

REPORT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE  
Westminster Presbytery  
October 12, 2002 (*Amended November 14, 2015*)

Nearly four years ago, the Conflict Resolution Committee was appointed by Presbytery. We have been working diligently to understand and resolve the conflict among us. Realizing that there is always more involved in conflict than just doctrinal issues, yet we believe that much of the conflict is rooted in doctrinal issues. The "Statement Of Adopted Positions" below represents an enthusiastic consensus of our Committee. This list of items is not meant to be an exhaustive list of issues, but we only seek to address those issues that have caused grievous conflict in the recent past within our Presbytery. We are asking each presbyter to consider the Report and to be ready to vote at the October Stated Meeting.

Recognizing that the "Summary Of Adopted Positions" is not on the same level as the Confessional Standards, nevertheless Westminster Presbytery encourages all elders and churches to use the "Summary of Adopted Positions" as a set of guidelines and parameters in order to protect and promote the peace and purity of our Presbytery.

In our effort as a Committee of Presbytery to resolve conflict among us and to be of one mind and one accord, we encourage all elders and churches of Westminster Presbytery to embrace and apply these principles. This we believe will be of great benefit in resolving the conflict that has existed among us.

SUMMARY OF ADOPTED POSITIONS

1. In regard to the issue of Creation, Presbytery has already stated our position that only those who believe in the 6/24 hour creation days will be received into Westminster Presbytery.
2. In regard to theonomy, Presbytery takes the position of the PCA General Assembly that has been documented in its own Minutes. Theonomy will not be used as a test for orthodoxy.
3. In regard to Freemasonry, Presbytery reaffirms its historical position recorded in the Minutes of Presbytery. Membership in Freemasonry is incompatible with Christianity, and no Freemason will be ordained as an officer in this Presbytery.
4. In regard to the issue of Paedocommunion, Presbytery reaffirms its position that it is an exception to the Confession and cannot be taught or promoted in our Churches.
5. In regard to the Regulative Principle of Worship, in view of its importance in the Scriptures, Presbytery affirms the Regulative Principle as taught in our Standards.
6. In regard to the issue of Ordination Conditioned on More Study, Presbytery commits itself not to ordain any man to the office of teaching elder unless he passes the examination in all areas required by the Book of Church Order. Every man must fully pass the examination before he will be ordained. Presbytery will avoid the concept that a man will be ordained conditioned upon his further study in an area where he has failed the examination. Presbytery will apply the same principle to ordained men seeking admittance from another Presbytery.

7. In regard to tongues, all miraculous tongues in the Scriptures were known languages and were revelatory. Those tongues ceased with the end of the Apostolic Age. Any position of holding to the existence of non-revelatory tongues including what is commonly called private prayer language, will be viewed as an exception to the Confessional Standards, and Westminster Presbytery will not allow such a view to be taught in this Presbytery.
8. In regard to Christian Education, Presbytery strongly encourages all of our elders to support Christian School Education or Christian Home Schools for their children. We recognize that, as an alternative to Christian Schools or Home Schools, for the present time within our geographical region of the USA, parental responsibility in education may be satisfied through government schools when accompanied by diligent parental oversight, correction, and supplementation of the educational content offered by government schools.
9. Westminster Presbytery holds to the continuing, abiding validity of the Sabbath Day as stated in the Confession of Faith which is to be a day of joy and delight which God has given to His people. We believe that unorganized, informal recreation on the Sabbath is an allowable exception to the Confession. Participation in organized sports is considered contrary to the Confessional Standards and an exception that will not be allowed for admittance into this Presbytery. We recognize that there are differing scruples on minor issues in regard to how to keep the Sabbath Day holy.
10. Women may not be ordained to either office of elder or deacon in the Church, and thus they must not exercise the authority that accompanies an ordained office. Westminster Presbytery affirms the teaching of Scripture that women should not teach men nor have authority over men in the Church (I Timothy 2:11-14; I Corinthians 14:34-35). Women should not be allowed to lead the congregation in prayer, Scripture reading, or teach a Sunday School Class where adult men are participating. Considering the fact that no Session is above the authority of Scripture, every Session should be careful that the principles in I Timothy chapter 2, are not violated in any other meeting of the Church under the authority of the Session. However, women should participate in corporate worship and are strongly encouraged to exercise their gifts outside of public worship.
11. The Bible teaches that Adam and Eve were as historical individuals as are any of us, were immediately created by God through his direct and miraculous intervention; that God formed Adam, the first man from the dust of the ground, and made Eve directly from Adam without the need of a length of time nor a naturalistic process to create Adam and Eve in original righteousness. *(Added at the November 14, 2015 Stated Meeting)*

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

RE Hugh Belcher	TE Larry E. Ball
RE Charles Newland	TE Rick Light
RE Conrad Friede	TE Brent Bradley
RE Neil Smith	TE Ed Crook