

## MINUTES

### FIFTEENTH STATED MEETING NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

March 9-10, 1979

South Ruffner Presbyterian Church in America, Charleston, West Virginia

Opening Worship: Moderator William Fitzhenry presided as the worship service began at 7:30 p.m., March 9 with prayer by Rev. James Fishel. The Moderator preached from the Book of Jeremiah following the reading of Scripture, an offering for Presbytery, and music by the South Ruffner Church choir.

Presbytery and guests then partook of Communion, led by the Moderator and served by elders from the South Ruffner Church.

Call to order: The Moderator called Presbytery to order. Teaching elders present were George B. Alder II, Michael Bolus, John Dodd, Norman Evans, James Fishel, William Fitzhenry, William Hill, Jr., Rod Mays, and Linwood Wilkes.

Ruling elders present were D. H. Dority (Westminster), Coy Hughes (South Ruffner), John P. Jenkins (Rebecca Littlepage), Charles Kennedy (Little River), Jerry Martin (Faith), Thomas Minter, Jr. (Lebanon), Bill Pascavis (Kanawha Salines), and Don Post (Covenant).

A quorum was declared present.

The welcome of the host church was extended by her pastor, Rev. Fitzhenry. He spoke enthusiastically of the amount of work done by the members in preparation for the Presbytery.

Arrangements were made for the committee meetings which would follow the recess later in the evening.

Election of Moderator: The Moderator announced that Alex Keleman wished to withdraw his name as a nominee for moderator. Rev. Wilkes then nominated Jim Gay. Rev. Hill seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and Jim Gay was elected. He then assumed the Moderator's chair, replacing Rev. Fitzhenry.

Minutes: Approved without correction or addition.

Docket: Rev. Hill moved that should any sensitive matter concerning a minister be introduced that it should be considered in executive session at 10:30 a. m., The following morning. Seconded and carried.

Provision for examining the sessional minutes was made. The docket was then approved.

Committee on Thanks: Rev. Mays, Coy Hughes, and Tom Minter were appointed to serve on a Committee on Thanks.

Testimonies: A representative from each church was invited to testify to what God was doing in his church.

Presbytery recessed at 9:20 until the following morning.

Presbytery reconvened at 8:30 a.m., March 10.

Devotions were led by Rev. Norman Evans.

James Brown, ruling elder, was present, representing the Pliny Church.

Communications and excuses: There were no requests to be excused. The following communications were read:

1. From Rev. Lee Trinkle, member of Presbytery who is a missionary in Taiwan.
2. From Lindsay Fields, Little River ruling elder, bringing charges against his pastor, Rev. Wilkes. It was referred to the Committee on Ministers and Candidates to be reported on before adjournment.
3. From the GA Committee on Administration reminding Presbytery of GA action which leaves it up to each Presbytery to pay the expenses of retired ministers to the GA. It was moved and seconded that Presbytery do this. Motion carried.

A period of prayer was observed for Rev. David Williams' newly-born grandchild who may be blind.

Committee Reports:

Ministers and Candidates - by Rev. Bolus, chairman. The following matters were considered at the meeting held following the recess of the previous evening:

1. Rev. Wayne Good. It was believed that the problem over the minutes, as noted by the GA, had been taken care of.
2. Tom Owens had requested to be no longer listed as a candidate for the ministry. Motion to that effect made, seconded, and carried.
3. The report of the GA Subcommittee on Theological Education will soon be received and action by Presbytery should follow. A subcommittee representing both the Committee on Ministers and Candidates and the Christian Education Committee was suggested.

Prior to action on the chairman's report, Rev. Fitzhenry moved that the Committee study the reception of candidates for the Gospel ministry and make recommendations to sessions. Seconded and carried.

The report as a whole was then approved.

Nominating Committee - No report.

Mission to the United States - made by Rev. Dodd, chairman. Rev. Alder reported on the Princeton work. Attendance averages 14 in the morning, 11 at night. Six of the morning group could be considered communing members. All of the evening group could be so considered. Of the eleven, eight are not present in the morning.

Rev. Bolus moved that the Committee set a time by which the Princeton ministry becomes an organized work. Seconded and carried.

Rev. Dodd moved that the support of the Princeton work be continued until the next meeting of Presbytery. Seconded and carried.

The status of the Pliny Church was discussed. All records indicate that Pliny is a church and not a mission, nor a mission church.

Efforts to begin a work at Mt. Hope continue. Four families were represented at a meeting in Bob Evans home on January 11. Advertising will continue.

The report as a whole was accepted.

Christian Education - made by Rev. Alder, chairman, / The need for a replacement for Dick Adams, committee member, was noted.

Plans for camp are progressing. It will be held the week of June 25. Co-camp coordinators Evans and Fishel volunteered to visit any church on behalf of the camp.

A literature display was in the foyer.

The report as a whole was accepted.

Mission to the World - made by Harry Muaser, chairman. Again, missionary conferences were recommended.

Tom Hudson, missionary-pilot with Wycliffe in Bolivia and a member of Westminster, spoke briefly.

The report as a whole was accepted.

Subcommittee on Ministerial Education - Rev. Fitzhenry reported that no further report was needed in view of the action taken by the Committee on Ministers and Candidates.

Stewardship - No report.

Examination of Minutes: The sessional minutes were examined by members of Presbytery with the following results -

Covenant - with exception	Little River - with exception
Faith - without exception	Rebecca Littlepage - without except.
Kanawha Salines - with exception	South Ruffner - with exception
Lebanon - with exception	Minutes for Westminster and Pliny were not available.

Amendments to Book of Church Order: All four amendments submitted by the GA Stated Clerk were approved with only one of them receiving one negative vote.

Overture to the GA: Following the reading of an overture prepared by Westminster Church, Presbytery voted unanimously to submit it to the 7th General Assembly.

Report of Stated Clerk: Abalance in the check book of \$1179.31 was reported. This is a little more than half what it was in November. The days of a fat balance are apparently over. Each church's support (\$7.50 a member the asking figure) will be needed.

Rev. Evans moved that the stated clerk provide a financial statement at each meeting and that the books be audited annually. Motion seconded. Rev. Fitzhenry made a substitute motion, changing the frequency of the financial statements to once a year, when the budget is adopted (fall meeting). Seconded and carried.

New Business: Rev. Mays moved that Presbytery's member of the GA Nominating Committee be named at Presbytery's summer meeting with all nominations to the GA standing committees to be approved at the fall meeting. Seconded and carried.

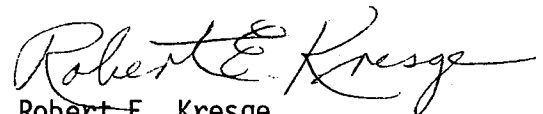
Presbytery recessed for dinner at 12:20. The ladies of South Ruffner served a delicious dinner. While still in the dining room, Rev. Mays reported for the Committee on Thanks, stating Presbytery's appreciation for all the work done by the host church.

Presbytery reconvened at 1:15. As agreed to in amending the docket the previous evening, Presbytery went into executive session to consider the charges brought against Rev. Wilkes by Lindsay Fields, one of his ruling elders. In that session both sides were given a chance to be heard. After considerable discussion, Rev. Hill moved that the letter containing the charges be received as information. Seconded and carried.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be July 13-14 at Westminster Church, Roanoke, Va.

Adjournment came at 3:00 following prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Kresge  
Stated Clerk  
New River Presbytery  
Presbyterian Church in America