

## MINUTES

### SIXTEENTH STATED MEETING NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

July 13-14, 1979

Westminster Presbyterian Church in America, 2216 Peters Creek Road  
Roanoke, VA

Opening Worship: Moderator James Gay presided as the worship service began at 7:30 p.m. , July 13. Following opening prayer and a hymn, Rev. William Hill, Jr. preached from II Peter, chapter 3 with the second coming of Christ as his theme. The Communion sacrament was then observed with Rev. Michael Bolus presiding. Elders from his church (Westminster) served.

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 Pat Jenkins (Rebecca Littlepage), Summers Dunbar (Kanawha Salines), Jerry Martin (Faith), Coy Hughes (South Ruffner), Paige Melton (Covenant), Jim Way and Al Hillman (Westminster), Jim Brown (Pliny), and Thomas Minter (Lebanon).

A quorum was declared present by the clerk.

First time elders and visitors were recognized and welcomed.

Minutes: The Minutes of the 15th stated meeting were amended upon the request of the clerk. The paragraph dealing with the executive session (third from last) was amended to conclude with the word "session" omitting all reference to any individuals. This is in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. There were no other changes in the Minutes which were then approved.

Docket: The docket was amended to include an offering at the Friday night session and to allow for a break in the morning session at 10:30.

An offering for the expenses of Presbytery was then received. It amounted to \$33.25 plus \$75 from two churches or a total of \$108.25.

Rev. Fitzhenry was named chairman of a Committee on Thanks.

Welcome from host church - expressed by Rev. Michael Bolus.

Rev. Evans presented a report for the Camp Committee which was distributed and left for inclusion in the report of the Christian Education Committee. At the moment it was received as information.

The evening session concluded with testimonies from each church in Presbytery. In every instance God's blessings were evident. Recess came at 9:30 and meetings of committees were held.

Presbytery reconvened at 8:30 a.m., July 14.

Rev. Bolus brought the opening devotions.

The Committee of Ministers and Candidates asked to be excused to meet further with Rev. William Michael Hall. Permission was granted and in their absence the General Assembly was reported on by four of those present who attended.

The clerk reported no communications other than those already referred to committees prior to the meeting. There were no excuses for absence.

Rev. Alder asked to be excused at 1:00 .

The minutes of Westminster Church, not present at the 15h meeting, had been examined by Pat Jenkins and he reported an exception which was given to the moderator for corrective action.

Report of Committee on Ministers and Candidates: Rev. Hall was examined as a result of the Pliny Church's desire to call him as its pastor. Pliny had voted to call Rev. Hall. Rev. Hall was a member of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference.

Rev. Hall gave his testimony and Rev. Bolus moved that this part of the examination be approved. Seconded and carried.

Rev. Dodd conducted the examination on theology. He then moved its approval which was seconded and carried.

Jerry Martin conducted the examination of Rev. Hall's knowledge of the sacraments. He moved its approval which was seconded and carried.

Rev. Hall was examined on church government by Rev. Bolus. This portion of the examination was also approved.

Rev. Wilkes moved that Rev. Hall be approved as stated supply of Pliny Church for one year and that he be examined again at next summer's meeting of Presbytery. Motion defeated.

Upon Rev. Bolus' motion, the examination as a whole was sustained and Rev. Hall was given the hand of fellowship. He signed the ex animo statement and the call was placed in his hands. A copy is attached. Elder Brown named the following Installation Commission to install Rev. Hall on August 26 at 7:30 p.m. : Rev. Mays to preach, Rev. Fitzhenry to charge the pastor, Rev. Evans to charge the congregation, and ruling elders Jack Simpson and Jim Gay.

Report of Committee to the United States: Chairman John Dodd made report. The effort at Mt. Hope continues with a family named Evans as our contact. The chairman recommended continued support of the work at Princeton and that each congregation receive a special offering for that work by November 1. The report as a whole was received.

There was no report from the Mission to the World.

At this juncture Barbara Dority of the Westminster Church was recognized for a presentation of the work of the Christian Endeavor. Miss Dority is one of the national vice-presidents of CE.

Report of the Stewardship Committee: made by Summers Dunbar. The Key Man program as outlined by the GA Stewardship Committee was described by the chairman. Each Presbytery would be asked to contribute \$53 a member to GA causes. After some discussion it was moved and seconded that the Key Man program be tabled. Motion carried. The report was received as a whole.

Christian Education Committee Report: made by Pat Jenkins, committee member. With the camp committee report included, the report as a whole was received.

Nominating Committee Report: Made by Rev. Hill, chairman. The following nominations to the Presbytery Committees, Class of 1982, were made:

Mission to the World	Rev. James Fishel and Alex Kelemen
Mission to the US	Rev. Rod Mays and Don Post
Christian Education	Rev. William Hill and Tom Minter, Jr.
Stewardship	Rev. John Dodd and William Pascavis
Ministers and Candidates	Rev. Lin Wilkes and Charles Kennedy
Nominating	Rev. Norman Evans and B. W. Gallagher

The following nominations to the GA Committees for 1980 were made:

Committee on Administration	Rev. Mays and B. W. Gallagher
Inter-church Relations	Rev. Fitzhenry and Bob Kresge
Judicial Commission	Rev. Wilkes and James Gay
Insurance and Annuities	Rev. Fishel and James Meador
Christian Education	Rev. Alder and Summers Dunbar
Mission to U.S.	Rev. Dodd and Pat Jenkins
Mission to the World	Rev. Bolus and Harry Musser
Theological Exam. Committee	Rev. Evans and Jerry Martin

Rev. Evans was also nominated to be Presbytery's representative to the PCA Nominating Committee for a two year term. The by-laws were amended to state that this nomination is a duty of the Nominating Committee. All of these nominatings were approved.

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:30. Rev. Fitzhenry presented his committee's report on thanks following a delicious meal served by the ladies of Westminster.

Presbytery reconvened at 1:00.

The clerk's report again stressed the need for each church to support Presbytery in a regular manner. The bank account has been as low as a few hundred dollars. Each church will need to match last year's support if the commitments for the remainder of the year are to be met.


New Business: Rev. Fitzhenry moved that a new moderator be elected at each meeting with the proviso that a moderator can succeed himself one time. Motion seconded and carried.

Three overtures from Covenant Church were presented. They had been distributed the previous evening. They are attached with the action taken noted.

Next meeting of Presbytery: At Lebanon Church November 9 and 10.

Presbytery adjourned at 3:00 following prayer by Rev. Wilkes.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Kresge  
Stated Clerk

The Pliny Presbyterian Church, being on sufficient grounds well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, William Michael Hall, and having good hopes from our knowledge of your labors that your ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call you to undertake the pastoral office in said congregation, promising you, in the discharge of your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. Because of the self-supporting financial status of the pastor-elect in relationship to the small size of said congregation, we oblige ourselves initially to pay the amount of eighty dollars per month in additon to fifteen cents per mile for all mileage incurred in ministerial services. Quarterly the Session will convene to evaluate progress and adjust the pastor's salary accordingly until at which time the Church can fully support the pastor.

In testimony whereof I have respectively subscribed my name this twenty-third day of June, nineteen hundred seventy-nine.

James Melville Brown

OVERTURES TO NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

1. Whereas, the Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America is clear concerning the Administration of Baptism (Chapters 57-58) as well as the Westminster Confession of Faith (Chapter 28),

Whereas, our particular area affords many of our PCA members opportunities to travel to the Middle East and near the Jordan River,

Whereas, at the seventh general assembly, it was reported that possibly a PCA minister was re-baptizing persons in the Jordan River for sentimental or other reasons.

Therefore, the Session of the Covenant Presbyterian Church overtures the New River Presbytery to call its ministers and members to uphold the standards of the church concerning Baptism.

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2. Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in America has taken a position of ecclesiastical separation (II Cor. 6:14-18, Rom. 16:17, II John 10, Gal. 1:6-10),

Whereas, in our local communities we may find ourselves involved in ministerial associations or other meetings with other churches. Therefore, the Session of the Covenant Presbyterian Church overtures the New River Presbytery to exhort our local sessions to use the upmost Biblical discretion in these associations and guard our PCA pulpits from joint services or meetings where any of our sessions would offer the pulpit to a liberal minister or an ordained woman minister.

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3. Whereas, the Book of Church Order is clear concerning the responsibilities of our ministers who labor out of bounds of presbytery, (14-2 22-5),  
Whereas, it was brought to our attention at the 7th General Assembly that one of our ministers who labors out of bounds, was possibly taking a position against our confessional standards.

Therefore, the Session of the Covenant Presbyterian Church overtures the New River Presbytery to remind all of our ministers who labor out of bounds of their vows and responsibilities, and that Presbytery again give satisfactory reasons why they labor out of bounds.

Adopted unanimously by the Session  
of the Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Rod S. Mays, Moderator  
Paige Melton, Clerk of Session  
Jack Simpson  
Mark George  
Ralph Martin  
Jim Eades  
Jim Jarvis

Rev. Dodd moved a substitute to this resolution, calling for the chairman of the Committee on Ministers and Candidates to communicate with Rev. Wayne Good concerning this matter. The substitute was approved. July 14, 1979.

Rev. Fitzhenry moved that all ministers laboring out of the bounds of Presbytery be required to communicate once a year with Presbytery. This was approved and is made a part of the minutes of the 16th stated meeting of New River Presbytery.