

MINUTES
22st Stated Meeting
NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
July 10-11, 1981
7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Littlepage PCA

Charleston, W.V.

Opening Worship: The moderator, Rev. Linwood Wilkes opened the meeting with the Invocation and the congregation sang the hymn "Ivory Palaces". The sermon was preached by the moderator from the Beatitudes of Matthew 5, and an offering was taken for the work of Presbytery.

Call to Order: Rev. Wilkes called the 22nd Stated Meeting of New River Presbytery to order and ascertained that a quorum was present.

Present at the meeting were:

Teaching Elders - George Alder III, Charles W. McNutt, John R. Dodd, Ron Parrish, Rod Mays, Mike Hall, and Norman Evans.

Ruling Elders - Bill Pascavis (Kanawha Salines), Jerry Martin (Faith), Harry Musser (Littlepage), Jim Harrell (Westminister), and Steve Kuhn (Covenant).

Election of Moderator: Rev. Wilkes was renominated and elected by acclamation.

Welcome by Host Church: RE Harry Musser welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the Littlepage Church. He also briefly stated some of the history of the local church.

Introduction of 1st Line Elders and Guests: Rev. Mays introduced several men from the Huntington Mission. They are Mr. Richard D. Barrett, Mr. Terry J. Roush, Mr. Robert H. Esler, Mr. Virgil Roberts, and Mr. Alan Cochrane.

Approval of Previous Minutes: The motion was made and carried that the Minutes of the 21st Stated Meeting on March 13-14, 1981, the Called Meeting of April 25, 1981, and the Called Meeting of May 24, 1981 be approved.

Approval of the Docket: A motion was made and carried that the Docket be approved as sent to Presbytery's representatives with 2 additions. The report of the Commission to install Rev. Michael Hall at the Littlepage Church, and a report from commissioners who attended the General Assembly, were docketed as the first item of business for the morning session.

Stated Clerks Report:

1- The following ministers and churches have asked to be excused from attendance at this meeting. They are Rev. James Fishel, Rev. William Hill, Jr., Rev. Wayne Good, and the Friendship Church. The motion was made and carried that they be excused.

2- The clerk noted in Presbytery's past Minutes that the report of the Commission to organize the Friendship PCA was not admitted to the record. A motion was made and carried that the report be admitted to the record and placed after the March 1980 minutes, with a note

attached to the report referring approval to this 22nd Stated Meeting.

3- The General Assembly Committee on the Review and Control of Presbyteries has noted certain exceptions to New River's Minutes for 1980. The clerk proceeded to read these exceptions and a motion was made and carried to table these matters.

4- The clerk noted several communications which have been referred to committees.

The motion was made and carried to approve this report as a whole.

Appointment of Committee on Thanks: The moderator appointed RE Tom Minter and RE Jim Harrell to express Presbytery's thanks to the Littlepage Church. This will be done at the lunch hour on Saturday.

Testimonies from Churches:

Covenant - Rev. Mays stated he will soon be starting his 5th year at Covenant. Encouragement continues for the church with visitors and new people and an expanded radio ministry now five days a week.

Faith - Rev. Evans also expressed encouragement with the numbers of new people in the congregation. He requested prayer for the many areas of ministry yet undone, that a prevailing attitude of laxness be replaced by a more zealous spirit.

Friendship - Rev. Alder stated there were some new faces in the church but the church remains small. Some young people have been drawn away to larger churches in the area. A special item of prayer is for one family who faces troubles at this time.

Kanawha Salines - RE Ralph Harris reported increased attendance at all services, a recent good VBS, and decisions for Christ by 2 of their young people. Rev. McNutt added to the information on the youth who made Professions of Faith.

Lebanon - RE Tom Minter reported recent services at the church with Rev. Fred Murphy, PCA pastor from N.C. He also expressed thanks to the Lord for the recovery of their pastor, Rev. Wilkes, in recent weeks.

Little River - Rev. Wilkes indicated the Little River Church is very small but has a faithful group of people. He also expressed his thanks to the Lord for recovery from illness and thanks to the Presbytery for visits, calls, and cards.

Pliny - Rev. Hall reported he has been given permission by Littlepage to conduct services at Pliny on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and there are a solid six people in the church. He also sees others potentially in the church in the future.

Littlepage - Rev. Hall expressed his encouragement in his new position at the church. One young man has committed himself to the Church's work (already a believer) and there are visitors attending.

Westminister - RE Jim Harrell reported that this year has been one of problems for the church. He said the session has drawn very close and believes this may have been needed. Their pastor, Rev. Michael Bolus, has just moved to the 1st church at Macon and this is a burden to many. Mr. Harrell stated there was a deep love for Rev. Bolus and the problems had nothing to do with his leaving. Recent services with Rev. Henry "Hank" Schum were a blessing. Prayer is requested for Rev. and Mrs. Ron Parrish as Ron becomes stated supply for 6 months.

John Dodd's Ministry in Chalk Art: Rev. Dodd reported his dates virtually filled and the Lord using this ministry. Since Jan. 1 of

this year he has seen 87 decisions for Christ and around 70 rededications in the meetings he has been in.

Biography of Rev. William E. Hill, Jr.: Rev. McNutt reported the completion and soon release of the book Watchman Tell it True, based on the life of Rev. Hill. He encouraged Presbytery's use of this biography and named Rev. Wilkes as one who will be promoting the book in our churches.

Huntington Mission: Rev. Mays reported there is an average of 30-40 in attendance in the Sunday afternoon service. The group has a steering committee of 6 men and are prayerfully hoping to call a full time organizing pastor by October 1 of this year. The members of the mission have pledged \$1,400 per month in support for this work.

It was announced that several committees will be meeting after recess. The time of recess having come, the Presbytery was led in prayer by RE Harry Musser.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 11, 8:45 a.m.

The Presbytery gathered for a season of prayer in the sanctuary. The moderator asked any who desired to take part in this time of prayer and asked Rev. Mays to open the session. The moderator closed the season of prayer shortly before 9:00 a.m.

Report of the Commission to Install Rev. Michael Hall: The report of this commission was presented to the Presbytery and a motion was made and carried that it be admitted to the record. (See Appendix A)

Report by Commissioners to the G.A.: Several of the men who attended the recent 9th General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale reported actions by the Assembly. Of special importance were the votes to receive the denominations of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod. into the PCA. It was noted the final votes now go to the Presbyteries.

Nominating Committee: Chairman, RE Harry Musser reporting and moved the following men be elected to serve the class of '84 on Presbytery's committees.

	<u>TE</u>	<u>RE</u>
MJS:	George Alder	Jim Harrell
Min. & Cand.:	Norman Evans	James Miller
MTW:	Charles McNutt	Harry Gardner
CE:	Michael Hall	Virgil Roberts
Stewardship:	Michael Hall	Forrest Rumburg
Nominating:	Linwood Wilkes	Ralph Harris

Motion carried.

The nominating committee requested permission to present names for nomination to General Assembly Committees at the Fall Stated Meeting.

Motion carried.

It was noted that at this time the New River Presbytery is well represented at the General Assembly level. We have men from NRP elected to serve on the Mission to US, Mission to World, Theological Examining, Ridge Haven, and now Bob Kresge on the Insurance and Annuity Committee. This is excellent considering the smallness of the Presbytery.

A motion was made and carried this report be approved as a whole.

Stewardship Committee: A report of the income and expenditures for the first half of '81 was read by the chairman, RE William Pascavis.

A motion was made and carried this report be received as information.

Ministers and Candidates Committee: Chairman George Alder reporting as follows:

1- That the pastoral relationship between Westminister Church and Michael Bolus be dissolved and Rev. Bolus be dismissed to the Central Georgia Presbytery, PCA.

Motion made and carried.

It was noted that Rev. Bolus has accepted the call from the 1st Presbyterian Church of Macon. Several brethren spoke of their appreciation for Rev. Bolus active and effective service in this Presbytery and in the Westminister Church.

2- That Presbytery concur with the request from the Westminister session that Rev. Ron Parrish serve that church as stated supply for six months, effective July 1, 1981, with financial remuneration set at a total of \$1,462.25 per month. Motion made and carried.

3- That Presbytery recognize the relationship of Ron Parrish with the Martinsville Mission is discontinued. Reason: The mission has dissolved due to the transferring out of state of several members and the ending of General Assembly financial support.

Motion made and carried.

4- That the Theological Education plan be received as information at this time. (See Appendix B)

Motion made and carried.

5- That this report as a whole be approved. Motion made and carried.

MUS Committee: Chairman Rod Mays reporting as follows:

1- As soon as an organizing pastor accepts the call to the Huntington Mission, Presbytery pledged \$5,000 for the first year.

Motion made and carried.

2- That the letter from Phil Clark, General Assembly MUS Coordinator, requesting Presbytery to assume payment of \$3,500 loan in Martinsville, be answered in the negative. Reason: The Martinsville work was guided and financed by the Gen. Assem. Committee and not Presbytery.

Motion made and carried.

3- That advertizing be done in Parkersburg and Bluefield for potential mission groups but with the primary goal still being the Huntington work.

Motion made and carried.

4- That the General Assem. Review and Control of Presby. Committee be informed that this Presbytery is dealing with the Pliny Church and will make a final disposition at the Fall meeting.

Motion made and carried.

5- That this report be approved as a whole.

Motion made and carried.

Mission to World: No report.

RE Harry Musser, Member of the General Assem. MTW permanent committee was given the privilege of the floor. He spoke concerning the need for continual prayer for our missionaries and encouraged the use of the special prayer box, which can be obtained from the Gen. Assem. MTW office.

C.E. Committee: Chairman Rev. Wilkes reporting and RE Thomas Minter assuming the moderator's place during this report.

1- That Dr. Marion Barnes, president of Covenant College be given time to speak to the Presbytery at his convenience at the Fall or Spring meeting.

Motion was made and carried.

2- Brief report on the recent Presbytery Rally at Hawk's Nest State Park. 103 people attended and all seemed to enjoy the day. Though no plans are set for another such outing the committee was urged to consider another such event in the near future.

A motion was made and carried this report be received as information.

3- A motion was made and carried that this report as a whole be approved.

The moderator reassumed the chair at this point.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer reported Presbytery's bank balance as follows with all bills received paid:

As of 7-8-81	Checking	\$1,327.50
	Savings	<u>4,029.34</u>
	TOTAL	\$5,356.84

A motion was made and carried this report be received as information.

New Business: None.

Time and Place of Next Meeting: A motion was made and carried that the place of the next Stated Meeting be set by the moderator and clerk after conferring with the Westminister and Kanawha Salines Churches.

The time of the 23rd Stated Meeting will be November 13-14, 1981.

There being no further business at hand the Presbytery adjourned with prayer led by the moderator.

The Committee on Thanks reported during the lunch hour. RE Jim Harrell expressed thanks to the people of Littlepage for the warm hospitality and provisions for this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Norman Evans

R. Norman Evans, Clerk

Special note:

The place of the November meeting will be the Westminister Church in Roanoke.

APPENDIX A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
INSTALLATION OF REV. MICHAEL HALL AT THE REBECCA LITTLEPAGE
PCA

The Commission was called to order prior to 7:30 pm on May 24, 1981 by the appointed chairman, Rev. Charles McNutt. The chairman opened the meeting with prayer and the Commission elected Rev. Norman Evans to keep the Minutes.

The Commission was present as approved by Presbytery with Teaching Elders Charles McNutt, Norman Evans, Rod Mays, and Ruling Elders John P. Jenkins, Paige Melton in attendance.

The motion was made and carried that the order of worship as listed in the bulletin be approved as complying with the Book of Church Order. The Commission was then dismissed to the Sanctuary for the service.


The Invocation was led by Mr. J.P. Jenkins and the congregation sang the hymn 'To God Be the Glory.' Rev. Evans read from the Scripture I Corinthians 1:21-31 which was also to be the text for the evening's message. The Littlepage Choir conducted special music prior to the preaching of the Word. Rev. Mays preached on the subject of Preaching and God's call to preach.

Rev. McNutt then stated to the congregation the purpose of the Commission's presence and asked the questions in the Book of Church Order to the Pastor elect and to the congregation. Rev. Evans led in the Installation prayer and Rev. McNutt made the official pronouncement of the Rev. Michael Hall, being duly installed. Mr. Paige Melton gave the charge to the Pastor and Rev. McNutt gave the charge to the congregation. The congregation sang the hymn 'The Church's One Foundation' and Rev. Hall dismissed the service with the Benediction.

At the close of the service the Commission and congregation gave the new Pastor and his family the right hand of fellowship. A reception was held in the fellowship hall after the service.

The Commission then reconvened in the Pastor's study. The Minutes were read and approved and the motion was made and carried that all business complete as prescribed the Commission adjourn. The meeting was then closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,


R. Norman Evans, secretary

The following is a procedure to be recommended to Presbytery for fulfilling the 7th General Assembly outline for theological education. One copy should be sent to the Christian Education Committee; one copy should be sent to Presbytery for approval and one copy kept in our committee.

The following is a list of recommendations somewhat in the sequence in which they should be carried out.

1. A potential candidate for the ministry should remain under the care of the local session until his final year of undergraduate study.
2. The New River Presbytery initially commits itself to the 3 - 1 program. The 2 - 2 program is to be entered very cautiously and only after sufficient reason is given by the candidate for not completing three years of campus preparation and a heightened degree of spiritual maturity is shown by the candidate.
3. The oversight committee, consisting of one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder from both the Christian Education Committee and the Ministers and Candidates Committee, and Presbytery should carefully examine each candidate to make the proper recommendation of a program best suited to the candidate's maturity and motivation.
4. The candidate should give his program preference prior to entering seminary. The program he prefers will to some degree govern the school the oversight committee recommends to him.
5. No candidate or licensiate is to be allowed to hold any ministry during his tutorial period except it is under the oversight of a minister approved by the oversight committee. This labor does not have to be in the bounds of our presbytery but the overseer must be a PCA minister.
6. Each candidate, upon the completion of institutional studies, will be assigned to a minister who will be made aware of the remaining requirements of the candidate and he will be responsible to guide the candidate through his requirements.
7. The educational requirements approved by the 7th General Assembly (G.A. Minutes, pg. 60 ff) must be met prior to ordination. The requirements will provide the model by which the candidate and his overseer will construct his particular program.
8. The minister responsible for the candidate and the candidate using the model approved by the 7th General Assembly must work out a schedule of study and a completion date and return this to the chairman of the oversight committee within sixty days following the assignment of the candidate to the minister.
9. No minister in New River Presbytery is to be responsible for the oversight of more than one candidate at any one time.
10. The minister responsible for the candidate is to list tutors or institutional classes which may be used to provide the candidate with his necessary training. Each part of his training is to be approved by the oversight committee before it is begun.
11. The minister responsible for the candidate must see that the candidate is placed with tutors who have time and interest in his education.
12. Every candidate in New River Presbytery should be contacted and made aware of the procedure outlined above.
13. The presbytery is to nominate every two years a representative to the General Assembly Accreditation Committee. The first nominee being Rev. James Fishel.