

This summary will provide background for the recommendations which a joint panel, created by the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Stated Clerk, submitted to COGA and the Mission Agency's Executive Committee. The recommendations were approved to be forwarded to the General Assembly.

In April 1996, Jack Wayne Rogers ("Rogers") requested that the session of his church endorse him to the Committee on Commissioned Lay Pastors. In that process Rogers submitted a Statement of Intent or Call and A Personal Explanation, Apology, and Request. The latter document was apparently to explain his arrest, conviction, and imprisonment in 1992 for receiving child pornography. The session of Rogers' congregation approved his request to endorse him to the Committee on Commissioned Law Pastors. The presbytery's CLP Committee approved his application and Rogers was hired by a Missouri congregation to fulfill its pastoral needs on a temporary basis. According to records reviewed by the panel, one condition of his service was that he was to continue to be supervised by a local minister.

The presbytery , even though that there are witnesses who claimed they tried to warn Presbytery officials about the danger Rogers posed, selected Rogers as a chaperone for a teen delegation to attend Connections 2000, organized by the Office of Youth Ministry of the General Assembly Council (now known as the Presbyterian Mission Agency). One youth who was in the delegation was Rev. Kristopher Schondelmeyer ("Schondelmeyer"). Years after the conference, Rev. Schondelmeyer alleged that he went into Rogers' hotel room during the conference for pastoral counseling. During the counseling Rogers sexual assaulted touched Rev. Schondelmeyer, who pushed Rogers off him, Rev. Schondelmeyer was again violently attacked by Rodgers and escaped the room.

In April 2003, Rogers was arrested by the FBI on a federal warrant which included 11 counts of possession of child pornography. Rogers pled guilty to 11 counts in the indictment and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

During Rogers' prosecution, Rogers resigned from all of his responsibilities related to the work of his presbytery and synod. Years later Rev. Schondelmeyer says he recalled the incident in Rogers' hotel room following the death of his father. A panel of 2 teaching elders and 1 ruling elder investigated Rev. Schondelmeyer's claims and based upon their investigation, the panel believes that Rev. Schondelmeyer was sexual assaulted by Rogers. The panel generated several recommendations based upon their investigation and they are submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.