

THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
Atlanta, Georgia
November 20, 1985

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Eleventh Meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council was called to order by RE William Kuykendall at 1:35 p.m., on November 20, 1985, at the Howard Johnson's Airport Inn, Hartsfield International Airport, Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting was opened with the reading of Psalm 133 and prayer by RE William Kuykendall.

2. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. The following delegates and observers were present:

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC):

RE William H. F. Kuykendall TE Gregory Slater
RE Charles H. Carlisle
TE James W. Gettys

Christian Reformed Church (CRC):

TE Dirk J. Hart
TE John H. Primus

Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC):

TE Chun Il Cho
TE Peter Kim
TE Myung Doh Kim

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC):

TE Bernard J. Stonehouse
TE Larry Mininger

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA):

TE Morton H. Smith
RE Jack D. Merry
RE Donald E. Boerema
TE Henry Lewis Smith

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA):

TE Bruce C. Stewart
TE Jerrold S. Milroy
TE Tom Reid
RE Donald McCrory

Observer Church:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC):

TE J. Kent Bull

3. ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The docket as indicated by these Minutes was adopted.

4. NOMINATIONS

The Vice Chairman, RE William Kuykendall, ARP, was elected chairman.
TE Bruce Stewart, RPCNA, was elected as Vice Chairman.
TE Morton Smith, PCA, was elected as Secretary.
RE Charles Carlisle, ARP, was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Tenth Meeting were approved with a correction.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reported that there was no correspondence calling action by the Council. A report of an OPC study committee to the OPC Assembly, which the Secretary failed to circulate at the meeting is attached as Appendix K.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Charles Carlisle, Treasurer of the Council, presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved and seconded that the report be approved. Adopted

The Interim Committee recommended that church membership assessment be set at \$50 for the ARPC, KAPC, OPC, and RPCNA and \$400 for the CRC and PCA. Adopted

The Interim Committee recommended to authorize Mr. Carlisle to pay the bills for this meeting before leaving Atlanta. Adopted

8. REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES

Each delegation gave a report of the significant action taken at the recent meetings of the Assemblies/Synods of their respective churches. (See Appendix).

9. STUDY COMMITTEE ON HERMENEUTICS

The Committee was dismissed with thanks. (See Appendix K, for a study report by an OPC Committee.)

10. STUDY COMMITTEE OF FUGITIVES FROM DISCIPLINE

The report was presented by TE Bruce Stewart.

The Council adopted the report as amended as follows:

Our Mandate: A joint study of procedures to be followed in cases of applications for membership by persons, including ministers, who are fugitives from the discipline of other NAPARC member churches.

Scriptural Basis: "Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:3-6) "For just as we have many members in one body and all members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (Romans 12:4,5) (Cf: John 17:21; I Cor. 1:10-13; 12:1ff.)

Constitutional Basis: "That the adopted basis of fellowship be regarded as a warrant for the establishment of a formal relationship of the nature of a council, that is, a fellowship that enables the constituent churches to advise, counsel and cooperate in various matters with one another." (Section II, paragraph 2)

Collollary Precedent: "Golden Rule" Comity Agreement.
(See NAPARC Minutes, 1984, p. 4)

Principal Concerns:

1. That we promote the unity, peace and purity of the churches with whom we have ecclesiastical fellowship in NAPARC in the matter of their mutual involvement in the transfer of members.
2. That we develop greater knowledge of, respect for and communication with these congregations and denominations in the area of their ecclesiastical discipline.
3. That we, while promoting goodwill, between the churches, seek also to promote the growth and maturity of the persons involved through the positive application of church discipline.
4. That we indicate to disciplined members, by not ignoring another church's discipline, that we believe that the judgment of a duly ordained body of elders may not be disregarded as though they were not acting for God in His church.
5. That we demonstrate to all that the church of Christ is one, and that He has one law for all its parts.

Recommendations: Recognizing that the churches of NAPARC have occasionally unintentionally received members and/or ordained officers who were under various stages of discipline in another NAPARC church, thus creating tension between the churches, and at the same time recognizing that need for mutual freedom and openness on the part of the churches, we recommend that each denomination respect the other's procedures of discipline and pastoral concerns as follows:

1. Regular Transfer of Membership:
That in the regular transfer of membership between NAPARC churches the session/consistory and/or presbytery/classis not receive a member until the appropriate document of transfer is in the hands of the receiving church.
2. Transfer with Irregularities:

- a. That upon request for transfer of membership by a person under discipline, the sending session/consistory or presbytery/classis inform the receiving body of the nature and extent of the disciplinary procedure before implementing the requested transfer, thus enabling informal consultation between the pastors and/or elders of both churches.
- b. That such a person not be received officially until the judicatory of the receiving church has taken into serious account the discipline of and the information supplied by, the sending church.
- c. That such a person not be publicly received until the judicatory of the receiving church is satisfied that proper restitution has been made and/or reconciliation has been seriously attempted.
- d. That a "fugitive from discipline" who no longer is a member of a church or who is no longer on the roll of a presbytery/classis shall not be received until the former judicatory has been contacted to determine if proper restitution has been made and/or reconciliation has been attempted.

3. Recourse and Appeal

Where communication and/or action regarding the sending/receiving of a member or ordained officer does not satisfy either the dismissing or receiving judicatory, communication may be made to the Interchurch Relations Committees of the churches involved with a view to mediation of the problem. If this proves unsatisfactory, the session/consistory or presbytery/classis shall be granted speaking privileges to present its concerns on the floor of the judicatory of the other denomination.

Addendum:

While the following matter is not included in mandate but is corollary to it, we recommend:

That a congregation seeking to leave a NAPARC church to affiliate with another NAPARC denomination be received only after it has complied with the requirements of the form of government of the church from which it is separating, and the receiving church shall be responsible to see that this is done.

Respectfully submitted,
 Bruce Stewart (Chairman - RPC)
 Robert Valentine (Covener - PCA)
 Ty Hofman (CRC)
 James Hunt (ARP)
 Larry Mininger (OPC)
 Donald Comer (Alternate - PCA)

That this report be submitted to the NAPARC churches with the request that this report be adopted without change.

Adopted

The Committee was dismissed with thanks.

Adopted

11. INTERIM COMMITTEE

The members of the Interim Committee were elected by the respective delegations to fill out the Committee with a representative from each denomination. The Committee is as follows:

CRC: TE John Primus
KAPC: TE Myung Doh Kim
OPC: TE Bernard Stonehouse

12. CONCURRENT SYNODS/ASSEMBLIES

The Council authorized the ARP, which will not be meeting in Grand Rapids, to have an observer on the committee to prepare for the concurrent assemblies.

Adopted

The Christian Reformed delegate is the convener of the committee for the concurrent assemblies.

Adopted

13. COMITY MATTERS

The PCA reported that they had adopted the "Golden Rule" Comity agreement with some amendments. The Interim Committee recommended that the agreement be amended as follows:

Add the phrase "and take great care in receiving members" after "enlisting members" in Item 1 of the "Golden Rule" Comity Agreement.

Adopted

That member churches be urged to adopt the uniform wording of the Golden Rule Comity Agreement.

Adopted

14. MEETING OF ASSEMBLIES AND SYNODS

The General Assembly/Synod meeting places and times for the member churches in 1986 are as follows:

ARP: Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC, June 9-12, 1986
CRC: Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, June 10-20, 1986
KAC: Los Angeles, CA, June 17-20, 1986
PCA: Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, June 23-27, 1986
RPCNA: Kansas University, Lawrence, KS, July 12-18, 1986
OPC: Eastern Baptist College, St. Davids, PA, June 10-18, 1986
EPC: Detroit, MI, June 17-20, 1986

15. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Interim Committee recommended that the next meeting of NAPARC be held in Greenville, SC, on November 18 and 19, 1986, with the consultations on the 18th and the council meeting on the 19th. The ARP will serve as host church.

Adopted

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. and was closed in prayer by TE Bruce Stewart.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morton H. Smith
Secretary