

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH STATED MEETING

OF

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

The New River Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in America, held its sixth stated meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church at St. Albans, W. Va. on March 19 and 20, 1976. The Presbytery was called to order and was led in prayer by Moderator Summers Dunbar at 7:30 p.m. on March 19, 1976.

Enrollment of Teaching Elders:

Charles W. McNutt	Faith and Rebecca Littlepage
Linwood G. Wilkes	Lebanon and Little River
John Dodd	Kanawha Salines
Michael Bolus	Westminster Presbyterian
W. A. Fitzhenry	South Ruffner Presbyterian
David L. Williams	Covenant

Registration of Ruling Elders:

William Byram	Lebanon
Jerry Martin	Faith
Donald H. Post, Sr.	Covenant (first day)
John T. Chafin	Westminster
H. P. Musser, Jr.	Rebecca Littlepage
Nigal E. Loomis	Kanawha Salines
James N. Gay	South Ruffner
Jim Brown	Pliny
Leonard E. Taylor	Covenant (second day)

The Moderator declared a quorum present.

Opening message by retiring Moderator Summers Dunbar of the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church, Malden, W. Va. Title of his message was "Serving God in the Body". Text was taken from Romans 12:1 thru 16, and Galatians 5:22-25.

The docket was approved with the following additions:

Rev. John Dodd requested time to make a progress report on "The Bible for You" conference to be held October 17 through October 20.

Rev. David Williams requested a short recess be taken from meeting Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

Election of a moderator:

Moderator Dunbar called for nominations from the floor for a moderator. Rev. John Dodd placed the name of Rev. Charles W. McNutt in nomination. Mr. McNutt was elected by acclamation.

Election of chairman of Nominating Committee:

Rev. John Dodd nominated Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes. Mr. Wilkes was elected by acclamation.

Welcoming address of the host church by Mr. Alex Kelermen.

IN MEMORIAM

OLIVER G. BLAKE 1913 - 1976

FAITHFUL ELDER AND BELOVED BROTHER IN CHRIST

Our brother Oliver Blake, by profession of faith in Christ, united with the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church June 18, 1944 under the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Wayland. He was ordained as a Deacon June 27, 1947. He was treasurer of the church for several years. He was ordained as Elder March 9, 1952. Brother Blake was a member of the Board of Trustees of his church. Our brother taught various Sunday School classes throughout his years of service.

As to his service as a Presbyter:

He was a member of the General Assembly Ad Intern Committee to recommend boundaries for the 1974 National Presbyterian Church.

He served as a Commissioner to the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in America in 1975.

He was a member of the New River Presbytery Committee for Missions to the United States.

He was a member of (former Kanawha Presbytery) Committee on the Minister and his Works.

Brother Blake also served in the following capacities:

He was secretary for the Board of Directors of the Union Mission.

He was a member and Treasurer of the Christian Business Men's Committee.

He was a member of Salines Masonic Lodge No. 27 and the Scottish Rites Bodies in Charleston.

Our brother in Christ displayed rare Christian qualities:

He was zealous in all good works, judicious in conduct, and conversation. He was faithful in service and stewardship, meticulous in his work, and loving in fellowship.

It is not for us to sorrow as do those who have no hope. Let us rejoice in the victory we have in Christ. Let us carry on the work which was so much a part of his life. Let us emulate that faithfulness and devotion which was so vividly expressive of his character and given him by the indwelling of the Spirit of God.

Well done thou good and faithful servant, Oliver Blake,
enter into the joy of thy Lord.

Let it be resolved that this memorial be spread on the minutes of the New River Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in America, this 19th day of March, 1976.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor, Session and Members of
the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church

(Signed) John R. Dodd, Pastor

(Signed) S. C. Dunbar, Clerk of Session

Introduction of first-time elders and visitors by Rev. Charles W. McNutt--

Mr. John Chafin, ruling elder, Westminster Church of Roanoke, Va.

Mr. Harry Musser, Jr., ruling elder, Rebecca Littlepage Church
Charleston, W. Va.

Mr. Donald Post, Sr., ruling elder, Covenant Church, St. Albans, W. Va.

Visitors also in attendance:

Mrs. S. C. Dunbar, wife of outgoing moderator

Mr. Richard Tustin, Lexington, Kentucky

Mr. Sherman Young, Princeton, W. Va.

Mrs. Thomas, pianist, Kanawha Salines Church, Malden, W. Va.

John Dodd, son of Rev. Dodd

Mrs. Freda Gay, wife of Stated Clerk

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Halley, Covenant Church, St. Albans, W. Va.

Testimonies by church representatives:

Linwood G. Wilkes, Little River Church

William Byram, Lebanon Church

Michael Bolus, Westminster

William Fitzhenry, South Ruffner

James N. Gay, South Ruffner

Nigel Loomis, Kanawha Salines

John Dodd, Kanawha Salines

Harry Musser, Jr., Rebecca Littlepage

Jerry Martin, Faith

Donald Post, Sr., Covenant

David L. Williams, Covenant

An offering of \$54.00 was received for the work of the Presbytery.

Moderator Summers Dunbar appointed William Fitzhenry chairman of the Committee on Thanks.

After adjournment, meeting of committees.

Presbytery was adjourned until 8:30 a.m., as we were led in prayer by Rev. Charles W. McNutt.

Presbytery reconvened Saturday, March 20, at 8:30 a.m.

Moderator Charles W. McNutt called meeting to order asking for a season of sentence prayers.

Reading of communications:

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. asked to be excused.	Granted
Request from Women in the Church to approve their operating budget of \$300.00 for the year.	Request approved
Rev. Warren Thuston requested permission to transfer his membership to Carolina Presbytery.	Dismissal approved

Reception of churches:

Although Pliny Presbyterian Church has been enrolled officially into New River Presbytery the date of reception has not been recorded. It was moved that the Pliny Church be enrolled as of September 1, 1975. The motion received a second and passed.

Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes, who has been serving as stated supply to the Lebanon Presbyterian Church and the Little River Presbyterian Church, has received a call from both of these churches to serve them in a two-church field. The calls were received by the clerk and read before the Presbytery and approved and placed in the hand of Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes, which calls he accepted.

The Commission for the installation of Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes as pastor of the Lebanon and Little River Churches be set for April 25, 1976, at 7:30 p.m..
(Church to hold service will be announced later)

Rev. David L. Williams to preach
Rev. John Dodd to charge the pastor
Rev. Michael Bolus to charge the congregation
The session of the Lebanon Church to complete the Commission

At this time Rev. Michael Bolus asked to be excused. Granted

The Presbytery met as the Committee of the Whole to examine sessional records.
Approved with exception: Faith, Lebanon, Rebecca Littlepage, Westminster, Covenant.
Approved without exception: Kanawha Salines, South Ruffner. No report from Pliny, Little River.

Report of Treasurer: \$3,814.20

Report by Rev. David L. Williams ----

Covenant Church has been given the property of Trinity House by the members of this church, and the members of this church have been invited to join the Covenant Church individually. Covenant Church receives this gift with much gratitude, and as an answer to prayers for a more suitable location for their church. Trinity House is not free of debt, and Covenant Church will need financial help of \$250.00 per month for four months; and is asking Presbytery for this amount, if the way be clear.

A motion by Rev. Fitzhenry to make a loan to Covenant Church. A substitute motion by Rev. John Dodd that Presbytery authorize the treasurer to pay \$250.00 a month to Covenant, if needed, until next Presbytery meeting on August 13, and 14, 1976. This motion received a second and passed by a vote of 10 to 3.

Report of Committees:

Mission to the United States --

Chairman Charles W. McNutt reported on new work on the campus at V.P.I. under the guidance of Rev. David Osborne and Dr. Robert Miller.

Mr. Sherman Young who serves on this committee and resides in Princeton, reported that he would like to see a new work started in that area.

The committee recommends that Presbytery set aside \$4,000.00 a year for organizing a church at Princeton, W. Va., if the way be clear. A motion to this effect was made -- that the Presbytery empower the Committee on Mission to the United States contact George Alder, II concerning a "tent-making" ministry at Princeton, W. Va.; and that the Presbytery set aside \$4,000.00 for this work. The moving expense of Mr. Alder will also be paid for by the Presbytery. A second was received a motion passed.

Christian Education --

Rev. David L. Williams reports that the Summer Camping Program for 1976 will be held at Grace Bible Camp, Goshen, Virginia. The approximate cost per camper will be \$43.00 for the week. Parents are asked to pay \$23.00, the local church to pay \$10.00, and the Presbytery to pay the balance.

Rev. Charles McNutt requested the Stated Clerk James N. Gay to serve as moderator while he, Charles McNutt, made the motion that Presbytery pay \$5.00 per week per camper and instruct the treasurer to advance \$500.00 to the camp director. The motion received a second and passed.

Nominating Committee --

Robert Kresge reported that Ruling Elder Harry Gardner has been elected to serve on General Assembly's Nominating Committee.

Rev. Michael Bolus elected to serve as Chairman on Mission to the World, filling the vacancy left by Rev. Warren Thuston; Rev. William Fitzhenry to serve on Stewardship Committee.

Rev. John Dodd reports that the Bible for You Conference will be held October 17 - 20, 1976 in the West Virginia at the Civic Center. The speaker will be Dr. Mansford Gutzskie. A number of churches in the Kanawha Valley area are taking part and are asking that you continue to pray for this conference.

Committee on Ministers and Candidates --

(Presented by William Fitzhenry in the absence of William E. Hill, Jr.)

1. That the Presbytery express its conviction that its relationship to its candidates goes beyond supervision, counsel, and encouragement of a candidate in his preparation for the ministry and includes possible assistance in a genuine and immediate financial crisis.
2. That Presbytery implement the above by making available to its Committee on Ministers and Candidates funds not to exceed \$500.00 in any one calendar year so that when its committee has knowledge of a candidate's genuine and immediate financial crisis, assistance may be given by the chairman of the Committee on Ministers and Candidates with the consent of the committee.

This shall be done by making a request to the treasurer to send a check, not to exceed \$100.00 to any one candidate at any one time, to said candidate without delay and without embarrassment.

The Examination of Candidates for the Ministry --

Mr. Kirk Tippey, Covenant Church, St. Albans, W. Va.

Personal testimony and motives for seeking the ministry were approved.

Questions propounded from Book of Church Order by Rev. Charles McNutt.

Charged by Rev. David L. Williams, followed by prayer.

Mr. Tippey was received and enrolled as a candidate for the ministry under the care of Presbytery and was extended the right hand of fellowship.

Presbytery summer meeting will be held at Rebecca Littlepage Church August 13, 14, 1976, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. William Fitzhenry invited Presbytery to hold the fall meeting in November at South Ruffner. (date to be announced later)

Ruling Elder John T. Chafin invited Presbytery to hold its spring meeting in March at Westminster Church at Roanoke, Virginia. (date to be announced later)

The above invitations were approved and accepted by the Presbytery.

New Business:

Rev. Dodd made a recommendation to seek someone in Presbytery to record the history of New River Presbytery.

Report of Committee on Thanks by Rev. William Fitzhenry --

"Having enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Covenant Presbyterian Church which made possible a most productive meeting of New River Presbytery, we wish to express our most genuine thanks to Covenant Presbyterian Church for its facilities, its homes, and its heart. Your Christian spirit has been a delight to all of our hearts."

W. A. Fitzhenry, Chairman

Dr. James Francis Miller called upon Presbytery for prayer for normal weather to prevent crop failure. This was included in the closing prayer by moderator.

Rev. David L. Williams invited all present to lunch at Trinity House.

Adjournment at 12:30 p.m.

Closing prayer by Rev. Charles W. McNutt, Moderator.

Recorded and submitted by,

James N. Gay
James N. Gay, Stated Clerk

Presbyterian
Church
in
America

OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
P.O. Box 256 Clinton, Mississippi 39056

March 30, 1977

To: The Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries
From: The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Subject: Reporting on Exceptions Taken to Minutes

This is a reminder to all Clerks of Presbyteries to review the Minutes of the 1976 General Assembly, paragraph 4-84 (pages 88-91). If exceptions were taken to your Minutes, you are expected to make some sort of response to the next General Assembly. In some cases nothing can be done, such as cases where a roll has been omitted, and the record has been lost. It would be well, however, for Presbyteries to take an action to the effect that it notes the exception taken, and is unable to correct certain items. With regard to other items, the Presbyteries should take any action they can to correct the exceptions that the Assembly has taken. If these are placed in the record, and then if you would please call my attention to such corrections, I will be glad to call them to the Attention of the Committee on Review and Control at the next General Assembly.

I address this to all of you, though some will not have any problem with this this year. You may have some in the future. Others of you have already reported actions of your Presbyteries regarding this matter this year. Others still have this to do.

Note: Response made to General assembly.
Refer to minutes of adjourned meeting April 30, 1977
under the heading of - Review and Control of Presbyteries
James M. Day, Stated Clerk

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

I Minutes Reviewed

September 11, 1975
November 14-15, 1975
March 19-20, 1976
August 13-14, 1976

II Exceptions

September 11, 1975

Purpose of called meeting, name of person opening and closing with prayer, those present, excused absences omitted.

(p2) November 14-15, 1975: No details of examination of Don Post, Jr. and Tom Courtney given.

(p6) March 19-20, 1976 p.6: No mention of examination of Kirk Tippey being approved.