

**PROPOSED ACTION ON THE OVERTURE FROM THE SESSION OF
KINGMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

MOTION: Upon recommendation of the Bills and Overtures Committee the Presbytery of Grand Canyon at its March 16-17, 2007 Stated Meeting consider the Overture from the Session of the Kingman Presbyterian Church (received as an item of New Business at its January 20, 2007 Annual Meeting) informally by engaging in a structured process of Mutual Invitation and Dialogue for at least both the March 16-17, 2007 and the June 9, 2007 Stated Meetings.

Note: *Robert's Rules of Order* provides ways a Mutual Invitation and Dialogue process can be utilized through means of a less-structured deliberation by: transforming the deliberative body into a "committee of the whole, acting as a "quasi-committee of the whole" and allowing "informal considerations and "crystallization of opinion". (*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 10th Edition, Section 52: "Committee of the Whole and Its Alternate Forms")

Background

At the January 20, 2007 Annual Meeting of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon the following Overture from the Session of Kingman Presbyterian Church was received as an item of New Business:

MOTION

For the Presbytery of Grand Canyon
From the Session of Kingman Presbyterian Church
January 20, 2007

"The Kingman Presbyterian Church's session, having unanimously adopted this standard on November 30, 2006, present this overture to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon at the stated meeting of January 20, 2007 to adopt the following resolution:

"In its discernment of the essentials of Reformed polity and for the sake of the peace, unity, and purity of the church, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon adopts the principle that compliance with the standard for ordination adopted by the whole church in the Book of Order is an essential of Reformed polity. Therefore, any departure from the standards for ordination expressed in the Book of Order will bar a candidate from ordination and/or installation by this governing body. Provisions of the Book of Order are signified as being standards by use of the term 'shall', is/are to be, 'requirement,' or equivalent expression."

The **standards** for ordination have not changed. Everyone agrees on that. Therefore, presbyteries and sessions still have the authority to use those **standards** as requirements that preclude the ordination of those not in compliance with the express standards of the **Book of Order** and the **Book of Confessions**. To ensure that these standards continue to be effective boundaries, we prayerfully ask that Presbytery of Grand Canyon consider adopting this resolution.

On behalf of the Session of Kingman Presbyterian Church
Pastor Grif Vautier, Joan John, Elder & Clerk of Session, Bob Campbell, Elder"

This item was reported by the Stated Clerk as New Business during the opening procedures of the meeting. A request was made to have printed copies of this Overture available for presbyters later on in the meeting and these copies were made available at the Clerk's table at the lunch break.

Under the New Business Item later in the meeting the Stated Clerk reported that he had met with representatives from Kingman Presbyterian Church and explained that in accordance with Presbytery of Grand Canyon Bylaws and Standing Rules B-4.0400.b., each overture received by the Presbytery is

referred to the Bills and Overtures Committee, which is composed of the most recent Commissioners to General Assembly for review and recommendation to Presbytery. The recommendations of the Bills and Overtures Committee will be included in the Call to the March Presbytery Meeting and the Kingman Overture will be docketed for business in the March Stated Meeting.

Bills and Overtures Committee Recommendation

The Overture from the Session of the Kingman Presbyterian Church was referred to the Bills and Overtures Committee consisting of Minister Commissioner Marilyn Manning and Elder Commissioner Willy Zunker (the two remaining resident member Commissioners to the 217th General Assembly) for their review and recommendation. During the January 20, 2007 Annual Presbytery Meeting a presentation was made by the joint task force, established by the Committee on Ministry and the Theology and Worship Committee, on living out the recommendations in the amended report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity. The joint task force during its report introduced the concepts of Mutual Invitation, Dialogue and Discernment. The Bills and Overtures Committee having reviewed the Overture and these concepts of alternative methods of decision making believes a discussion of the Overture would be enhanced by engaging in a structured process of Mutual Invitation and Dialogue. In order to gain the maximum benefit of such an alternative process and in order to evaluate its effectiveness it is recommended that this alternative process be utilized for at least both the March 16-17, 2007 and the June 9, 2007 Stated Meetings. Therefore the Bills and Overtures Committee makes the following motion:

MOTION: Upon recommendation of the Bills and Overtures Committee the Presbytery of Grand Canyon at its March 16-17, 2007 Stated Meeting consider the Overture from the Session of the Kingman Presbyterian Church, received as an item of New Business at its January 20, 2007 Annual Meeting, informally by engaging in a structured process of Mutual Invitation and Dialogue for at least both the March 16-17, 2007 and the June 9, 2007 Stated Meetings.

Process for the March 16-17, 2007 Stated Meeting

Action on the Overture has tentatively been scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday March 16, 2007. The order of business for 5:30 p.m. would be as follows:

- 5:30 p.m. Action on the Kingman Presbyterian Church Session Overture**
- Presentation of the Overture by a representative of the Kingman Session
 - Recommendation of the Bills and Overtures Committee by one of the Commissioners
 - Plan of Mutual Invitation and Dialogue by a representative of the joint task force
 - Explanation of the pertinent provisions of *Robert's Rules of Order* by the Stated Clerk
 - Presentation and Action on the Motion of the Bills and Overtures Committee

Related Information Included in the Call Materials to the Presbytery Meeting

- Outline of Mutual Invitation and Dialogue – included as pages 3 and 4 of this document – (Paper C-3)
- Excerpts from the Amended Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Purity and Unity – (Paper C-4)
 - Authoritative Interpretation of G-6.0108
 - Prologue: The Theological Basis of This Report

Mutual Invitation

- Objectives:** To facilitate sharing and discussion in a multicultural setting
- Group type:** Any
- Group size:** 4 to 15 participants
- Setting:** Participants should sit in a circle.
- Materials:** Newsprint and markers
- Time needed:** Depends on group size; to tell how much time will be required for each round of sharing, multiply the number of participants by five minutes.

How to proceed:

- A. *Let participants know how much time is set aside for this process.*
- B. *Introduce the topic to be discussed or information to be gathered or question(s) to be answered. Write this on newsprint and post it on a wall so everyone can see it.*
- C. *Introduce the process by reading the following:*
To ensure that everyone who wants to share has the opportunity to speak, we will proceed in the following way:

The leader or designated person will share first. After that person has spoken, he or she then invites another to share. Whom you invite does not need to be the person next to you. After the next person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share. If you don't want to say anything, simply say, "Pass," and proceed to invite another to share. We will do this until everyone has been invited.

If this is the first time you use this with a group, it will be very awkward at first. The tendency is to give up on the process and go back to the whoever-wants-to-talk-can-talk way.

If you are persistent in using this process every time you facilitate the gathering, the group will eventually get used to it and have great fun with it. A good way to ensure the process goes well the first time is to make sure there are a couple of people in the group who have done this before and, as you begin the process, invite them first.

Problems to anticipate

This process addresses differences in the perception of personal power among the participants. Some people will be eager for their turn, while others will be reluctant to speak when they are invited. If a person speaks very briefly and then does not remember to invite the next person, do not invite for him or her. Simply point out that this person has the privilege of inviting the next person to speak. This is especially important if a person "passes." By ensuring that this person still has the privilege to invite, you affirm and value that person independent of that person's verbal ability.

From *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*, by Eric H. F. Law. Chalice Press, 1993. Appendix A.

Forms of Deliberation
Compiled by Victoria G. Curtiss

Debate	Dialogue	Discernment
One side knows “the truth” and seeks to persuade others to join its way of thinking	Understanding or direction emerges through listening to many or all the voices in the group	A community of believers seeks guidance of the Holy Spirit through prayer; reflection on Scripture, tradition, values, and current realities; dialogue; and finding places of agreement
Defends a viewpoint	Suspends judgment	Offers “holy indifference”
Uses advocacy, persuasion	Balances advocacy with inquiry; explores underlying assumptions, causes, rules	Takes a “long loving look at the real” – contemplation
Uses hard data to get to answers to problems; reasoning is made explicit	Seeks to get to deeper questions and possibly new framing of issues	Uses intellect/reason and affect/intuition: mind and spirit experience
Resolves by defeating or persuading opposing side; or may find synthesis of opposites	Invents unprecedented possibilities and new insights; produces a collective flow	Uncovers a decision rather than making it; discovers what is most life-giving and loving as listen to wisdom of the Spirit and all voices
Distinguishes and polarizes differences	Looks for what exists between extremes of differences	Seeks to hold polarities in balance
Sees parts, may seek connection among them	Looks for coherence first	Builds on belief that all are part of one body of Christ
Persons identify with positions or stay in fixed roles	Conversation uncovers concerns, needs, fears, hopes, interests	Options are weighed apart from being identified with particular persons
Each side names strengths of its own position and weaknesses of the other	Group members all work together to name strengths and weaknesses of options	Group members all name the negatives of an option, then the positives
Either/or choices: binary	Multiple options	May generate multiple options, discover a “third way,” or discern yes or no
Knower’s mind	Learner’s mind	Seeker’s mind