

NINTH STATED MEETING

OF

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

March 18-19, 1977 7:00 P.M.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2216 Peters Creek Road, N.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24017

Worship Service

Beginning at 7:00 P.M. the Presbytery was led in prayer by Retiring Moderator Charles W. McNutt. The opening hymn was "To God Be The Glory". The text of his sermon was taken from the following passages: I Thess. 2:13, II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21. Rev. McNutt emphasized that when Presbyterian Church in America was organized they proclaimed the innerant word of God, both from the Old and New Testament, the only infallible rule of faith and practice. We, as Christians, must hold high these standards, study the Word and not be caught up in a fast growing number that believe the Bible is full of errors.

Closing prayer by Rev. McNutt.

Call to Order

The Presbytery was called to order by Moderator Charles McNutt.

Ascertainment of quorum

The following were present at roll call:

Teaching Elders

David L. Williams
William E. Hill, Jr.
John R. Dodd
William Fitzhenry

Charles W. McNutt
George Alder, II (Princeton
Linwood Wilkes Mission)
Michael Bolus

Also, present: Candidate Tom Owens - Supplying Pliny Church

Ruling Elders

James N. Gay, South Ruffner
Lindsey Fields, Little River
Thomas Minter, Jr., Lebanon
James B. Miller, Faith

R. L. Adams, Westminster
Elliot L. Richards, Westminster
Lamar Pruett, Covenant
Summers Dunbar, Kanawha Salines
John P. Jenkins, Rebecca Littlepage

The Stated Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Eighth Stated Meeting of New River Presbytery of November 12-13, 1976 were approved with correction.

Adoption of Docket

The proposed docket was presented by the Stated Clerk and was adopted without amendments. A motion by John Dodd received a second and carried.

Election of Moderator

William Fitzhenry nominated Dr. R. H. Miller, Ruling Elder from Westminster Church who was elected by acclamation.

Host Welcome

The Presbytery was welcomed to the Westminster Presbyterian Church by the Pastor, Michael Bolus.

Communion Service

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was served to the Presbytery by Rev. Michael Bolus and Ruling Elders from Westminster Church.

Missionary Hour

Speaker E. Lee Trinkle, missionary appointed to Taiwan, told how the Lord had challenged him to go into the mission fields. He also presented a film: "Bangladesh--Darkness Into Light".

Offering was taken for the work of Presbytery -- \$148.00

Adjournment

The Presbytery adjourned, led in prayer by Rev. David L. Williams (Refreshments were served after adjournment, followed by committee meetings)

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Presbytery reconvened at 8:00 A.M., March 19, 1977

Moderator R. H. Miller called meeting to order and asked for a season of prayer.

Committee of Thanks

Moderator R. H. Miller appointed the following to serve:

David L. Williams, Summers Dunbar, James B. Miller.

Introduction of First-time Elders and Visitors

Elders attending Presbytery the first time as delegates:

Lamar Pruett, Covenant
Elliot Richards, Jr., Westminster;
Lindsey Fields, Little River

The following visitors were present: Charles Dent, Ralph Harris and James Thomas from Kanawha Salines; Jim Allen, student at Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, Virginia; James E. Arnold, Little River; Rev. Jack Arnold, Grace Church, Roanoke, Virginia; Rev. Harold Kuhn, Mid-Atlantic Presbytery.

Communications

Stated Clerk read communications from Vanguard Presbytery and received as information.

Examination of Licentiate George B. Alder, II for Ordination

Rev. Charles McNutt moved that the part of George Alder's examination on experimental religion be accepted. Motion received a second and carried.

Rev. Charles McNutt moved that George Alder's degree from Reformed Theological Seminary be accepted in lieu of his examination on Greek and Hebrew. Motion received a second and carried.

Rev. William Fitzhenry conducted the part of George Alder's examination dealing with systematic theology. Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. moved that this

part of the examination be accepted. Motion received a second and carried.

Rev. Charles McNutt gave the examination on English Bible.

Rev. McNutt moved that the examination be accepted. Motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Linwood Wilkes questioned George Alder, II concerning the sacrament and church government. Rev. Wilkes made a motion that we sustain this part of the examination. Motion received a second and carried.

On recommendation of Committee Chairman William E. Hill, Jr., George Alder's thesis and Greek Exegesis were approved. His sermon was previously approved.

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. moved that the examination as a whole be sustained.

Presbytery recessed at 10:25 A.M. - 10:40 A.M.

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Presbytery reconvened at 10:40 A.M.

A motion was made and seconded that it is the consensus of Presbytery that both ruling and teaching elders should totally abstain from alcoholic beverages. Voting was by a show of hands: For - 13; Against - 1

Mr. Alder said he would abide by judgment of Presbytery.

The motion of Mr. Hill to approve the examination as a whole and proceed to his ordination was adopted.

Ordination of George B. Alder, II as Evangelist

The call of the Committee on Missions to United States of New River Presbytery to the work of evangelist at Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia, having been approved by Presbytery, placed in Mr. Alder's hand and accepted. Moderator R. H. Miller propounded questions from Book of Church Order 22-5.

Mr. Alder answered all questions in the affirmative.

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. led in ordination prayer and the laying on of hands of the Presbytery. The right hand of fellowship was extended by the Presbytery to take part in this ministry with us. Rev. Hill stated, "I now pronounce and declare that George B. Alder, II has been regularly ordained as evangelist, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Rev. John Dodd presented the Charge to George B. Alder, II, emphasizing what is found in the scriptures I Corinthians 4, and closed with prayer.

George B. Alder, II was enrolled in Presbytery upon signing the Ex Animo statement.

Reception of Candidates

Rev. Michael Bolus introduced Ray Barrosse as a candidate for the ministry.

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr., Chairman of The Committee on Examination of Ministers and Candidates propounded questions from Book of Church Order 19-3. Experimental religion and motives for seeking the ministry were answered most satisfactorily. Motion by Rev. Hill, Jr. that Presbytery accept this part of examination received a second and carried.

Moderator R. H. Miller asked constitutional questions according to Book of Church Order in which he answered in the affirmative. Presbytery was led in prayer by Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. The right hand of fellowship was extended by Presbytery. The Stated Clerk will enter Ray Barrosse as a candidate for the ministry.

Charge to the candidate was made by R. H. Miller.

The following overture to the General Assembly was read by Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes and approved by Presbytery for presentation to the General Assembly:

Whereas, The Presbyterian Journal has rendered valuable service to conservative and evangelical Presbyterians since 1942, and

Whereas, Its distinguished editor and other staff members are members of the Presbyterian Church in America, and

Whereas, The Journal has a circulation exceeding 30,000, and

Whereas, This outstanding publication is published weekly at the most reasonable cost of \$11.00 for two years, or \$4.50 per year per subscription in Every Family Plan Churches, and

Whereas, The Journal regularly publishes news of the PCA and other Presbyterian groups, and carries regular features for Sunday School, Youth, and Women, and

Whereas, The official position of the Journal is, "Seeking to promote a rising reformation in God's Church according to the whole counsel of God commonly known as the Reformed faith; to define, describe, popularize and promote the Reformed faith; to encourage and assist Reformed conservatives; and to report on activities in Presbyterian and Reformed bodies." - and

Whereas, This valuable service has cost the PCA nothing,

Therefore, The New River Presbytery overtures the General Assembly to:

1. Express our thanks to the Presbyterian Journal for the valuable service it renders, and
2. Instruct our permanent committees to continue submitting their news items to the Journal, and
3. Urge our Presbyteries and local churches to support the Journal through subscriptions and the benevolent gifts necessary to sustain this work.

Dismissal of Ministers

Rev. Charles McNutt requested dismissal to the Carolina Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in America, to accept a call of North Side Presbyterian Church, Burlington, N. C. The Presbytery heard from the elders of Rebecca Littlepage and Faith who regretfully concurred. Charles W. McNutt was dismissed to Carolina Presbytery.

The New River Presbytery expresses their thanks to Rev. Charles W. McNutt.

Whereas, The Rev. Charles W. McNutt did serve as convener for the organization of New River Presbytery on June 22, 1974, and

Whereas, He has been the beloved and faithful pastor of four of our churches, and the organizer of two of those churches, and

Whereas, In the gracious providence of God, he now takes up his work in Carolina Presbytery,

Be it Resolved, That New River Presbytery does now express its gratitude to the Rev. Charles W. McNutt, for his leadership and good counsel on our behalf; and also expresses its love for him and its desire for our Lord's richest blessings upon him and his family.

Pastoral Relationship Dissolved

Ruling Elder Lamar Pruett made the following report of a congregational meeting held February 27, 1977 by the Covenant Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, WV:

"That Covenant Presbyterian Church request New River Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relationships between Covenant Presbyterian Church and Rev. David L. Williams, effective March 19, 1977, and that David Williams be paid two (2) months severance pay dating from this Presbytery action, and that the Session and the Congregation of Covenant Presbyterian Church express appreciation to Rev. David Williams for his actions and leadership in withdrawing from the PCUS and establishing this church."

Rev. David L. Williams concurred with this request. Presbytery dissolved pastoral relationship as of March 19, 1977.

At 12:50 P.M. Rev. John Dodd made a motion which was seconded and carried that we recess for lunch and reconvene at 1:30 P.M. Prayer by Moderator R. H. Miller.

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Presbytery reconvened at 1:30 P.M.

Opening prayer by Moderator R. H. Miller

Rev. John Dodd made a motion that the Moderator appoint a commission

and empower it to employ Rev. David L. Williams (if needed) in the Presbytery Home Mission after May 19, 1977. Motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. moved that when this Presbytery meeting adjourns that it reconvene to an adjourned meeting--date, time and place to be set by the Moderator--to examine Rev. Lee Trinkle and receive him in the Presbytery; and to transact other business. Motion seconded and carried.

As information, Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. made a request to Rev. Charles McNutt that his retiring message be published in pamphlet form to be distributed throughout the Presbytery, and also sent to the Presbyterian Journal.

The changes in the Manual of New River Presbytery were read by Ruling Elder S. C. Dunbar and adopted. Motion was made by Rev. Charles McNutt to reprint this Manual in its entirety and send out to the membership of the Presbytery after the July meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

Stewardship Committee

Chairman Bob Kresge presented the following suggested budget for the New River Presbytery.

Income: \$7.00 per member (with 1,083 members) an income of \$7,500.00 should be realized.

Expenditures:

Mission to the U.S.	\$4,600.00
Mission to the World	100.00
Christian Education (camp)	600.00
Ministers and Candidates	800.00
Stewardship	100.00
Office of Stated Clerk	500.00
Miscellaneous	<u>800.00</u>
Total	\$7,500.00

A motion that the budget be adopted as presented was seconded and carried.

Nominating Committee Report --

Rev. Linwood Wilkes moved that the Moderator appoint a chairman to Committee on Mission to United States to fill the vacancy left by Rev. McNutt's transfer to the Carolina Presbytery. Motion was seconded and carried.

Committee as a Whole for Examination of Sessional Records --

The following church sessional records were approved as follows:

Without exceptions:

Lebanon
Little River
South Ruffner

With exceptions:

Covenant
Faith
Kanawha Salines
Rebecca Littlepage
Westminster

Sessional records were not received from Pliny church.

Proposed amendments to The Book of Church Order --

New River Presbytery voted 14 affirmative to 0 negative in favor of all items as indicated on report.

Christian Education Committee Report --

Rev. David L. Williams moved that Presbytery hold a youth camp again this year at the Grace Bible Camp, Goshen, Virginia, with Rev. Linwood Wilkes acting as coordinator. This motion received a second and carried.

Rev. Linwood Wilkes announced the dates that were left open for our camp-- June 27 to July 2nd. He also asked for volunteers. More information on this camp will be sent to each church.

Mission to The World --

Rev. Michael Bolus recommended that your church invite Rev. Lee Trinkle as guest speaker before he leaves for assignment to Taiwan. This was received as information.

Rev. Bolus also reported that he did not have a report to make at this time concerning aid to ministers and candidates in the Presbytery.

Mission to United States --

Rev. William Fitzhenry moved to ammend the call of George B. Alder, II -- that his total remuneration (\$333.33 per month) be called housing. This motion received a second and carried.

Nominating Committee to General Assembly Report --

Chairman Rev. Linwood Wilkes did not have a complete report at this time. Received as information.

Stated Clerk reported Treasurer had a balance of \$4,431.45.

Next Stated meeting of New River Presbytery will be a Kanawha Salines Church, Charleston, West Virginia on July 22,23, 1977.

Committee on Thanks --

We wish to thank the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia, for the gracious hospitality and accomodations for both Presbytery and WIC. Especially, do we want to thank the ladies of the WIC of Westminster for the refreshments and the splendid lunch served on Saturday.

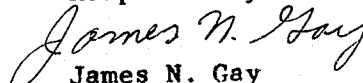
David L. Williams, Chairman
Committee on Thanks

Adjournment --

It was moved and seconded to adjourn and reconvene at an adjourned meeting, the date and place to be announced by the Moderator. Motion carried.

Closing prayer by Moderator R. H. Miller.

Respectfully submitted,


James N. Gay
Stated Clerk