

GA Report

The General Assembly of the PCA was hosted by the churches of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery of which First Presbyterian is a member. We were honored to be asked to host the Assembly in Chattanooga, the first time since 2005.

In every way the event was deemed successful and even characterized as "one of the best ever." Nearly 1400 "official commissioners" came from around the world to take part in the business meetings, more than 1000 others came as guests, family and visitors to watch the proceedings and another 600-1000 came to attend the nightly worship services. 200 vendors displayed the latest in Christian ministries, resources, programs, books and opportunities for involvement both domestically and internationally.

All of the ladies and family events were sold out at maximum capacity and ranged from knitting classes (knitwits) to Chattanooga tours, special programs, high tea, a Covenant College BBQ and outdoor concert along with daily excursions.

Over 500 children and youth were cared for from nursery age through the teen years. 260 were bused to Ridge Haven for a week of camp while more than 100 completed a work/service project with Hope for the Inner City. The youngest and elementary ages were taught and cared for by volunteers at First Presbyterian Church and experienced area attractions.

During the day an abundance of time-relevant seminars were held at the Trade Center along with the various denominational committee meetings and lunches for the PCA agencies. The three evening worship services resembled revival meetings with pastors Bryan Chappel, Kevin Smith, and Rankin Wilbourne preaching the message and special music offered each night. Attendance around 3000 made congregational singing inspirational and heavenly. The success was most easily measured by seeing how the Lord was central, honored, and magnified all week in all activities.

The Assembly took care of its denominational business prayerfully yet expeditiously aided by a new electronic voting system which streamlined the voting process dramatically and will revolutionize General Assemblies well into the future. The General Assembly is scheduled to meet again next June (2016) in Mobile, Alabama.

Introduction

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After agreeing to serve as the Chairman of the Host Committee in February of 2013, the invitation was presented to the Tennessee Valley Presbytery. Once the Presbytery formally approved that the General Assembly of the PCA would be held in Chattanooga in 2015, the first few real items of business were to secure the chairperson for each standing committee, approve a budget and determine how much financial support should be required of individual congregations and officers. The Clerk of Presbytery immediately sent a letter to the Senior Pastor of each church, copying the Session Clerk and conveying the "asking" of support and the importance of it. The minutes of the first committee meeting (Mar. 18, 2013) listing the proposed budget and hopes for the 2015 General Assembly were laid out (see attachment).

The Host Committee began meeting regularly after March, 2013. All committee chair positions that report to the Chairman of the Host Committee were filled early and sub-committee chairs were put in place over time. Added volunteers and expanded sub-committees were added as necessary. (See attached list of committee chairs along with an organizational chart). John Robertson, Sherry Eschenberg, and Angela Nantz attended several committee meetings which proved to be very helpful in planning.

Soon after the committees began meeting, the innovative idea of electronic voting at the Assembly was considered. Having secured the funding from an anonymous donor, the final decision was left to the Administrative Committee with Ben Dady delegated as the Host Committee's representative to accomplish the goal of moving the General Assembly to electronic voting for the (hopefully) future. In addition to the "normal" committee work, planning was also done along with RBI to host their annual golf tournament at the Lookout Mountain Golf Course, to make a special effort reaching out and inviting all honorably retired Teaching Elders of the PCA to a special reception for them, and assist in the planning and hosting of the PRCC Chaplains' Training the weekend prior to the General Assembly at First Presbyterian Church (Chattanooga). Work also began to arrange a week of camping at Ridge Haven for the children of commissioners attending General Assembly.

It should be noted Jinks Babey did a remarkable job on our behalf in selling ads for and working on the General Assembly Information Book. According to Jinks, "the General Assembly Host Committee did better than any other host committee yet on having a bit of a surplus after paying for the books and (her) expenses." Michelle Saville and Joan Stanton were also indispensable in screening and setting up all the seminars, programs, workshops, and schedules to training during General Assembly. While Covenant's Derek Halvorson served as Chairman of the Seminar Planning Committee, these two ladies did the bulk of the work.

Finally, it is said "prayer is the hard work, the outcomes become the fruit". We added a prayer committee (Julie Moore, chair) to simply bathe the General Assembly in prayer, send out prayer requests and keep GA in the center of attention for the TVP. In May, we scheduled a special "Worship and Prayer" meeting for all TVP churches for the purpose of prayer for GA. Upon receiving the names of registered commissioners, our prayer committee made personal

contact with each one to tell them they were added to our prayer list and given a prayer partner. This had amazing results in seeing their responses and focusing General Assembly as a Christ-centered event from the beginning to the end. (See attached brochure announcing the Worship and Prayer meeting).

Minutes of March 18, 2013 Meeting

11:30 am – 2:00 pm First Presbyterian Church

Don Holwerda opening the meeting with a brief devotional emphasizing that it is we who have the honor to serve Christ in this way and the danger of the perspective that Christ is to serve us. Following the devotion, Don opened in prayer.

Written reports from the three most recent General Assemblies, as well as reports from the 2005 General Assembly in Chattanooga, were reviewed.

Following are some of the hopes held for General Assembly:

- Broad participation by all churches in the Presbytery
- Board participation of Ruling and Teaching Elders, Deacons, Women and Family of TVP
- A General Assembly that will attract delegates and their families, with meaningful activities for family members, worship services for all, even the broader public.
- A General Assembly where all will leave with greater zeal for and commitment to the work of the church.
- A General Assembly that will demonstrate good stewardship of the resources available in TVP.
- A theme that will be significant to the work of the church in a dynamic and rapidly changing culture.

Following is a proposed revenue budget to submit to TVP:

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Proposed 2015</u>
Presbytery	\$5,000	\$5,000
Churches	\$27,320	\$38,000
Officers	<u>\$7,410</u>	<u>\$7,000</u>
TOTAL	\$39,730 ¹	\$50,000

NOTE: In reviewing the 2005 records, we noted that the Host Committee generated significant revenue from advertising, offerings, and registration fees. As a result, following General Assembly, the Host Committee returned significant funds to Presbytery. The intent of the 2015 Host Committee in presenting a \$50,000 budget is to present the expected costs to Presbytery, but believes that these costs can be offset in a number of ways that will result in a refund to Presbytery. However, the most responsible budget is a conservative budget so that churches will know what is expected in voting to host the General Assembly in 2015.

¹ In 2005, this was divided among the various committees as follows: Commissioners Families, \$5000; Finance \$500, Host Committee, \$1000; Public Relations, \$9,000; Seminars, \$5,000; Special Needs, \$4,850; Worship, \$10,600; Contingency, \$4000.

The Committee proposes that each church be asked to give \$400 per year for 2013, 2014, and 2015. Furthermore, each church should designate one person in the church to ask ruling and teaching elders to give \$50 each, and, Deacons \$30 each.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Holwerda, Host Committee Chair and Frank Brock (2005)

James Woods, Finance Chair and Gordon Fleming (2005)

Diane Cosby Chair, Family Chair and Sandy Hartley (2005)

**GA Host Committee Members/Contacts
2015**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Cell Phone Number</u>
Allen, Jen	Public Relations/Marketing	(423)280-9227
Baierl, Sherry	Family Registration	(423)580-4376
Cosby, Dianne	Commissioner's Family Services	(423)598-8274
Dady, Ben	Assistant to Host Chair	(423)580-6432
Franklin, Bob	Worship/Music	(423)991-0231
Halvorson, Derek	Seminar Planning	
Hartley, Sandy	Women's luncheon and tea	(423)505-2900
Holt, Barbara	Commissioner's Family Services	(423)280-6111
Holwerda, Don	Host Committee Chair	(423)595-1581
Lail, Dana	Children's Activities/Nursery	(423)991-7780
Moore, Julie	Prayer Committee	(423)598-8304
Mullinax, Eric	Assistant to the Host Chair	(423)313-7956
Row, Robert	Youth Activities	(931)510-2927
Schreiner, Tom	Special Needs, Transportation	(423)505-9824
Steere, Anna	Hospitality/Tours	(706)676-0632
Verville, Rachel	Covenant College BBQ/Concert	(423)605-4580
Woods, James	Finance Committee/Treasurer	(423)309-7550

Chairman of the Host Committee: Don Holwerda Email: don@1stpresbyterian.com phone:

Co-Chairs of Worship Subcommittee

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Chair of Family Registration Subcommittee

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Chair of Youth Activities Subcommittee

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Chair of Nursery Subcommittee

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423-991-7780

NURSERY
Amy Horne
amy@Impc.org

Rev. Robby Holt, Pastor of Northshore Fellowship
A free-will offering taken for General Assembly Expenses
Nursery provided for 3 yrs. old and under, child care PreK4 - 5th Grade

A SPECIAL

Tennessee Valley Presbytery
Worship & Prayer Meeting
for the 2015 General Assembly

When: May 3, 2015 at 6:00PM

Where: First Presbyterian Church
554 McCallie Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37402

**Why: "Unless the Lord builds the house,
the workers toil in vain" - Psalm 127:1**

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
A gathering of churches in the TN Valley Presbytery.