

ONE-HUNDRED SIXTH STATED MEETING
GULF COAST PRESBYTERY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11-12, 2008
BLUE SPINGS CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER
MARIANA, FLORIDA

08-01 CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER

The 106th stated meeting of Gulf Coast Presbytery was called to order at 2:10 (CST) on Tuesday February 11-12, at the Blue Springs Christian Retreat Center, Mariana, Florida by Moderator RE Ray Myers. Mr. Myers led in the opening prayer.

08-02 ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was declared to be present with the following commissioners in attendance:

CHURCHES	TEACHING ELDERS	RULING ELDERS
Chattahoochee		B. Carpenter
Christ, Mobile	D. Eide	
Christ Community Church	J. Bryars	
Concord	R. Dekker	R. Kennedy
CenterPointe	C. Ryor	
Cornerstone, Destin		
Cornerstone, Tallahassee		
Covenant	B. Hayes	
Covenant Reformed	R. LaGuardia	

Eastern Shore	P. Fowler	
Fairfield	S. Cloud	B. Cooper
	D. Crenshaw	K. Peebles
Faith, Robertsdale, AL		
First, Atmore	J. Thorpe	R. Miler
First, Niceville	J. Grider	J. Gerber
	D. Shackelford	B. Burnet
First, Panama City		
	B. Lamkin	
Grace Fellowship, Gulf Shores	R. Fennig	P. Scarbrough
Grace, Madison	J. Hopwood	
Grace Community, Mobile	J. Bryars	
Loxley		
McIlwain	R. Looper	R. Myers
		B. Clark
New Philadelphia		
Pinewoods	D. Anderegg	F. Drew
		T. Roberson
Safe Harbor	J. Calderazzo	F. Rall
		P. Belardino
Warrington	R. Hornick	

Westminster, Fort Walton	B. Tyson	S. Robertson
Westminster, Tallahassee	J. Craft	
Westminster, Milton	W. Groseclose	
Wildwood	B. Evans	
	E. Hague	
	B. Pullen	

1

OTHER TEACHING ELDERS

TEACHING ELDERS		TEACHING ELDERS
S. Brooks		T. Rott
M. Griffith		D. Story
J. Riggs		

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EXCUSED: TEs T. Barnes, W. Cathey, W. Channell, S. DeVries, B. Gardner, M Kirk, G. Omerly, A. Phillips, J. Robbins, G. Roberts, T. Rott, G. Shamblin, J. Watson and RE Commissioners from Faith, Robertsdale, Loxley and Warrington.

6

7

VISITORS: Bryan Loney, TE Edward James, TE Harry Cooksey & RE Don Guthrie

8

08-03 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

9

The docket was adopted as amended. **(Appendix A)**

10

08-04 INTRODUCTIONS OF VISITORS

11

Visitors to presbytery were introduced and listed in 08-02.

12

08-05 COMMUNICATIONS

13

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1. Letters from TE Jeremy Fair and the congregation, Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church requesting that presbytery dissolve the pastoral relations between them, referred to Ministers and Candidates.

- 1 2. Letter from the Session, Grace Community Church, Mobile, commending Mr.
2 Shane Black as a candidate for the Gospel Ministry, referred to Ministers and
3 Candidates.
- 4
- 5 3. Letter of application from Mr. Shane Black requesting that presbytery receive
6 him as a candidate for the Gospel Ministry.
- 7
- 8 4. Letter from the Session, Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church, requesting that
9 presbytery postpone the examination of their Sessional records until May,
10 2008, referred to the Administrative Committee.
- 11
- 12 5. Letter from the Session, Christ Community Church, Pensacola, requesting
13 that presbytery proceed dissolve them as a particular church, referred to
14 Ministers and Candidates.
- 15
- 16 6. Overture from the Session, Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church, referred to
17 Bills and Overture Committee. See (Appendix B)
- 18
- 19 7. Letter from TE Charles Gwin, Jr. requesting that he be carried on the roll as
20 Honorably Retired, referred to Ministers and Candidates.
- 21
- 22 8. Requests for excused absences from TEs T. Barnes, W. Cathey, W.
23 Channell, S. DeVries, B. Gardner, M Kirk, G. Omerly, A. Phillips, J. Robbins,
24 G. Roberts, T. Rott, G. Shamblin, J. Watson and RE Commissioners from
25 Faith, Robertsdale, Loxley and Warrington.

26 **08-06 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

27 The moderator appointed the following to serve on the Standing Committees of
28 presbytery:

29 **Bills and Overtures:**

- 30 • TE Rob Looper, Chairman
- 31 • TE Dave Anderegg
- 32 • RE T. Roberson
- 33 • RE Frank Drew

34 **Resolution and Thanks:**

- 35 • TE Win Groseclose, Chairman
- 36 • TE Ralph LaGuardia
- 37 • RE Fred Rall
- 38 • RE Paul Belardino

39 **08-07 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – TE R. HORNICK, STATED CLERK**

1 TE B. Hornick, Stated Clerk presented the report to presbytery. The following
2 recommendations were approved.

3
4 A. That the docket be approved as presented.

5
6 B. That the Executive be constituted as a commission to elect Committee of
7 Commissioner members for the General Assembly.

8
9 C. That RE John Hart be appointed to the Review of Records Committee.

10 The report was approved as a whole. (Appendix C)

11 **08-08 EXAMINATIONS – TE S. CLOUD**

12 TE Cloud introduced Mr. Shane Black, from Grace Community Church of Mobile,
13 AL, who is seeking to come under. Mr. Black is a Campus Outreach minister at
14 USA in Mobile and plans to attend RTS Orlando.

15 TE Cloud examined Mr. Black in the area of his Christian Experience and sense
16 of call to the ministry. A motion was made and carried to arrest this portion of
17 the exam.

18 Move to arrest this portion of his exam and that he be received as a candidate
19 for the Gospel ministry under care in Gulf Coast Presbytery. The questions for
20 candidacy were posed to Mr. Black by Moderator R. Myers. TE R. Dekker then
21 gave the candidate a charge suitable to the occasion.

22 **08-09 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – TE B. PULLEN, CHAIRMAN**

23 TE B. Pullen opened with prayer and presented the report to presbytery. He
24 informed the presbytery of several conference opportunities and resources for
25 Deacons, and Youth and Children's Ministries.

26 1. Making Visible God's Invisible Kingdom

27 This conference will seek to answer questions such as: How should the
28 Church make disciples that reflect God's Kingdom to the world? How does
29 one aspect of ministry relate to another and maintain a holistic approach to
30 the kingdom of God? How do we maintain an eternal perspective in the daily
31 routine of life? What is your role in God's kingdom?

32 2. 35th PresWIC re the Annual Retreat

- 33 a. The Gulf Coast PresWIC 35th Annual Retreat is just around the
34 corner. March 7-8, 2008 at the Blue Springs Conference Center in
35 Marianna where our guest speaker will be Carolyn Nystrom. Carolyn
36 is from St. Charles, Illinois and is a writer. She has coauthored a
37 book, "Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight" with J. I.
38 Packer. The theme of this retreat will be on 'practicing prayer'. (See

1 PresWIC Report as Appendix D)

2 The report was received as a whole.

3 **08-10 MINISTERS & CANDIDATES – TE R. DEKKER, CHAIRMAN**

4 TE R. Dekker presented the report to presbytery and opened the report with
5 prayer.

6 Mr. Dekker reminded the commissioners that the annual report of Candidates,
7 Licentiates, ministers without call and ministers laboring out-of-bounds is due by
8 April 15th for presentation during the May Stated Meeting of presbytery.

9 Presbytery adopted the following motion:

- 10 1. That TE Jeremy Fair's request for transfer be approved pending his reception
11 by North Texas Presbytery. Mr. Fair has been called by the Arlington
12 Presbyterian Church. The Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church concurred with
13 his request at a congregational meeting held on January 13, 2008.

14 Mr. Dekker requested that the remainder of Ministers and Candidates business
15 be postponed until the Tuesday morning session. Presbytery approved the
16 request.

17 TE Dekker closed the partial report with prayer.

18 **08-11 MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA - TE J. BRYARS, CHAIRMAN**

19 TE J. Bryars presented the report to Presbytery.

- 20 1. Chairman Bryars called upon Bill Tyson to talk about the future of church
21 planting the Crestview area and the future of church planting networks in Gulf
22 Coast Presbytery. Following the report he called upon TE Joe Grider to pray
23 for God's guidance in this endeavor.
24 2. TE Chuck Ryor reported on the progress of the Door of Hope Mission. TE
25 Rick Fennig prayed for the mission and its pastor, TE J. Elliott.

26 TE J. Bryars closed the report with prayer asking God's blessing on the
27 committee and its work. The report as a whole was received.

28 **08-12 MISSION TO THE WORLD - TE R. LAGUARDIA, CHAIRMAN**

29 TE R. LaGuardia, chairman of the MTW Committee, opened with prayer.

- 30
31 1. The chairman reported that TE Dewey Roberts was to give a report of his
32 mission trip to Ukraine and delivering of Calvin's Institutes in their language to
33 the Seminary. However, due to an emergency call he was unable to attend.

1 Bill Tyson prayed for TE Roberts and the particular situation to which he was
2 summoned.

- 3
- 4 2. TE Bob Hayes was then asked to come and give his report on his new role as
5 Associate Pastor of Mission. Mr. Hayes challenged and encouraged the
6 presbytery with regard to overseas missions as well as home missions. Mr.
7 Hayes also made himself available to assist local churches and missions
8 committees in their participation and involvement in mission trips and
9 conferences. Bill Lamkin prayed for Mr. Hayes and the work of the
10 committee.

11

12 The report was received as information.

13 **08-13 FLORIDA JOINT COMMISSION ON RUF - TE B. HAYES, CHAIRMAN**

14 TE B. Hayes presented the report to presbytery. Mr. Hayes introduced TE David
15 Story who presented a report highlighting God's work in the lives of a two
16 students at FSU and then talked about the RUF work in general.

17 Mr. Hayes called upon TE D. Shackelford to pray for Mr. Story and the ministry
18 of RUF at Florida State.

19 **08-14 ADMINISTRATION – TE D. SHACKLEFORD, CHAIRMAN**

20 TE D. Shackelford presented the Administration Committee's report to
21 presbytery. The following recommendations were adopted.

- 22
- 23 1. That the following churches submitted their Sessional minutes and records on
24 time to the 105th stated meeting of this Presbytery on October, 9th, 2007, and
25 that they be approved without exceptions of substance as follows:

- 26
- 27 • McIlwain Memorial, Pensacola, FL
 - 28 • New Philadelphia, Quincy, FL
 - 29 • Safe Harbor, Destin, FL
 - 30 • Warrington, Pensacola, FL
 - 31 • Westminster, Ft. Walton Beach, FL
 - 32 • Westminster, Milton, FL
 - 33 • Westminster, Tallahassee, FL
 - 34 • Wildwood, Tallahassee, FL
 - 35 • Loxley, Loxley, FL
 - 36 • First Presbyterian, Niceville, FL
- 37

38 **REMINDER:** Be sure to check the Sessional Minutes Review Schedule for
39 changes and updates to your review date. These are subject to
40 change without notice.

41

1 2. That the following churches be noted as having failed to submit their
2 Sessional minutes and records to the 105th stated meeting of this Presbytery
3 on October 9th, 2007 and have been granted a deferment at their request
4 until the February 2008 Stated Meeting.

- 5
- 6 • Pinewoods, Cantonment, FL (were due Oct. 2007)
- 7 • FPC, Panama City, FL (were due May 2007)
- 8 • King's Bay, Panama City Beach, FL (were due May 2007)
- 9

10 3. That the report be approved as a whole.

11
12 Respectfully Submitted,

13
14 Dennis Shackleford, Chairman, Administrative Committee

15
16 **NOTE:** A suggested template for creating minutes for a Stated and a
17 Called Session meeting is now posted on the Presbytery website at
18 www.gulfcoastpres.org under the *FORMS* section. These files are in
19 Microsoft Word format and may be downloaded for your use.

20
21 The report was approved as a whole.

22 **08-15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

23 Presbytery approved the minutes from the 105th Stated Meeting as presented.

24 **08-16 NEW BUSINESS**

25 The following were elected to the presbytery's Permanent Committees:

- 26 • RE Lamar Allen Ministers and Candidates 2009
- 27 • RE Don Barnes MNA 2010
- 28 • RE Pete Scarbrough MNA 2010

29 **08-17 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS**

30 **1. Kings Bay Commission**

31 Presbytery discussed the status of the Kings Bay Mission. A motion was
32 made to direct the Kings Bay Commission to meet within the next 30 days
33 and discern the health, direction and intentions of the mission. The
34 presbytery instructed that a representative of the Ministers and Candidates
35 Committee and the MNA Committee be added to the commission and that Bill
36 Tyson be appointed as convener to make sure the Commission meets as
37 directed.

38 The presbytery recessed for its business for the special orders.

1 **SPECIAL ORDER – 5:00 PM – Reports from Missionaries and others**

2 TE Harry Cooksey presented information on the ministry of PCA Retirement and
3 Benefits to the presbytery.

4 **SPECIAL ORDER – 5:30 PM – SUPPER**

5
6 **SPECIAL ORDER – 6:30 PM -- WORSHIP – DR. DONALD GUTHRIE, PREACHING**

7
8 **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

9 **SPECIAL ORDER – 9:00 AM -- WORSHIP – DR. DONALD GUTHRIE, PREACHING**

10 The presbytery reconvened for its business with prayer by TE D. Anderegg. Presbytery
11 approved the request for a Special Order at 10:45 AM to hear a presentation by TE R.
12 Penney from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS.

13 **08-17 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS CONT'D**

14 **2. Resolution & Thanks**

15 The following resolution of thanks were adopted:

16
17 ***Whereas**, it is right to give thanks to the LORD, for he is good and his*
18 *steadfast love endures forever (1 Chronicles 16:34), and*

19
20 ***Whereas**, we the members of the Gulf Coast Presbytery give all glory and*
21 *thanks to God for this 106th Stated Meeting at the Blue Springs Baptist*
22 *Conference Center, Mariana, Florida, and*

23
24 ***Whereas**, we appreciate greatly the gracious hospitality and care shown*
25 *by our host the Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center and its Staff, and*

26
27 ***Whereas**, we appreciate greatly the efforts made by Barksdale Pullen and*
28 *others in coordinating this event with the staff of Blue Springs Baptist*
29 *Conference Center,*

30
31 ***Therefore, be it resolved**, that Gulf Coast Presbytery formally and*
32 *corporately expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Blue Springs*
33 *Baptist Conference Center and its staff for hosting this 106th Stated*
34 *Meeting, for serving delicious meals, and providing comfortable*
35 *accommodations in a warm and inviting atmosphere.*

36
37 ***Whereas**, it is right to give thanks to the LORD, for he is good and his*
38 *steadfast love endures forever (1 Chronicles 16:34), and*
39

1 **Whereas**, we the members of the Gulf Coast Presbytery give all glory and
2 thanks to God for this 106th Stated Meeting at the Blue Springs Baptist
3 Conference Center, Mariana, Florida, and
4

5 **Whereas**, we appreciate greatly the encouraging and challenging
6 messages of Dr. Donald Guthrie on Limits and Possibilities,
7

8 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that Gulf Coast Presbytery formally and
9 corporately expresses its thanks and appreciation to Dr. Guthrie for his
10 time, efforts, and ministry to us during this 106th Stated Meeting.

11 Resolution and Thanks Committee,

12 Win Groseclose, Chairman
13

14 **SPECIAL ORDER – 10:45 AM -- DR. ROBERT PENNEY OF RTS JACKSON**

15
16 **3. Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Exceptions to the Sabbath**
17

18 Chairman, Bill Tyson gave a preliminary report on the work of the Ad Interim
19 Committee on Exceptions to the Sabbath. The report was received as
20 information. (Appendix E)
21

22 The committee will continue its work and back report to presbytery no later
23 than the October 2008 meeting of presbytery bringing recommendations of
24 how presbytery should handle exceptions, as well as practical examples of
25 how we can better keep the Sabbath.
26

27 **4. Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee – R. Looper**
28

29 Chairman Looper presented the following report to presbytery:
30

31 In response to the overture from Eastern Shore PC the committee
32 recommends the following:
33

34 That the Nine Declarations of the report of the Federal Vision Study
35 Committee commended to the Presbyteries of the PCA by the 35th General
36 Assembly be attached to the 106th minutes of the Gulf Coast Presbytery with
37 reference to the action of the Gulf Coast Presbytery at its 105th stated
38 meeting.
39

40 That if any member of the court is out of accord with these declarations, he
41 should make his views known to the court in keeping with his second vow of
42 ordination.
43

1 These recommendations were adopted. See (Appendix G) for the report of
2 the Committee

3
4 **08-18 REPORT OF MINISTERS AND CANDIDATES COMMITTEE (Cond't)**

5 Mr. Dekker continued the report to presbytery. He led the presbytery in prayer.

6 Mr. Dekker reported that the committee had met last evening to discuss the
7 disorder existing in the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church and to consider
8 the request for dissolution by the Christ Community Church of Pensacola.

9 Presbytery adopted the following recommendations of the committee:

- 10 1. That the Ministers and Candidates Committee be constituted a commission to
11 serve as the Interim Session of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church
12 with the addition of RE J. Clark of the Covenant Reformed Session. [With the
13 pending dissolution of the pastoral relationship the Session would not be able
14 to act because of a lack of a quorum. (see BCO 12-1 & 15-1)]
15 2. That the Ministers and Candidates Committee be constituted as a
16 commission to serve as the session of Christ Community Church and to act
17 upon the request for dissolution of Christ Community Church, Pensacola, FL
18 in accordance with the provisions of BCO 13-10. The Committee will report
19 on its progress in this matter at the next stated meeting.

20 **08-18 ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

21 Presbytery adjourned at 11:30 AM (CST). TE R. Looper led in the closing prayer.

22 Respectfully submitted,

23
24 TE R. Hornick, Stated Clerk

25 RH/jcg

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED DOCKET GULF COAST PRESBYTERY – 106th STATED MEETING February 11 – 12, 2008 – 2:00 PM CST / 3:00 PM EST Blue Springs Campgrounds, Marianna, FL

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1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer – 2:00 PM CST
2. Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum
3. Approval of Printed Minutes
4. Communications
5. Adoption of Docket
6. Introduction of Visitors
7. Permanent Committee Reports
 - a. Executive – TE R. Hornick, Stated Clerk
 - b. Examinations – TE Stephen Cloud
 - c. Christian Education – TE Barksdale Pullen
 - d. Ministers and Candidates – TE Robert Dekker
 - e. Mission to North America – TE Jim Bryars
 - f. Mission to the World – TE Ralph LaGuardia
 - g. Reformed University Ministries -- TE Bob Hayes
 - h. Administration – TE Dennis Shackelford
- SPECIAL ORDER – 5:00 PM – Reports, etc from Missionaries & Others
- SPECIAL ORDER – 5:30 PM – Supper
- SPECIAL ORDER – 6:30 PM -- Worship – Dr. Donald Guthrie, Preaching
8. Old Business
 - Ad-Interim Committee on the Sabbath
9. New Business
 - a. BCO Amendments
 - b. Time & Place of 106th Stated Meeting – Tuesday, May 13, 2008
10. Reports of Standing Committees & Commissions
 - a. Kings Bay Commission
 - b. Resolutions & Thanks
 - c. Bills & Overtures
11. Adjournment and Closing Prayer – 12:00 NOON

1 **APPENDIX B**

2 **Overture to Gulf Coast Presbytery**

3
4 Whereas the 35th PCA General Assembly recommended the Federal Vision Study Committee Report as
5 faithful to the Westminster Standards; and

6
7 Whereas, the Westminster Standards while subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New
8 Testaments, have been adopted by the PCA as the standard exposition of Scripture in relation to both
9 doctrine and practice,

10
11 Therefore be it resolved that Eastern Shore PCA Session urge Gulf Coast Presbytery to adopt the
12 following recommended declarations as expressing the position of GCP on these issues; and

13
14 Be it also resolved that Gulf Coast Presbytery require candidates for licensure and ordination and
15 ministers transferring into the Presbytery to declare their views with regard to the doctrines in these
16 declarations; and

17
18 Be it further resolved that if any member of the court is out of accord with these declarations, he should
19 make his views known to the court per ordination vow 2.

20
21 **Declarations:**

- 22
23 1. The view that rejects the bi-covenantal structure of Scripture as represented in the Westminster
24 Standards (i.e., views which do not merely take issue with the terminology, but the essence of
25 the first/second covenant framework) is contrary to those Standards.
- 26
27 2. The view that an individual is “elect” by virtue of his membership in the visible church; and that
28 this “election” includes justification, adoption and sanctification; but that this individual could lose
29 his “election” if he forsakes the visible church, is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
- 30
31 3. The view that Christ does not stand as a representative head whose perfect obedience and
32 satisfaction is imputed to individuals who believe in him is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
- 33
34 4. The view that strikes the language of “merit” from our theological vocabulary so that the claim is
35 made that Christ’s merits are not imputed to his people is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
- 36
37 5. The view that “union with Christ” renders imputation redundant because it subsumes all of
38 Christ’s benefits (including justification) under this doctrinal heading is contrary to the
39 Westminster Standards.
- 40
41 6. The view that water baptism effects a “covenantal union” with Christ through which each baptized
42 person receives the saving benefits of Christ’s mediation, including regeneration, justification,
43 and sanctification, thus creating a parallel soteriological system to the decretal system of the
44 Westminster Standards, is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
- 45
46 7. The view that one can be “united to Christ” and not receive *all* the benefits of Christ’s mediation,
47 including perseverance, in that effectual union is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
- 48
49 8. The view that some can receive saving benefits of Christ’s mediation, such as regeneration and
50 justification, and yet not persevere in those benefits is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
- 51
52 9. The view that justification is in any way based on our works, or that the so-called “final verdict of
53 justification” is based on anything other than the perfect obedience and satisfaction of Christ
54 received through faith alone, is contrary to the Westminster Standards.

55
56 Adopted by Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church Session
57 February 4, 2008

1 **APPENDIX C**

2 **Executive Committee Report**
3 **Tuesday, February 11, 2008**
4
5

6 I. MEETINGS

7
8 The Executive Committee met via conference call on Wednesday, January 9th at 10:00 AM CST
9

10
11
12 II. ISSUES DISCUSSED

- 13
14 A. Communications
15 B. Committee Reports
16 C. Docket
17 D. Nominations
18

19
20 III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 21
22 A. That the docket be approved as presented.
23
24 B. That the Executive be constituted as a commission to elect Committee of Commissioner
25 members for the General Assembly.
26
27 C. That RE John Hart be appointed to the Review of Records Committee.

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1 APPENDIX D



2 *Gulf Coast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America*

3 **PRESWIC**

4 **2007-2008 Officers**

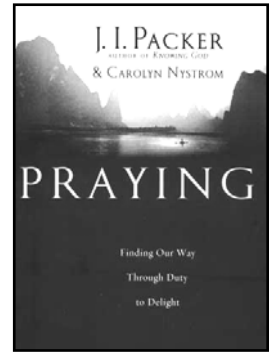
5 Julie Costas, President	6 Rollanda Cothran, V.P.	7 Kathy Tully-Griffin, Treas.	8 Arleen Blackstone, Sec./Hist.
9 3094 O'Brien Drive	10 1128 Ocala Rd., Apt. I-5	11 4320 Oakmont Drive	12 736 Revere Avenue
13 Tallahassee, FL 32309	14 Tallahassee, FL 32304	15 Tallahassee, FL 32303	16 Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547
17 850/894-0775	18 850/575-8436	19 850/562-1505	20 850/863-1364
21 yesmamjulie@aol.com	22 rocothran@aol.com	23 kwttully@comcast.net	24 ablack657@aol.com

25 **TO:** Local WIC Presidents and Representatives
 26 **FROM:** Julie Costas, President, Gulf Coast PresWIC
 27 **DATE:** January 28, 2008
 28 **RE:** Gulf Coast PresWIC 35th Annual Retreat

29 **THE DATES:** March 7-8, 2008

30 **THE PLACE:** Blue Springs Conference Center in Marianna, FL

31 **THE SPEAKER:** Carolyn Nystrom of St. Charles, Illinois



32 Mrs. Nystrom is a career writer with more than 80 published books and study guides for adults
 33 and children. Her book, *Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight*, coauthored with J.
 34 I. Packer (InterVarsity Press 2006), will be a useful resource to read before you arrive at Blue Springs, as
 35 practicing prayer is the retreat's theme.

36 Her other books include *Is the Reformation Over: An Evangelical Assessment of Contemporary Roman Catholicism*
 37 (Baker, 2005), coauthored with Mark Noll, and to be released in Spring 2008: *Guard Us; Guide Us: Divine Leading*
 38 *in Life's Decisions*, also coauthored with J. I. Packer. We hope to have a book table offering Carolyn's many
 39 books and guides for sale at Blue Springs. The work of the church is Carolyn's second career where she has
 40 served her Presbyterian church in various capacities all of her adult life. She also enjoys making quilts, growing
 41 wildflowers, camping and hiking in national parks, and playing with her nine grandchildren.

42 **HER TOPIC:** *Practicing Prayer.* Prayer is so easy and yet so difficult. Is this how you feel? Join us at Blue
 43 Springs as author Carolyn Nystrom examines various ways of talking to God that will enhance our communication
 44 with Him. She will draw on substantive historical perspectives on prayer to help us improve our prayer practices,
 45 and we will practice praying.

46 **COST FOR THE RETREAT:** \$65 per person, double or triple occupancy; \$90 for single occupancy. This price
 47 includes lodging, facility fee, three meals and a snack. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday night at 6 p.m.
 48 (CST) and concludes after lunch on Saturday. For commuters who do not stay overnight at Blue Springs, the daily
 49 cost is \$15 and includes one meal (\$30 total for both days).

50 ****Please note: We will not be able to refund Registration Fees if you register and then are unable to attend.**
 51 **You may send a substitute, however.**

52 **RETREAT REGISTRATIONS:** Blue Springs needs our projected attendance by **Friday, February 29, 2008.**
 53 Therefore, please send registrations by this date to Treasurer Kathy Tully-Griffin using the attached form. Checks
 54 should be made payable to **GULF COAST PRESWIC.**

55 **JOINT MEETING OF THE PRESWIC COUNCIL & LOCAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES:** We will meet jointly at 5
 56 p.m. to attend to any items of business and hear brief reports from each Local Church representative. The
 generous support of the local churches in the Gulf Coast Presbytery enables PresWIC to offer quality speakers

1 and programs at our PresWIC meetings. If your church has not already sent a check to Treasurer Kathy Tully-
2 Griffin, please give it to her at the Joint Meeting of the Council and Local Churches on Friday evening at 5 p.m.
3 CST.
4

5 **SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND SCHOLARSHIPS:** This offering will be taken Saturday morning. Kathy Tully-Griffin is
6 accepting scholarship nominations by email at kwTully@comcast.net and they must be received **no later than 5**
7 **p.m. (EST) on Thursday, March 6, 2008.** Scholarships are available to students whose families are active
8 members of a church in the Gulf Coast Presbytery and who are enrolled at Covenant College, Belhaven College,
9 Covenant Seminary, or Reformed Theological Seminary. The amount of the scholarship varies, depending on your
10 generosity. Last year, two students (both at Covenant College) received awards of \$750 each.
11

12 I look forward to our being together at Blue Springs March 7-8, 2008. If you have questions or need further
13 information, please feel free to contact either Treasurer Kathy Tully-Griffin or myself.
14

15 Blessings in Christ,
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18 **Julie Costas, President**
19 Gulf Coast PresWIC
20 3094 O'Brien Drive
21 Tallahassee, FL 32309
22 850/524-3600 (cell)
23 yesmamjulie@aol.com
24

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APPENDIX E

Preliminary Report on the Sabbath or Lord's Day Exception Issue

The Study Committee was appointed by the moderator of GCP for the purpose of offering to Presbytery an orderly manner to consistently address the matter of exceptions to the confession with regard to the 4th commandment, particularly with regard to the phrase **worldly employments and recreations**, found in the WCF (28:8) and Catechisms (LC 117; SC 60), and more particularly “worldly ... recreations.” It seems that phrase **worldly ... recreations** is what men most frequently take exception to, and with which we have struggled in determining whether or not “throwing a football with our son” (and such like) should be regarding as an exception to the intent of the Confession and Catechisms.

Partly at my instigation we ventured more broadly in our study, and I had hoped we would come back, not only with an answer to that immediate question, but with positive suggestions for how we might foster better use of the Lord's Day in our churches.

We have found it difficult to come to a consensus in the time we have had to study the matter. When you enter into the historical and Biblical/theological areas it becomes a rather large matter. But I think we are agreed that in many cases the real problem is not the phrase “**worldly...recreations.**” That phrase seems to have been directed towards a particular historical context. J.I. Packer explains that “At the end of the sixteenth century it was the Englishman's custom after church was over to pass the rest of Sunday in ‘frequenting of bawdy stage plays . . . may-games, church-ales, feasts and wakes; in piping, dancing, dicing, carding, bowling, tennis-playing, in bear-baiting, cock-fighting, hawking, hunting and such like, in keeping of fairs and markets on the Sabbath . . .; in ‘football-playing, and such other devilish pastimes’ (A *Quest for Godliness*, p 235). We DO think that watching football games and basketball games and such like falls into the same category as some of these, which is quite different from getting out and throwing a football with one's son for a little bit.

But it is the phrase “making it our delight **to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy) in the public and private exercises of God's worship**” (WLC 117) that is the more challenging phrase, and one that might well forbid even throwing a football with one's son for a while. Although one might try to define “worship” in some manner that would allow for “family fun activities” in the sense of “worship-including-all-of-life-lived-unto-God,” it is doubtful that **public and private exercises of God's worship** could be so construed and remain in accord with the intent of the Westminster Divines.

1 So what are the options? What do we need to explore in our examinations?

- 2 1) We need to determine if a man believes that the Lord's Day is governed by
3 the 4th Commandment; i.e., whether the Lord's Day is the Sabbath moved to
4 the first day of the week on account of Jesus' resurrection.
- 5 2) If he does, we need to clearly point to these passages and ask whether a man
6 is convinced that the Westminster Divines have, in fact, accurately
7 expounded the revealed nature of the Sabbath command. If a man does not
8 agree that we are to spend the "whole time (except so much of it as is to be
9 taken up in works of necessity and mercy) in the public and private
10 exercises of God's worship," then he ought to take an exception. That
11 would obviously include devoting blocks of time to watching professional
12 sports and the like, both because it does not devote the "whole time . . . in
13 the public and private exercises of God's worship" and because it is a
14 participation in "worldly . . . recreations."
- 15 3) If a man takes exception to the Westminster view, then we need to have him
16 define precisely what he DOES think the Scriptures teach with respect to the
17 Sabbath and the Lord's Day. Are they synonymous? IF NOT, then the
18 Presbytery will have to determine if it can accept the setting aside of the 4th
19 Commandment as acceptable in a PCA minister? IF THEY ARE
20 SYNONYMOUS, have the Westminster Divines accurately expounded the
21 nature of the 4th Commandment?
- 22 a. IF THEY HAVE, does the examinee pursue obedience to that
23 command as expounded in the WCF and Catechisms?
- 24 b. IF THEY HAVE NOT, what difference does the examinee have with
25 the Confession/Catechisms? The Presbytery will then have to
26 determine if the examinee's view is acceptable, and what it expects
27 him to teach his congregation with respect to the WCF/Catechisms
28 and his views. For example, a man might think the Westminster
29 Divines went further than the Scriptures when they affirm that **we**
30 **must spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken**
31 **up in works of necessity and mercy) *in the public and private***
32 ***exercises of God's worship***, and think that the emphasis of the 4th
33 commandment is not limited to worship, but includes **rest and**
34 **refreshment following one's labor.**

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APPENDIX F

Ministers and Candidates Committee Report

Gulf Coast Presbytery
The GCP February 2008 Stated Meeting
Presenter: TE Dekker, Chairman

THE MEMBERS:

Name	Class	Church	Contact #	
TE Robert Dekker	10 Ch	Concord, Gulf Breeze	(850) 932-6243 (850) 384-3106	dekkerr@bellsouth.net
TE Rob Looper	08	McIlwain, Pensacola	(850) 438-5449	rob@mcilwain.org
TE David Crenshaw	08	Fairfield, FL	(850)607-7741	cestlavi@cox.net
RE Brock Haddox	08	Gulf Shore, Al	(251) 978-1875 (251) 967-4617	brockhattox@cs.com
RE Earl Smith	08	Westminster, Ft Walton	(850)-243-2764	smithet311@aol.com
RE Lamar Allen	09	Cov. PCA, Panama City, FL	(850) 763-4312	
RE Frank Drew	09	Pinewoods, Pensacola	(850) 968-0274	frank.drew@cox.net
TE Bob Evans	09	Wildwood, Tallahassee	(850)668-0566	bobwildwoodpca@.org
TE Dieter Paulson	09	Covenant Reformed, AL	(251) 625-1733	Mdieterp@aol.com
TE Paul Fowler	10	Eastern Shore, AL	(251) 990 0292 h (251) 928 0977 o	pfowler@espcfairhope.org
RE Bob Cooper	10	Fairfield, Pensacola	(850) 492-9567	cooperpp@cox.net
RE (Vacant)	10			

THE MEETINGS:

MAC met during the Gulf Coast Presbytery meeting at the Blue Springs Conference Center.

THE MATTERS (new and old matters before the committee):

1. The need to process Jeremy Fair's Transfer
2. The need to process Ralph LaGuardia's Resignation
3. The need to clarify the reporting of the 07 and 08 Candidates
4. The need to clarify the reporting of the 07 and 08 Licentiates
5. The need to clarify the reporting of the current TE's without call
6. The need to clarify the reporting of the current TE's working out of Bounds.
7. The need to clarify the reporting of the current Special TE's (Honorable Retired, Chaplains, & Missionaries)
8. The need to inform GCP on current internships
9. The need to revise the GCP Internship process and make it available on the web site
10. The need to improve the dissolution process, to educate the parties involved on both how it can be done to the glory of God and who can help them through the processes
11. The need to clarify the role of the MAC in relation to new Calls and Changes to existing Calls of the GCP TE's
12. The need to encourage struggling pastors and churches; creating a safe place to find healing and restoration by means of the gospel

- 1 13. The need to fill the vacant RE seats on the MAC.
- 2 14. The need follow up on churches who are currently without pastors.
- 3 15. The dispersing of the Covenant Scholarship among candidates
- 4 16. The need to update the web site data
- 5 17. The need to develop a plan to secure background-checks on clergy (especially
- 6 for those entering the GCP) to comply with insurance industry expectations
- 7 18. The request concerning the status of TE Bob Marsh of Mariana and of TE Quinn
- 8 of Navarre.
- 9 19. The request from Covenant Reformed PCA to assist in conflict resolution.
- 10 20. The need to purge the rolls of those who are no longer pursuing their call to
- 11 ministry or those who have been without call for more than 3 years.
- 12 21. The request from Grace Community Church in Mobile to bring 1 candidates
- 13 under the care of GCP
- 14 22. The need to properly process the closing of Christ Community Church in
- 15 Pensacola.

16 **THE ACTIONS**

17 **No Commission Actions to report.**

18 407.1.d. THE MAC has the authority to act as a commission of presbyter in dissolving pastoral
19 relationships in cases where the pastor and congregation formally concur or where no
20 congregation is concerned, to dismiss other ministers, licentiates or candidates. The committee
21 shall inform the stated clerk of this action so that the clerk may dismiss the ministers.

22 **The Committee Recommendations:**

- 23 **1. The committee recommends Shane Black, the candidate from**
- 24 **Grace Community Church in Mobile, to be examined to come**
- 25 **under care.**
- 26 **2. The Committee did not receive the proper paperwork for the**
- 27 **closing of the Christ Community Church in Pensacola. It is noted**
- 28 **that their closing was not done in accordance with the BCO**
- 29 **guidelines.**
- 30 **3. The Committee urges the all the Presbyters to provide the annual**
- 31 **reports for 2008 by April 15 to the Ministers and Candidates**
- 32 **Committee. (for more information contact the chairman at**
- 33 **dekkerr@bellsouth.net or 850-384-3106)**
- 34 **4. The Committee requests a RE from the Central part of the**
- 35 **geographical bounds of Presbytery to fill the vacant slot for the**
- 36 **class of 2010.**
- 37 **5. The Committee, using the powers of a commission, approved the**
- 38 **dissolution requested by TE LaGuardia from the Covenant**
- 39 **Reformed Presbyterian Church.**

40 **THE MOTIONS to GCP**

- 41 1. That TE Jeremy Fair's request for transfer be approved pending his reception by
- 42 North Texas Presbytery. Mr. Fair has been called by the Arlington Presbyterian
- 43 Church. The Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church concurred with his request at a
- 44 congregational meeting held on January 13, 2008.

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- 2. That the members of Ministers and Candidates Committee be constituted a commission to serve as the Interim Session of the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church with the addition of RE J. Clark from the Covenant Reformed Session. [With the pending dissolution of the pastoral relationship the Session would not be able to act because of a lack of a quorum. (see BCO 12-1 & 15-1)]
- 3. That the Ministers and Candidates Committee be constituted as a commission to serve as the session of Christ Community Church and to act upon the request for dissolution of Christ Community Church, Pensacola, FL in accordance with the provisions of BCO 13-10. The Committee will report on its progress in this matter at the next stated meeting.

1 **APPENDIX G**

2 **BILLS AND OVERTURES**

3 **MEETING MINUTES**

4 February 11, 2008

5
6 **1. Convening and Attendance:** A meeting of the Bills and Overtures Committee,
7 as constituted by the Moderator of the 106th Stated Meeting of the Gulf Coast Presbytery,
8 convened at 8:25 p.m. The following were in attendance: RE Frank Drew and Tom Roberson
9 (Pinewoods Presbyterian Church, Cantonment); TEs David Anderegg and Robert B. Looper
10 (Convener).

11
12 **2. Docket:** The Bills and Overtures Committee met to consider an Overture
13 from the Session of the Eastern Shore Presbyterian church (need a copy to attach).

14
15 **3. Business:** The Bills and Overtures Committee met to consider an overture from the
16 Session of the Eastern Shore Presbyterian church. The Committee concluded that the
17 substance of the Overture, with the exception of that overture's third resolution, had already been
18 acted upon by the Gulf Coast Presbytery at its 105th Stated meeting.

19
20 **4. Recommendations:** In response to the overture from Eastern Shore PC the committee
21 recommends the following:

22 That the Nine Declarations of the report of the Federal Vision Study

- 23 • Committee commended to the Presbyteries of the PCA by the 35th General Assembly be
24 attached to the 106th minutes of the Gulf Coast Presbytery with reference to the action of
25 the Gulf Coast Presbytery at its 105th stated meeting.
- 26 • That if any member of the court is out of accord with these declarations, he should make
27 his views known to the court in keeping with his second vow of ordination.

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31 **5. Adjournment:** The convener acknowledged his oversight in failing to open the meeting
32 in prayer. TE Anderegg adjourned with prayer at 8:40 p.m.

33
34 Respectfully submitted, February 12, 2008

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38 X _____
39 TE Robert B. Looper, Secretary