

M I N U T E S

FOURTEENTH STATED MEETING of NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

November 17-18, 1978

Faith Presbyterian Church in America, 5315 Koontz Drive, Charleston, WV 25312

Opening worship period: With Moderator Rev. William Fitzhenry presiding, this period began at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 17, with the singing of thy hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns." Following prayer by the moderator, Rev. James Fishel preached from Romans 12:1,2 using the hymn "Take My Life, and Let It Be" as his subject. The worship period closed with the singing of that hymn and the reception of an offering.

Call to order: The moderator then called Presbytery to order. These teaching elders were present - Linwood Wilkes, George B. Alder II, Rod Mays, John H. Dodd, William E. Hill, Jr., R. Norman Evans, Michael Bolus, James Fishel, and W. A. Fitzhenry.

These ruling elders were present, -representing the churches indicated - A. T. Hillman and D. H. Dority (Westminster), Nigel Loomis (Kanawha Salines), George Stafford (Faith), James Jarvis (Covenant), C. A. McDaniel (South Ruffner), and H. P. Musser, Jr. (Rebecca Littlepage).

A quorum was declared present.

Guests were introduced. Present were Tim and Gayle Saxon who had come with elder Hillman. Tim is under the care of Central Georgia Presbytery. Robert Otey, Kanawha Salines deacon attending for the first time, was also introduced. Most of the others present were from the host church.

Rev. Evans welcomed the commissioners and guests to Faith Church.

Docket: Approved as mailed out without change.

Minutes: There were three corrections of the minutes of the 13th Stated Meeting; the support of the Princeton work from "for another year" to "until the next meeting of Presbytery," that the report of the installation of Norman Evans be received as information, and that the Committee on Ministers and Candidates was to report at the next meeting on what action it took concerning the sub-committee on Ministerial Education. The Minutes were then approved.

Committee on Thanks: The moderator named Rev. Rod Mays, C. A. McDaniel, and Harry Musser to a Committee on Thanks.

Testimonies: Members of Presbytery were invited to testify to the work of the Lord in their churches. At Westminster there has been a renewal of interest by the young people and the members are growing

spiritually. Kanawha Salines has added six new members so far this year, all of whom have been a blessing, two of whom are youth leaders. That church's radio ministry continues to provide good outreach. Covenant just completed a 4-day meeting led by Rev. Charles Dunahoo, GA Christian Education Coordinator. Home Bible studies have replaced midweek prayer meetins at Rebecca Littlepage with apparently good results. Lebanon has undergone an \$8,500 improvement program. Little River is about the same. God's sustaining grace is evident at Princeton where elder Sherman Young's physical presence is missed. The campus ministry of South Ruffner (Presbytery supported) has been fruitful with weekly participation between 20 and 40. Visitation to rest homes, campus prayer meetings, and a weekend retreat with Mark Lowery are or have been on the program. Faith has been the keyword at Faith ever since its inception. The present building program, greatly increasing its facilities, continues to test the members.

Presbytery recessed at 8:50 p.m. until 8:30 a.m., Nov. 18. Committees met and a fellowship time followed.

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Presbytery reconvened at 8:30 a.m., Nov. 18. The moderator opened with prayer. Rev. Norman Evans brought a devotional on God's providence. A season of prayer followed.

Mark George replaced James Jarvis as the ruling elder from Covenant.

Communications, excuses: The stated clerk reported no requests to be excused and there were no communications.

Committee Reports:

Ministers & Candidates - Rev. Bolus, chairman, reported good communication with the candidates. He had received a letter of resignation from John Shawhan and moved that Tom Courtney be dismissed to Central Georgia Presbytery where he is now an ordained minister. Motion seconded and carried.

The Committee was not ready to report on the feasibility of a committee on ministerial education becoming a permanent committee.

Rev. David Williams in Atlanta could use more financial support. He is with the School of Biblical Studies, receiving \$250 a month. His wife works. A question was raised concerning his remaining a member of New River Presbytery. It was pointed out that there is ample ~~ample~~ precedence for his remaining in this Presbytery.

No further motion be required, this report was received.

Mission To The World - Harry Musser, chairman, had just returned from a meeting of all Presbytery MTTW committee chairmen in Atlanta. He spoke highly of the caliber of the GA committee which met with them. This year missionary support is up but support for administration is down. He urged all churches to have a Missions Conference, citing evidence that local budgets were not adversely affected.

No motion being required, this report was received.

Mission To The United States - given by Rev. Dodd, chairman. Concerning the work at Pliny, the committee contacted the coordinator of the GA MUS committee, Phil Clark, asking the possibility of putting a man in the field be considered. Dodd understands that correspondence between Clark and James Brown, Pliny clerk of session, is being conducted.

Rev. Alder was invited to report on the Princeton work. Rev. Charles McNutt was there the first week in October. Many people were visited. The meetings were worth the effort. Several special meetings are planned. The chief problem is a need for male leadership, the more so since Sherman Young is gone. This led into the subject of finances and the mission indebtedness. Alder spoke of how the Lord is sustaining them. The problem of replacing Sherman Young as a trustee remains and a motion was made that Harry Musser become a third trustee. Rev. Hill made a substitute motion appointing Alder and the MUS committee to a commission with the authority, if necessary, to get a lawyer and work out the problem. Motion seconded and carried.

Dodd moved that Presbytery continue its support of the Princeton Mission with \$333.33 of that support to be considered as a monthly housing allowance. Seconded and carried.

The moderator led in prayer for Sherman Young's family and the Princeton Mission.

Three ads were placed in Beckley newspapers. There have been two responses. One was from a family of four in Mt. Hope. It has been visited and a home Bible study is scheduled for Nov. 30 in the home. Dodd and his wife will attend.

Dodd and James Gay attended a meeting in Princeton with two men from Westminster Presbytery to consider both Presbyteries jointly employing an evangelist-church planter. Dodd recommended that the project not be considered feasible for two reasons - financial and working practicality. However, he also recommended that growth by churches be a constant concern of each member of Presbytery.

The moderator took the floor to read a portion of a recent letter from the chairman of the Westminster MUS committee expressing its continued interest in a jointly sponsored evangelist-church planter.

Dodd's recommendation on the subject was adopted on a nine to six vote. The entire report was then accepted.

Nominating Committee - Rev. Hill, chairman, moved that ruling elder Pat Jenkins of Rebecca Littlepage be named to the GA Nominating Committee. Motion seconded and carried.

Stewardship - Chairman Summers Dunbar had a letter from "Pappy" Howland of the GA Stewardship office requesting word from Presbytery by Dec. 10 as to what each church was budgeting for GA causes. This is a followup to action of the most recent General Assembly.

Dunbar presented the following budget for 1979 for approval:
(it includes an increase in the support of George Alder to \$5,600
which includes annuity payments.)

Mission to the US	\$6,100
Mission to the World	700
Christian Education	800
Ministers and Candidates	800
Stated Clerk	400
Campus ministry	300
Stewardship	150
	<u>\$9,250</u>

It was moved and seconded that this budget be adopted. Motion carried. This concluded Mr. Dunbar's report.

Christian Education - Rev. Alder, chairman, presented the following report with recommendations:

The approval of the Women in the Church's slate of officers -
Vice-president - Mary McDaniel MUS - Willadean Plants
Secretary - Lois Caines MTTW - Darlene Fitzhenry
These officers were approved and Alder installed them with an
appropriate service. It was moved that next year the WIC be given
time to give a report. Motion seconded and carried.

All parents, teachers, and others concerned with youth and our
camp program attend a planning ~~a planning~~ meeting Dec. 1, 1978
at 7:30 at Faith Presbyterian Church. Approved.

The WIC budget for 1978-79 be \$300. Approved.

The report as a whole was then approved.

Report of the Stated Clerk: A bank balance of close to two thousand dollars
was reported. The need for an up-to-date directory was noted. Each ses-
sion clerk was asked to send the stated clerk a list of elders and WIC
officers to help him prepare a new directory. Finally, it was recommended
that copies of minutes be sent to each ruling elder attending Presbytery
as a commissioner as well as to each session clerk and teaching elder.

New Business: Rev. Hill moved the adoption of an overture to the GA
calling for an exception to the GA's stand against abortion, permitting
it to save the life of the mother. Motion seconded. There was some
sentiment opposed to the motion. Rev. Hill asked that his motion be
withdrawn. This being agreeable to the party who seconded the motion, the
motion was withdrawn.

Rev. Mays asked that the floor be open to receive nominations for modera-
tor. He then nominated Alex Kelsen. Motion seconded. Although the
by-laws call for the moderator's nomination to be made the meeting pre-
vious to his election, it had not been placed on the docket and objections
were raised to the nominations proceeding. Rev. Bolus moved the tabling of
further nominations until the spring meeting. Seconded and carried.

The spring meeting will be March 9-10 at South Ruffner. Presbytery ad-
journing with prayer at 12:40. Dinner was served by the host church during
which the Committee on Thanks reported.

Respectfully submitted

Robert E. Kresge
Robert E. Kresge, stated clerk
New River Presbytery