

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING

OF
NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

The adjourned meeting of New River Presbytery convened on May 31, 1975 at 10:30 a.m. at the South Ruffner Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia. Moderator S. C. Dunbar called the meeting to order asking all who desired, to join him in a season of prayer--closing prayer by Rev. Charles McNutt.

A quorum was declared present by the Stated Clerk. The roll of participants was taken as follows:

Teaching Elders: Michael Bolus, Carl W. Bogue, John R. Dodd,
William E. Hill, Jr., Charles W. McNutt,
Linwood G. Wilkes, David L. Williams, Warren Thuston

Ruling Elders from the following churches:

Covenant	-	Donald H. Post, Jr.
Faith, Akron, Ohio	-	J. R. Bruder
Faith, Charleston, WV	-	Clyde Armstrong
Lebanon	-	William E. Byram
Kanawha Salines	-	Nigal F. Loomis
Rebecca Littlepage	-	R. A. Batusic
South Ruffner	-	Paul J. Whittington
Westminster	-	Curtis Carroll, J. R. Harrell

The Moderator then called for the introduction of visitors and first-time Elders, who were then given privilege of the floor for discussion.

R. H. Miller	-	Westminster Church, Roanoke, Va.
Peter Stazen, II	-	Faith Church, Akron, Ohio
George Caler	-	" " " "
Harry Musser	-	Rebecca Littlepage, Charleston, WV
Bob Kresge	-	" " " " "
Oliver G. Blake	-	Kanawha Salines, Malden, WV
L. A. Stalnaker	-	South Ruffner, Charleston, WV
James Francis Miller	-	St. Stephens, Lexington, Ky.

also, Archie Tullidge, summer assistant at Faith and Rebecca Littlepage.

Total attendance at this meeting was thirty.

The docket was presented by the Stated Clerk. Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. made a motion which was seconded that we adopt the docket as presented making an effort to examine candidates for the ministry and World Missions before lunch. Overtures to the General Assembly to be discussed in the afternoon, motion passed.

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. made a report on his activities in evangelistic services and organizing of new churches; Covenant Presbyterian Church of Saint Albans, WV and Faith Presbyterian Church of Akron, Ohio were enrolled.

Motion by Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. that New River Presbytery dismiss Joe D. Bishop to Gulf Coast Presbytery of Pensacola, Florida at his request. Motion was seconded and passed.

Motion by Rev. David Williams which received a second that Covenant Church of Saint Albans, WV be officially received into New River Presbytery. Motion passed.

It was moved and seconded that Faith Church of Akron, Ohio be officially received into New River Presbytery. Motion passed.

Rev. C. Bogue, pastor of Faith Church, Akron, Ohio made a brief report of their first church meeting, which was very encouraging to learn that they had eighty members in attendance. At this time Rev. Bogue signed the Ex-Animo statement and was enrolled in the New River Presbytery. Rev. Bogue asked to be dismissed from his former affiliation to U.P.U.S.A. Church, and he was advised that his name was stricken from the rolls. The call to Rev. Bogue was read by Stated Clerk and placed in his hand, which he accepted.

The installation of Rev. Carl W. Bogue will be Sunday, June 29, 1975, 7:30 p.m. at the Faith Presbyterian Church, Akron, Ohio. The Commission for Installation:

To preside and propound the questions -- Rev. Warren Thuston

To preach -- Rev. David Williams

To charge the pastor and congregation -- Rev. Warren Thuston

Prayer -- Rev. John Dodd

Elders: S. C. Dunbar, Donald Post, Jr.

The call to Rev. David L. Williams was read and placed in his hand--which he accepted.

Motion by Rev. John R. Dodd that Presbytery approve the call, motion received a second and passed.

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. and Rev. Warren Thuston who are on the Committee on Examination of Ministers and candidates met with Candidate James F. Miller before Presbytery convened, and made the following recommendations: that James F. Miller be enrolled as a candidate and accept a term at Briarwood Extension Seminary, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. David L. Williams made a motion which received a second that this report be approved. Motion passed.

Motion by Rev. Warren Thuston that Rev. Charles W. McNutt conduct the examination of Candidate James F. Miller. This motion was seconded and passed.

Examination of James F. Miller, candidate for the ministry

Experimental Religion -- approved

Motives for seeking the ministry -- approved

Motion by Rev. Linwood Wilkes which received a second that the examination be approved--motion passed.

Moderator S. C. Dunbar proposed the questions from Book of Church Order which were answered in the affirmative. Charge to the Candidate was given by Rev. Warren Thuston. Closing prayer by Rev. William E. Hill, Jr.

Rev. John R. Dodd made a proposal which was seconded that Candidate James F. Miller be placed under the care of Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. during his year of studies from the Briarwood Extension Seminary. Motion passed.

Motion by Rev. David L. Williams that this examination be sustained as a whole--motion received, seconded, and passed.

Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes, pastor of Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Craigsville, Va., invited the New River Presbytery to hold the July meeting on the 11th and 12th. Rev. Charles W. McNutt moved that Presbytery accept this invitation. Motion was seconded and passed.

Rev. Charles W. McNutt moved that New River Presbytery consider the fact that Rev. William E. Hill, Jr. is retired on a fixed income and that we pay his travel expense to and from this meeting. This motion was seconded and passed.

It was brought to the attention of the Presbytery --by Rev. Charles McNutt-- that the recently organized Covenant Church of St. Albans is in need of financial help and that Presbytery make a donation of \$200.00. A motion to this effect was made, seconded, and passed.

Rev. David L. Williams, pastor of Covenant Church made a report on what is needed most from a list of materials. He asked that we be in prayer asking God to lead as to where Covenant Church will go, as of August 1st. the free rent on the building they now occupy will cease.

A motion by Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes that Miss Judy Brown, candidate for World Missions be examined immediately after lunch. This was seconded and passed.

Moderator S. C. Dunbar appointed a Committee of Thanks:

Rev. Carl W. Bogue, Chairman, with Oliver G. Blake, and Harry Musser

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Prayer of thanks by Rev. John R. Dodd.

The Presbytery resumed work at 1:30 p.m. with opening prayer by Rev. Michael Bolus.

A motion by Rev. Michael Bolus to examine Miss Judy Brown, a member of Pliney Presbyterian Church (PCUS), Pliney, WV as a candidate in World Missions, and that Miss Brown be officially received when she becomes a member of a P.C.A. Church in the New River Presbytery. This motion was seconded by Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes and passed.

Examination was conducted by Rev. Warren Thuston.

Miss Judy Brown's credentials were found in order.

Experimental Religion -- approved

Motives for seeking the missionary candidacy -- approved

Motion by Rev. Warren Thuston that the examination be sustained as a whole was seconded and passed.

Moderator propounded the questions in the Book of Church Order.

Rev. John Dodd gave the charge

Prayer by Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes

Right hand of fellowship extended by Presbytery

New Business

Rev. William E. Hill, Jr., presented four overtures to the Presbytery. He also made a motion which received a second, that Presbytery discuss these overtures for one hour making amendments or revision so that we will be able to present them to the General Assembly meeting which will convene September 9, 1975 at Jackson, Mississippi. Motion passed.

OVERTURES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FROM NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

I

New River Presbytery (by unanimous vote) respectfully overtures the third General Assembly as follows:

1. That whereas women were a vital and effective part of the ministry of our Lord, having gone with Him in His travels on occasion, been of service to the disciples and our Lord;
2. And whereas the Apostle Paul makes mention of women as co-laborers with him in the gospel;
3. And whereas one book of the New Testament at least is written to a woman;
4. And whereas the daughters of Philip were spoken of as "prophetesses";
5. And whereas the women of the Presbyterian Church in America have been organized and we have a committee of the General Assembly advisory to them;
6. And whereas the women have been most diligent, knowledgeable, and effective in their labors in the service of the Lord.

That the General Assembly now:

1. Commends them (for their diligence, humility, study, service and activity in behalf of the spreading of the gospel and promoting the nurture of Christians);
2. That the third General Assembly also express a desire and pray that their work may prosper as a very valuable contribution to the whole work of the whole Church in the service of the Lord.

And further, whereas there are some of the brethren who feel that organized work of the women on the General Assembly level is not Scriptural, and who rumor to the effect that Women in the Church is to be abolished on assembly level, do constantly disturb and hinder the work of Women in the Church.

3. That the third General Assembly assert that though we have no clear statement in scripture explicitly directing organized women's work, it is the consensus of the General Assembly that to abolish the women's work on this basis would also necessitate the abolishing of Sunday Schools, men's work, youth work, permanent committees, and a host of other activities of the General Assembly, since they also are neither explicitly directed by scripture.

It is the hope, therefore, of New River Presbytery that this overture may be answered in the affirmative, thus encouraging greatly "the elect ladies" in our thanksgiving to God for their activity.

OVERTURES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FROM NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

II

New River Presbytery (by unanimous vote) respectfully overtures the third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America as follows:

1. That whereas the Presbyterian Church in America has come into being by a groundswell of movement from the "grass roots" and has continued through these past two years as a "grass roots" movement arising from the hearts and prayers of many individual Christians rather than from the dictates of a hierarchy above;
2. And whereas "there is safety in numbers" and decisions made by representatives from congregations are less likely to err than decisions made by a small group;
3. And whereas individual congregations are more likely to join heartily in participation, support and interest in the causes of the whole Church if such congregations are individually represented at the General Assembly and have a voice in the making of decisions;
4. And whereas (to put it into the words of a similar overture already presented to the General Assembly) "the benefits of retaining such a 'grass roots' interest and participation... far outweigh any possible disadvantages... Now therefore be it resolved that the presbytery... is of the opinion that it is in the best interests of the Church to continue the 'grass roots' General Assembly."

New River Presbytery, therefore, (by unanimous vote) respectfully requests the third General Assembly to continue our Church as a "grass roots" movement by allowing each church or congregation to send commissioners to the General Assembly.

OVERTURES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FROM NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

III

New River Presbytery (by unanimous vote) respectfully overtures the third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America as follows:

1. That whereas evangelism in our native land is a very vital part of the "Great Commission" as well as evangelism throughout all the world;
2. And whereas preaching and personal evangelism need to be stimulated among our people;
3. And whereas this matter is of sufficient importance to merit a special committee to give thought, planning and inspiration to this matter, as well as earnest prayer;

New River Presbytery (by unanimous vote) overtures the General Assembly to instruct Committee on Mission to the U. S. that they appoint a special subcommittees to promote this aspect of evangelism in obedience to the "Great Commission";

And, further;

1. Whereas fulltime evangelists are certainly in order in the Church today to lend encouragement, assistance and inspiration to congregations and pastors;
2. And whereas the office of evangelist is definitely indicated in the Scripture,
3. And whereas there may be the feeling on the part of some that, in spite of the fact that the P.E.F. has rendered a great service under the good hand of God in bringing about the birth of the P.C.A., some of the brethren feel that some P.E.F. evangelists are not sufficiently Reformed;

That the third General Assembly, follow the example of the Evangelism Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, in inviting any preaching evangelist who wish to be certified by the Church, to submit to a theological examination which, if passed, would result in certification on the part of the Evangelism Committee of the denomination and recommendation to the churches in the denomination.

Therefore, New River Presbytery (by unanimous vote) overtures the General Assembly to set up a special ad interim committee to certify any fulltime or parttime evangelists who request such an examination, if such examination is sustained, would be officially commended to the churches as theologically sound and worthy of consideration for a possible call to render temporary service to any congregation in the denomination which may choose to use them.

OVERTURES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FROM NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

IV

New River Presbytery (by unanimous vote) respectfully overtures the third General Assembly as follows:

1. That whereas the principal of freedom of conscience of the individual Christian to give where he feels the Lord is calling him to give is recognized;
2. And whereas three of our Assembly's committees have received far less than they had anticipated for the vital operation of their work;
3. And whereas it is recognized that the work of Mission to the World justly deserves all funds it has received and more;

Therefore, New River Presbytery (unanimously) overtures the General Assembly

1. To commend people for their giving to World Missions;
2. Urge that they increase their giving to World Missions, but at the same time request individuals and congregations of the P.C.A. to prayerfully consider the needs and responsibilities of the Committee on Administration, the Committee on Christian Education and Publication, the Committee on Mission to the U. S., and without taking anything away from the Committee on Mission to the Worl, yet increase their giving so that these three other committes may receive sufficient funds on which to operate efficiently.

Rev. Carl W. Bogue asked Rev. Linwood G. Wilkes, pastor of Lebanon Church to withdraw his invitation to host the July Presbytery meeting in favor of Faith Church in Akron, Ohio, since they will probably be in another Presbytery this fall (Western Pennsylvania), and would like to return the hospitable fellowship they have enjoyed in New River Presbytery. This was agreeable with Rev. Wilkes. Rev. McNutt moved that we re-consider and accept this offer. A motion was made to hold the Presbytery's fall meeting in the Lebanon Church in November. Motion was seconded and passed.

Rev. John Dodd suggested that the area P.C.A. Churches in New River Presbytery sponsor a series of meetings conducted by Dr. Manford G. Gutzke, Bible for You Rally, to be held Oct. 17 thru 20, 1976. (Received for information)

S. C. Dunbar will organize a committee to involve all churches in the Charleston area during this series of meetings.

Report from Committee of Thanks:

The New River Presbytery expresses gratitude to the South Ruffner Presbyterian Church for their hospitality in hosting the May 31, 1975 meeting of Presbytery. The accommodations and meal were both excellent and helped to make our meeting a joyful experience. Rev. Carl W. Bogue, Chairman

L. C. Carroll moved that the meeting be adjourned. This received a second. The moderator asked that we all stand and sing Blest Be the Tie That Binds.

Closing prayer by Dr. R. H. Miller of Roanoke, Virginia

Respectfully submitted,

S. C. Dunbar, Moderator

James N. Gay, Stated Clerk

James N. Gay