

**DENVER PRESBYTERY STATEMENT
ON
PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY ATTENDANCE
Adopted August 25, 2002**

Assumptions:

- ✓ That all continuing members of Presbytery and session-elected commissioners take seriously their responsibilities to participate in the deliberations and work of the presbytery (G-11.0404e; G-10.0102p.); and that, for ministers, failure to do so may lead to inactive status and eventual removal from all rolls of Presbytery. (G-11.0415)
- ✓ That the policy adopted by Presbytery in 1979 which
 - established a list of acceptable and unacceptable excuses from Presbytery meetings for ministers and elders;
 - made ministers ineligible to serve as GA commissioners upon failure to participate at least 75% of the time during the previous two years;
 - determined that dereliction in attendance and participation at Presbytery is a dereliction of duty; and that those ministers unexcused and not participating at least 75% of the time in presbytery meetings are subject to disciplinary action by the Presbytery of Denver**is no longer appropriate, applicable or enforced.**
- ✓ That participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery remains a significant factor for the nominating committee when considering minister and elder nominees for GA commissioner election.
- ✓ That since Presbytery ordinarily publishes its meeting dates well in advance of its meetings, and that they are usually the 4th Tuesday of January, April, August and November, there is sufficient time for one to plan to attend Presbytery assemblies for the full docketed time.
- ✓ That the Presbytery of Denver continues to affirm the principles concerning Presbytery Assembly Meetings adopted as part of the Design for Mission at its September, 1998 meeting:

“...We must not rationalize tired, poorly attended meetings as necessary to the business of the presbytery. The true “business of the presbytery” consists in more than the making, debating and voting on motions. The “business of the presbytery” should be the furthering of our mission particularly through our congregations and our Presbytery Assembly Meetings should reflect and promote that notion. Besides effectively handling procedural issues, Presbytery Assemblies shall also be a place for education, growth and development. Time for theological reflection and leadership development is essential; worship should reflect the best we have to offer...”

STATEMENT: It is the expectation of the Presbytery of Denver that all resident active Ministers of Word and Sacrament, except those honorably retired, will participate in the work and deliberations of the Presbytery on a regular basis; and that sessions will elect commissioners who will faithfully fulfill their responsibilities as ruling elders by participating in Presbytery assemblies. . It is the hope of Denver Presbytery that Honorably Retired ministers will participate as they are able. Further, the Stated Clerk shall not receive requests for excused absences from Presbytery assemblies and shall report only the presence or absence of ministers and session commissioners.