

MINUTES  
TWELFTH STATED MEETING  
of  
NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

March 17-18, 1978 St. Albans, WV  
Covenant Presbyterian Church in America

Host pastor Rod Mays opened with a reading of one of the Psalms and prayer at 7:30 p.m. He then led all those present in reciting the Apostles' Creed. This was followed by the singing of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Following a song by the host church choir, Dr. Robert Miller, moderator, brought the opening message. His subject was the authority of God's Word. Bible references were II Timothy 3:16, I Peter 1:21, John 17, and the 119th Psalm.

The moderator then proceeded to call the Presbytery to order. The following teaching elders were present: George Alder, Michael Bolus, John Dodd, James Fishel, W. A. Fitzhenry, William Hill, Rod Mays, and Linwood Wilkes.

The following ruling elders were present: Dick Adams (Westminster), Billy Blake (Covenant), Garner Byram (Lebanon), Jim Gay (South Ruffner), R. D. Harris (Kanawha Salines), Jerry Martin (Faith), and Harry Musser (Rebecca Littlepage).

The stated clerk declared a quorum present.

Several special guests were recognized, including Rev. Richard Aeschilman of Covenant Seminary and Rev. Norman Evans. There were many others present.

Docket - approved with these amendments: a presentation by John Dodd, the reading of a memorial by John Dodd, presentations by Roy Gamble of the G.A. Stewardship Department and by Sam Risk of PEF; all added to evening docket.

The minutes of the 11th Stated Meeting were approved with two changes, namely; Rev. Dodd's report on the Mission to the U. S. should have included that the financial records of the work in Princeton were audited and that the closing prayer was offered by Rev. Hill. Rev. Alder made the motion that these changes be made. Seconded and carried.

Rev. Dodd presented a gavel made of olive wood brought back from the Holy Land. Dr. Miller accepted the gavel with thanks.

Dr. Miller called for nominations for the office of moderator. Harry Musser nominated Rev. Dodd who declined in favor of Rev. Wilkes whom he nominated. Rev. Wilkes also declined. Rev. Mays nominated Rev. Fitzhenry. There were no further nominations. Rev. Bolus moved the

nominations be closed. Motion seconded and carried. Rev. Fitzhenry was declared elected moderator. He was escorted to the platform by Rev. Mays and assumed his office.

Words of welcome were expressed by the host pastor, Rev. Mays.

Memorial service - Rev. Dodd read a statement eulogizing the memory of Joseph Dewey Cash, an elder emeritus of Kanawha Salines Church. It was presented to the clerk to be made a part of these minutes. The moderator took the floor to similarly eulogize the memory of Arthur Harmon, South Ruffner elder. Glatius Reed, elder of Rebecca Littlepage, was eulogized by Harry Musser. Prayer concluded this service.

Rev. Mays presided at the annual Communion Service. A hymn was sung and the elements were served by ruling elders representing their churches at Presbytery.

First-time elders were introduced. The teaching elder and a ruling elder from each church then gave brief testimonies of what the Lord is doing in their churches.

Roy Gamble of the General Assembly Stewardship Office spoke about the Stewardship Seminars which are available at no cost to churches which wish to hold them. He distributed literature which listed the subjects taught.

Sam Risk spoke for the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, urging the use of the evangelists and mentioning the need for financial support. Mr. Risk is the PEF representative in West Virginia.

Mr. Summers Dunbar was named chairman of a Committee on Thanks. Other members named were Rev. Bolus and Jerry Martin.

Arrangements were made for various committee meetings and Presbytery adjourned until 8:30 the next morning. There was a time of fellowship in the church dining room.

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Presbytery reconvened at 8:30 a.m., March 18. Devotions were led by the moderator. Three men led in prayer.

No provision had been made for the examination of the church records, an oversight. It was agreed that the the records be examined following adjournment whenever two churches can make the necessary arrangements with all results to be sent to the stated clerk by April 20.

The clerk reported that no requests to be excused had been received. He read portions of a letter from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly asking each church to name a historian and asking the Presbytery to do the same. There were no other communications read.

Examination of Norman Evans: Rev. Hill conducted the examination. Rev. Dodd asked the questions on Experiential Religion and Theology. His motion to sustain this portion of the examination was approved.

Summers Dunbar asked the questions on Sacraments and Church Government. His motion to sustain his portion of the examination was approved. Rev. Hill then moved that the examination as a whole be sustained. Motion carried.

Rev. Hill moved that Rev. Evans be received into New River Presbytery upon the receipt of his transfer from Carolina Presbytery. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. Evans signed the ex animo statement and the call from Faith Presbyterian Church was placed in his hands. The following installation commission to install Rev. Evans at 4:00 p.m., April 9 was approved:

To preside and propound the questions: Rev. Alder  
To charge the minister: Rev. Fishel  
To charge the congregation: a ruling elder from Littlepage  
To read The Word and lead in prayer: Jim Miller of Faith  
To preach the sermon: Rev. Dodd

Examination of James Jarvis, Jr. for candidate for the ministry: Conducted by Rev. Hill. The candidate is a member of Covenant Church. His examination was sustained and he was received under the care of Presbytery. The moderator took the floor to charge the new candidate. Rev. Mays concluded with prayer.

Covenant Seminary - Rev. Richard Aeschilman, Director of Alumni Affairs for Covenant Seminary, St. Louis, spoke of the Seminary's desire to be of service to the Presbyterian Church in America and reported that a number of her graduates were presently pastors in the PCA.

#### Committee Reports:

Rev. Wilkes presented the report of the Nominating Committee. It was in accord with the rotation system prescribed by Section 7D of the Manual. The moderator pointed out that members of committees were being replaced before they had completed their terms. Rev. Mays moved that the rules be suspended. Motion seconded and approved. The following committees were approved ad seriatum:

#### Mission to The World

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>	<u>Ruling Elder</u>
1978	- - -	Allison McDaniel
1979	Rod Mays	Elliott Richards
1980	William Fitzhenry	Harry Musser, chairman

#### Mission to the U.S.

1978	- - -	D. H. Dority
1979	W. E. Hill	James Jarvis
1980	John Dodd, chairman	James Gay

#### Christian Education

1978	- - -	Dick Adams
1979	Jim Fishel	Nigal Loomis
1980	George Alder, chairman	John P. Jenkins

#### Stewardship

1978	- - -	R. A. Batusic
1979	Norman Evans	Jim Harrell
1980	Michael Bolus	Summers Dunbar, chairman

Examination of Ministers and Candidates

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teaching elder</u>	<u>Ruling elder</u>
1978	Linwood Wilkes	Curtis Carroll
1979	John Dodd	Harry Gardner
1980	Michael Bolus, chairman	Jerry Martin

Nominating

1978	- - -	Jim Miller
1979	Jim Fishel	Tom Minter, Jr.
1980	W. E. Hill, chairman	Mayer Young

The moderator took the floor to move that all nominees to Presbytery committees be contacted at least two months before they are elected. Rev. Dodd amended the motion to require that all nominees be contacted prior to the meeting at which they are to be elected. Motion carried as amended.

Rev. Bolus presented the report of the Committee on Mission to the World. He had attended the meeting of the GA Nominations Committee and gave the clerk the results of that meeting, including the list of nominees for GA committees. That list is made a part of these minutes. His report was concluded by a showing of slides by Rev. Dodd showing the work of the PCA missionaries in Acapulco, Mexico.

Rev. Dodd reported for the Committee on Mission to the U.S. On Jan. 2 a meeting was held in the Pliny Church. He recommended that Presbytery lend some assistance if possible in visitation for that work.

James Brown, an elder at Pliny and a student at Reformed Theological Seminary, requested that he spend a clinical year at the Pliny church. It was moved that this request be referred to the Committee on Ministers and Candidates. Brown is a candidate under care of Presbytery. Motion seconded and carried.

On March 4 the committee visited Princeton to look over a prospective church building. Slides were shown of the building, an unused church. The congregation of the mission church pastored by Rev. Alder is willing to purchase the building. A three thousand dollar loan from Presbytery to be repaid in three years was recommended by Rev. Dodd. His motion was seconded and carried.

Increasing Rev. Alder's financial support was postponed until the new budget was presented in the Stewardship Committee report.

The "Five for five" fund-raising program was mentioned, Rev. Dodd stating the need for "leader" churches, churches in which each member faith pledges to give one dollar a month toward the program. All funds are to be used to provide new church buildings. This concluded his report.

Rev. Alder presented the Christian Education report. Presbytery camp is to be held in Goshen, Virginia, as before, with Rev. Wilkes again serving as director. Dates are June 26 to July 1.

It was moved and seconded that Presbytery pay the travel expenses of Rev. Fitzhenry to the second meeting of the Theological Curriculum sub-committee of the GA. Motion carried. This concluded Rev. Alder's report.

Summers Dunbar presented the Stewardship Committee report. He submitted a new budget which calls for each church providing support equal to \$7.50 per member. The following expenditures were recommended and approved:

<p>504</p> <p>700</p> <p>800</p> <p>800</p> <p>150</p> <p>400</p> <p>—</p> <p>300</p> <hr/> <p>8690</p>	<p>Mission to the U.S.</p> <p>Mission to the World</p> <p>Christian Education (camp)</p> <p>Ministers and Candidates</p> <p>Stewardship</p> <p>Office of Stated Clerk</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Morris Harvey ministry thru South Ruffner Church</p>	<p>\$5,000</p> <p>1,000</p> <p>600</p> <p>800</p> <p>150</p> <p>500</p> <p>500</p> <p>300</p> <hr/> <p>\$8,850</p>	<p>(provides for an increase in Rev. Alder to 4500)</p> <p>(includes \$500 for Lee Trinkle)</p>
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(\$600 over estimated support, 500 of which will be provided by Westminster for Lee Trinkle)

The subject of a stewardship seminar as described by Roy Gamble the previous night was deferred until the summer meeting. Report concluded.

Rev. Fitzhenry submitted his report on the work of the Theological Curriculum Subcommittee of the GA and it was accepted as information. He had attended two meetings.

Alex Kellerman reported for the GA subcommittee on Recreation. He described the progress made in finding a site for a GA Conference Center. A master plan for a site in North Carolina is to be presented at the General Assembly. His report was accepted as information.

New Business

The moderator took the floor to request the Presbytery name a commission of committee to meet with the session of South Ruffner Church when it meets with a consultant(s) of the GA on Church Growth. A motion to table his motion failed to pass. Kellerman then made a substitute motion that each church name an elder to sit with the session of the South Ruffner Church to discuss the program. Motion seconded and carried.

Stated Clerk's report: A bank balance of \$5,666.40 was reported. The clerk stressed the need for each church to support Presbytery as called for by the budget. It was moved and seconded that mileage for trips made on Presbytery business be \$.15 a mile. Motion carried. Motion also made that clerk's expenses to General Assembly be paid. Seconded and carried.

Summers Dunbar presented the report of the Committee on Thanks at the luncheon: "On behalf of New River Presbytery we would like to express our gratitude for the use of your facilities in this beautiful old building. Our thanks to your gracious ladies for food and lodging. For friendship and fellowship we have enjoyed in Jesus Christ our Lord. May God continue to bless you is our prayer."

The next meeting of Presbytery will be August 11 and 12 at Rebecca Littlepage Church. No time in July, regular meeting time, suited.

Presbytery adjourned at 3:00 p.m. following prayer by Summers Dunbar. Respectfully submitted,  
*Robert E. Kresge*  
 Robert E. Kresge, stated clerk

IN MEMORIUM

Joseph Dewey Cash who was called to his Heavenly Home on July 4, 1977, loving and beloved husband and father and faithful servant and beloved brother in Christ.

This faithful brother was raised in a Christian home worshipping as a youth in a Methodist Church. Worshipping and working most of his active life in South Ruffner Presbyterian Church, where he served faithfully as a Deacon and Elder.

He joined the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church on October 27, 1974, where he worshiped as faithfully as his impaired health would allow.

He was elected Elder Emeritus on February 29, 1976.

With the throng of Heaven, I'm sure this dear departed brother would join us in these words of praise to our God: "Blessed be the Lord God who only doeth wonderous things, and blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole Earth be filled with his glory."

Amen and Amen

The Pastor and Session  
Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church

John R. Dodel Pastor  
S. C. W. W. W. W. Clerk