

**SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT
PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA
MAY 8, 2007**

FURTHER PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS MEETING:

- c. That in formal or informal discussion of items, each individual be permitted to speak (or ask a question) for up to three minutes per speech. (As provided for in *Robert's*, after a person has spoken he or she is not eligible to speak again to that issue until all who wish to speak on the issue have had opportunity to do so.)
- d. (To be offered if Presbytery approves Action Item #1 from Presbytery Council:) That Presbytery go into a "committee of the whole" for informal consideration of the report of the Organizational Design Task Force, for a period of up to 60 minutes; that no actions relating to the report be taken during this committee of the whole period; and that the Moderator of Presbytery continue to preside over the committee of the whole.

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SOME HOUSEKEEPING RULES OF THE DAY
PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA
MAY 8, 2007

1. Please cut off your cell phones and pagers.
2. An evaluation instrument for this meeting entitled “How Did We Do Together?” is in your packet. Please complete before you depart today and leave it in one of the boxes located at the exit doors.
3. Microphones are located at various locations in the sanctuary Please use them when making reports, discussing a motion, asking a question, making suggestions, offering comments or anything else except seconding a motion. Identify yourself as you begin to speak and address your remarks to the Moderator.
4. When you come forward to make a report, please give reference to the page number of your report first thing. Indicate the page (s) in the Advance Packet as well as the page number in the Supplemental Packet.
5. Committee chairs are asked to anticipate their reports by moving to the front when the person immediately before them on the agenda is up.
6. Please note the time allotments for comments as firm guidelines for each entity making a report. Someone will hold up a card for 2 minutes remaining, then when 1 minute remains.
7. Every one is encouraged to take the initiative to connect with one or more individuals whom you do not know before coming to this meeting thereby affirming our connectedness as Presbytery.

**SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER:
Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement**

Adopted by the 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will:

**Give them a hearing
. . . listen before we
answer**

John 7:51 and
Proverbs 18:13

**Speak the
truth in love**

Ephesians 4:15

**Maintain the unity
of the spirit in the
bond of peace**

Ephesians 4:3

1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ:
 - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange;
 - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus's teachings.
5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence, or integrity; we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.
6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:
 - urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;
 - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
 - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;
 - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways that are consistent with these guidelines.
10. Include our disagreements in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

As Presbyterians, we are called to work for “the peace, unity, and purity of the church” (*Book of Order* , G-14.0207g) as we seek to be faithful to God’s work in the world. However, disagreements and conflicts are inevitable in the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) As we try to be faithful. They exist within committees, congregations, presbyteries, synods, at General Assemblies, and in the national life of the denomination.

Conflicts are inevitable in all of life and certainly in the church. The history of the church is filled with conflicts and disagreements. Several of Paul’s letters address the conflicts that were [common] in the early church. There have been and are going to be disagreements as Christians attempt to discern God’s work in the world and as we interpret Scriptures.

Conflicts can be harmful and even destructive. They can cause individuals a great deal of pain and the community of faith immeasurable damage. Congregations have been divided; denominations have experienced schisms.

At the same time, conflicts can be an opportunity for new insights, learning, and individual and corporate growth. Disagreements can illuminate a topic in helpful ways and can present solutions to problems that previously had not been seen. The successful resolution of conflict can also bind people together in a powerful way.

The Bible contains many stories of conflict and disagreement and much advice about how they can be addressed. As those stories indicate, God is already present whenever there is brokenness, granting wholeness and peace. God promises to be with us in times of disagreement and calls us to reconciliation, trust, love and forgiveness.

We realize that our perspectives are limited, so to help us affirm each other, enhance our community, stay open to the viewpoints of others and be sensitive to cultural diversity, we commit ourselves to the guidelines in a spirit of prayer, trust, and love, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.