

Notes on COTE's Scope and Purview
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Special Committee on Theological Institutions was established by the Plan for Reunion (1983) primarily to study the way theological schools were funded. "At or before the Sixth General Assembly of the reunited Church it shall make a final report with recommendations concerning the way theological institutions are to be funded through the governing bodies." (24.002 Minutes of the 198th General Assembly, 1986)

Committee on Theological Education created in 1986 to meet the "need for an ongoing body that can foster and support the enterprise of theological education through these institutions." (24.027 Minutes of the 198th General Assembly, 1986)

1986 Definition of COTE's Tasks:

1. Receive and act upon requests and recommendations from the church
2. Receive and review reports from the theological schools appropriate to the work of the committee
3. Identify the issues, needs and opportunities of the institutions, individually and corporately and, where appropriate to address these as requests and recommendations to the church
4. Prepare an appropriate formula for disbursements of funds to the theological schools of the PCUSA and to advocate for their financial support
5. Maintain relations with educational and ecumenical associations which share common concerns with the committee
6. Serve as an agency of the denomination for relating to the theological schools and agencies other than those of the PCUSA
7. Recommend to the GA those theological schools which qualify as members of the Committee on Theological Education.

(24.046 – 24.053 excerpted, Minutes of the 198th General Assembly, 1986)

1993 Assigned Functions

1. To develop and maintain a comprehensive overview of theological education from the perspective of the whole church
2. To identify, develop and proposed strategies for a systemic approach to theological education within the denomination
3. To serve as an advocate before the whole church for theological education and to interpret the mission of the denomination's theological schools to the whole church
4. To provide a way for the denomination's needs to be addressed to the denomination's theological schools

5. To review the effectiveness and stewardship of the schools on behalf of the church
6. To encourage and enhance cooperation among the theological schools of the denomination
7. To relate to governing bodies and agencies of the PCSUSA... with responsibility for worship, education, etc
8. To maintain appropriate relationships with those responsible for theological ed in other branches of the Church
9. To prepare an appropriate formula for the disbursement of funds....
10. To recommend to the GA those theological schools which qualify as members of the COTE
11. To maintain relations with (associations concerned with education)
12. To relate (to other theological schools)
13. To report directly to the General Assembly
(Report of Special Committee to Study Theological Institutions, approved by the 205th General Assembly, 1993)