

EIGHTH STATED MEETING

NEW RIVER PRESBYTERY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOVEMBER 12-13, 1976, 7:30 P.M.

SOUTH RUFFNER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Kanawha Avenue and 20th Street, S. E.
Charleston, West Virginia 25304

WORSHIP SERVICE

Opening prayer by Moderator Charles W. McNutt. Hymn--"How Firm A Foundation". Presbytery was led in worship by Reverend William E. Hill, Jr. The text was II Corinthians 5:6-11, 14-21, 6:1-2, on "What Is A Born Again Christian". Christ died for our sins that we might be reconciled. We must receive the Gospel--share it with others--be ambassadors of Christ. Be ye reconciled to God. A hymn of invitation was sung--"Jesus Saves". Closing prayer by Reverend Hill.

CALL TO ORDER

Presbytery was called to order by Moderator Charles W. McNutt

ROLL CALL

The enrollment was by signature with the following present:
Teaching Elders: Michael Bolus, Westminster; W. A. Fitzhenry, South Ruffner; William E. Hill, Jr., Hopewell, Virginia; Charles W. McNutt, Rebecca Littlepage and Faith; David L. Williams, Covenant; Linwood G. Wilkes, Lebanon and Little River. Ruling Elders: Billy E. Blake, Covenant; Charles F. Dent, Kanawha Salines; Douglas Dority, Westminster; James Harrell, Westminster; O. F. Light, Rebecca Littlepage; Thomas Minter, Jr., Lebanon; George Stafford, Faith; L. A. Stalnaker, South Ruffner.

The Stated Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

Welcome by host church by Ruling Elder B. W. Gallagher.

Introduction of first-time Elders: Billy E. Blake, Covenant;
Charles F. Dent, Kanawha Salines;
O. F. Light, Rebecca Littlepage

Introduction of visitors: John B. Shawhan, Covenant; Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Thom,
George B. Alder, II, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Courtney,
Mrs. William Fitzhenry, Mrs. Michael Bolus,

Mrs. Charles W. McNutt, Mr. & Mrs. S. C. Dunbar, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Toney, Jerry Martin, B. W. Gallagher, Allison McDaniel, Bob Kresge, Pat Jenkins

Testimonies from church representatives:

Thomas Minter, Jr., Lebanon; Linwood Wilkes, Little River; S. C. Dunbar, Kanawha Salines; James Harrell, Michael Bolus, Westminster; O. F. Light, Rebecca Littlepage; Billy E. Blake, David L. Williams, Covenant; Charles Buerhaus, William Fitzhenry, South Ruffner; George Stafford, Faith; David L. Williams, Pliny; George B. Alder, II, new work at Princeton, W.Va.

Offering -- an offering of \$75.00 was received for the work of the Presbytery.

Meeting of committees following adjournment.

A motion was made at 9:10 p.m. to recess until 8:30 a.m. on November 13, 1976. This motion received a second, and passed.

Closing prayer by moderator Charles W. McNutt.

Refreshments were served in the fellowship hall.

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Presbytery reconvened November 13, 1976, 8:30 a.m.

Opening prayer by Linwood G. Wilkes, followed by a season of prayer and closed by moderator Charles W. McNutt.

Approval of minutes --

Motion by Michael Bolus to accept the minutes for the meeting of August 13-14, 1976, and approve them as printed, a second to this by George Stafford, and motion carried.

Motion by David L. Williams that Presbytery take a fifteen minute break at 10:15 a.m. This received a second and passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Reverend John R. Dodd made a request to be excused from this meeting. Request was granted. Letters were received from Mission to World and placed in the hands of that committee for further action; also, a card from missionary James B. Moore, who is serving in Japan.

Committee on thanks appointed --

Moderator appointed the following: James Harrell, chairman;
Michael Bolus, George Stafford

Recognition of Women In the Church --

Mrs. John P. Jenkins, president, and Mrs. Dan Toney, treasurer, presented Women in the Church budget in the amount of \$225.00 for the coming year, 1977, to the Stated Clerk for approval. Linwood G. Wilkes moved for an amendment that, if needed, the Women in the Church could ask for additional funds, subject to approval. This received a second, motion passed.

RECEPTION OF CANDIDATES AND EXAMINATION FOR ORDINATION

William Fitzhenry, member of this committee, moved that the sermon by George B. Alder, II at the August Presbytery meeting be accepted and approved as part of his examination for ordination. Motion received a second and passed.

Committee proceeded with the receiving of John Shawhan as a candidate. John is a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, W. Va. John gave his Christian testimony and motives for seeking the gospel ministry. A motion was made to approve the examination and to enroll John Shawhan as a candidate in the gospel ministry. The motion received a second and passed. The questions were propounded by the Moderator from the B.C.O. This was followed by a charge given by John's home pastor, David Williams, in which he cited II Timothy, Chapter 2 --the path of a "good soldier" in the time of apostasy. He also cited holiness as a necessary ingredient. Prayer by S. C. Dunbar.

Right hand of fellowship was extended by all those present.

Moderator instructed the clerk to record John Shawhan on the rolls of New River Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry.

A motion was made by David Williams that a committee be appointed to study the matter of aid to candidates and make a recommendation to Presbytery regarding this matter with an addition to the manual. The motion received a second and passed by a vote of 8 to 4.

Moderator appointed the following committee: Michael Bolus, chairman; L. A. Stalnaker, James Harrell.

UPDATING MANUAL OF PRESBYTERY

Moderator asked S. C. Dunbar to act on his behalf while he, Charles McNutt, made the following motion: That Presbytery will have communion at its March meeting each year. Also, appoint a committee to amend the manual to this effect. Motion received a second and passed. The following committee was appointed by the moderator: S. C. Dunbar and James Gay.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee

Chairman Linwood Wilkes nominated William Fitzhenry who was elected to represent the Presbytery at the assembly's nominating committee.

Mission to the World

Michael Bolus, chairman, will represent Presbytery in Atlanta on November 18-20, 1976. He asked for prayers, and any suggestions as to Mission to the World.

Mission to United States

Charles McNutt, chairman, reports while being relieved as moderator by S. C. Dunbar.

Charles McNutt made a motion, as of January 1, 1977, that Presbytery pay George B. Alder, II \$4,000.00 per year, plus his annuities. This motion received a second and passed.

Christian Education

David Williams, chairman, reports they are planning a retreat for high school and college age around Christmas holidays, and through this group hope to make contact for counselors and leaders for summer camp. They would like to know about the needs in this field of work in the various churches.

Charles McNutt reports that Covenant Church had an additional expense involving repairs to the school bus that was used in transporting our young people to and from camp this last summer. The clerk under advisement has already sent Covenant a check for \$108.00. It is being held until Presbytery approves it.

A motion by Michael Bolus to authorize the treasurer of Covenant Church to cash the check. Motion received a second and passed.

Stewardship Committee

Robert E. Kresge, chairman. The Stewardship Committee of New River Presbytery recommends that (1) each member church be asked to contribute \$7.00 for each communicate member to the work of the Presbytery, and (2) that a stewardship chairman be designated by each member church, that chairman preferably being a Deacon. It was moved and seconded, motion passed.

A motion was made by William Fitzhenry that by March 1977 the Stewardship Committee present a budget for the year 1977. Also, that the manual be amended to require the Stewardship Committee to present

the Presbytery with a budget for the coming year at the November meeting each following year.

While attending the meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, the Subcommittee on Stewardship chairman, M. E. Howland, made the request that, if possible, each Presbytery pay half of the travel expense of their representatives to attend these meetings. In reply to this request, Bob Kresge, made a motion that the Presbytery pay one half of his expenses to Alabama, which amounts to \$65.00. This motion received a second and passed.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

The following was handed to the Stated Clerk --

We, Women in the Church, request the approval from Presbytery for an allotment of \$225.00 for a retreat and training session with a guest speaker at the host church for our spring meeting in Roanoke, Virginia March 18-19, 1977. Motion to approve was received, seconded and passed.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS ATTENDING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A motion was made by David Williams that we alternate in hearing from a Ruling Elder and a Teaching Elder. Motion was seconded and passed. Good and informative reports were made by John P. Jenkins, William Fitzhenry, S. C. Dunbar, Charles McNutt, and Doug Dority.

NEW BUSINESS

Linwood G. Wilkes suggested that Presbytery consider another "tent making" ministry in the Roanoke, Virginia area.

In reply to this, Michael Bolus reported that within a year there is a possibility of a ministry--such as forming a new church in the Roanoke, Virginia area. No motion in this connection was made at this time.

David Williams asked the question as to how the Women in the Church relate to Presbytery. Moderator Charles McNutt answered-- "through the Christian Education Committee".

Paul Whittington, Ruling Elder at South Ruffner suggested that the candidates in the ministry keep in touch with the Committee on Examination of Ministers and Candidates. Chairman Rev. William E. Hill, Jr., 2401 City Point Road, Hopewell, Virginia 23860.

PLACE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia
March 18-19, 1977, 7:30 p.m.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THANKS

On behalf of New River Presbytery, the committee wishes to thank the Pastor, Session and Congregation for their warm hearts, warm food, and warm beds. We wish also to thank the women in the church for their extensive preparations.

James Harrell, Chairman
George Stafford
Michael Bolus

Adjournment: Moved by Linwood G. Wilkes, received a second and passed.

Closing prayer by Moderator Charles McNutt

Dinner was served in fellowship hall following adjournment.

James N. Gay
Recorded by Stated Clerk James N. Gay