

PART IV

STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS Ad Interim Committee Recommendations (Arranged in Alphabetical Order of Subject)

Creation Study Committee Report **2000, p. 119-212, 28-38.**

Committee Recommendations

2000, p. 119-121, 28-38 and 2000, p. 184-185, 28-38.

1. That the Creation Study Committee's report, in its entirety, be distributed to all sessions and presbyteries of the PCA and made available for others who wish to study it. *Adopted.*
2. That since historically in Reformed theology there has been a diversity of views of the creation days among highly respected theologians, and, since the PCA has from its inception allowed a diversity, that the Assembly affirm that such diversity as covered in this report is acceptable as long as the full historicity of the creation account is accepted. *Adopted As Amended.*
3. That this study committee be dismissed with thanks. *Adopted.*

Federal Vision Study Committee Report on Federal Vision, New Perspective, and Auburn Avenue Theologies **2007, p. 509-567, App. O.**

Committee Recommendations

2007, p. 68-69, 35-20 and 2007, p. 567, App. O.

1. That the General Assembly commend to Ruling and Teaching Elders and their congregations this report of the Ad Interim Committee on NPP, AAT and FV for careful consideration and study. *Adopted.*
2. That the General Assembly remind the Church, its officers and congregations of the provisions of *BCO* 29-1 and 39-3 which assert that

the *Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Westminster Assembly*, while “subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inerrant Word of God,” have been adopted by the PCA “as standard expositions of the teachings of Scripture in relation to both faith and practice.” *Adopted.*

3. That the General Assembly recommend the declarations in this report as a faithful exposition of the Westminster Standards, and further reminds those ruling and teaching elders whose views are out of accord with our Standards of their obligation to make known to their courts any differences in their views. *Adopted.*
4. That the General Assembly remind the Sessions and Presbyteries of the PCA that it is their duty “to exercise care over those subject to their authority” and “to condemn erroneous opinions which injure the purity or peace of the Church” (*BCO* 31-2; 13-9f). *Adopted.*
5. That the Ad Interim Study Committee on NPP, AAT and FV be dismissed with thanks. *Adopted.*

Declarations

2007, p. 556, App. O.

In light of the controversy surrounding the NPP and FV, and after many months of careful study, the committee unanimously makes the following declarations:

1. The view that rejects the bi-covenantal structure of Scripture as represented in the Westminster Standards (i.e., views which do not merely take issue with the terminology, but the essence of the first/second covenant framework) is contrary to those Standards.
2. The view that an individual is “elect” by virtue of his membership in the visible church; and that this “election” includes justification, adoption and sanctification; but that this individual could lose his “election” if he forsakes the visible church, is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
3. The view that Christ does not stand as a representative head whose perfect obedience and satisfaction is imputed to individuals who believe in him is contrary to the Westminster Standards.

4. The view that strikes the language of “merit” from our theological vocabulary so that the claim is made that Christ’s merits are not imputed to his people is contrary to the Westminster Standards.
5. The view that “union with Christ” renders imputation redundant because it subsumes all of Christ’s benefits (including justification) under this doctrinal heading is contrary to the Westminster Standards.

Insider Movements Study Committee Report
2012, p. 590-681, App. V (for Part 1) and
2014, p. 593-753, App. V (for Part 2)

The Ad Interim Committee brought their recommendations to the General Assembly in two parts (Part 1 and 2) over three General Assemblies (2012-2014) after the recommendations presented in 2013 were recommitted by the 41st GA to report back to the 42nd GA.

Committee Recommendations (Part 1)

2012, p. 29, 40-42 and 2012, p. 596, App. V.

1. That “Part One – Like Father, Like Son: Divine Familial Language in Bible Translation” serve as a Partial Report (Part One of Two Parts). *Adopted.*
2. That the 40th General Assembly declare that, since social familial terms fail to capture the biblical meaning of “Son” (*huios*) and “Son of God” (*huios tou theou*) applied to Jesus and “Father” (*pater*) applied to God, Bibles should always translate divine familial terms using common biological terms. *Adopted.*
3. That the 40th General Assembly make available and recommend for study “Part One – Like Father, Like Son” to its presbyteries and sessions. *Adopted.*
4. Pursuant to RAO 9-2, that the 40th General Assembly grant an extension to the SCIM for one year to allow for completion of its mandate and to provide Part Two of its report on Insider Movements. *Adopted.*

5. That the 40th General Assembly set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/for its second year, and that funds be derived from gifts to the AC designated for that purpose. *Adopted.*

Committee Recommendations (Part 2.a)

2013, p. 636, App. V.

1. That “A Call to Faithful Witness, Part Two: Theology, Gospel Missions, and Insider Movements” serve as a Partial Report (Part Two of Two Parts). *Recommitted by 41st GA to Report back to the 42nd GA.*
2. That the 42nd General Assembly make available and recommend for study “A Call to Faithful Witness, Part Two: Theology, Gospel Missions, and Insider Movements” to its presbyteries, sessions, and missions committees. *Recommitted by 41st GA to Report back to the 42nd GA.*
3. That the 42nd General Assembly dismiss the ad interim Study Committee on Insider Movements with thanks. *Recommitted by 41st GA to Report back to the 42nd GA.*

Minority Report: 2013, p. 759-811, App. V.

Committee Recommendations (Part 2.b)

2014, p. 21, 42-17 and 2014, p. 603, App. V.

1. That “A Call to Faithful Witness, Part Two: Theology, Gospel Missions, and Insider Movements” serve as a Partial Report (Part Two of Two Parts). *Adopted.*
2. That the 42nd General Assembly make available and recommend for study “A Call to Faithful Witness, Part Two: Theology, Gospel Missions, and Insider Movements” to its presbyteries, sessions, and missions committees. *Adopted.*
3. That the 42nd General Assembly dismiss the ad interim Study Committee on Insider Movements with thanks. *Adopted.*

Minority Report: 2014, p. 754-785, App. V.

Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation Study Committee Report
2018, p. 596-668, App. V.

Committee Recommendations

2018, p. 23, 46-17 and 2018, p. 628, App. V.

1. That the General Assembly receive the report of the ad interim committee on racial reconciliation and distribute it to the presbyteries and congregations of our denomination. *Adopted.*
2. That the General Assembly direct the Committee on Discipleship Ministries to publish this report for sale and distribution, along with the other actions of the Assembly related to racial reconciliation, especially the actions of the 30th, 32nd, and 44th Assemblies, as the PCA's statements on the Gospel and racial reconciliation. *Adopted.*
3. That the General Assembly direct the Committee on Mission to North America to budget and plan for renewing the research with LifeWay Research Services, or some other research service, to report back to the 51st GA (2023) in order to establish a longitudinal study of our denomination on the issue of racial reconciliation. *Adopted.*
4. That the General Assembly dismiss the committee with its thanks. *Adopted.*

Women in the Military Study Committee Report
2001, p. 258-278, 29-57 and 2002, p. 283-289, 30-57.

The Ad Interim Committee brought their recommendations to the General Assembly over two General Assemblies (2001 and 2002) after four recommendations presented in 2001 were recommitted by the 29th GA to report back to the 30th GA. The Ad Interim Committee presented a new fifth recommendation to the 30th GA in 2002.

Committee Recommendations (2001)

2001, p. 277-278, 29-57, XI.

1. The Philadelphia Presbytery Overture, the PRJC letter, and the Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee be answered by this report. *Adopted.*

2. That the PCA continue to recognize that the individual conscience, guided by the Word of God and responsive to the counsel of the Church, must decide concerning the propriety of voluntary service in the military.

Adopted.

3. That the PCA believes that military service is a just and godly calling; however, that it presents special and difficult moral challenges in light of the integration of women into the armed services. *Adopted.*

4. That the women of the PCA be warned of the many difficulties and moral and physical dangers involved in serving in the military in secular America, due to their inherent greater vulnerability. *Adopted.*

5. If women choose voluntarily to enter military service, they should do so advisedly, with the recommendation that they seek supportive, rather than active, combatant roles. *Sent back to the Committee for deliberation and to report back to the 30th Assembly.*

6. That the General Assembly of the PCA is formally on record as opposed to the drafting of women into military service, in time of war or peace, under any and all circumstances, for the reason that such governmental actions would violate individual consciences as informed by the Word of God. *Sent back to the Committee for deliberation and to report back to the 30th Assembly.*

7. That the General Assembly of the PCA is formally on record as opposed to the assignment of women to offensive combat roles. *Sent back to the Committee for deliberation and to report back to the 30th Assembly.*

Item 3 That this Assembly declare it to be the biblical duty of men to defend women and therefore that it opposes the service of women in military combat positions, as well as any conscription of women into the Armed Services of the United States. *Sent back to the Committee for deliberation and to report back to the 30th Assembly.*

8. That individual believers as citizens be urged to exercise their godly influence to bring about authentic spiritual and moral reformation in the military services. *Adopted.*

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9. That the PCA chaplains be encouraged in their continued ministry to all male and female personnel in their spheres of ministry. *Adopted.*
10. That pastors and sessions be informed of this report and be encouraged to instruct their people in the matters it presents. *Adopted.*
11. That the NAPARC and NAE churches be informed of the PCA's position on this matter. *Adopted.*
12. That this committee be dismissed. *To report back to the 30th Assembly.*

Minority Report: 2001, p. 278-320, 29-57.

Committee Recommendations (2002)

2002, p. 285-286, 30-57.

1. Acknowledging that the child in the womb is “a person covered by Divine protection” (see Statement on Abortion, 6th GA); and that women of childbearing age often carry unborn children while remaining unaware of their child’s existence; and that principles of just war require the minimization of the loss of life—particularly innocent civilians; the PCA declares that any policy which intentionally places in harms way as military combatants women who are, or might be, carrying a child in their womb, is a violation of God’s Moral Law. *Adopted.*
2. This Assembly declares it to be the biblical duty of man to defend woman and therefore condemns the use of women as military combatants, as well as any conscription of women into the Armed Services of the United States. *Adopted.*
3. Therefore be it resolved that the 30th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America adopts the above as pastoral counsel for the good of the members, the officers, and especially the military chaplains of the Presbyterian Church in America. *Adopted.*
4. Be it further resolved that the Presbyterian Church in America supports the decision of any of its members to object to, as a matter of conscience, the conscription of women or the use of women as military combatants. *Adopted.*

Additional Recommendation:

5. That the committee has received Overtures 2, 21, and 26 to the 30th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America referred to it by the Stated Clerk's Office. We answer them in the negative with the rationale that they are answered in the report of the committee as scheduled in the docket in both majority and minority reports. *Adopted.* (See text and action at **2002, p. 245, 30-53, III.7**).

Minority Report: 2002, p. 287, 30-57.

Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church
Study Committee Report
2017, pp. 565-644, App. W.

Committee Recommendations

2017, 45-19, p. 27-33 and 2017, p. 640-644, App. W.

1. That Overture 3 from Westminster Presbytery, "Declare that the 44th General Assembly Erred in the Formation of an Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women as not Being Properly before the Court, and Dismiss the Ad Interim Committee with Apology," be answered in the negative. *Adopted.*
2. That sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly recognize that, from the founding of the PCA, there has been a variety of views and practices regarding the ways in which women may serve the Lord and the church within scriptural and constitutional parameters, without ordination, and that such mutual respect for said views and practices continues. *Adopted.*
3. That sessions, presbyteries and the General Assembly strive to develop, recognize, and utilize the gifts, skills, knowledge, and wisdom of godly women in the local, regional, and national church, and particularly consider overtures that would allow qualified women to serve on appropriate committees and agencies within the church. *Adopted.*
4. That sessions, if possible, establish a diaconate of qualified ordained men. Though *The Book of Church Order* does not specifically prohibit

the practice of going without ordained deacons, it seems poorly aligned with the spirit of the principle of the two church offices outlined in *The Book of Church Order. Adopted As Amended.*

5. That sessions consider how to include non-ordained men and women in the worship of the church so as to maintain faithfulness to Scripture, as well as utilizing the gifts God has poured out to His entire church (see exegesis of 1 Corinthians 14:26 in Chapter Two). *Adopted.*

6. *BCO* 9-7 says: “It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need. These assistants to the deacons are not officers of the church (*BCO* 7-2) and, as such, are not subjects for ordination (*BCO* 17).” Thus, for the well-being of the church, the committee recommends that sessions and presbyteries select and appoint godly women and men of the congregation to assist the ordained diaconate. leadership; these godly, unordained women have often historically been referred to as deaconesses. *Adopted As Amended.*

7. That presbyteries and the General Assembly consider an overture that would establish formally the right of sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly to establish the position of commissioned church worker within the PCA for qualified and gifted unordained men and women. *Adopted.*

8. That sessions, presbyteries and the General Assembly consider how they can affirm and include underprivileged and underrepresented women in the PCA. *Adopted.*

9. The committee humbly requests to be dismissed with thanks. *Adopted.*

NOTE: The Study Committee adopted the original report and recommendations by a vote of 6-1.

PCA DIGEST