

MINUTES
24th Stated Meeting
NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
March 12-13, 1982

Kanawha Salines PCA

Charleston, W. V.

Opening Worship: At 7:30 pm the moderator, Rev. Linwood Wilkes, called the meeting to order and Chaplain Wayne Good led in prayer. The sermon was preached by Chaplain Good from selected verses in Psalm 139 and Isaiah 1 and 6. The Observance of the Lord's Supper was then led by the host pastor and Session. At the close of the service an offering was taken for Presbytery's work, totaling \$71.58.

Call to Order: The moderator then called the business meeting to order and the clerk declared a quorum present as follows:
Teaching Elders - Donald Post, Jr., Linwood G. Wilkes, Chaplain Wayne Good, C.W. McNutt, Rod Mays, Michael Hall, George B. Alder, II, John R. Dodd, and R. Norman Evans.
Ruling Elders - Charles Doran and J.E. Morrison (Westminster), William Pascavis (Kanawha Salines), Forrest Rumburg (Friendship), Jim Eades (Covenant), John R. Calvert (R. Littlepage), and James B. Miller (Faith).

Election of Moderator: The moderator opened the floor for nominations and Ruling Elder Alex Keleman was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Welcome by Host Church: R.E. Bill Pascavis welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the Kanawha Salines Church. He briefly explained the facilities and offered the church's support for any needs of Presbyters during these meetings.

Introduction of 1st time elders and guests: Introduced to Presbytery were: RE Dick Calvert representing the Littlepage Session, RE J.E. Morrison representing Westminster, and TE Don Post, Jr. and wife Connie from the Huntington mission.

Approval of Previous Minutes: A motion was made and carried that Minutes of the 23rd Stated Meeting November 13-14, 1981 and the Called Meeting of January 16, 1982 be approved as written.

Approval of Docket: A motion was made and carried the docket be approved as written with the following two amendments. First, it be amended to include time on Saturday morning for Mr. Jim Hughes to speak to Presbytery. Mr. Hughes represents the General Assembly Committee on Insurance and Annuities. The second amendment includes any memorials for Presbytery elders who died in 1981.

Appointment of Temporary Committees: The moderator appointed to the Thanks Committee L. Wilkes, D. Calvert, and J. Miller. Appointed to the Committee in charge of examining sessional records were C. McNutt, R. Mays, and V. Roberts. Appointed to the Committee to audit the Treasurer's books were R. Harris, M. Hall, and J. Jarvis.

The motion was then made and carried that Presbytery act as a Committee of the whole when examining the Sessional records and treasurer's books.

Stated Clerk's Report:

1. The only requested excused absence comes from Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. and a motion was made and carried he be excused.
2. For information: Materials are available for distribution at the clerk's desk on NRP Committee members, the 1981 financial report of NRP.
3. A Motion was made and carried that the Presbytery Enrollment Report for 1981 by the clerk to the General Assembly clerk's office be added to the Minutes of this meeting for future information. (See APPENDIX 'A')
4. For information: Receipt in hand of Transfer from Calvary Presbytery for Rev. Post.
5. Letter from General Assembly Clerk's Office on Assistants to Clerk for the Assembly noted but no action taken.
6. Motion was made and carried the Report of the Commission installing Rev. Donald H. Post, Jr. be added to the Minutes of this meeting (See APPENDIX 'B')
7. Request was made by the clerk that those attending the upcoming Assembly register with the clerk for the Committees of Commissioners.

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer reported the availability of the '81 Financial report (added to these Minutes - APPENDIX 'C'), and a present balance of \$1,155.58 in the checking account and \$6,520.95 in savings. This report was received as information.

Testimonies from the churches:

- Covenant - The church this year celebrates its 7th year in existence
 - There have been in recent months a number of new members & visitors
- Faith - A number of new members and growth
 - The blessing recently of a whole family joining, with the father by profession of faith and baptism
 - Arnie Maves and Paul Settle scheduled this year for services.
- Friendship - '81 a year of sifting in the church
 - A number of visitors and one new family attends regularly
 - Praise the Lord for a new year
- Kanawha Salines - '81 a good year of growth
 - Excellent young adult fellowship in the church
- Lebanon - Pastor there for 7 years now
 - Pastor expressed the church was a tremendous blessing to him
 - God continues to gather and support the people
 - Rev. Dodd coming in May for services
- Pliny - Future potential as county grows was noted
 - church discontinued services during winter and to start up again in April

R. Littlepage - Pastor testified to personal joy in being in the PCA
 - Church is encouraged by sense of God's presence among them

Westminster - Continues to seek a pastor and has a minister in consideration

Huntington - Over 40 averaged on Sunday morning and over 20 on Sunday and Tuesday evenings
 - People eager to "get things done"
 - Now to be meeting in a building leased just for them, on Rt. 60 and very visible, seats 60 in main room with 6 other rooms and an office for their use.
 - Group now has a membership of 16
 - One unbeliever coming regularly - please pray for salvation and growth.

A motion was then made and carried that Presbytery recess (9:55 pm). The meeting was closed with prayer by RE Summers Dunbar.

On Saturday morning Presbytery reconvened and was called to order by the moderator at 8:35 am. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Don Post.

Memorial for Elders who died in 1981: The call for spoken memorials was made but thanks to our God's Will there evidently were no deaths among our elders in 1981.

Examination of Sessional Records and Treasurer's Books: A motion was made and carried that Presbytery now go into a Committee of the Whole to examine these records.

Following examination of all records a motion was made and carried the Treasurer's Books be found in order. A motion was then made and carried the Sessional records be approved as follows:

No notations or exceptions - Faith.

With notations or exceptions - Littlepage, Little River, Friendship, Kanawha Salines, Lebanon, Covenant, Westminster.

No records submitted - Pliny.

A motion was then made and carried the Committee of the Whole be dissolved and this report be made to Presbytery.

Rev. McNutt, chairman of the committee examining the Sessional records, made the motion and it carried that the Sessional records be approved as reported above.

Mr. Pascavis, chairman of the committee to audit the Treasurer's books, made the motion and it carried that the Treasurer's books be approved as reported above.

Mr. Jim Hughes, now present at Presbytery, was introduced and given privilege to speak on behalf of the General Assembly Committee on Insurance and Annuities. Mr. Hughes spoke to Presbytery on the Committee's work

on both the insurance and annuity plans and future possibilities to be considered.

A motion was then made and carried that Presbytery recess for a short break and reconvene at 10:05 am.

Following recess Rev. John Dodd, absent during the testimonies the prior evening, gave testimony of his evangelistic art ministry. He is now in his 2nd year in this work and has seen some 366 decisions for Christ in approximately 20 revivals. He also has been invited to return for a third time to our PCA Mexico ministries under Richard Dye. He also especially requested Presbytery's prayers as he plans for this, and other, services.

Nominating Committee Report: No Committee report was made but RE Harry Musser, chairman of the Committee, made the motion and it carried that Rev. Post fill the vacancy of Rev. Ron Parrish on the Ministers and Candidates Committee.

Ministers and Candidates Committee Report: Rev. Wilkes reporting.

1. The motion was made and carried that Rev. David Williams be transferred to the North Georgia Presbytery of the PCA. A letter from the North Georgia Presbytery clerk indicates their anticipated reception of him at their Spring Meeting in April.
2. After much discussion a motion was made and carried from the floor that the Ministers and Candidates Committee report back at the next Stated Meeting the possibility of conferring upon this Committee the powers of a Commission to transfer a minister from this Presbytery to another PCA Presbytery between Stated Meetings at his request, and if all is in order.
3. Following presentation by Rev. Alder a motion was made and carried we approve the Ministerial Training Program and present it to the Certification Committee of the General Assembly. (see APPENDIX 'D')
4. A motion was made and carried that Rev. Michael Hall be this Presbytery's representative to the Certification Committee of the General Assembly.
5. Following discussion a motion was made and carried from the floor "that the Presbytery approve of the Westminster Church the request in the letter of March 9, 1982 to withdraw the name of Dr. Walter Craymer as regular supply and communicate to the session that any future requests for regular supply should be made to the Ministers and Candidates Committee for approval."
6. A motion was made and carried that this report as a whole be approved.

Mission to North America Committee Report: Rev. Mays reporting.

1. For information - The Committee is still considering a possible part time Presbytery MNA field representative. The Committee is also soon to extend advertizing into other cities for possible future mission areas. And, special prayer was requested for the development of the Princeton ministry at Friendship PCA.
2. A motion was made and carried that the Littlepage Session is asked to act as a borrowed Session for the Pliny Church until a local Session can be activated.

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

The noon hour having now arrived the Presbytery recessed for lunch and Rev. Dodd closed this session with prayer.

During the lunch hour RE Dick Calvert, representing the Thanks Committee, expressed Presbytery's gratitude to the Kanawha Salines people and their pastor for the hospitality, conveniences, lodging of out of town guests, and a delicious lunch.

Presbytery reconvened at 12:45 and RE Bill Pascavis led in prayer.

Stewardship Committee Report: Mr. Pascavis reporting:

1. A motion was made and carried that the 1982 budget be approved as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Committees: | Mission to N. America | \$6,000 |
| | Mission to World | X |
| | Christian Education | 700 |
| | Ministers & Candidates | 300 |
| | Stated Clerk | 350 |
| | Nominating | 200 |
| | Stewardship | X |
| | | <u>\$7,550</u> |

2. A motion was made and carried from the floor that additional \$1,000 be made available out of our present surplus funds to MNA Committee if needed for advertizing.

3. A motion was made and carried that each church note this budget presents the need for a per capita asking of \$8.50.

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

Christian Education Committee Report: Rev. Hall reporting.

1. A motion was made and carried that June 5 be approved for Presbytery's family outing at Hawk's Nest State Park. The cost per person is to be \$5.00.

2. A motion was made and carried from the floor that the Charleston area PCA churches be encouraged to conduct a prayer breakfast for fellowship among the brethren.

3. A motion was made and carried from the floor that this Committee bring back to the next Stated Meeting a workable set of guidelines for the examination of the Sessional Records.

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

Mission to World Committee Report: No report given.

Amendments to the 'Book of Church Order':

The 8 items approved by the past General Assembly were considered separately with motions to approve carried as follows:

| | <u>For</u> | <u>Against</u> |
|--------|------------|----------------|
| Item 1 | 11 | 0 |
| Item 2 | 11 | 0 |
| Item 3 | 11 | 0 |
| Item 4 | 11 | 0 |

| | <u>For</u> | <u>Against</u> |
|--------|------------|----------------|
| Item 5 | 11 | 0 |
| Item 6 | 11 | 0 |
| Item 7 | 11 | 0 |
| Item 8 | 6 | 4 |

For copy of Amendments see APPENDIX 'E'.

New Business: A motion was made and carried by the clerk that the office of Stated Clerk and Treasurer be separated and a new Treasurer be elected by Presbytery.

A motion was then made and carried that RE William Pascavis be named the new Treasurer for a 3 year period.

A motion was made and carried that the clerk also be named to sign checks as needed.

Time and Place of Next Stated Meeting: The invitation was received and motion made and approved for the 25th Stated Meeting to be held at the Friendship PCA in Princeton on Saturday, July 10, 9:30 am.

It is to be noted there will be no Friday evening session, so plan to stay later than the lunch hour for the business of Presbytery.

A motion was made and carried that the Lebanon and Little River Churches consider the possibility of hosting Presbytery in November at the Grace Bible Camp. In the motion also was request to bring cost of using the camp to Presbytery at the July meeting.

The business of Presbytery now concluded a motion was made and carried for adjournment. The Pre sbytery was dismissed with prayer by Rev. Alder.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Norman Evans
R. Norman Evans, Clerk

MINISTERS ON THE ROLL OF PRESBYTERY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1981:

| Names in Alphabetical Order (last name first) | Work (church(s) served) | Address | Telephone |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. Alder, George B., II | Friendship | P.O. Box 187, Princeton, WV 24740 | 304-425-0038 |
| 2. Dodd, John R., OB (Ev.) | | 3711 Malden Dr., Malden, WV 25306 | 304-925-4559 |
| 3. Evans, R. Norman | Falth | 5315 Koontz Dr., Charleston, WV 25313 | 304-776-5694 |
| 4. Fishel, James L. | OB (Xian Publ.) | 1857 N. Atherton St. #12, State College, PA 16801 | 814-237-8292 |
| 5. Good, Wayne (Chap.) | Fleet Reliq. Support Activity, | Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk Component, Norfolk, VA. | 23511 |
| 6. Hall, Michael | Littlepage | 2185 Sissonville Rd., Charleston, WV 25312 | 304-343-6811 |
| 7. Hill, William E. Jr. | HR | 2401 City Point Rd., Hopewell, VA 23860 | 804-458-6488 |
| 8. Mays, Rod S. | Covenant | 819 Pennsylvania Ave., St. Albans, WV 25177 | 304-722-4639 |
| 9. McNutt, Charles W. | Kanawha Salines | 4412 Malden Dr., Malden, WV 25306 | 304-925-7016 |
| 10. Parrish, Ronald | Stated Supply | P.O. Box 3186, Martinsville, VA 24112 | 703-632-7412 |
| 11. Wilkes, Linwood G. | Lebanon/Little River | Box 464, Craigsville, VA | 703-997-5382 |
| 12. Williams, David L. | Professor | 159 Inman Dr., Decatur, Ga. 30030 | 404-378-3013 |
| 13. | | | |
| 14. | | | |
| 15. | | | |
| 16. | | | |
| 17. | | | |
| 18. | | | |
| 19. | | | |
| 20. | | | |

(Use additional pages, if necessary)

CANDIDATES UNDER CARE OF THE PRESBYTERY

Name:

Address:

1. James Brown

2. Kurt Tippey

3. Charles C. Miller

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

LICENTIATES

Name:

Address:

1. NONE

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

(Use additional pages, if necessary.)

CHURCHES ON THE ROLL OF PRESBYTERY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1981:
 (LIST CHURCHES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY TOWNS - See Statistical Report in 1978 Yearbook)

| Town | Name of Church | Address of Church | Clerk of Session |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Charleston, WV | Faith | 5315 Koontz Dr., 25313 | Jerry Martin |
| 2. | Kanawha Salines | 4412 Malden Dr., 25306 | Summers Dunbar |
| 3. | Rebecca Littlepage | 2185 Sissonville Rd., 25312 | J.P. Jenkins |
| 4. C raigs ville, VA | Lebanon | Box 464, 24430 | |
| 5. Goshen, VA | Little River | Box 464, 24439 | |
| 6. P liny, WV | Pliny | 25158 | |
| 7. Princeton, WV | Friendship | P.O. Box 187, 24740 | Forrest Rumburg |
| 8. Roanoke, Va | Westminster | 2216 Peters Creek Rd., N.W., 24017 | J.R. Harrell |
| 9. St. Albans, WV | Covenant | 819 Pennsylvania, 25177 | Paige Melton |
| 10. | | | |
| 11. | | | |
| 12. | | | |
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| 19. | | | |
| 20. | | | |

MISSION CHURCHES IN BOUNDS OF PRESBYTERY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1981:

Town Huntington, WV Mission Name of Mission Church Virgil Roberts, 6171 Birkewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25705 Contact Person and Address

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
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(Use additional page if necessary)

Minutes of Installation Commission Meeting
Concerning the Installation of Rev. Donald Hite Post, Jr.
as Associate Pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church,
St. Albans, WV., and Organizing Pastor of the Providence
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Huntington, WV.

Feb. 28, 1982

The Commission met at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 28, in the lobby of the Gateway Holiday Inn, Huntington, WV. Dr. Rod Mays convened the meeting with prayer and presided. Present were Dr. Mays and Rev. Charles McNutt, teaching elders, and ruling elders Donald H. Post, Sr., Virgil Roberts, and Robert Kresge. Teaching elder Norman Evans arrived in time to participate in the installation service and ruling elder Roger Burke, the remaining Commission member, could not attend.

Rev. McNutt moved that Robert Kresge be elected secretary. Motion seconded and approved.

The following order of worship for the installation service was approved following the motion of Rev. McNutt. The Commission then recessed.

Prelude

- Call to Worship Virgil Roberts
- Invocation Virgil Roberts
- Hymn No. 81 . . . A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- Welcome and Introduction . . Dr. Rod S. Mays
- Scripture Reading Robert Kresge
- Sermon Dr. Rod S. Mays
- Installation Questions . . . Dr. Rod S. Mays
- Duet Jim Jarvis, Dick Barrett
- Charge to the Pastor . . Rev. Charles McNutt
- Sacrament of Baptism
- Reception of New Members
- Charge to Congregation . . Rev. Norman Evans
- Hymn No. 667 To God Be The Glory
- Benediction Rev. Donald H. Post, Jr.
- Postlude Mrs. Leslie Roush, Pianist

The Commission reconvened at 8:00 p.m. with Rev. Norman Evans joining those meeting prior to the recess. The minutes of the earlier meeting were approved as read. The meeting adjourned following prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Kresge
Robert E. Kresge, secretary

1981 New River Presbytery Financial Report
(Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 1981)

including:

- I. Overall Summary: Income and Expenditures
- II. Detailed Report: Income and Expenditures

I. Overall Summary:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1-1-81 | | \$4,281.92 |
| Income: Churches | \$5,474.00 | |
| Other | 1,175.79 | |
| Total | \$6,649.79 | 6,649.79 |
| Total Funds Available | | <u>\$10,931.71</u> |
| Less 1981 Expenditures | | <u>-3,450.01</u> |
| Balance ending Dec. 31, 1981 | | \$ 7,481.70 |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| In Checking Acct. | \$1,045.63 |
| In Savings Acct. | 6,436.07 |
| | <u>\$7,481.70</u> |

II. Detailed Report:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Income: Churches - | Covenant | \$1,000 | |
| | Faith | 300 | |
| | Friendship | 49 | |
| | Kan. Salines | 1,200 | |
| | Lebanon | 25 | |
| | Little River | 100 | |
| | Pliny | - | |
| | R. Littlepage | 600 | |
| | Westminster | 2,200 | |
| | | <u>\$5,474</u> | \$5,474.00 |
| | Indian Valley Gift to Huntington | | 600.00 |
| | Individual Gift from W. Good | | 25.20 |
| | 5th Sunday Sing Offerings | | 272.21 |
| | Presbytery Meeting Offerings | | 140.75 |
| | Close Out Old Bank Acct. | | 1.76 |
| | Interest from Passbook Savings | | <u>136.07</u> |
| | Total Income, 1981 | | \$6,649.79 |

(To Fulfill the Uniform Curriculum Standards of the Sixth General Assembly & the Seventh General Assembly's Outline for Theological Education)

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY MINISTERIAL TRAINING PROGRAM

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

1. In the matter of preparation for the ministry, a potential candidate for the ministry would ordinarily come under the care of Presbytery during his final year of undergraduate study.
2. The New River Presbytery initially commits itself to the 3 + 1 program.
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 the Presbytery should carefully examine each candidate to make the proper recommendation of a program best suited to the candidate's maturity and motivation at the time he comes under Presbytery's care.
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 and Presbytery "recommends" to him. The oversight committee shall be responsible for keeping up with the candidate during his institutional studies and for reporting at each Stated Meeting to the Ministers and Candidates Committee, who will yearly report to Presbytery on each candidate.
5. During his institutional studies period, any ministry a candidate or licensee might have is to be under the oversight of a PCA minister. This labor does not necessarily have to be in the bounds of our Presbytery.
6. 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.
7. Each candidate, during his field-work year (hopefully after the completion of his institutional studies) will be under a minister who will be responsible for guiding the candidate through his remaining requirements. These requirements shall be determined at an examination (which may well be the licensure examination) at the beginning of the field year.
8. The overseeing minister and the candidate must work out a schedule of study and a completion date and return this information to the chairman of the oversight committee within 60 days from the beginning of the oversight arrangement. Moreover, the overseeing minister must report the probationer's progress to oversight committee at or prior to each Stated Meeting of Presbytery.
9. Ordinarily 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.

(24th Stated Meeting) APPENDIX 'D'

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 a representative to the General Assembly's Certification (Accrediting) Committee every two years. The first nominee of our Presbytery is to be Rev. Michael Hall.

Approved by New River Presbytery of the PCA at it's Stated Meeting on March 13, 1982.

see corrections
p.1 + p.4

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

11 voting delegates present

The following proposed amendments to the Book of Church Order were approved by a majority of those present and voting at the Ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America. In accordance with the Book of Church Order, §26-2, amendments to the Book of Church Order may be enacted by a subsequent Assembly only after two-thirds of the Presbyteries have given their consent to the same.

Each Presbytery is asked to consider the proposed amendments, and to report their actions on these proposals to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

The votes are to taken by whole blocks as indicated. The Permanent Sub-committee on Judicial Business has advised the Clerk to include all of the material regarding church membership as one block, since this was all part on one overall matter as handled by the Assembly, and since amendments to the various chapters affect all of the chapters involved.

Item 1 Amend Chapter 8 by the addition of a new §8-7, which shall read as follows, with the present §8-7 and §8-8 being renumbered:

"A Presbytery may, at its discretion, approve the call of a Teaching Elder to work with an organization outside the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church in America, provided that he be engaged in preaching and teaching the Word, that the Presbytery be assured he will have full freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of our Church, and that he report at least annually on his work. As far as possible, such a Teaching Elder shall be a member of the Presbytery within whose bounds he labors."

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 2 Amend Chapter 13 by adding new §13-5 as follows, and renumbering succeeding paragraphs:

"Ordinarily, only those ministers who receive a call to a definite ecclesiastical work within the bounds of a particular presbytery may be received as a member of that presbytery except in cases where the minister is already honorably retired, or in those cases deemed necessary by the presbytery, subject to the review of the General Assembly."

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 3 Amend §14-1-12 to change "Mission to the United States" to read "Mission to North America".

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 4 Amend §21-4 by inserting between the second and third sentences the following:

"Every candidate for ordination shall ordinarily have met the requirements of the Assembly's approved curriculum."

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 5 Amend Chapter 23 as follows: Add to the title "and the Procedure for Honorable Retirement": Add new §23-2 and 23-3 as follows:

"§23-2. The Presbytery may designate a minister as honorably retired when the minister, by reason of age wishes to be retired, or by reason of infirmity is no longer able to serve the Church in the active ministry of the Gospel. Ministers honorably retired shall ordinarily continue to hold membership in the presbytery by which they were retired. He may serve on committees or commissions if so elected or appointed.

§23-3. A minister, being honorably retired, may be elected pastor emeritus by a congregation which seeks to honor his past earnest labors among them."

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 6 Amend §25-11 by the addition of the following paragraph:

"At a regularly called congregational meeting, properly announced for this purpose, a particular church may withdraw by a simple majority vote, from any court of this body at any time for reasons which seem to the particular congregation sufficient. The presbytery shall be notified of the action of the congregation."

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 7 Amend Chapter 26 by the addition of a new paragraph §26-4 as follows, and that the remaining paragraphs be renumbered:

"In voting upon an amendment to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, the Presbyteries may not divide the parts of the amendment except as directed by the General Assembly which has recommended its adoption."

Affirmative 11 Negative 0

Item 8 That the following amendments regarding church membership be approved:

a. That BCO, 6 be amended by deleting the present wording in total and by substituting the following provisions:

CHAPTER 6. CHURCH MEMBERS

6-1. The members of a particular church consist of communing, non-communing, and associate members.

Communing Members

6-2. Communing members of a particular church are those members who have made a public profession of faith, have been baptized, and have been received by the Session. Communing members who are in good standing are the only members entitled to all the rights and privileges of full church membership.

6-3. A communing member of a particular church shall inform his church promptly when his mailing address is changed or his residence is moved either temporarily or permanently. This shall also apply to an adult non-communing member.

6-4. A communing member who shall temporarily move his residence beyond the bounds of the church of which he is a communing member should become an associate member of another recognized Christian church with the concurrence of the Session of his church. He shall remain a member in good standing for a two-year period, which shall be renewable,

subject to his remaining in good standing with the church of which he is an associate member.

6-5. A communing member who shall permanently move his residence beyond the bounds of the church of which he is a communing member, so that he can no longer regularly attend its services, shall be obligated to arrange for the transfer of his membership to another recognized Christian church into which bounds he has moved. This shall not apply to such persons as students, servicemen, missionaries, etc., who desire to remain on the roll of their home church. Such persons as this should seek to become associate members of a recognized Christian church.

Non-Communing Members

6-6. The children of believers are, through the covenant and by right of birth, non-communing members of the visible Church universal. They are entitled to baptism, to non-communing membership in a particular church following baptism, and to the pastoral oversight, instruction and government of the Church, with a view to their embracing Christ, and thus personally possessing all the benefits of the covenant. By baptism, such children are sealed as members of Christ's Church and are received into the non-communing membership of a particular church (Chapter 28).

6-7. Non-communing members of a particular church are the baptized children of communing members and persons who have been suspended from the Lord's Table as a result of disciplinary censure (30-3).

6-8. All baptized persons are entitled to the watchful care, instruction and government of the Church, even though they are adults and have made no profession of their faith in Jesus Christ (28-4).

6-9. Non-communing members are not entitled to vote in any meeting of the congregation or corporation. Nor are they to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper until such time as they have been admitted to the Lord's Table upon their profession of faith, or, in the case of those who have been suspended from the Lord's Table, until such time as they have been restored to the Sacraments of the Church by action of the Session (Chapter 37).

Associate Members

6-10. Associate members are those believers who are communing members of other recognized Christian churches (2-2), who are temporarily residing outside the bounds of their home churches, and who are affiliated with a particular church on a temporary basis (12-7).

6-11. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of communing members of a particular church except that they shall not vote in meetings of the congregation or corporation and shall not hold office in the particular church.

b. That BCO, 12 be amended as follows:

1) That 12-8 be amended to read:

"Every Session shall keep an accurate record of baptisms, of the members of the church, and of the deaths and dismissions of church members."

2) That new paragraphs 12-10 through 12-25, as follows, be added:

12-10. The Session of a particular church shall keep the rolls of the members of the church. There shall be three rolls: 1. Communing; 2. Non-communing; and

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3. Associate. The Session shall carefully review and update all rolls at least annually (Chapter 38).

Church Rolls

12-11. The communing roll shall consist of those members who are actively participating in the life and work of the church by attending its worship services and by participating in its other activities.

12-12. Communing members may be received by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer from a recognized Christian church (2-2). Attendance at a church membership preparation class is recommended for all who would be received into communing membership regardless of their age or the method by which they are to be received.

12-13. Communing members of other recognized Christian churches shall normally be received by means of a letter of transfer. When, however, it is not possible to obtain a letter of transfer from the governing body of the church of which they are members, they may be received as communing members upon their reaffirmation of faith in Christ. In such cases the Session should notify the church(es) to which the formerly belonged, if possible.

12-14. All those being received as communing members are required to answer affirmatively the constitutional questions for admission of persons to the sealing ordinances (57-5), and to give to the Session a testimony of their Christian experience (57-6).

12-15. A Teaching Elder who has been divested of his office without censure or deposed without excommunication and has been assigned by his Presbytery to a particular church, may be received into the communing membership of that church subject to the approval of the Session. If the Session approves of the assignment, the Session shall so notify the Presbytery and place the person's name on the communing roll of the church. If the Session does not approve of the assignment, it shall notify the Presbytery and take no further action.

12-16. The non-communing roll shall consist of all those members of a congregation who are not entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper. The non-communing roll shall consist of two parts. It shall include, primarily, the names of the baptized children of communing parents of the congregation. The second part shall consist of the names of any members who have been suspended from the Lord's Table by action of the Session as a result either of their own request in accordance with §38-2 only or of proper disciplinary procedures (30-3). *not 38-4*

12-17. The associate roll shall consist of the names of those who are communing members of other recognized Christian churches who are temporarily residing outside the bounds of their home church and within the bounds of a particular church with which they desire to be associated on a temporary basis.

12-18. Associate members may be received for a two-year period, which shall be renewable, either by a letter from the governing body of their home church indicating their good standing as communing members of the church or by reaffirmation of their faith in Christ subject to the concurrence of the governing body of their home church. In either case, they shall be required to subscribe to the

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questions required for admission to the sealing ordinances (57-5) and to give to the Session a testimony of their Christian experience (57-6).

Letters of Transfer and Standing

12-19. A letter of transfer shall be issued by a Session only to the governing body of another recognized Christian church. A member's request shall be made through the governing body of the church he desires to join.

12-20. When a letter of transfer is requested by the governing body of a church, which in the judgment of the Session is not a recognized Christian church (2-2), the Session shall inform the member for whom the letter is requested, if possible, and the governing body of the church making the request that a letter will not be granted (38-4).

12-21. When a letter of transfer is issued for parents who have children who are non-communing members of the church, the names of these children shall also be included.

12-22. When a letter of transfer is issued for a Ruling Elder or Deacon, his relationship as an officer shall be dissolved, the congregation informed, and the transfer of membership effected. This action shall not affect his ordination.

12-23. When a letter of transfer is requested for a member who is under charges or under discipline, the Session shall issue a letter of transfer and shall indicate the disciplinary status of the member (37-6).

12-24. A member being dismissed from one church to another shall remain under the jurisdiction of the dismissing church until such time that it has been notified that the member has been received by the other church.

12-25. If a church which has requested the letter of transfer shall delay receiving the member for any reason, the letter of transfer shall be valid for one year only.

12-26. When a communing member shall request through the governing body of another recognized Christian church within whose bounds he is temporarily residing permission to become an associate member of that church, the Session of the church of which he is a communing member shall, if it deems it proper, issue a letter of good standing to the governing body of the church making the request. If the Session determines that such permission would not be proper, the Session shall inform the member and the governing body of the church making the request as to the reasons for failing to issue such a letter (38-4).

12-27. When a particular church is notified by a Presbytery that one of its members has been ordained to the gospel ministry, the Session shall note the action in its records and remove the name of the member from the church roll.

c. That Chapter 38 be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 38. CASES WITHOUT FULL PROCESS

38-1. When any person shall come forward and make his offense known to the court, a full statement of the facts shall be recorded and judgment rendered without process.

(Same as present BCO, 38-1.)

38-2. A minister of the Gospel against whom there are no charges, if fully satisfied in his own conscience that God has not called him to the ministry, or if he has satisfactory evidence of his inability to serve the Church with acceptance, may report these facts at a stated meeting of Presbytery. At the next stated meeting, if after full deliberation the Presbytery shall concur with him in judgment, it may divest him of his office without censure. This provision shall in like manner apply with any necessary changes to the case of Ruling Elders and Deacons; but in all such cases the Session of the church to which the Ruling Elder or the Deacon who seeks demission belongs shall act as the Presbytery acts in similar cases where a minister is concerned. (Same as present 38-3.)

38-3. When a member or officer shall renounce the communion of this Church by joining some other evangelical Church; if in good standing, the irregularity shall be recorded, and his name erased. But if charges are pending against him, they shall be communicated to the Church which he has joined. If the denomination be heretical, an officer shall have his name stricken from the roll, and all authority to exercise his office derived from this Church shall be withdrawn from him; but a private member shall not be otherwise noticed that as above prescribed. (Same as present 38-4.)

38-4. If a communing member of a church, against whom no charges are pending shall request the Session to transfer his name to the roll of non-communing members, it shall be in the power of the Session to grant the request, and this action may be announced to the congregation should this seem wise and proper. This transfer, however, should not be made until the Session, after inquiry and delay, is of the judgment that the request does not spring from temporary doubt or special temptation. (Same as present 38-2.)

38-5. When, for the period of one year, a member of a particular church has been on the non-communing roll as the result of his own request, the Session shall inquire as to the circumstances of the non-communing member. It may permit the member to remain on the non-communing roll for the period of one more year, if in the opinion of the Session the extension is warranted. However, if the Session determines otherwise, it shall delete his name from the church roll unless there is an offense which would be the proper object of full judicial process.

(§29-1). The Session shall inform the member and should ordinarily inform the congregation of its action.

38-6. When a member whose name is on the communing roll requests the Session to remove his name from the church roll, the Session shall remove the name of the member without process and notify the member of the action taken. The request for removal shall be in writing. If the member is a Ruling Elder or a Deacon, the Session shall also withdraw from him all authority to exercise

his office and shall notify the congregation of the action taken. No action should be taken by the Session under this provision until the Session, after inquiry and due delay, is of the judgment that the request does not spring from temporary doubt or other temporary circumstances.

38-7. When a communing member shall temporarily move his residence beyond the bounds of his home church, the Session shall, as far as possible, continue pastoral oversight of him and shall inform him that he should seek to become an associate member of a recognized Christian church into whose bounds he has moved. If after one year, the member has not become an associate member of such a church, the Session shall take proper disciplinary action by removing his name from the church roll. The Session shall notify the member and the congregation of its action. However, if there are exceptional circumstances which shall prevent the member from forming such an association, the Session may allow him to remain on the communing roll of the church.

38-8. When a communing member shall permanently move his residence beyond the bounds of the church of which he is a member, the Session shall, if practicable, notify the governing body of a church into whose bounds the member has moved and request it to take the pastoral oversight of the member, with a view to the transfer of his membership, unless he shall be a candidate for the gospel ministry (18-4). The Session shall also, at the same time, advise the member that it is his duty to arrange for the transfer of his membership to a church into whose bounds he has moved. If the member shall neglect to have his membership transferred within one year after he has been advised of his duty, the Session shall take proper disciplinary action by removing the name of the member from the church roll. The Session should ordinarily notify the member and the congregation of the action taken.

38-9. When for one year a member has not participated in the life and work of his church, his mailing address has not been known, and the Session has been unable to contact him, the Session should ordinarily take proper disciplinary action by deleting his name from the church roll.

38-10. When a member of a particular church has willfully neglected the church for a period of one year, or has made it known that he or she has no intention of fulfilling the church vows, then the Session should exercise proper discipline by deleting such names from the church roll, but only after the procedure described in §27-5 has been followed.

d. That BCO, Chapter 46 be amended as follows:

- 1) That 46-1 through 46-5 be deleted;
(Reason: the provisions of these paragraphs have been incorporated in the proposed revisions of BCO, 12 and 38.)
- 2) That 46-6 and 46-8 be moved to BCO, 13 as 13-12 and 13-14 respectively;
- 3) That 46-7 be amended to read as follows, and be moved to BCO, 13 as 13-13:

"No certificate of dismissal from a Presbytery shall be valid testimony of good standing for a period longer than one year, unless its earlier reception be hindered by some providential cause; and such certificates given for persons who have left the bounds of the Presbytery granting them shall certify the standing of such persons only to the time of their leaving those bounds."

- 4) And, that BCO, 46 shall then remain temporarily vacant.
- e. That BCO, §4-1, be amended by inserting the word "baptize" between the words "their" and "children".

Affirmative 11 Negative 0