



[Mission Yearbook of Prayer](#)

[FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org](#)

[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)

[Synod of Lakes and Prairies](#)

[Homestead Presbytery](#)

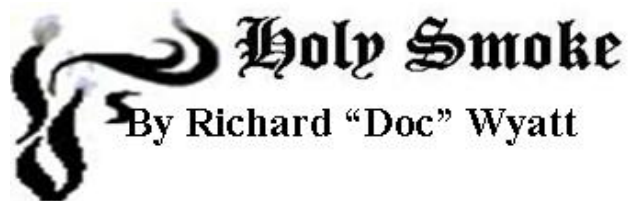
[I Love my Presbyterian Church](#)

[Calvin Crest Camp & Conference Center](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Scotland Pilgrimage 2016](#)

## Homesteader - June 24, 2014



### Highlights from General Assembly 221

There are many issues of importance that came from last week's General Assembly. Each commissioner will have a list of highlights and each will be a little different. Here are some for me:

1. Evidence of the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of commissioners was evident in both committee work and in plenary. Difficult decisions were made with prayerful deliberation. In plenary a new process was the discernment opportunity. Before especially difficult decisions, an extended period of commissioner discussion and information was provided, without votes. All struggled to listen to the Spirit's leading.

2. Election of Homestead folk to General Assembly entities:

- a. Robin Hadfield (Eastridge) was re-elected to the GA Advisory Committee on Litigation. This committee evaluates the need for the Presbyterian Church (USA) to join lawsuits by filing supportive briefs with the court.
- b. Gina Meester (Heritage) was elected to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (nee GAC). This board reviews all the work of our GA mission departments and staff.

3. The need for child care at our General Assemblies was raised by our commissioner Rev.

6. The Belhar Confession was approved for inclusion in our Book of Confessions. To be included as the first addition in 30 years, 2/3 of the presbyteries must vote to approve, each by a 2/3 majority. If so approved, the 222nd General Assembly would have to approve it as well.

7. The Israel/Palestine conflict was a hotly watched issue. The commissioners:

- a. Affirmed support of a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine with secure borders.
- b. Divested from three companies oppressing the Palestinian communities.
- c. Affirmed continued investment in companies doing business in Israel in peaceful pursuits.

Lots went on during the week. Much more than I can highlight here. I know our commissioners will be presenting a summary at the next Presbytery Prime in August, and also are planning to do some regional presentations.

### Northeast Nebraska Storm Relief Presbytery Response

Approximately 50 volunteers from local presbyteries arrived in the Pilger area on Saturday, June 21st to help with clean up efforts. Volunteers came from Homestead, MRV, Central and Prospect Hill Presbyteries.

Greg Bolt. The Assembly voted to direct the Committee on the Office of General Assembly to develop this service. Child care is already provided at the Big Tent Events.

4. Homestead's overture regarding synods was incorporated into the committee's recommendation which was approved - emphasizing the need to involve presbyteries in decisions regarding their boundaries and synod affiliation. The number of synods is to be reduced from 16 to 10-12.

5. Marriage of same gender couples was a major topic:

- a. The Assembly affirmed the continuing right of ministers and sessions to determine who to marry and who can use their building.
- b. Ministers were assured that if they officiated at a wedding for a same-gender couple in a state that authorizes such marriages, there would be no disciplinary violation.
- c. An overture was approved (by a 2:1 margin) to amend the Book of Order to define marriage as a union of a couple. To be effective, 2/3 of the presbyteries must approve the change.

cont'd...



A small portion of the team went directly into Pilger and helped (w/ trucks & trailers) to remove debris and other clean up. The remainder of the team worked just North of Wisner - clearing around 1000 acres of fields of debris (somewhere in the neighborhood of 4 18-wheeler side-dump truck loads were removed). Of the fields that were walked one was already being replanted as they headed home. Most volunteers were able to take a lunch break on a property of a family who lost their home - the positive attitude from them was amazing & inspiring.

Additional teams of volunteers are being put together from different churches around the Presbytery. Dates and times for these volunteer opportunities will be shared as they are available.

If you are unable to physically volunteer in the clean up efforts, but would like to give financially or prayerfully, please click on the Donate link below. All funds given through this link will be used within Homestead Presbytery.

## Blessing Opportunity



NORTHEAST NEBRASKA STORM RELIEF FUND All funds raised will go directly to storm relief in Homestead Presbytery [DONATE](#)

## Keep Thinking...

Unless you try something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.  
-Ronald E Osborn

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org) by [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Homestead Presbytery | 8300 East Pointe Road | Lincoln | NE | 68506