

8:15 am New Commissioner Orientation in Molly Ann Smith Building.
8:30 am Registration in the Narthex.

The Founders’ Chapel has been set aside for prayer and meditation during the course of the meeting.

PROPOSED
THE DOCKET

Please turn off all cell-phones and electronics.

GATHERING

- 9:00 am** Call to Order Moderator, The Rev. Wayne Eberly
Morning Worship
[will be led by the worship staff of Grace Presbyterian Church, and will include the Sacrament of Communion and an offering for our sister-presbytery in Peru. The preacher will be The Rev. Jack Lancaster, Honorably Retired (HR).]
- 10:00 am Opening Business
 - Declaration of Quorum and Adoption of the Docket
 - Welcome by Host Church **The Rev. Doug Ferguson**
 - Welcome of Others – Stated Clerk Diane Prevary
First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, New Minister-Members

Report of the Stated Clerk (B)
Omnibus Motion B.1
- 10:20 am Moderator’s Remarks and Appointments
Action Item: to elect George Bones to serve on Nominating Committee (Class of 2011)
- 10:25 am Administrative Division
Ecclesiastical Affairs Elder James Taylor
1. Regular Report (C.1) (also see C.1c and C.1d on the website in Meeting Materials)
 2. Presentation and Action on the Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order.
(see C.1a and C.1b in PACKET) Materials were mailed to Clerks of Session in December for distribution to commissioners and mailed directly to minister-members. There will be no copies available at the meeting, as we have exhausted our supply.
- 12:00 pm** FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE (*Donations to Cents-Ability @ Tables*)
Today’s donations will be given to West Houston Assistance Ministries. Thank you for your generosity.
- 1:00 pm** **Reconvene w/Hymn**
Sermon for Ordination Candidate Christa Brewer
- 1:30 pm Committee on Ministry (D & D.1)
Floor Examination of Candidate The Rev. Dean Pogue
Information and Action Items Elder David Coles

	Service of Retirement (The Rev. Larry Spencer)	The Rev. Mike Cole
	Nominating Committee (H & H.1)	Elder Mary Lee Going
	Report of General Council (F, F.1, F.2)	Elder Garry Schoonover
2:30 pm	Committee on Preparation (E)	The Rev. Marie Mickey
	Administrative Division	Elder Ann Hardy
	Finance Committee (C.2) (Financials posted separately in Meeting Materials)	Elder Sid Holderness
2:50 pm	Ministries Division (G)	Elder Pam Engler

New Business (only if submitted to Stated Clerk 4 days prior to the meeting; to be posted on-line with Meeting Materials no later than 3 days prior)

Adjournment (no later than 4pm, unless the assembly votes to extend beyond)

**THE NEXT STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT WILL BE
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009,
AT THE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4881 W. PANTHER CREEK DRIVE
THE WOODLANDS, TX 77381**

STATED CLERK
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
February 7, 2009

I. Recommendations for presbytery action:

1. That the Omnibus Motion be approved.

II. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery: None

III. Items for Information:

1. Received the following word of appreciation from Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *“On behalf of the General Assembly I want to extend a special word of appreciation to the Presbytery of New Covenant for your faithful stewardship in 2008. More than ever, maintaining the covenant connection that links together the body of Christ is crucial for the faithful witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Your presbytery’s full support for 2008 per capita apportionment is a tangible sign of commitment to that vision, and I am extraordinarily grateful.... We have sought to be good stewards of the resources that you have shared with the whole church and look forward to a continuing partnership in the Gospel with you in 2009.”*
2. New minister-members of the presbytery will introduce themselves at this meeting, will sign THE BOOK, and the assembly is invited to extend to them the right-hand-of-fellowship during the lunch break.
3. A Glossary of Abbreviations related to the ministry of the presbytery follows:

ADSC	Administrative Division Steering Committee
CO	Center Operations
EAC	Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee
FIN	Finance Committee
COM	Committee on Ministry
CPM	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
COR	Committee on Representation
GC	General Council
NOM	Nominating Committee
MDSC	Ministries Division Steering Committee
CRT	Congregational Resourcing Team
E&R	Evangelism and Renewal
NCD	New Church Development
OM	Outreach Ministries
RCC	Resource Center Committee
POP	Presbyterian Outreach to Patients

PW	Presbyterian Women
OGA	Office of the General Assembly
GAC	General Assembly Council
SYNOD	Synod of the Sun
PC(U.S.A.)	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PDA	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
IRT	IKE Recovery Team

4. A reminder of the *Standing Rules of the Presbytery*, as published in the Meeting Tool Kit.

These rules were adopted by the Presbytery of New Covenant at stated meetings on November 15, 2005 and the subsequent meeting on February 11, 2006. They shall remain in force until altered by any subsequent vote of the presbytery.

1. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order (RROO) is our guide to procedure (Book of Order G-9.0302).
2. **GETTING HELP:** The Moderator and Stated Clerk are here to help you! If you are unsure about a correct procedure:
 - a. be recognized by the Moderator
 - b. say what you want to do
 - c. ask the Moderator how to do it.
3. **AGENDA:** Adoption of the Agenda gives permission to the officers and committees listed to speak and present reports in the order listed. Changing the Agenda after it is adopted requires a two-thirds vote (RROO, sections 3, 40).
4. **SPEAKING**
 - a. Whenever you wish to address the Presbytery, PROMPTLY proceed to the nearest microphone.
 - b. To gain the right to speak, say "Madame Moderator" or "Mister Moderator" and then WAIT for the Moderator to call on you to speak (RROO, section 3).
 - c. When the Moderator gives you the right to speak, first state your Name and Church Connection. Then speak to the motion (RROO, section 41).
 - d. Speeches during debate are limited to two minutes each (RROO, section 15).
 - e. The Moderator will try to alternate Pro and Con speeches (RROO, section 41).
5. **MOTIONS**
 - a. Motions from a Committee are presumed to carry a second (RROO, section 4).
 - b. A person making a motion is entitled to speak first in debate (RROO, section 4).
 - c. Any motion introduced on the floor should be legibly written and submitted to the Stated Clerk.
 - d. All business shall be submitted to Presbytery's office at least seven days prior to the meeting of Presbytery. All business shall be published on the Presbytery's website three days prior to the Presbytery meeting.
 - e. Business not published as in 5.d. can only be introduced with the consent of two-thirds vote of the Presbytery.
6. **VOTING:** The Moderator shall use the most expeditious form of voting in this order (RROO, section 44):
 - a. Unanimous consent
 - b. Voice vote ("those in favor those opposed")
 - c. Rising or show of hands (The Moderator may use Tellers to take an actual count, or the Moderator may simply "eyeball" the result).
 - d. A written ballot – which is not a matter of right; it must be ordered by a majority vote of the Presbytery.
7. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**
 - a. Each Elder Commissioner and each member Minister of Word and Sacrament who has communicated with the Stated Clerk requesting an excused absence from this meeting of the Presbytery is granted an excused absence.
 - b. Each Elder Commissioner and each member Minister of the Word and Sacrament who must leave this meeting of the presbytery before adjournment, and who submits a request for excused absence from the remaining portion of the meeting to the Stated Clerk, is granted an excused absence.

OMNIBUS MOTION

February 7, 2009 Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant

At the time the Omnibus is presented, a commissioner/minister may request that an item be lifted for discussion at a later time in the meeting. This requires no vote of Presbytery. The Stated Clerk will announce when the item will be considered.

FROM THE STATED CLERK (B)

A. Received minutes from (to be included in the record), and moves that the following Administrative Commissions be dismissed with appreciation:

1. to ordain as Minister of Word and Sacrament, and to install The Rev. Paul Kim Hoang as Associate Pastor, Young Nak Presbyterian Church, Houston. on Sunday December 7, 2008, at Young Nak Presbyterian Church, during afternoon worship.

B. That the minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant on Saturday, November 15, 2008, be approved as distributed (posted on presbytery’s website, as part of the Meeting Materials for today’s meeting).

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

February 7, 2009

I. Recommendations for presbytery action:

Action on the Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order. See process piece and summary of amendments (C.1a and C.1b) attached to this report.

II. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery:

1. End-of-year report for Session Records Reviews posted separately in the Meeting Materials for all 2008 reviews, along with Check Sheet, which is referenced under “with exception” (C.1c and C.1d)

III. Items for Information:

1. Continue to plan the meetings for the 2009 presbytery meetings which have an overall theme of “**Connectedness**” in order to focus on connections among congregations within the Presbytery, and beyond to the greater church.
2009 presbytery meetings will be as follows:

Sat Feb. 7	Grace PC, Houston	Discernment and Decision making
Sat. May 9	Woodlands PC	Spirituality and Growth
Sat-Sun. Aug.1-2	Pines, Houston	Mission, Service and Celebration
Sat. Nov.14	St. Paul PC, Houston	Theme TBD

2. Announcements regarding events planned by a church or committee of the Presbytery may be submitted to the EAC for inclusion in the electronic announcements that run at various times during the presbytery meetings.

3. Elected members of this committee include Elder Jim Taylor (MDPC), Chair, Elder Susan McPhail Wittjen, (LaMarque PC), and Elder John Jo (Korean Central PC). Ex-officio members include the Rev. Wayne Eberly, the Rev. Mike Cole, the Rev. Diane Prevary, Elder Janice Schessler and Elder Garry Schoonover.
4. Revising Host Church Packet to bring it up to date for 2009.

Guidelines for Floor Discussion/Debate
(For any meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant)

1. Presbyters should speak only once during debate of each amendment. Presbytery will listen to alternate advocates who are asked to line up at appropriate (advocate/opponent) microphones. Refrain from applause or vocal expressions of either approval or disapproval.
2. There will be a two (2)-minute time limit on all speeches during debate.*
3. Written ballots will be used for amendments if requested by the presbytery.

*A yellow card will be held up by the moderator elect after 1 ½ minutes; a red card will be held up when the time limit is reached.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

For full text of proposed amendments & text of current **Book of Order**, refer to Amendment Booklet mailed in December, or download from www.pcusa.org/generalassembly/amend.htm

GLOSSARY

GA = General Assembly (elected commissioners that met during GA Mtg. in June '08)

GAC = (a) General Assembly Committee (committees that were composed of commissioners to the GA)

ACC = Advisory Committee on the Constitution (standing committee of the General Assembly; meets throughout the year)

GAC = (b) General Assembly Council (elected by the commissioners to the General Assembly – meets throughout the year to fulfill responsibilities mandated by *Constitution* (G-13.0201)

CCE = Certified Christian Educator (one who after completion of a specified curriculum and examination(s), is certified by the denomination)

CPM = Committee on Preparation for Ministry

AMENDMENT 08-A**Vows of Membership**

Introduced by Presbytery of Mission, substitute proposed by General Assembly Committee on Church Polity.

Would require that all new members in a congregation make a public profession of faith. Current rules require only those making a profession of faith or reaffirmation of faith do this; those coming by certificate of transfer are not required to do so.

Pro: Strengthen the commitment of transferees; more explicit and standardized requirements for membership.

Con: Reduces flexibility of sessions as they consider new members; once joining the covenant community of Christ, we do not need to join it again as we change congregations.

GAC on Church Polity recommended approval 50/2/0.

GA approved by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-C**Sympathy or Compassion?**

Introduced by Presbytery of Albany (N.Y.) to replace “sympathy” with “empathy” in two places regarding the role of deacons.

Advisory Committee on the Constitution saw little difference but suggested “compassion” as a preferred alternative.

Pro: “Sympathy” can imply condescension. “Compassion” is the choice of the Form of Government Task Force for the new **Book of Order**.

Con: Splitting hairs; “sympathy” has more Biblical and traditional support.

GAC on Church Polity recommended approval 54/3/0.

GA approved by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-D
General Assembly Mission Council
Name Change

Proposed by General Assembly Council.

Name change from General Assembly Council to General Assembly *Mission* Council throughout the Book of Order.

Pro: more clearly identifies the work of General Assembly Council.

Con: none expressed.

GAC on Mission Coordination and Budgets recommended approval 57/1/3.

GA approved by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-E
Non-Geographic Presbyteries

Originated with the Office of the General Assembly in response to a referral regarding Korean American Presbyterians.

Would allow a congregation to join a non-geographic presbytery in another synod with specified approvals. Also non-geographic presbyteries are to be formed only on the basis of language, and each should carry a sunset clause (end date).

Pro: Makes it easier for immigrants to be a part of the PC(U.S.A.) while moving the goal of a united multi-cultural Church forward.

Con: none expressed.

GAC on General Assembly Procedures recommended approval 44/0/1.

GA approved by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-F
Membership of Certified Christian Educators (CCE)

Originated with Presbytery of Santa Fe who requested clarification.

Amendment would make it *permissive* vs. currently *required* that a presbytery would grant privilege of the floor with voice only to a CCE and only while actively engaged in an educational ministry under jurisdiction of that presbytery.

Pro: Clarifies historic right of a presbytery to determine its own membership.

Con: Changing from mandatory to permissive could create greater inconsistency; seems unnecessarily restrictive of CCE's who have much to contribute to presbyteries.

GAC on Church Polity recommended approval 58/0/0.

GA approved by consensus.

AMENDMENT 08-I

Voice for Certified Christian Educators

Response from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution to staff inquiry.

Would clarify that only Certified Christian Educators and not Certified *Associate* Christian Educators may have privilege of the floor at presbytery meetings.

Pro: Restricts right of the floor at presbytery meetings to Certified Christian Educators..

Con: Associates should have the same privileges as CCE's.

GAC on Church Polity recommended approval 46/12/0.

GA approved by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-G

Synod Membership on Permanent Committees

Worded by the GA Advisory Committee on the Constitution as a clarification to Book of Order amendment in 2006 on committee membership.

Clarifies that representation from all synods is required only on the General Assembly Council.

Membership to other permanent committees would revert again to the GA Nominating Committee as part of its responsibility.

Pro: allows committees to be formed to meet the needs of the committee charge; permits committees smaller than 16 minimum members.

Con: may exclude some synods from equal representation across all GA committees.

GAC on Mission Coordination and Budgets recommended approval 58/0/0.

GA approved by consensus.

AMENDMENT 08-H

Ordination Exams

Originated with the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates.

Increases flexibility of presbyteries' committees on preparation for ministry in determining when candidates take required exams.

Pro: CPM's should ensure that candidates take the exams only after proper preparation.

Con: None expressed.

GAC on Review of GA Permanent Committees recommended approval 39/3/1.

GA approved by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-J

Alternative Forms of Resolution

Originated with Advisory Committee on the Constitution in response to questions from the Presbytery of National Capital.

Amendment clarifies that in a disciplinary proceeding, the parties that must agree to an alternative form of resolution are limited to the accused and those representing the governing (investigating) body, and not the accuser.

Pro: Makes clear that the accuser does not have veto power over an alternate form of resolution.

Con: none expressed.

GAC on Church Polity recommended approval 58/0/1.

GA approved by consensus.

ECUMENICAL STATEMENTS

- Four statements originated with GAC on Ecumenical Relations.
- “PCUSA will seek to initiate, maintain, and strengthen its relations to ... other Christian churches, alliances, councils and consortia.” G-15.0102
- All approved by GA Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations with no negative votes.
- All approved by GA by voice vote.

AMENDMENT 08-K

Roman Catholic Church

- Agreement on mutual recognition of baptism.

AMENDMENT 08-L

Episcopal Church

- Agreement to acknowledge one another’s ordained ministries.

AMENDMENT 08-M

Korean Presbyterian Church

- Covenant relationship agreement covering ordination and orderly exchange of ministers.

AMENDMENT 08-N

Moravian Church

- Covenant partnership covering ordination, mission, governance, joint resources; fellowship and Communion.

AMENDMENT 08-B
Ordained Officers

This proposed amendment will be presented and discussed last; a written ballot will be taken.

- Proposed by Presbytery of Boston
- This would amend paragraph G-6.0106b by
 - deleting fidelity and chastity requirement
 - replacing it with a pledge “to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ” and to “declare fidelity to the standards of the Church”
- GAC on Church Orders and Ministry recommended approval 41/11/0
- GA approved 380/325/3

C.1b

Presbytery of New Covenant
Processing General Assembly Amendments
February 7, 2009

- 1 Assumption is being made that commissioners have become familiar with the proposed amendments through their availability on the PC(USA) website, informational activities run by individual PNC churches, Church Officer Enrichment (January 24) or otherwise.
- 2 New Commissioner Orientation on February 7 will cover docket for the meeting and process for covering amendments, but will not cover explanations, pro/con, background or history of the individual amendments.
- 3 Following worship and preliminary business, Ecclesiastical Affairs will lead process of considering amendments. Chair (Jim Taylor) will explain overall process consisting of
 - A we will spend 30 minutes \pm on nine of the amendments and the four ecumenical statements; for each there will be a brief description on the screens (same as was contained in the Presbytery packet)
 - B time will be permitted for floor discussion on each of these 13 proposals; a voice vote will then be taken
 - C we will spend 60 minutes \pm on Amendment B starting with a similar brief description on the screens
 - D Rev Ted Foote will spend no more than 10 minutes laying out the case for the proposed amendment
 - E Rev Dave Peterson will spend no more than 10 minutes laying out the case against the proposed amendment
 - F The Moderator will invite discussion from the floor. That will be handled by standing rules: speak from the microphones, alternate pro/con points of view, no more than 2 minutes per speaker, no repeat speakers until/unless all have been heard. We intend that the floor discussion not extend beyond 30 minutes \pm
 - G Revs Bill Poe and Alan Trafford will lead the group in prayer, and brief silent meditation
 - H Commissioners (who will have received written ballots at registration) will then be asked to record their votes to be collected by the Tellers.
 - I Tellers will retire to count the votes
 - J While votes are being counted, depending on the time, the meeting will continue through the docket, or prepare for lunch with instructions and table grace
 - K The meeting will not recess for lunch until the votes have been counted and the results announced.

Committee on Ministry
Presbytery Report
February 7, 2009

I. Recommendations for Presbytery action:

1. The committee recommends and moves that the Reverend **Lawrence D. Spencer** be granted Honorably Retired status effective March 31, 2009.
2. The committee recommends and moves that the examination of **Christa Brewer**, candidate for ordination be sustained, called to serve as Associate Pastor at The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church, The Woodlands, TX.

II. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery:

1. Approved pastoral

a. **Candidate Christa Brewer** called to serve as Associate Pastor of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church, The Woodlands, TX; approved by COM 10/16/08; sustained the examination of the Committee on Examinations 11/22/08; candidate under care of Sacramento Presbytery; formal Education: 2001 - BA, Stanford University; 2008 MDiv & MA, Princeton Theological Seminary. **(Statement of Faith follows COM Report in Packet)**

Salary	\$27,500
Housing and Utility Allowance	15,000
Auto Allowance	4,000
Board of Pensions Dues @ 31 ½ %	13,230
Study Leave Allowance cumulative for 3 years	1,800
Study Leave cumulative for 3 years	2ks, 3 days
Vacation	4 weeks
Social Security Compensation up to 8.24%	3,485
Annual Review	

b. **The Rev. Thomas Atkins** called to serve as pastor of St. Thomas Presbyterian, Houston, TX; Approved my COM on 11/10/08; sustained the examination by the Committee on Examinations 11/22/08; transferring from Peace River Presbytery; ordained 6/26/77; formal Education: 1967 BA, Asbury College, Wilmore, KY; 1990 MDiv, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA; 1990 MA, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

(Statement of Faith will be in the May 9, 2009 Presbytery Report)

Salary	\$26,000
Housing and Utility Allowance	40,000
Deferred Income	6,000
Auto Allowance	2,000
Books, Professional Dues	1,000
Moving Expenses	4,000
Board of Pensions Dues @ 31 ½ %	22,680
Study Leave Allowance cumulative for 3 years	1,670
Study Leave cumulative for 3 years	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks
Annual Review	

3. Approved Annual Reports

David Wells (approved 11/14/08) and Cory McLellan (approved 11/14/08)

4. Approved Changes in Terms of Call

Between Ray Harper and Alvin, First effective 1/1/09

Salary	\$24,590	\$25,493
Housing & Utilities Allowance	4,800	4,800
Value of Manse	11,400	11,400
Other direct compensation/reimbursement	1,300	1,315
Auto Allowance @ IRS Rate	1,500	1,500
Insurance & Pension	13,262	13,548
Study Leave Allowance cumulative for 3 years	1,670	1,670
Study Leave cumulative for 3 years	2 weeks	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks	4 weeks
Social Security	3,260	3,335
Annual Review		

5. Approved commission to install/and or ordain
 - a. Commission to install & ordain Paul Hoang as Associate Pastor at Young Nak Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX on 12/7/08 at 4 pm (approved 11/18/08)
To preside and propound the Constitutional questions:
Elder Jody Harrington, Moderator, Houston, Memorial Drive
To preach the sermon: The Rev. Jin S. Kim, Pastor, Church of All Nations, Minneapolis, MN; Presbytery of Twin Cities Area
To charge the pastor: The Rev. Sam Jun, Associate Pastor, Houston, Pines
To charge the congregation: Elder Kyung Lee, Houston, Young Nak
To complete the commission: The Rev. Shawn Kang, Pastor, Houston, Pathways NCD and Elder Sharon Darden, Houston, Pincrest
 - b. Commission to ordain Holly Smith on 2/1/09 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches at 4 pm
To preside and propound the Constitutional questions:
The Rev. Wayne Eberly, Moderator, Pastor, Houston, Pines
To preach the sermon: The Rev. Steve Newton, Pastor, Nacogdoches, Westminster
To charge the pastor: The Rev. Stewart MacColl, Honorably Retired, NCP
To charge the congregation: Elder Marty Taylor, Nacogdoches, Westminster
To complete the commission: Elder Amber Walker, Lufkin, First; and Elder Dan Summers-Minette, The Woodlands, The Woodlands Community
6. Granted permission to labor out/in bounds
 - a. Christena Alcorn (Presbytery of Cincinnati) to labor in the bounds of NCP until she is received as a member. (approved 11/25/08)
 - b. Miranda Fontaine to labor outside the bounds of NCP in Mission Presbytery
 - c. Kevin Keaton (Missouri River Valley) to labor in the bounds of NCP to perform a wedding on 6/19/09
7. Approved dissolving the relationship
 - a. Between Timothy Cho and Houston, Korean Central effective 11/30/08 (approved 11/20/08)
 - b. Between Kevin Keaton and Sugar Land, First effective 1/16/09
 - c. Between Carrie Smith Coons and Shawn Coons and Houston, St. Philip effective 1/31/09
8. Approved transfer of membership
 - a. Timothy Cho be dismissed to Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery effective 11/30/08
 - b. Christena Alcorn be received from Presbytery of Cincinnati (approved 12/15/08)
 - c. Kevin Keaton be dismissed to Missouri River Valley (approved 1/11/09)
 - d. Carrie Smith Coons and Shawn Coons pending receiving call information from calling presbytery
9. Granted permission to hire
 - a. The Woodlands Church permission to hire candidate Christa Brewer as a

- layperson until she is ordained. (approved 12/02/08)
10. Validated Call for Candidate for Ordination
 - a. Holly Smith called as associate pastor at Hodges Boulevard PC, Jacksonville, Florida, San Augustine Presbytery
 11. Appointed Moderator
 - a. LaPorte, St. James – Wendy Bailey (approved 11/17/08)
 - b. Silsbee, First – Beth Faulk (approved 11/13/08)
 - c. Calvert, First – Bob Leslie (approved 11/10/08)
 12. Permission to Elect PNC
 - a. Bay City, First (approved 12/2/08)
 13. Appoint Liaison
 - a. Sugar Land, First Mike Fry
 14. Approved CIF
 - a. Brenham (approved 11/20/08)
 - b. Jones Creek, Gulf Prairie (approved 12/02/08)
 - c. Kingwood, First (approved 1/5/09)
 15. Approved adding to the Pulpit Supply List
 - a. Christena Alcorn (approved 11/20/08)
 16. Approved Interim Pastor Contract
 - a. Between Pearland, Peace and John Hirling (approved 11/20/08) for one year effective 11/24/08 – 11/23/09, full-time contract

Salary	\$30,600
Housing	24,000
Pension & Insurance	16,065
Auto Expenses	3,000
Books, Professional Expenses	300
Continue Education Allowance	1,680
Continue Education Leave	14 days
Vacation	28 days
 - b. Between Bay City, First and Michael Sydnor (approved 12/2/08) for one year effective 12/15/08 – 12/14/09, full time contract

Salary	\$31,200
Housing	12,000
Social Security Supplement	3,831
Pension & Insurance	14,614
Auto Expenses	3,300
Continue Education Allowance	1,680
Continue Education Leave	14 days
Vacation (including days Off)	68 days
 - c. Between Livingston, First and Marcia Miscall (approved 12/10/08) for one year effective 2/1/09 – 1/1/10, full-time contract

Salary	\$39,000
Housing	16,000
Pension & Insurance	17,656
Auto Expenses	@ IRS Rate
Books, Professional Expenses	Up to 600
Continue Education Allowance	1,680
Continue Education Leave	14 days
Vacation	4 weeks
Moving Costs	Actual
 - d. Between Houston, St. Giles and Lynn Hargrove (approve 12/3/08) for one year effective 12/01/08 – 11/30/09; part-time contract

Salary	\$10,000
Housing	10,000

Pension & Insurance	9,225
Social Security Supplement	1,650
Auto Expenses	2,500
Books, Professional Expenses	500
Continue Education Allowance	625
Continue Education Leave	40 hrs
Vacation	80 hrs

17. Approved Temporary Supply Contract

a. Houston, Heritage and Jane Pettit effective 11/14/08 – 2/09

Salary \$400/Week

III. Item for Information

1. Clergy Retreat - April 21-23, 2009 at Camp Cho-Yeh; guest speaker will be Storyteller Kathy Hood Culmer.
2. The Committee met on January 13, 2009

STATEMENT OF FAITH

CHRISTA BREWER

I believe that...

God the Father created heaven and earth and everything on the earth and in the universe. God the Father is omnipotent and sovereign over all creation. God the Son, the Father's only-begotten Son, who, in the Incarnation, became human as the person of Jesus, lived and ministered on the earth, died on the cross an innocent man and rose from the dead on the third day. From the beginning of time, humans sinned against God, thus causing a separation in the relationship between God and humanity. The price of humanity's sins is death. Jesus came to earth, not only to minister and teach those on earth about God, but also to die for us in our place. Jesus took the world's sins upon him and, through his death and resurrection, sin and death were defeated and the ability for a right and renewed relationship with God was made possible once again. Jesus will come again to judge the world and to bring God's Kingdom to the world. Jesus Christ was one person with two natures. Jesus was fully human and fully God. God the Holy Spirit lives in those who want the Holy Spirit within them. The Holy Spirit acts as our advocate before the Father, and guides and counsels us in the ways of God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three persons in the one Triune God, also referred to as the Trinity.

We are justified by faith alone and not through works. However, in response to God's grace in justification through faith, we will choose to do good works as a demonstration of our thankfulness and service to God. God begins a process of sanctification within us when we choose to have a relationship with God and that that process of sanctification will be completed when God's Kingdom is brought to earth.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are divinely inspired and authoritative. They reveal the nature of God and God's love and faithfulness to God's people, and they bear witness to the life of Jesus Christ and teach us what it means to be followers of Christ. The Scriptures also teach us to participate in two sacraments – baptism and communion – that highlight the covenantal nature of our relationship with God and with each other. In baptism, the one who is baptized enters into a covenantal relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, our old life dies and our new life in Christ begins. In baptism, we participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The water symbolizes the washing and cleansing of sins. However, the water is not merely a symbol, but God's presence is in the water through the power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is also adoption into the Church and that at the time of baptism an important covenantal relationship is formed between the baptizand and the Church. As part of this, the church agrees to continue to foster and nurture the faith of the baptizand. Communion, always following the proclamation of the word, is a celebration of thanksgiving and remembrance of God's work in this world, particularly through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In each celebration of communion, we celebrate and remember our baptismal vows. The real presence of Christ is found in the bread and wine/grape juice, and partaking in communion is God's most tangible and visible form of God's love poured out for God's people. Communion communicates God's love, grace, forgiveness, and redemption, and we should celebrate communion as often as possible until Jesus Christ comes again.

I believe in the priesthood of all believers. Christ is the head of the church body. All people who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior belong to the church universal, and God has gifted each member of the body in a unique way to carry out the service and mission of the church. The church is a community of believers who are called to proclaim the good news of the gospel, witness to the life of Jesus Christ, and act as Christ's disciples, ministering to those locally, nationally, and internationally.

BIOGRAPHY

LAWRENCE (LARRY) D. SPENCER

Ordained in Brazos Presbytery, Presbyterian Church, U.S., June 30, 1963

Retired in New Covenant Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) March 31, 2009

After spending my childhood in East Texas, Kansas, and West Texas, I received a B.A. degree from the University of Texas in Austin, was enrolled in Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, then changed course to enter seminary, with the first year at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the last two years at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

Upon returning to Houston as Pastor of the Aldine Presbyterian Church (now Advent), I began 45-years and 9-months work as a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament. Little did I then know the richly diverse areas that I would be able to serve within and beyond the church. In retrospect, the older I get, the clearer I understand God's calling for my life.

I have served as pastor of a variety of churches that were small (Aldine, Houston with 100 members), medium (Pines and St. Thomas in Houston and First, Galveston), and large (Arlington's 1800-member First Presbyterian); have been an urban specialist on presbytery staff during the racial and urban crises in the late 1960's; and served six interim and one designated pastorates. Ecumenical involvements included being Executive Director of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches. Aside from work with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Synod of the Sun and the General Assembly, two-thirds of my ministry has been with what is now New Covenant Presbytery in the Greater Houston area and 15 years with Grace Presbytery in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

While active in the work of presbytery throughout my ministry, for periods I was secularly employed as a Senior Planner for the City of Houston, Executive Director of the Houston Council on Human Relations, a management consultant, and Assistant General Manager of a 65-person staff in public affairs for Houston's Transit Authority. Over many years I have consulted on organizational change and planning with churches, educational institutions, other non-profits, and units of government. One of my most fulfilling "extra-curricular" activities has been working with Parker Palmer and others in preventing and redeeming burn-out among teachers and other professionals.

The common thread that weaves through all that life work has been leading individuals, churches, other organizations, and communities through constructive change with healing and growth.

While my own growth has developed in every place of ministry, the most recent experiences with members and staffs of Galveston's First Presbyterian Church and Houston's St. Thomas Presbyterian Church have been especially rewarding and positive parts of my professional, personal, and faith journey.

My family has also made a significant impact on my life. My first wife of 12 years, Judy Eplen Spencer, entered adulthood with me and gave birth to our two sons, Craig and Eric. Even through our divorce, our subsequent remarriages, and her too-early death, Judy remained a rock for our children and one who helped forge many good things in my adult life. Now, I have been married to Lucille DiDomenico for two months shy of 34 years. She is clearly the best decision of my life. Lucille is the Executive Director of the Conference of Southwest Foundations (an association of 250 philanthropic grant-making foundations in seven southwestern states). Together we gave life to our daughter, Jennifer. Our three children (and their spouses, Loris, Arlene, and Jeff) live in Pacifica, California; Bend, Oregon; and Austin, Texas—along with their additions of 2 grand dogs and 2 grand cats.

Personal interests include photography and pottery, travel and theater, swimming, putting together wilderness adventures, and being entrusted with the whole scope of precious things in the lives of people (life and death, whole and broken relationships, amazing experiences of faith and aching wrestling with what it all means).

I deeply trust God's gracious leading during retirement to continue enabling my on-going growth, adventures, and daily recognition of wonder. And I am deeply thankful to all those who, knowing it or not, have been present as lights in the dark times, givers of courage in the scary times, support for all times, and weavers of wisdom far beyond my imagining.

E

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Presbytery Report February 7, 2009

I. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery:

1. Approved assessing Juan Herrera (Houston, St. Andrew's) as ready to receive a call.
2. Approved extending time line for internship at Houston, Heritage until February 15, 2009 for inquirer Jane Pettit (Houston, Grace).

II. Item for Information

1. The committee met on December 13, 2008

F

REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY GENERAL COUNCIL FEBRUARY 7, 2009

I. Actions Recommended for Presbytery's consideration:

A. That the presbytery concur with the request of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaumont, TX, to be dissolved no later than May 31, 2009, and the presbytery assume responsibility for remaining property. Further, that the Moderator (of the presbytery) be authorized to appoint an Administrative Commission to oversee the details of the dissolution, to include these members of Westminster: Paige Neyland, Sarah Bardwell and Don Heath. (See history of this congregation at F.1.)

II. Actions taken on behalf of the presbytery

A. Approved the sale of the property of the former First Presbyterian Church, Liberty, TX.
"RESOLVED, that General Council, on motion of the Finance Committee, with the concurrence of the Administrative Division Steering Committee, the General Presbyter and the Treasurer, for and on behalf of Presbytery of New Covenant, Inc. (the "Presbytery"), DOES HEREBY authorize, ratify, and approve (a) the sale by the Presbytery to Galilee Missionary Baptist Church ("Purchaser") of Presbytery's property in Liberty, Texas (formerly the site of First Presbyterian Church, Liberty), at a price of \$325,000, payable by Purchaser in cash at closing, and on the other terms and subject to the other conditions set forth in a certain purchase agreement between the Presbytery and the Purchaser, and (b) said purchase agreement, and the action of its Treasurer in executing and delivering the same, and authorizes and directs its officers and representatives to take all such actions and do all such things as may be necessary or convenient on connection therewith.

- B. Elected the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Extension Committee of the Presbytery of New Covenant, Inc. for 2009 (effective January 1, 2009); and elected the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America for 2009 (effective January 1, 2009): Ann Hardy, A. Sidney Holderness, Jr., David M. Johnson, Richard W. Lillott, III, Kent Whitten, James Taylor. (They will elect their own officers when they meet in January.) These actions are necessary in order to handle properties that were part of the antecedent presbyteries whose property titles do not reflect the merger of the two presbyteries into the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- C. Adopted a reorganized Manual of Operations for the Presbytery of New Covenant. To request a copy, contact the Stated Clerk: dprevary@pbyofnewcovenant.org.
- D. Dissolved the Communications Committee, as currently structured and constituted.
- E. Approved and Adopted the *Guidelines and Application for the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Fund* (Attached at F.2 and F.3).
- F. Constituted the Grant Committee for the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Fund: Helen DeLeon Class of 2011; Susan Wittjen in Class of 2010; Garry Schoonover in Class of 2009.

Items for Information

- A. Received the resignations from General Council of Elders Janet Lionberger and Gay Van Osdall and The Rev. Kevin Rudolph. These resignations have been reported to the Nominating Committee, and appreciation expressed for service to the presbytery.
- B. General Council held a visioning retreat January 6-7, 2009 at Cho-Yeh, facilitated by The Rev. Jill Hudson an Associate Stated Clerk in the Office of the General Assembly and Middle Governing Body Relations Coordinator. The format of the retreat included these primary foci:
 - What's happening in the larger church?
 - What are our hopes and visions for NCP?
 - What will our presbytery look like if we live into the vision?
- C. General Council met for a stated meeting on January 20, 2009.
- D. Ecclesiastical Affairs & General Council approved a two-day Service and Celebration Event, August 1 & 2, 2009, in lieu of a stated meeting. Saturday will be a day of service by congregations in some type of outreach within their own communities of the presbytery. On Sunday, August 2, Pines PC will host a worship celebration and supper in the late afternoon and evening. Moderator Wayne Eberly is gathering folks from the clusters to plan. Given our geographic diversity, it is hoped that clusters distant from Pines PC might host a central celebration for their cluster and that we all might be physically tied together through modern technology. These events are for all 36,000+ plus members of the presbytery not just commissioners. [If there is a need for the presbytery to conduct business at that time, a Called Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 2, immediately prior to the worship celebration at Pines PC.]
- E. Voted to change the existing number required for a quorum for General Council to one-third of the current membership. [Permission was given to the Stated Clerk to fold this change into the Restated By-Laws which are in process – for approval by the presbytery in May and the following stated or called meeting.]
- F. Elected The Rev. Patricia Clark as Vice-Moderator of General Council.
- G. Approved the minutes of the November 18, 2008, as distributed at this meeting.
- H. Bid farewell, and wished Godspeed to the Class of 2008: Margaret Desmond, Don Gregory, Sabrina Hergert, Paul Nazarian, as well as outgoing ADSC Chair, Rupert Turner; Moderator of the Presbytery, Jody Harrington; as well as to outgoing Chair of the GC, Wayne Eberly, who remains on GC as the Moderator of the Presbytery.

THE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Moderator: Elder Garry Schoonover

Vice-Moderator: The Rev. Patricia Clark

Class of 2009: Elders Rhonda Haskins, Gay Van Osdall; Ministers Asa Hunt, Bill Poe

Class of 2010: Elder Jeff Early, (*vacancy*); Minister Pat Clark, (*vacancy*)

Class of 2011: Elders Mary Herlitz, (*vacancy*); Ministers Mauricio Chacon, Debbie Measells

2009 Ex Officio (“By Virtue of Office”) w/voice and vote:

Moderator-Elect of Presbytery:	Elder Garry Schoonover
Moderator of Ministries Division Steering Committee:	Elder Pam Engler
Moderator of Presbytery:	The Rev. Wayne Eberly
Moderator of Administrative Division Steering Committee:	Elder Ann Hardy

Staff Support (voice, no vote):

General Presbyter Mike Cole Stated Clerk Diane Prevary
Associate General Presbyters Mary Marcotte and Wendy Bailey.

F.1

A Brief History of a Church with a Lot of History! Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaumont, TX

Presbyterian worship services in southeast Texas were led by traveling preachers until early 1880, when the Rev. S. F. Tenney and Rev. W.C. Wallace organized the First Presbyterian Church on February 28th of that year. The congregation consisted of seven charter members who met in the county courthouse and then in a rented hall. In 1881 the lot at the corner of Elizabeth and Main Streets was purchased, and a frame building erected the following year. In 1896 the first pastor was installed, the Rev. F.E. Robbins. Membership in the church continued to grow and the frame building was relocated and became Second Presbyterian Church. The sanctuary was completed in 1911. Another congregation, Central Presbyterian Church, was an off-shoot of First Presbyterian Church and in 1921 the two congregations united, forming Westminster Presbyterian with 484 charter members and led by Rev. F. S. Henderson.

The long history of the church has a relatively short list of ministers. Following Rev. Henderson were Dr. T. M. Hunter (1921-1937), Dr. David W. Roberts (1937-1965), Dr. John R. Hendricks (1966-1973), Rev. Phineas A. Washer (1973-1980), Rev. Richard Knott (1981-1985), Rev. George Williams (1986-1991), Interim Supply Rev. Ed Gearhart (1991-1993), Rev. Dr. Roger D.M. Harano (1993-1996), Interim Supply Rev. Lloyd Crosby (1997-1998), Rev. Wayne Rhodes (1998-2003), Stated Supply Rev. Mark Vernon (2003) and Rev. Carol Tompkins, who started her pastorate in 2003. So many more local ministers have filled the pulpit of the congregation in its need and found a very special place in their heart including Rev. John Alexander, Rev. Sallye Anderson, Rev. Helen Bailey and Rev. Murray Haber. But recounting the church’s rich history would be remiss if not to also boast that the congregation had the first woman in a pastoral position in the Presbyterian Church U.S., when Rev. Patricia McClurg joined the congregation in June 1967 as Assistant Pastor. The story is told by Dr. Hendricks that the session of Westminster sent him to Austin Seminary to get the “best and brightest student there” – so he did.

Westminster points to a proud history of developing other Presbyterian churches in the Southeast area of Texas including Amelia, Pioneer, Robbins Memorial, St. Andrews, Second, Silsbee, Sour Lake and Vidor. Another accolade would have to be that the church has also been home to fourteen ordained ministers and two directors of Christian Education.

Many local missions were heartily supported by Westminster including a Boy Scout troop, charter member of Some Other Place, a joint mission of the Beaumont area churches to minister to low-income and homeless persons, was the meeting place for Seaman’s Center in Beaumont for many years, was strong in its involvement in the Prison Ministry, and proudly points out that they have participated in the Souper Bowl since its inception. The Ladies Aid Society as it was formed in 1888 and continues today as Presbyterian Women have quietly supported the work of the greater church with donations to White Cross, the Birthday Offering, the Thanksgiving Store and the Christmas Bureau’s toy distribution along with attending to families of the church in need. Perhaps one of the strongest missions of the church has been the Westminster Children’s Center – a full time day care program which had been the dream of Dr. Roberts and was established in 1986. The center cares

for infants to after-schoolers of downtown workers and maintains an enviable waiting list of prospective children.

While much speculation abounds, the actual artisan of the stained glass windows that adorn the church cannot be verified, at least not yet. Many appraisers are quick to point out that the windows are definitely the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany, yet others will say they are the work of a talented contemporary of his. The windows, when lit with early Sunday morning light, fill the sanctuary with gorgeous hues of blues, burgundies, and opalescent white, while depicting to the East “I am the Door; By Me If any Man enter in He Shall Be Blessed” (John 10:9); to the West “Because I live, Ye Shall Live Also” (John 14:19 and “I am the resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25); and to the North “If Any Man Hear My Voice and Open the Door, I will Come in to Him” (Rev. 3:20). The church has ten additional 36 x 36 inch windows of stained and painted glass depicting the life of Christ, along with many other smaller decorative pieces and casement windows.

Music has always been a grand tradition at Westminster, with grand pianos, a magnificent pipe organ, and an amazing carillon of hand bells. It has been noted throughout its history that Westminster had one of the largest collections of printed music in the area. Westminster supported the organization of the Beaumont Baroque Ensemble to encourage local symphonic students to continue their love of music outside the school room. The church has had the wonderful opportunity to have many gifted vocalists and musicians grace the choir loft and balconies in the music program.

Westminster celebrated 125 years in 2005 and added some noteworthy history that had occurred since its Centennial celebration in 1980 including the additional of an annual Easter Sunrise Service, having member Alfred Long carry the Olympic Torch when it passed through Beaumont in 1996, which he did at the young age of 90; the introduction of learning opportunities open to the public including Divorce Recovery, the Alpha Course, and Unplug the Christmas Machine. The worship service has seen the addition of, Sing-spiration Sunday, Holy Hilarity Sunday, Pulpit Swap Sunday and a perennial favorite, “Hats On Sunday” in October to acknowledge the fight of cancer survivors, and a time to remember those who fought the good fight.

Always quick to describe the location of the sanctuary as at the corner of Main and Elizabeth, in 1999 Westminster was able to say they were the church behind the World’s Largest Fire Hydrant, when Disney built the huge black and white working hydrant to the immediate south of the church at the Texas Fire Museum.

It seems impossible to narrow down the history of 125 plus years of a congregation that has so richly served its community and her God, into a few quick words. But, as noted at the 125th anniversary, “...we do not know what path the future has for Westminster. We have dreams. We dream big and we pray for our dreams. Our faith and our future are in the hands of the Lord, and God’s purpose will prevail.”

F.2

POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT FROM THE ESTATE OF LYNN JOHNSON

PREAMBLE

Generosity is a signal characteristic of a Christian disciple and is an expression of the Holy Spirit in all of us. The generosity of the Rev. Lynn Johnson, a former Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant, has initiated a fund that can enhance expression of that Spirit of sharing for generations to come. This fund is dedicated to “be used for social justice issues, particularly for issues concerning equality and inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation.”

THE BODY TO REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS

I. Social Justice Grant Committee

- A. A committee made up of three to five members, approved by General Council, will constitute the body that makes recommendations to General Council for the approval of grant applications (based upon criteria set forth in this document), handles distribution of funds from the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant fund, handles the distribution of funds, and oversees the system for stewardship of grant applicant results, as set out in this document. These members shall be appointed by General Council, their terms shall be three years and they shall be organized into three classes with staggered terms. The Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery (*i.e.* the Chair of General Council) shall serve as a member of the Committee.
- B. This committee, known as the Social Justice Grant Committee (SJGC), shall be composed of members with various backgrounds. The committee shall always include at least one lay person and one minister of the word and sacrament as members. The committee membership should reflect diversity as to urban/rural, male/female, small church/large church and racial/ethnic minorities.

GUIDELINES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

II. Grant Guidelines

- A. Guidelines for grant applications include:
 - a. Proposals that provide education for a church or group (as described in Section III, Grant Applications) to enhance knowledge of a particular social justice or inclusion issue intended to lead said group to take action to improve the status of those who are affected by adverse social conditions and/or lack of inclusion.
 - b. Proposals intended to create an action that will bring justice to an issue of social injustice and/or lack of inclusion of a particular group.
 - c. Proposals that will further the cause of an organization that is already known to work for social justice and/or inclusion of previously excluded groups.
 - d. Other proposals that the SJGC deem meet the intents and purposes of the donor of this restricted major gift.
- B. All grant applications that meet the general purposes described by the terms of the restricted major gift that established this fund will be considered; however, those applications that address the more specific purpose of, "inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation," as included in the donor's gift description will be given top priority.

III. Grant Applications

- A. The following groups may apply for the grant:
 - a. Any church in the Presbytery of New Covenant with the approval of the Session
 - b. Organizations with partnerships with churches in the Presbytery of New Covenant
 - c. Committees of the Presbytery of New Covenant
 - d. Organizations with covenants with the Presbytery of New Covenant
- B. In the future consideration may be given to other groups within the Synod, with priority going to those within the Presbytery.

- C. Grant applications shall be made using the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant Application Form, as approved by the General Council.

IV. Grant Funding

- A. There is no requirement that all available annual proceeds from the Gift be distributed in grants. Any such available funds not used for grants will accrue for future granting.
- B. Grants may be awarded for amounts between \$500 and \$2000 with a maximum of \$6,000 being awarded annually. There is a possibility of three to twelve grants being awarded annually.

V. Operations

- A. At the start of each calendar year, the SJGC shall make the grant guidelines known to every church session and committee of the Presbytery of New Covenant and encourage them to submit grant applications for activities related to the purposes of this grant and for which they want financial support.
- B. Grant applications for a given funding year (see D below) should be submitted between January 1 and March 31 of the calendar year in which such funding year begins. The first year grant applications will be accepted between March 15 and May 31, 2009.
- C. The SJGC will examine all the applications and recommend to General Council funding those applications that best meet the criteria and, in total, are within the gift funds available for distribution.
- D. The funding year for SJGC shall begin on July 1 of a calendar year and run through June 30 of the next succeeding calendar year.
- E. The SJGC shall establish the means to monitor grantee progress and results. In the case of multi-year grants, the monitoring program shall be established at the time the grant is made. Each grantee will be required to submit a final report detailing how the grant advanced and supported the purpose of each grant.
- F. The SJGC shall maintain files and data on grant performance, results, and lessons learned. The SJGC shall generate a report on results for the prior year's granting and submit that report to General Council each September 1 following the June 30 conclusion of the grant year.

F.3

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
LYNN JOHNSON SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANT
APPLICATION FORM**

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Street Address	City	State	Zip
----------------	------	-------	-----

Contact Person _____

Name	Title
------	-------

Telephone Numbers: Office: _____; Cell: _____

Other: _____; FAX: _____

Email Address(es) Organization: _____

Individual: _____

Relationship to Presbytery of New Covenant (PNC) and authorizing signatures:

Church within PNC_____/ Committee of PNC_____/Committee
PNC Partner Organization, Committee, or Group____
Synod____ Relationship to Synod_____

Other_____

Authorized Signature (Clerk of Session/Moderator of Committee/Executive Director of
Organization/Moderator of Synod, etc.)

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Signor:_____

Signor's Title:_____

Please attach a description of the project or program to be funded from the Lynn Johnson Social
Justice Grant funds, including at least:

- 1) a description of the work that will be performed,
- 2) the target population to be affected,
- 3) the desired effect intended,
- 4) how outcome(s) will be measured;
- 5) names of those who will be involved in administering or otherwise carrying out the
work of the project or program.

Total Projected Cost of Project or Program: _____

Amount Requested: _____

(Grants from \$500 to \$2000 will be considered; amount awarded will depend on 1) amount requested
and 2) funds available; number of qualified grants received in a given grant period may also affect the
amount awarded to each grantee)

Please list other funds, if any, available to support this project or program:

Source:_____ Amount_____

Source:_____ Amount_____

(attach a separate sheet if needed)

Time frame for this project or program:

Anticipated Start: _____: Anticipated Conclusion: _____

FOR SJGC USE ONLY:

Grant funded: Yes___ No___

Signature of Moderator of Social Justice Grant Committee:

Signature

Date

If funded, Amount of Grant _____

Date funds released _____

Schedule of Report(s) _____

Final Report Due _____

**OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
FEBRUARY 7, 2009**

G

I. Recommendations for presbytery action:

None.

II. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery:

Disaster assistance funds totaling \$28,902 were disbursed to six (6) congregations.

III. Items for Information:

A total of \$112,967 in disaster grants were disbursed to sixteen (16) congregations within the Presbytery. The last grant application from one (1) congregation could not be funded since the balance in the account was depleted.

IV. Goals for 2009:

1. Contact congregations and establish sponsorship, in whole or in part, for six (6) of the organizations that received benevolence funds directly from the

Presbytery from the 2008-2009 budget. Doing so will establish direct connections between those organizations and congregations, and will allow the committee to redirect the replaced monies to programs, events and funds established for the benefit of all congregations throughout the Presbytery.

2. Facilitate establishing new connections between churches with similar needs and circumstances for support and partnership, and between churches with specific areas of expertise and experience (such as building a new outreach program or youth program) with other churches needing advice, support and/or mentoring in those areas.
3. Raise awareness and connection with smaller and/or more distant churches throughout the Presbytery.

H

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Saturday, February 7, 2009

For Election

COM/Administration

2009 Chair: Elder Art Wood (Houston, Clear Lake)

Class of 2009

Elder Art Wood (Houston, Clear Lake)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2009

Rev. Marie Mickey (Bryan, First)

Ministries Division Steering Committee

2009 Vice-chair: Rev. Richard Kleiman (Baytown, Faith)

Center Operations Committee

2009 Chair: Elder Kent Whitten (Houston, Grace)

Evangelism and Renewal Committee

Correction:

Class of 2010 (not 2011)

Elder Yup Kim (Kingwood, First)

General Council

Class of 2010

Rev. Douglas Ferguson (Houston, Grace) – to fill a vacancy

Class of 2011

Elder Mort McPhail (Houston, Northwoods)

Postlude,

the publication that highlights the events and business conducted at the presbytery meeting, will be published on the presbytery's website.

An e-mail will be sent notifying you when the Postlude is available. Commissioners are encouraged to share it with their sessions.

Those churches not having internet access will be mailed a copy of The Postlude.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to:

Helen Wolf at hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org

Next Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant

will be

Saturday, May 9, 2009

At

**The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church
The Woodlands, Texas**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Tuesday, February 24

New Pastor Orientation & Lunch
Presbytery Office

Saturday, April 18

Presbyterian Women Spring
Gathering at Houston, Grace

**Friday – Sunday,
February 27 – March 1**

High School Conclave
Camp Cho-Yeh

Tuesday – Thursday, April 21-23

Clergy Retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh
Kathy Hood Culmer,
Storyteller/speaker

Tuesday, March 3

Committee on Ministry
Presbytery Office

Saturday, April 25

Session Records Review &
Treasurers' Workshop
Navasota, First

Friday – Sunday

March 6 – 8

Middle School Conclave
Camp Cho-Yeh

Final Conclave Meeting
Camp Cho-Yeh

Friday – Sunday

March 27 – 29

Mixed Ages Conclave
Camp Cho-Yeh

Tuesday, May 5

Committee on Ministry
Presbytery Office

Tuesday, April 7

Committee on Ministry
Presbytery Office

Saturday, May 9

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
The Woodlands, Woodlands
Community Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 10

Presbytery Office Closed
Good Friday

Displays for Today's Meeting

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Extension Program