
**Interim Committee
on Presbytery Boundaries**
31st General Assembly



*Michael J. Glodo
Chairman*

The Presbytery Boundary Study Group was formed by the 30th General Assembly in adopting the following recommendation:

That the Assembly instructs the Moderator to appoint a Study Group to meet through June 2012 to study potential changes of presbytery boundaries and/or the creation of new presbyteries. The Study Group will be made up of one representative from each presbytery, including the New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery. The Study Group will report and make any recommendations it deems appropriate to both the 31st and 32nd General Assemblies.

30th General Assembly Moderator Rob Liddon appointed the following members of the Study Group:

- RE John Adamson, Central South Presbytery
- TE David Baer, Presbytery of the West
- TE Andy Curtis, New Wineskins/EPC Transitional Presbytery
- RE Hadley “Stretch” DePuy, Presbytery of the East
- TE Bill Flannagan, Southeast Presbytery
- TE Mike Glodo, Florida Presbytery (Chairman)
- TE Mark Jumper, Mid-America Presbytery (subsequently Rivers & Lakes Presbytery)
- RE Allan Roes, Mid-Atlantic Presbytery
- RE Andy Warner, Midwest Presbytery

The Study Group met on November 5-6, 2010 (Atlanta), December 13, 2010 (teleconference), March 11-12, 2011 (Atlanta) and May 16, 2011 (teleconference). Its efforts during this first of its two year appointment may be summed up as follows:

- Identifying immediate boundary issues, particularly those arising from progressive dynamics within existing presbyteries.
- Assessing the impact of a large number of churches having joined the EPC in the last 12-18 months and anticipating the impact of a large number of congregations joining in the coming 12-24 months. This assessment and anticipation also included the dynamics resulting from the expiration of the transitional presbyteries at the conclusion of the 32nd General Assembly in one year.

- Communicating proposed and potential boundary changes to those congregations affected and incorporating responses into present and possible recommendations to the General Assembly.
- Reviewing and revising the criteria for a viable presbytery.

It should be noted that the creation of a new presbytery was effected by the Committee on Administration on November 22, 2010 when, according to the commission power granted it by the 30th General Assembly, the CoA approved the division of the Mid-America Presbytery into the continuing Mid-America Presbytery and the new Rivers and Lakes Presbytery. The Study Group, upon request from the CoA, provided an opinion that the proposed division that had come from Mid-America was in good order and should be approved.

At the halfway point of its appointed work, the Presbytery Boundary Study Group makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations to the General Assembly

Recommendation PBR-1 – Formation of an Allegheny Presbytery

That the 31st General Assembly create a new presbytery according to its powers as provided for in Book of Government 16-22-B.1 that shall be called the Allegheny Presbytery consisting of all member churches and teaching elders within the geographic boundaries defined as follows:

The western portion of the State of New York from the Monroe and Wayne county line on Lake Ontario going south following county lines until the Allegany and Steuben county line at the Pennsylvania border,

The western portion of the State of Pennsylvania starting from the Potter and Tioga county lines on the New York border going south following county lines until the Bedford and Fulton county lines at the Maryland state border,

The western two counties of the State of Maryland of Garrett and Allegany,

In the State of West Virginia all counties north of and including the following: Cabell, Putnam, Jackson, Roane, Calhoun, Braxton, Lewis, Upshur, Barbour, Tucker, Grant, Hardy and Hampshire.

The eastern portion of the State of Ohio following a line north along county lines from the Adams and Scioto county line on the Ohio River to the Sandusky and Erie county line on Lake Erie.

Further, that the creation of this presbytery shall be effective on the date of the convening of the first meeting of the churches within these boundaries as determined by

the officers-designate after all necessary preparations have been made and due notice to those churches given, such notice conditioned upon the approval of the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly. Those officers-designate shall be

TE Garnett Slatton, Moderator-designate
RE Bruce Allison, Stated Clerk-designate
TE Dean Weaver, Ministerial Committee Chairman-designate and convener
TE Bob Stauffer, Church Development Chairman-designate
TE Rick Stauffer, Church Ministry Network Chairman-designate

Further, that the boundaries of the Midwest, East and Mid-Atlantic Presbyteries be amended by default to exclude their respective portions of this new presbytery.

Further, that any retired ministers and ministers laboring out of bounds included in the geographic boundaries indicated shall be included in the membership of this presbytery, subject to any exceptions as provided for in Book of Government 11-12 (3rd paragraph).

Finally, that by-laws be drafted by the new presbytery as soon as possible and conveyed to the Presbytery Review Committee and the Permanent Judicial Commission for review.

Grounds:

- 1) That the churches within this geographic area have expressed their desire for a new presbytery.
- 2) That these churches have been actively and effectively preparing for the creation of such a presbytery so as to indicate sufficient human resources for viability.
- 3) That the currently existing three presbyteries affected have given their support.
- 4) That sufficient financial resources have been pledged for a viable presbytery.
- 5) That the creation of this new presbytery would allow the focusing and directing of greater resources toward missional purposes.

Note: The above-delineated boundaries for the proposed presbytery would include the following counties in the states indicated:

Maryland: Garrett and Allegany.

New York: Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Erie, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany

- Pennsylvania: Erie, Crawford, Warden, McKean, Potter, Mercer, Venango, Forest, Elk, Cameron, Lawrence, Butler, Clarion, Jefferson, Clearfield, Armstrong, Indiana, Cambria, Blair, Beaver, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Greene, Fayette, Somerset and Bedford.
- Ohio: Erie, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Medina, Summit, Lake, Geauga, Portage, Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Richland, Ashland, Wayne, Stark, Columbiana, Morrow, Knox, Holmes, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, Delaware, Franklin, Licking, Muskingum, Guernsey, Noble, Belmont, Monroe, Pickaway, Fairfield, Perry, Morgan, Washington, Ross, Hocking, Vinton, Athens, Meigs, Pike, Jackson, Gallia, Scioto, Lawrence.
- West Virginia: Cabell, Mason, Putnam, Jackson, Wood, Wirt, Roane, Pleasants, Ritchie, Calhoun, Tyler, Doddridge, Gilmer, Braxton, Ohio, Marshall, Wetsel, Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Lewis, Upshur, Taylor, Barbour, Preston, Tucker, Grant, Mineral, Hampshire and Hardy.

Recommendation 2 – Formation of a Pacific Presbytery

That the 31st General Assembly concur with the overture of the Presbytery of the West to create a new Pacific Presbytery consisting of the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii and Nevada and the portion of Idaho west of U.S. Highway 93, effective on the date of the convening of the first meeting of the churches within these boundaries as determined by the officers-designate after all necessary preparations have been made and due notice to those churches given, such notice conditioned upon the approval of the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly. Those officers-designate shall be

TE Shawn Robinson, Moderator-designate and convener
 RE Ronald Bengelink, Stated Clerk-designate
 TE David Brogren, Ministerial Committee Chairman-designate
 RE Lynda Gantenbien, Treasurer-designate
 RE Jim Conners, Session Review Chairman-designate
 RE Dale Smith, Nominating Committee Chairman-designate

Further, that the boundaries of the West Presbytery be amended by default to exclude the area of this new presbytery.

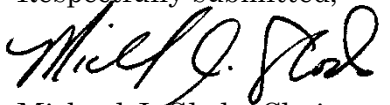
Further, that any retired ministers and ministers laboring out of bounds included in the geographic boundaries indicated shall be included in the membership of this presbytery, subject to any exceptions as provided for in Book of Government 11-12 (3rd paragraph).

Finally, that by-laws be drafted by the new presbytery as soon as possible and conveyed to the Presbytery Review Committee and the Permanent Judicial Commission for review.

Grounds:

- 1) That the churches within this geographic area have expressed their desire for a new presbytery.
- 2) That these churches have been actively and effectively preparing for the creation of such a presbytery so as to indicate sufficient human resources for viability.
- 3) That the currently existing presbytery affected has given its support.
- 4) That sufficient financial resources have been pledged for a viable presbytery.
- 5) That the creation of this new presbytery would allow the focusing and directing of greater resources toward missional purposes.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Glodo, Chairman

June 2011

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