

MINUTES
ELEVENTH STATED MEETING
of
NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY
November 4-5, 1977 Goshen, Virginia
Little River Presbyterian Church in America

Opening devotions were led by Rev. Linwood Wilkes, host pastor, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Mickey Bolus preached from I Kings:17.

Moderator Robert Miller opened the meeting with prayer. The following teaching elders were present: George Alder, Mickey Bolus, John Dodd, W. A. Fitzhenry, William Hill, Rod Mays, and Linwood Wilkes. There were no teaching elders requesting excuse.

The following ruling elders were present: Doug Dority and Curtis Carroll (Westminster), Jim Gay (South Ruffner), Pat Jenkins (Rebecca Littlepage), Charles Kennedy (Little River), Nigel Loomis (Kanawha Salines), Jerry Martin (Faith), T.F. Minter, Jr. (Lebanon), and Donald Post, Sr. (Covenant).

The stated clerk declared a quorum present.

An offering was taken for the work of the Presbytery - \$~~85~~⁸⁷.25.

The minutes of the previous stated and adjourned meetings were approved as distributed on the motion of Pat Jenkins which was duly seconded.

Docket - approved with these amendments: testimonies added to evening program and report of Nominating Committee deferred until morning session.

Welcome by host church - given by Charles Kennedy.

The Moderator appointed the following Committee of Thanks - Rev. Alder, Curtis Carroll, and Nigel Loomis.

Rev. James Fishel was introduced. He was received as a visiting brother.

Also present were a goodly number of ladies who were attending a retreat of the Women in the Church held in conjunction with the meeting of Presbytery.

The Presbytery adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to meet at 8:30 a.m. the following day.

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The Presbytery reconvened at 8:30 a.m., November 5, 1977. The moderator asked for a season of prayer.

Communications: Only one letter was mentioned, from the General Assembly Stewardship director stating his hope to attend a meeting of Presbytery and asking to be kept informed of dates.

Examination of James Fishel: Rev. Hill presented Rev. Fishel, a member of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery.

Experiential religion - By Rev. Hill - sustained
Theology - By Rev. Bolus - sustained
Sacraments and church government - By Don Post - sustained

It was moved and seconded that the examination as a whole be sustained. Motion carried. Rev. Hill then moved that Rev. Fishel be received into New River Presbytery pending receipt of a letter of dismissal from Mid-Atlantic Presbytery. Motion seconded and carried.

A call from Rebecca Littlepage Presbyterian Church to Rev. Fishel was read by the moderator. It was placed in Rev. Fishel's hand. He then signed the ex-animo statement and was given the right hand of fellowship.

Rev. Fishel named the following Commission for his installation on January 22, 1978, at 7:30 p.m.: Rev. Wilkes, Rev. Dodd, and the entire Session of Rebecca Littlepage Church.

Dismissal of candidate: Rev. Hill moved that Don Post, Jr. be dismissed to the Mississippi Valley Presbytery at Post's request. Seconded and carried.

Manual changes: Jim Gay reported on suggested changes in the Presbytery Manual. Rev. Hill moved that the Manual as amended ~~and attached to these Minutes~~ be printed. Seconded and carried. *and attached to these Minutes*

Committee reports:

Mission to the World - Rev. Bolus, chairman - all churches were urged to make use of missionaries when they were on furlough. Dates can be obtained from the GA office.

Mission to the U.S. - Rev. Dodd, chairman - the work in Princeton. The chief need there is a meeting place and it was the consensus of Presbytery that this problem should be resolved if at all possible. Presbytery agreed to prayerfully support the work during November, to continue financial support at its present level, and to hear a report on the progress of the work at each stated meeting. *The Financial records were audited.*

Rev. Dodd then presented a request from Tom Owens who is supplying the pulpit at Pliny Church that Pliny be considered a Mission Church of Presbytery. It was moved that the request be accepted. Motion seconded and carried. It was also moved that a special committee be appointed to study the Pliny situation and report back in March. Motion carried.

Rev. Dodd moved that Presbytery add to the \$15.00 a week which Owens receives from the Pliny Church. After lengthy discussion the motion was defeated.

Rev. Dodd moved that Larry Mills, MUS Coordinator for the GA, be asked to look into a work at Blacksburg, Va. Seconded and carried.

Nominating Committee: Rev. Wilkes - chairman - it was moved that ruling elder Summers Dunbar be named to the GA Nominating Committee and that Rev. Fitzhenry be named to Special Sub-Committee of the GA's Christian Education Committee on Theological Education. Motion seconded and carried.

The following committee changes were made upon the motion of chairman Wilkes:
Mission to the US - Rev. Mays, Jim Gay, additions replacing Rev. Charles McNutt and ruling elder Leonard Taylor.
Christian Education - Rev. Alder, chairman, replacing Rev. Williams, and Rev. James Fishel, replacing Rev. Dodd. Ruling elder Clyde Armstrong was removed.
Stewardship - Summers Dunbar, chairman, replacing Bob Kresge. Ruling elder Lawrence Stalnaker was removed.

Christian Education Committee - no report.

Stewardship Committee - no report.

Treasurer's report: presented by Bob Kresge. No detailed report given - bank balance is approximately \$4500. Most churches were doing well in their support of Presbytery.

Rev. Alder reported on the installation of Rev. Rod Mays.

New business:

Rev. Wilkes moved that Presbytery assume the expenses of the meeting as far as the Grace Bible Camp is concerned. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. Bolus moved that Presbytery instruct its moderator to correspond with the Mid-Atlantic and Westminster Presbyteries as to their possible interest in a joint effort in calling a Presbytery evangelist to labor within the bounds of the three Presbyteries. Seconded and carried.

Rev. Bolus moved that the Stewardship Committee investigate the possibility of helping with the expenses of commissioners to the GA. Seconded and carried.

Rev. Bolus moved that up to \$270 be contributed toward the expense of showing the Shaffer films at V.P.I. Motion seconded and carried.

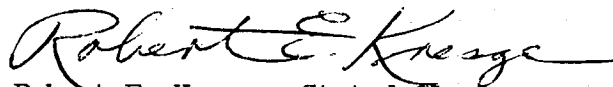
It was moved that the action naming Summers Dunbar to the GA Nominating Committee be rescinded and that Rev. Bolus be named to that Committee. This action was required to comply with the guidelines set up by the Stated Clerk of the GA. Seconded and carried.

Rev. Alder presented the report of the Committee on Thanks.

The Spring Meeting of Presbytery will be held in the Covenant Church, St. Albans. The date will be announced later.

Upon motion to adjourn, Presbytery adjourned at 12:00, *Following prayer by Mr. Hill,*

Respectfully submitted,


Robert E. Kresge, Stated Clerk

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

MANUAL OF BY-LAWS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

I. NAME: NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

II. BOUNDARIES

- A. West Virginia: As established by General Assembly (Refer to minutes of Third General Assembly, page 24, p.p.4)
- B. Virginia: To include the territory west of the Blue Ridge and north of the counties of Bland, Pulaski and Floyd.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Ministers of churches desiring to be in this presbytery within boundaries stated above.
- B. Elder representatives from churches desiring to belong to this presbytery within boundaries stated above.
- C. Any elders and ministers in outlined territory or not included in any presbytery which may desire to be members after satisfactory examination and reception by presbytery.
- D. Any independent churches of Presbyterian and Reformed faith which desire to have fellowship including privilege of attendance and discussion in meetings, but not a vote, are encouraged to attend as visiting brethren.

IV. STATED MEETINGS

- A. Regular stated meetings in March, July and November.
- B. Meetings which seem necessary at other times when called according to provisions by the Book of Church Order.

V. OFFICERS

- A. A moderator elected by presbytery (ordinarily nominated at a previous meeting) to serve for one full year.
- B. A stated clerk to serve for a period of three years with privilege of a second three-year term when so elected.

VI. CHURCHES' REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Any church with membership less than 350 is entitled to elect one representative to presbytery.
- B. Any church with membership 350 or over is eligible to elect two representatives to presbytery.

VII. COMMITTEES

(To be composed of two teaching and three ruling elders.
Committee on Examination of Ministers and Candidates to be
composed of three teaching and three ruling elders.)

A. COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE WORLD

1. To promote world missions throughout the presbytery, to recommend to presbytery any matters that should come before it concerning world missions, and to seek to encourage in the churches candidates for the mission field and recommend qualified candidates to the P.C.A. committee on candidates.

B. COMMITTEE ON MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES

1. To promote missions in the U. S. throughout the presbytery and recommend to presbytery any matters that should come before it concerning Mission to the U. S.

C. COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1. To promote Sunday Schools, Christian day schools, the Men-in-Church, the Women-in-Church, youth work, and candidates for ministry.

D. COMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP

1. Goal: To promote liberality among all brethren towards personal commitment of talent, time and treasure to our Lord's great commission.
2. Budget: (Refer to Eighth Stated Meeting, November 12,13, 1976, p. 4) Stewardship Committee shall present an annual budget at the November meeting of the Presbytery.

E. COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION OF MINISTERS AND CANDIDATES

1. To be composed of three teaching elders and three ruling elders.
2. It will be the responsibility of this committee to examine the following:
 - a. Candidates for the Gospel Ministry as prescribed in The Book of Church Order, Chapter 19, paragraphs 19-1 through 19-3.
 - b. The Licensure of Candidates for the Gospel Ministry. The Book of Church Order, Chapter 20, Paragraphs 20-1 through 20-14.
 - c. The ordination and installation of ministers. The Book of Church Order, Chapter 22, Paragraphs 22-1 through 22-11.

- d. To receive new ministers into this Presbytery.
3. This committee shall also have the responsibility of administering the Emergency Fund. (Refer to Sixth Stated Meeting, March 18, 19, 1976, page 6; also, Adjourned Meeting, April 30, 1977, page 2, paragraph 5). This will be implemented through the chairman of the Committee on Examination of Ministers and Candidates, with the consent of the committee.

F. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The committee, composed of two ministers and three ruling elders elected by the Presbytery serving three-year terms by rotation shall nominate to the Presbytery suitable ministers and elders on each of the above named committees who will serve for a period of three years in rotation.

VIII A Communion Service will be observed at each stated spring meeting, administered by the host church.

IX COOPERATION AND FELLOWSHIP

- A. This Presbytery will cooperate fully with all neighboring Presbyterian churches (P.C.A.) and participate in joint projects wherever possible and desirable.