

GA Report – Julie Kasa

First, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience of being a commissioner at GA. As we laughed and sang and prayed and enjoyed being together, we were also able to debate many serious issues facing our denomination, and were able to do so with unity and respect. I thank the Presbytery for giving me the opportunity to attend.

The focus of my work at GA was on the committee of Theological Issues and Institutions. Much of that work was rewarding as we were able to meet with several of the Seminary presidents and hear of the good work that is going on in their schools.

There were two issues on our committee that would directly affect you as they would directly affect the Book of Confessions.

The first was a vote in favor of retranslating the Heidelberg Catechism to make it more reflective of the original meaning. The current translation that is in our Book of Confession is thought to be “incomplete and insufficient”. The PCUSA will be working on this project with the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America.

The second issue was a vote in favor of sending the Belhar Confession to the presbyteries for their votes to include it as the 12th document in the Book of Confessions. The Belhar Confessions was written in the 1980s by the South African churches as a response to racism. The confession seeks to address issues of racial justice and reconciliation that are still relevant today. The confession is accessible on-line, so I would encourage you to read it and spend some time with it so that when it come to a vote, you will have had a chance to familiarize yourself with it.

Thank you.

Julie Kasa