



July 29, 2007

Here is a summary of the last two meetings, plus our recent called meeting

We have had two stated Session meetings since my last report. At our June meeting, the elders who served as commissioners to this year's PCA General Assembly in Memphis, TN gave a report of a very unified meeting this year. The anticipated report of a GA Committee to evaluate the theologies known as New Perspectives on Paul or the Federal Vision found several of the positions espoused by these theologies out of accord with the Westminster Confession of Faith. (The WCF is part of the PCA Constitution.) The report was well received by the assembly.

A report from the Adult Christian Education ad hoc Committee (ACE) was discussed at length. It made no specific recommendations, and Session called a special "called" meeting to adopt various positions discussed in the report in preparation for the Fall semester.

After a long hiatus in various other ministry positions, the Session was pleased to have Jim McKee with us to consider and approve his new part-time position with us as Minister of Spiritual Formation. His position will include our adult Christian education, so he will be participating in our discussions of the ACE committee. Jim will also continue to serve as the Director of Outreach at Helping Up Mission in Baltimore.

The Session has been discussing our position on dancing in the facility, which was somewhat of a re-learning experience since it had not been dealt with by the Session in 13 years. In essence, we left intact our belief that dancing is within the realm of Christian liberty, and should not be forbidden out of hand, but rather look to ministry leaders or chaperones to admonish as necessary. We did request that our Wedding policy be revised to reflect this position, where previously it had more strictly limited dancing. This was communicated to ministry leaders via a new ministry leader email list.

Our July Session meeting began as a joint meeting with the Diaconate. WIC President, Nancy Spicer, provided the officers an overview of the goals and plans for Women's Ministries. There are several new approaches to the ministry and fellowship groups that have been appealing to many and would encourage you to ask Nancy, or any of the WIC committee members to find out more.

George Baker, Chairman of the Finance Committee gave a brief report noting that while income is under the budgeted amount, so are expenses. We spent some time together praying for the extended Baker family as well as one another over various concerns expressed within our church family.

Being a "shepherding" meeting, the remainder of the meeting was invested in discussion of how elders keep in contact with their oversight families.

Session also recently had a special "called" meeting to deal with recommendations brought by the Adult Christian Education (ACE) ad hoc committee. At that meeting, the Session adopted three motions related to ACE. First, its tri-fold mission was to equip the saints, community building, and missional. Second, was that it was to include more just Sunday mornings. Third, was to encourage the involvement of the elders in ACE. A fourth motion, to move Sunday School offering in-between the two morning worship services failed.

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