

**1. General Assembly Votes.** – all amendments have been decided.

- **AMENDMENT**
- New Form of Government..... approved 6/7/2011
- Belhar Confession..... disapproved; cannot achieve required 2/3 vote
- Amendment 10-A (Ordination Standards)..... previously approved 5/10/2011

All approved amendments, including the new Form of Government, will go into effect on July 10, 2011.

Obviously, the result of Amendment 10-A was not how Shenandoah Presbytery has historically voted on this issue, and it is causing much distress for many within the denomination (see the letter from Robert and Lelia Lightner). Along with this report, please see several items on this issue, the first three from the Presbyterian Outlook, an independent news magazine that reports on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The editor of the magazine is Jack Haberer, who is an evangelical Presbyterian who also went to Gordon Conwell Seminary, where I received my Master's of Divinity

- An article about a group that calls itself "Fellowship PC(USA), that has called for a meeting of like-minded, concerned Presbyterian about Amendment 10-A. Over 1,100 people are registered to attend their meeting August 25-26 in Minneapolis. The article is titled, "Group that declared PC(USA) "deathly ill" rethinks its options in light of 10-A, nFOG."
- "A Memo to the Grieving," an editorial by Jack Haberer on what he believes those opposed to 10-A should remember and perhaps do in the short term.
- "An investigation of what our constitution now says," by Winfield Casey Jones. This picks up on a theme I wrote about last month, that Amendment 10-A does not ask for what it purports to accomplish.
- My thoughts on the Lightner letter.

**2. Interim action.** In light of the new Form of Government's passage, I recommend that the Session take the following action:

That Session use the 2009-2011 Form of Government as a supplemental manual in areas where the new Form of Government gives discretionary powers to the Session.

Some items are already covered by our current Session manual and congregational bylaws, such as quorums for meetings, and when meetings will be held. We will need to act on other items, such as what constitutes reasonable notice for special meetings. For now, we can be covered by the 2009-2011 FOG in these areas. I am working on a detailed list of these changes.

**3. Big Tent Conference.** A word of explanation about the name of this conference: since the General Assembly went to biennial meetings a few years ago, they started holding this conference in the off year, and brought together 10-12 conferences that used to meet separately during the year into one event in one place, thus the name. ("Big Tent" is not being used in the manner that it often is in political contexts.) The conference for which I am leading two workshops is one sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly, titled the "Healthy Ministries Conference." This event has no connection to Amendment 10-A, and began prior to its being proposed.**4. August 7 Communion.** Session does not meet again prior to our next communion service, on August 7. Here are the elders scheduled to serve:

- |   |                   |   |               |                           |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Jerry Fry         | 4 | Darlene Mason | <b>P:</b> Mader/Daugherty |
| 2 | James Mader       | 5 | Bob Ridle     |                           |
| 3 | Barbara Daugherty | 6 | Kay Moyer     |                           |

**5. Elder Commissioner.** The next meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery is August 27, at the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, near Lexington. We need to appoint an Elder Commissioner to attend.