

MINUTES OF NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

Westminster Presbyterian Church in America
2216 Peters Creek Road, N. W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24017

Friday, November 15, 1974

7:30 p.m.

Meeting was called to order with opening prayer by Rev. William E. Hill, Jr., Moderator of the Presbytery.

Enrollment of Ministers in the Presbytery:

William E. Hill, Jr., Hopewell, Virginia (Moderator)
Warren F. Thuston, St. Albans, W. Va.
Charles W. McNutt, Charleston, W. Va.
Joe D. Bishop, Dayton, Ohio

Enrollment of Churches and Ruling Elders:

Hugh McGavock, delegate; Samuel P. Key, delegate, Westminster, Roanoke, Va.
Summers Dunbar, delegate, Kanawha Salines, Charleston, W. Va.
Lawrence A. Stalnaker, delegate, Souty Ruffner, Charleston, W. Va.
John P. Jenkins, delegate, Rebecca Littlepage, Charleston, W. Va.
Robert Kresge, alternate, Rebecca Littlepage, Charleston, W. Va.
Clyde Armstrong, delegate; James B. Miller, Jr., alternate, Faith, Charleston, WV
L. M. Young, Jr., Westminster, Roanoke, Virginia (Host)
James N. Gay, South Ruffner, Charleston, W. Va. (Stated Clerk)

A quorum was declared by the Clerk.

Visitors (invited to sit as visiting brethren):

Rev. Bob Pate, Greenbrier, PCUS
Rev. Joseph Pringle, Highlands, PCUS
Rev. David L. Williams, St. Albans, W. Va. PCUS

Curtis Carroll, Roanoke, Virginia
Jerry Martin, Charleston, W. Va.
James Francis Miller, Versailles, Kentucky
Donald H. Post, St. Albans, W. Va.
Dennis R. Witt, Monroeville, Pennsylvania
Sherman Young, Princeton, W. Va.

Total attendance at Friday evening worship service was approximately 75.

Service of music and worship. Pianist: Nancy Doran

Welcome by the host church ruling elder L. M. Young, Jr.

Testimonials concerning the work by church representatives present.

Moderator's sermon --

Rev. Hill read selections from Luke 16: 1-6, 10-13, Luke 12:29-48.
Title: "Servants of the Lord". To be servants of the Lord we must be humble in our service, with a spirit of forgiveness, as much faith as a mustard seed and unprofitable in the materials of this world. God's merciful forgiveness to all servants is everlasting. God has no obligations to anyone. Grace is a free gift of God because he wanted it to be. Salvation is by Grace. Look forward to the joy of His coming. Amen.

Offering -- \$86.86 was received for expenses of the Prebytery.

Business:

Election of Recording Clerk: Mr. Clyde Armstrong of Faith Presbyterian Church was elected.

Election of Nominating Committee: Rev. Warren Thuston, Bob Kresge, and Hugh McGavock were elected by acclamation.

Closing prayer by Rev. William E. Hill, Jr.

Meeting recessed at 9:30 p.m. until Saturday at 9:30 a.m. for meeting of committees.

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Presbytery reconvened at 9:30 a.m. November 16, 1974.

Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. William E. Hill, Jr., Moderator

Scripture read from I Thessalonians 1:1-9, 2:19, 3:12, 4:13; II Thess. 3:1

Communications were read by Stated Clerk. Letters received from Rev. Harry Barnett and Rev. Linwood Wilkes asking to be excused. Motion by Rev. Joe Bishop to this effect, seconded and passed.

Letter was received from Rev. Harry Barnett requesting dismissal from New River to Westminster Presbytery. The congregation of his former pastorate (Kanawha Salines, Charleston, W. Va.) voted approval for him to accept a call to serve Colburn and Mt. Olivet Churches in Westminster Presbytery. Motion to this effect was made by Summers Dunbar, was seconded and carried.

Motion by Rev. Charles McNutt to instruct the Clerk to write a letter of appreciation and thanks to Rev. Harry Barnett, seconded by Rev. Warren Thuston, Motion passed.

Examination of Rev. Robert Pate from So. Charleston, W. Va.

Moderator Rev. Hill asked Rev. Thuston to conduct the examination according to Book of Church Order; also, delegates present to assist.

Led in prayer by John P. Jenkins.

Personal testimony: Rev. Pate stated he was saved during the ministry of Dr. Adams, a Baptist in Richmond, Virginia at an early age. Later he attended University of Virginia; married a Christian girl who attended Presbyterian Church. He joined the United States Marine Corp. During his service in Texas he attended

a revival meeting and dedicated his life to Christ. After his military service he entered Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. After graduation he entered the ministry in Presbyterian Church United States.

Motion by Rev. Thuston, seconded by Mr. Dunbar that this part of examination be sustained. Motion passed.

Examination on: Experimental religion - approved
 Examination on theology - approved

At this time, Rev. Hill asked to be excused for a prior committment.
Rev. McNutt was appointed to take his place as Moderator.

 Sacraments - approved
 Examination on
 church government - approved

Recess for lunch .

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Presbytery reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with opening prayer by James E. Miller of Versailles, Kentucky.

A motion was made that the examination of Rev. Robert Pate be sustained as a whole and that he be received as a member of New River Presbytery pending the action of the judicial commission of Greenbrier Presbytery--with the understanding that it take place within 90 days from this date.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Dunbar and carried.

Examination lasted 2½ hours.

A report was made on the General Assembly held at Macon, Georgia.

Report of Committees:

Mission to the U. S. recommendations:

1. That \$4500.00 be appropriated in 1974 to pay half the salary of a home missionary for the Presbytery.
2. Rev. Joe Bishop to be given \$150.00 from the present funds for advertising in the Dayton, Ohio newspapers.
3. It was also recommended that \$300.00 be donated to the Mission to the U. S. for their 1974 budget.
4. That our churches send names and addresses of people they know in the Dayton, Ohio area to Rev. Joe Bishop, 627 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45419.

Recommendations adopted by Presbytery.

Mission to the World - Chairman Rev. Thuston, requests one-half travel expense to Jackson, Mississippi, to attend meeting of Mission to the World. Motion to grant request was adopted.

Stewardship Sub-Committee - Robert Kresge, Chairman

At present time no plan exists for the financial support of New River Presbytery and its program. Only two churches contribute to the Presbytery. It is recommended that each church belonging to New River Presbytery give five dollars (\$5.00) per capita for 1975 to the Presbytery. Recommended that the bulk of the Presbyteries income from the above source be used to supplement the salaries of a home missionary worker who will labor within the bounds of the Presbytery.

All member churches are urged to be mindful of the General Assembly needs as reflected by the budgets of the four permanent committees: Administration, Christian Education and Publications, Mission to United States, and Missions to the World.

Recommendations adopted by Presbytery.

Nominating Committee - Warren Thuston, Chairman

The following changes were made:

Mission to the World -- Warren Thuston, Chairman

Christian Education -- add Elder Hugh McGavock, Westminster Church

Stewardship -- add Rev. Joe Bishop and Elder Summers Dunbar,
Kanawha Salines

Recommendations adopted by Presbytery.

Financial report by the Stated Clerk: Balance in the treasury (including collection today) is \$1,062.57.

Organization of Women in Church of New River Presbytery was recognized.

Officers for coming year are as follows:

President - Mrs. J. P. Jenkins
Vice President - Mrs. Summers Dunbar
Secretary - Mrs. Curtis Carroll
Treasurer - Mrs. James N. Gay
Spiritual Growth Chairman - Mrs. Jerry Martin
World Missions - Mrs. Andrew McDaniel
U. S. Mission - Mrs. James Harrell of Roanoke

Presbytery approved a contingent fee of 50¢ for each woman member in the Presbytery to be used for expenses.

There was an invitation by C. Armstrong of Faith Church of Charleston, W. Va. to host the meeting of New River Presbytery to be held March 21-22, 1975, 7:30 p.m. Motion was made by Robert Kresge, seconded by Warren Thuston. Motion carried.

Committee of Thanks Report - Robert Kresge, Chairman

The members of New River Presbytery who were privileged to attend the meeting of the Presbytery on November 15-16 wish to express their most sincere thanks to the ladies of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Roanoke for their gracious hospitality. We also wish to extend our gratitude to all of the members of the Church who have so generously given of their time and services to make our meeting most pleasant.

Adjournment was in order --

Prayer by Mr. L. M. Young, Jr., Roanoke, Virginia

Respectfully submitted,

James N. Gay

James N. Gay, Stated Clerk
Clyde Armstrong, Recording Clerk