



# memo

TO: Whom It May Concern  
FROM: John P. Marcum, Administrator, The Presbyterian Panel  
DATE: May 30, 2006  
SUBJECT: Release of Results for the May 2006 Presbyterian Panel Survey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Marcum", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

Because of concerns expressed by the stated clerk of the General Assembly, Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, I have decided not to release results from the May 2006 Presbyterian Panel survey prior to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in June.

The purpose of the survey was to provide General Assembly commissioners and other interested persons with a current snapshot of Presbyterian opinion on some of the issues and recommendations that are discussed in the report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church. The survey was developed independently by the staff of the Presbyterian Panel to, as the cover letter that went out to Panel respondents indicated, facilitate “informed debate” at the assembly, “not to influence discussion in any particular direction[.]”

However, in a letter to me and without knowledge of the results, Rev. Kirkpatrick has expressed his concern with release of these results so close to the General Assembly meeting, especially since the survey was not requested by the General Assembly or the task force. He notes that whatever the survey results, “there will be constituencies in the church that will be angry at this last minute addition to the debate.” Furthermore, he sees a possible conflict with church polity, since, as the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) indicates, “presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ” (G-4.0301d in the *Book of Order*).

Persons desiring more information on the concerns of the stated clerk may contact Mark Tammen in the Office of the General Assembly (888-728-7228 ext. 5433, or [mtammen@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:mtammen@ctr.pcusa.org)).

Results of the May 2006 Presbyterian Panel survey will be released in October 2006.