

This was the first meeting of the New River Presbytery following the inclusion of our brethren from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod.

MINUTES  
25th Stated Meeting  
NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
July 10, 1982

Friendship PCA

Princeton, West Virginia

Opening Worship: The moderator, Ruling Elder Alex Keleman, called the Presbytery meeting to order at 9:30 am, Saturday, July 10, 1982, in the Sanctuary of the Friendship PCA, Princeton, West Virginia. Rev. Charles McNutt was called upon to open the meeting with prayer and the congregation then sang the hymn "To God Be the Glory". Moderator Keleman read from God's Word Matthew 5:13-16 and gave a brief exhortation from these verses. He then led in prayer for God's blessing upon the day's business ahead.

Ascertaining of Querum: The moderator then called for a declaring of the querum and the clerk stated a querum was present as follows:

Teaching Elders: Don Pest, Jr., W. David Laverell, Jack L. Arnold, David J. Hoover, Red Mays, L.G. Wilkes, Michael Hall, George B. Alder II, Max Harris, and R. Norman Evans.

Ruling Elders: Jim Miller, Sr. (Faith), Michael Conklin (Christ Reformed), Summers Dunbar (Kanawha Salines), Curtis Carroll and Stuart P. Jackson (Westminster), Don E. Leech (Grace, Lexington), Alex Keleman (Covenant), Riley W. Ware (Valley Reformed), J.P. Jenkins (Littlepage), Forrest Rumburg (Friendship), Charles Kennedy (Little River), and Garner Byram (Lebanon), and James Tessar (Grace Covenant).

Number present and enrolled: Teaching Elders - 10  
Ruling Elders - 13

Election of Moderator: The floor was opened for nomination for moderator and the present moderator, RE Alex Keleman, was renominated and elected by acclamation.

Approval of Docket: The motion was made and carried that the docket be approved as printed.

Welcome by Host Church: Mr. Ronald Wood, a member of the Friendship Church, welcomed the Presbytery and expressed the church's desire to meet the needs of the brethren during the day's meetings.

Special Welcome of Our Brethren from the RPCES: This Presbytery meeting is historic as it is the first meeting of this court following the inclusion of our brethren from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod. The right hand of fellowship was extended to these brethren and RE Dr. Robert Miller was asked to lead in prayer for God's direction and blessing upon our new enlarged New River Presbytery.

For the record the 'joining and receiving' of our brethren into this Presbytery from the RPCES includes:

Christ Reformed P.C. in Roanoke, Va., Dr. W. David Laverell, Pastor  
Grace Covenant Fellowship in Blacksburg, Va., Rev. Max Harris, Pastor  
Grace P.C. in Lexington, Va., Rev. Frederick S. McFarland, Pastor

Valley Reformed P.C. in Cloverdale, Va., Ruling Elder Riley W. Ware, Supply  
 First Reformed P.C. in Charleston, W.V., Ruling Elder Larry Canterbury,  
 contact person  
 Dr. Jack L. Arnold, Pastor of Grace Church (Indep.) in Roanoke, Va.  
 Rev. David J. Hoover of Blacksburg, Va.  
 Candidate for the Ministry, Mr. Rick Stiffler

Introduction of 1st time Elders and Guests: The following men were introduced to the Presbytery and the motion was made and carried that they be seated as visiting brethren and be given the privilege of the floor. They are: Rev. Lonnie W. Barnes, Pastor-elect for the Westminster PCA, and Rev. Paul Bohn. Chris Hardeman, a licentiate from the Tennessee Valley Presbytery of the PCA and Rick Stiffler, a candidate from the former RPCES and now enrolled in this Presbytery were also introduced. Also present were a number of elders and members of the Westminster Church and members of the host church, and other guests.

Approval of Previous Minutes: The motion was made and carried that we approve without reading the Minutes of the 24th Stated Meeting. These Minutes were previously mailed to Presbyters. The Minutes of June 16 Called Meeting (Called by directive of the General Assembly at the Assembly) were read and a motion was made and carried they be approved as read.

Appointment of Committee on Thanks: The moderator appointed RE Summers Dunbar and RE John P. Jenkins to express Presbytery's thanks to the Friendship Church, this report to be given during the lunch hour.

Stated Clerk's Report:

1. A motion was made and carried the following men be excused from this meeting of Presbytery at their request: Wayne Good, Fred McFarland, James Fishel, William E. Hill, Jr.
  2. Numerous communications from members of the Westminster Church and official complaints against the session have been received by the clerk. A motion was made by the clerk and carried that these matters be taken up following Committee business.
  3. A motion was made by the clerk and carried, "That an annual inspection of the permanent records of the Presbytery be made to insure they are in order and that the records be examined by the Stewardship Committee and approved by Presbytery at each Spring Meeting. This inspection is to include the compiling of the previous year's Minutes, the report to the Assembly's clerk on the Presbytery Rolls, and any review of the Presbytery files to insure they are up to date."
- The motion was made and carried this report be approved as a whole.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer requested this report be delayed until after lunch so copies can be obtained for members of Presbytery. Report delayed.

Report from the 10th General Assembly: Presbytery members who attended the Assembly reported: (1) the results, brotherly atmosphere, and efficient manner in which the enlarged PCA conducted the business of the week after the 'joining and receiving' process was complete, (2) that one item of business directed to Presbyteries concerns subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith and what that entails and urges Presbyteries to study

the matter.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: This report was made by the clerk in the absence of the Committee Chairman. A motion was made and carried that the class of 1985 be elected as presented in the following list of Presbytery Committees.

		<u>TE</u>	<u>RE</u>
Mission to N. America	'83	McNutt	J. Martin
	'84	Alder	J. Harrell
	'85	McFarland	J. Tessar
Ministers & Candidates	'83	Post	P. Melton
	'84	Evans	J. Miller
	'85	Harris	T. Minter
Mission to the World	'83	-----	P. Jenkins
	'84	Arnold	H. Gardner
	'85	Barnes	C. Kennedy
Christian Education	'83	-----	R. Kresge
	'84	Hall	V. Roberts
	'85	Mays	R. Miller
Stewardship	'83	-----	Derey
	'84	Hoover	F. Rumburg
	'85	Hill	M. Conklin
Nominating	'83	-----	S. Jackson
	'84	Wilkes	R. Harris
	'85	Laverell	D. Leech

A motion was made by the clerk and carried that a Temporary Standing Rules Committee be named to update our Presbytery Manual and By-Laws. The Committee to consist of:

<u>TE</u>	<u>RE</u>
Evans (clerk)	H. Musser
Dodd	J. Jarvis
Laverell	
Post	

**Special Note:** An overture from the Covenant PCA Session was handed to the clerk at the beginning of the meeting which requested the updating of the Rules and By-Laws. This Overture can be found as Appendix "A" and is answered by the motion just given.

Ministers and Candidates: The Chairman, TE Linwood Wilkes reporting,  
 1. Business carried over from the last Presbytery meeting - The following motion was made and carried concerning this Committee's work.  
 "Recognition of the Ministers and Candidates Committee with commission powers for a PCA minister to move on one of our fields under the following criteria (prior to Presbytery exam and approval):

1. His clerk of Presbytery indicates no official problems,
2. The clerk of New River Presbytery holds the Call in hand,
3. There are no foreseeable problems with Presbytery examination,
4. The Ministers and Candidates Committee approves his moving on the field prior to Presbytery examination,
5. Ministers and Candidates Committee expresses this does not constitute final approval and Minister transferring must still be examined by Presbytery."

2. The following motion was made and carried: "The Ministers and Candidates Committee be granted powers of a commission to transfer a minister in our Presbytery to another PCA Presbytery between Stated Meetings."

3. Examination of Rev. Lonnie Barnes:

Rev. Barnes has been called to Pastor the Westminster PCA in Roanoke.

The Call from the Church has been received by the clerk and also the transfer of Rev. Barnes from the Eastern Carolina Presbytery of the PCA, dated June 19, 1982.

The examination of Rev. Barnes was conducted by the chairman and questions were then received from the floor.

Examination in - Christian experience - Motion to sustain carried.

- Theology - Motion to sustain carried.

- Sacraments - Motion to sustain carried.

- Church Government - Motion to sustain carried.

The motion to sustain the whole was made and carried and Rev. Lonnie Barnes enrolled in Presbytery and signed the Ex Animo Statement.

The Call was read and a motion made and carried it be found in order. The Call was then placed in Rev. Barnes hands.

A motion was made and carried that the Commission of Installation be appointed as requested by Rev. Barnes as follows:

Teaching Elders: Dr. Jack Arnold, Rev. Charles McNutt - Sermon (or Rev. Linwood Wilkes if not Rev. McNutt), Dr. David Laverell.

Ruling Elders: Mr. Jim Harrell or Mr. Curtis Carrell, one elder from the Kanawha Salines Church, one elder from Christ's Church.

The date and time of Service will be Sunday, August 1 or August 15, whenever convenient for the Commission, Evening Worship, 7:00 pm.

During the examination of Rev. Barnes the lunch hour arrived and a motion was made and carried for recess at 12:25. Presbytery then recessed following prayer.

The Committee on Thanks reported at the close of the lunch hour and Presbytery reconvened at 1:25 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Mays and the examination of Rev. Barnes was completed as above.

4. Examination of Mr. Chris Hardeman:

A letter of transfer was read from the clerk of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery of the PCA. Mr. Hardeman has been a licentiate in that Presbytery since July of 1980, has now moved to Roanoke and joined the Christ Reformed PCA. He is now desiring to transfer to this Presbytery.

The examination proceeded according to BCO 19-5.

Examination in - Christian Experience - Motion to sustain carried.

- Theology - Motion to sustain carried.

- English Bible - Motion to sustain carried.
- Church Government - Motion to sustain carried.

A motion to approve the examination as a whole was made and carried.

Following Mr. Hardeman's answering of the questions in BCO 19-4&5 a motion was made and carried his transfer be approved and he be licensed in this Presbytery.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Pascavis reported for the time period April 1 through July 9, 1982 and a motion was made and carried it be received as information. (See Appendix "B").

Mission to N. America: Chairman Rod Mays reporting:

1. The motion was made and carried that Mr. Steve Rauscher, a member of Littlepage Church be paid \$50 per week for 13 weeks for serving the Pliny Church. Further, that he be examined by the Littlepage Session and MNA chairman Rod Mays to continue preaching at Pliny.
2. A report was made on the mission church in Huntington, W.V. and it was reported the average Sunday attendance to be 45 and offerings to be \$3,000 per month.

The motion was made and carries this report be approved as a whole.

Christian Education: Chairman Mike Hall reporting: A brief report was given on the recent Hawk's Nest Outing. A motion was made and carried this be received as information.

Stewardship: Chairman Bill Pascavis reporting: The chairman urged all Presbytery Committees to determine their 1983 budget needs and have their requests ready by the November meeting. Word should be sent the Stewardship Committee chairman as soon as possible.

The motion was made and carried this report be received as information.

Docketed for this time were the Complaints received by the clerk's office by members of the Westminster Church against the Church Session.

The Complaints were read to Presbytery by the clerk. Eight complaints were filed by both M. Douglas Hart and Bonsall Hart, three complaints by M. Douglas Hart alone, 5 complaints in similarity to the original twelve above by Boyd Headley, and by request the name of Richard Telling added to the twelfth complaint of the original twelve above (See Appendix "C")

The motion was then made and carried to give each side 10 minutes time, uninterrupted, to summarize their views. The complaintants spoke first and the respondents followed. A motion was also made and carried to permit ruling elder David Shockley from Roanoke to speak.

After a series of proposed motions and discussion a motion was then made and carried by Rev. Mays that a Commission be appointed to handle these complaints and this Commission to report back at the next Stated Meeting of Presbytery. Named to this Commission in this same motion were:

TE

Max Harris  
Michael Hall  
Charles McNutt

RE

Robert Miller  
Jerry Martin  
? - To be named by Presbytery

Nominations were then made and Presbytery elected RE Riley Ware to fill the last slot.

A call to prayer was then made and Dr. Jack Arnold was asked to lead in this time of prayer.

New Business: None

Time and Place of Next Stated Meeting: A motion was made and carried that the next Stated Meeting of Presbytery be held November 12-13 at the Grace Bible Camp near Goshen, Va., and near the Lebanon and Little River Churches. The cost of the Camp will be \$14.50 per person. A part of the motion also is the request that the churches pay this cost for their official Church representatives and the 'Women in the Presbytery' who will be attending their annual meeting at that time.

The business now concluded a motion was made and carried for adjournment. The meeting was then closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*R. Norman Evans*  
R. Norman Evans, Stated Clerk

# Covenant Presbyterian Church

819 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA 25177  
Telephone (304) 722-4639

Appendix  
"A"

DR. ROD S. MAYS, PASTOR  
Residence (304) 722-3525

OVERTURE TO THE NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

FROM

THE SESSION OF THE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Whereas, the work of the Lord's Church is to be done decently and in order,

Whereas, there seems to be some confusion concerning the existing rules and by-laws of Presbytery,

Whereas, the Joining and Receiving procedure has added to our members,

Whereas, we want these brethren to be well informed and involved,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Session of the Covenant Presbyterian Church overtures the New River Presbytery to rewrite and adopt a new set of rules and by-laws.

The Session, Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Rod S. Mays, Moderator

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY FINICIAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 1982 THRU JULY 9, 1982

Appendix "B"

BEGINNING BALANCE 4-1-82

\$ 7385.63

INCOME: APRIL 240.85  
MAY 325.00  
JUNE 275.00  
JULY 1272.75  
#2113.60

+2113.60

#9499.23

DEBITS: APRIL -----  
MAY 980.89  
JUNE 416.67  
JULY 6416.67  
7814.23

(6000.<sup>00</sup> TRANSFERED  
FROM CHECKING ACCT.  
TO SAVINGS ACCT.)

-7814.23

#1685.00

IN CHECKING ACCT. 1685.00  
IN SAVINGS ACCT. 6000.00  
#7685.00



June 23, 1982

New River Presbytery  
c/o Clerk of New River Presbytery  
5315 Koontz Drive  
Charleston, West Virginia 25313

Gentlemen:

Because we desire to work for the peace and purity of the church of Jesus Christ, we are bringing the following matters to you in the form of a series of complaints against the actions of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church in America.

In Douglas Hart's letter to the clerk, dated April 19, he asked Presbytery to please examine some of these issues under their right to review and control the actions of church sessions. Two months have gone by and there has been no official action by the Presbytery. We feel in order to insure a proper examination of the facts by Presbytery we must now file these complaints for your consideration at the July 10 meeting.

1. We complain against the action of Westminster P.C.A. Session in calling Rev. Walter Craymer as our regular supply pastor without licensure from the Presbytery. (B.O.C. 19-1)

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Bonall Hart*

2. We complain against the action of the Westminster P.C.A. Session in falsely and deceptively reporting this status of our stated pulpit supply to Presbytery. Evidence to support this includes the letter to the Presbytery in March stating that Dr. Craymer did not need to be examined by Presbytery, the minutes of Presbytery itself in this March discussion, the statement of Elders Doran and Morrison in reporting to Presbytery in March that Dr. Craymer only preached 4 or 5 times when he had preached approximately 20 times. Further evidence is our church bulletins that show the frequency of his preaching and position as interim pastor.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Bonall Hart*

3. We complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in allowing Dr. Craymer in January and April to administer the Lord's Supper in Westminster Church; not being licensed or authorized to do so in the P.C.A.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Bonall Hart*

June 23, 1982

4. We complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in permitting Dr. Craymer to preach a strongly dispensational interpretation of Scripture particularly in a series of sermons on Daniel which contradicted the unity of the Covenant of Grace, the completed work of the atonement and the oneness of the church throughout all ages. (W.C.F. XXVI, L.C.Q. 62) Evidence supporting this are the charts distributed to support his views and witnesses of his sermons.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Russell Hart*

5. We complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in allowing Bruce Gay to preach on May 30 that predestination and electing grace in I Peter 1:1-3 were the 'bones' of scripture and that 'we should eat the meat and throw away the bones'. He further stated 'fore-knowledge and election are gristle not meat, the rest of the passage has the meat'. These errors were not corrected by our Session at a later time. Mr. Gay is a Baptist and a teacher in a Christian school and has preached several services in our church.

*Russell Hart*

6. We complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in which they have closed all session meetings to all but session members. This is evidenced by their denial of Richard Telling's request to attend a meeting, by their exclusion of our former youth director, Gary Litchfield, and Douglas Hart. We are not asking that discussions of sensitive personnel or discipline matters be open. But secrecy is not necessary in the normal matters of the Session. We also complain that the sessional minutes are not released or made available to those outside the session, not even to the deacons.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Russell Hart*

7. We complain against the action of the Session in allowing Elder Irvin Doran to be installed and allowed to continue as an elder while he denies the Biblical doctrines of sovereign election, total depravity, effectual calling and limited atonement. He furthermore has stated publicly that 'the W.C.F. should be put on the shelf and collect dust where it belongs'. He also stated that by 'baptizing our infant children we are denying them the opportunity to have a real baptism after their conversion'. He has not been a proper example to the church by not having his children baptized and in advocating a Baptist view of Baptism.

*M. Douglas Hart*

June 23, 1982

8. We complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in ordaining and allowing Elder Stu Jackson to continue to serve as elder when his views on sovereign election and reprobation fall short of and contradict the Scriptures and the Confession. He has indicated that there is room within the Confession for an Arminian view of election based on foreknowledge, and that the Confession does not teach that all whom God has not elected to eternal life he has passed over. Elder Jackson seems to be saying that Scripture contradicts itself in teaching sovereign election and Arminian free-will.

His letter to Boyd Headley of April 17 shows that his position on the Confession is that it is in 'harmony' with the Word of God but not in 'conformity' or 'accord' with the Word of God. If this is not an erroneous view, it is at best so confused it is unsuitable for an elder to hold.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Bonnie Hart*

9. We complain against the action of the W.P.C.A. Session in ordaining and re-installing Elder Jim Way. He has stated in a session meeting, Nov. 1981 that he does not believe in sovereign election or limited atonement.

*M. Douglas Hart*

10. We complain against the action of the W.P.C.A. Session in ordaining and installing Elder David Shockley when he does not believe the Bible teaches covenant baptism of children.

*M. Douglas Hart*

11. We complain against the action of the congregation of W.P.C.A. at the congregational meeting of May 23. Moderator W.E. Hill did not allow discussion of an amendment to a motion - ruling it not debateable. An amendment is debateable if the original motion is. This squelched discussion of the importance of calling a pastor by a ballot as prescribed in B.O.C. 20-4. We ask that the call of Lonnie W. Barnes as pastor be ruled as invalid because it was not done by ballot but by standing vote. This discouraged dissenting votes, nullified the vote of all who abstained and prevented the number of members present (20-4) from being counted.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Bonnie Hart*

June 23, 1982

12. We complain against the action of the Westminster P.C.A. Session in denying Richard Telling the opportunity to attend a meeting of the session to bring his concerns on doctrinal issues before them. He sought to come in obedience to Matthew 18: 15-18 and was denied this opportunity. In response to the Session's suggestion he contact members individually, he wrote a letter to them with his questions. These questions went unanswered. This reveals the lack of forthrightness in their beliefs and in pastoral concern for a member.

*M. Douglas Hart*  
*Boyd Hart*

4743 Horseman Drive NE  
Roanoke, VA 24019

June 28, 1982

New River Presbytery  
C/O Clerk of Presbytery  
5315 Koontz Drive  
Charleston, WV 25313

Gentlemen:

As you may be aware, there have been issues arising at Westminster P.C.A. which we have been unable to settle ourselves. These issues concern the actions of the Westminster P.C.A. Session in matters which are in conflict with the Westminster Confession of Faith (C.O.F.) and the P.C.A. Book of Church Order (B.C.O.).

It appears to me that these actions have, in some cases, shown a disregard for the C.O.F. and B.C.O. and in other cases an actual disdain.

While it does not please me to bring complaints against the Session, I believe that I have a responsibility before God to speak up on these matters. Therefore, I would ask that the following complaints be reviewed and that instruction be given to all of us here at Westminster P.C.A. as to whether or not these actions are within the bounds of the doctrine and organization of the P.C.A.

1. The action of Westminster P.C.A. Session in calling Rev. Walter Craymer as our regular supply pastor without licensure from the Presbytery. (B.C.O. 19-1)  
As church treasurer and deacon, I was given guidelines by the Session for paying Rev. Craymer based on individual services for a full month. I paid him for several odd services in December and then on a regular monthly basis until the end of June, at which time Rev. Barnes came to our pulpit.
2. I complain against the action of the Westminster P.C.A. Session in falsely reporting this status of our stated pulpit supply to Presbytery. Evidence to support this includes the letter to the Presbytery in March stating that Dr. Craymer did not need to be examined by Presbytery, the minutes of Presbytery itself in this March discussion, the statement of Elders Doran and Morrison in reporting to Presbytery in March that Dr. Craymer only preached four or five times when he had preached approximately 20 times. Further evidence is our church bulletins

June 28, 1982

that show the frequency of his preaching and position as interim pastor (these papers may be found in letters presented by Doug Hart).

3. I complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in allowing Dr. Craymer in January and April to administer the Lord's Supper in Westminster Church; not being licensed or authorized to do so in the P.C.A.
4. I complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in which they have closed all session meetings to all but session members. This is evidenced by their denial of Richard Telling's request to attend a meeting, by their exclusion of our former youth director, Gary Litchfield, and Douglas Hart. I am not asking that discussions of sensitive personnel or discipline matters be open, but secrecy is not necessary in the normal matters of the Session. I also complain that the sessional minutes are not released or made available to those outside the session, not even to the deacons. Efforts in the past to achieve access resulted in only limited success. Currently, excerpts are divulged to the deacons if the Session deems them necessary for the deacons to conduct business. (There is also no invitation to church members to attend regular Session meetings).
5. I complain against the action of W.P.C.A. Session in denying Richard Telling the opportunity to attend a meeting of the session to bring his concerns on doctrinal issues before them. He sought to come in obedience to Matthew 18: 15-18 and was denied this opportunity. In response to the Session's suggestion that he contact members individually, he wrote a letter to them with his questions. These questions went unanswered. This reveals the lack of forthrightness in their beliefs and in pastoral concern for a member.

There are other matters of which I am not a sufficient witness to bring complaints. These matters are presented in a similar letter from other W.P.C.A. members (dated June 23). I share their dismay on those points as well and request that you regard them as symptomatic of the Session's tendency in leading and guiding Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Boyd G. Headley III  
Member, Westminster P.C.A.