

Item 07-01

[The assembly approved Item 07-01 as amended.]

On Calling for Tolerance and Peaceful Relations Between the Christian and Muslim Communities—From the Presbytery of Newton.

The Presbytery of Newton overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) to do the following:

- 1. Commend to the church for study the actions of previous General Assemblies calling for tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful relations between the Christian and Muslim communities.**
- 2. State that [the PC(USA) affirms that Jews, Christians, and Muslims worship a common God, although each understands that God differently; and] [though we hold differing understandings of how God has been revealed to humankind, the PC(USA) affirms] that, as children of this loving God, we share the commandments of love for God and neighbor, the requirement to care for the poor; and acknowledge Abraham as an expression of our common commitment to one God].**
- 3. Build on this understanding by calling for further dialogue among Jews, Christians, and Muslims, viewing each other as equals, and learning from one another to**
 - promote peace, resolve conflict;
 - ensure human rights, prevent discrimination;
 - develop dialogue, emphasize commonality;
 - recognize differences, celebrate diversity;
 - advocate justice, oppose bias.
- 4. Commend the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway and other Presbyterian congregations that have initiated dialogue with Muslim and Jewish communities, and to encourage other congregations to initiate three-way dialogues among Jews, Christians, and Muslims consistent with the Presbyterian Principles for Interfaith Dialogue.**
 - To encourage congregations of these faiths to celebrate religious holidays together, setting aside days of worship during which there can be congregational suppers, and dialogue groups.
 - To encourage sustained activities that will promote understanding, respect, and good will, using worship resources and promotional materials prepared by the Offices of Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, and other General Assembly Council (GAC) and Office of the General Assembly (OGA) offices as appropriate.
- 5. Commission a study on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations that would have the same scope and authority as the 1987 study on Christian-Jewish relations, to be carried out by the Interfaith Relations and Theology and Worship Offices of the General Assembly Council.**
- 6. Call for identification of violations of the civil rights of Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the United States and other areas of the world, along with other incidents of violation of religious freedoms, as part of the regular human rights report to the General Assembly.**