

1

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL MEETING
Greenville, South Carolina
November 12, 1986

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Twelfth Meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council was called to order by the Chairman, RE William Kuykendall at 1:35 p.m. on November 12, 1986 at the Synod Office Building of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina. The Chairman opened the meeting with a reading from Deuteronomy 16, and led the Council in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP)

RE William H. F. Kuykendall
TE Gregory C. Slater,
RE Charles H. Carlisle
RE Monterey Campbell
TE James M. Bell, Sr.

Christian Reformed Church (CRC)

TE John H. Primus,
TE Clarence Boomsma
TE Leonard J. Hofman
RE Robert J. Struyk

Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)

TE Myung Kim
TE Peter Kim

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

TE Bernard J. Stonehouse
TE John P. Galbraith

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

TE Thomas A. Cook
TE David Jones
RE Jack Merry
TE Leon Wardell
TE Morton H. Smith, Alternate

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)

TE Bruce C. Stewart
TE John H. White
TE Jerrold S. Milroy
TE Randy Van Osdol
TE Robert Henning

TE Thomas Reid

Observers present:

TE Edward Davis, EPC
TE David Massei, EPC
RE Harold Haddon, EPC

Others present:

RE Arthur H. Matthews, PCA Messenger
TE William Barker, Presbyterian Journal

3. ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Docket as reflected by these Minutes was adopted.

4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The following were nominated by the Interim Committee and elected by acclamation:

TE Bruce Stewart, RPCNA, was elected Chairman
TE Leon Wardell, PCA, was elected Vice Chairman
TE Morton H. Smith, PCA, was elected Secretary
RE Charles H. Carlisle, ARP, was elected Treasurer

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting were approved with the addition of the name of Greg Slater (ARP) to the roll.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

It was moved and seconded that the Concurrent Assemblies/Synods Arrangements Committee be authorized to assess the denominations on the same scale as the dues assessment (\$50 from the smaller denominations, and \$400 from the larger denominations) for any costs incurred by the Committee in connection with the concurrent meetings of the Assemblies and Synods in 1987, with a report back to the next meeting of the Council. Adopted

7. REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE CONCURRENT ASSEMBLIES AND SYNODS

Dr. John Primus, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee made a report on the plans to date. He indicated that the Committee had met twice, April 22, 1986, and November 12, 1986. The plans include the following:

Joint Worship Service, Sunday, June 14 at 7:45 p.m.
Joint Prayer Breakfast, Tuesday, June 16
Joint Midweek Worship, Wednesday, June 17, theme: "The Meaning of Being a Reformed Church in the Twentieth Century"
An ice cream social after this service.

Devotional materials to be used by all Assemblies and Synods in their separate devotional services.

8. PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTING POLICY POSITIONS

In response to a request from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the following motion was made and seconded: That before resolutions for joint or common action by the NAPARC churches are sent to the member churches for adoption, they should first be sent to the churches for their suggestions for amendment and/or improvement, and then be considered at the next NAPARC meeting for possible recommendation to the churches.

Adopted

9. COMITY MATTERS

The Secretary reported that all churches, except the PCA have adopted the Golden Rule Comity Agreement as amended by the last meeting of the Council (Item 13). The PCA asks for clarification of the phrases: "to refrain from enlisting members", "communicate" and "requests for identical comity agreements."

The Council defined "enlisting" as "actively recruiting." The Council felt that the paragraph regarding communicating is sufficiently clear without further refinement or definition. It was moved and seconded that the Secretary be requested to communicate the above definition and feeling of the Council to the PCA, and to request that the Golden Rule Comity Agreement be resubmitted to the PCA for its approval. Adopted

10. FUGITIVES FROM DISCIPLINE

The communications of the CRC and OPC regarding the Fugitive from Discipline Agreement were discussed. It was moved and seconded that the following editorial refinements suggested by the CRC be adopted:

1. That "judicatory" in 2b, 2c, 2d, and 3 be changed to "judicatory/assembly";
2. that in 2d, the word "classis" be deleted;
3. that in 3, line 2, the word "officer" be changed to "office/office-bearer";
4. that in 3, line 5, the word "churches" be changed to "denominations";

Adopted

It was moved and seconded that the following sentence replace the present last sentence of paragraph 3:

"If this proves unsatisfactory, the session/consistory or presbytery/classis may register its concern to the appropriate judicatory/assembly of the other denomination."

Adopted

It was moved and seconded that the following addition to the paragraph 2, a, as suggested by the OPC:

" , except that if the appropriate session/consistory or presbytery/classis fails to respond to requests for transfer, the section need not be considered binding."

After some discussion of this motion, the following motion of the Interim Committee was moved, seconded and adopted:

That a small Study Committee of three persons be named by the Chairman of the Council to seek to refine the language of the Fugitives from Discipline Agreement, and to report back to the next meeting of the Council. Adopted

The Chairman named to following Study Committee:

TE Bernard J. Stonehouse (OPC), Chairman

TE Ty Hofman (CRC)

TE David Jones (PCA)

Text of the Agreement as Amended

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 churches, we recommend that each denomination respect the other's procedures of discipline and pastoral concern 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/assembly 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/assembly 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 shall not be received until the former judicatory/assembly 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/office bearer does not satisfy either the dismissing or receiving judicatory/assembly, communication may be made to the Interchurch Relations Committees of the denominations involved

with a view to mediation of the problem. If this proves unsatisfactory, the session/consistory or presbytery/classis may register its concerns on the floor of the judicatory/assembly of the other denomination.

Addendum Congregational Transfer

That a congregation seeking to leave a NAPARC church to affiliated 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.

(Note: For the full text of the original report see Item 10, in the Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Council, 1985. The Secretary has added the title to the Addendum, and suggests that the Council may desire to number this as paragraph 4, instead of carrying the word "Addendum".)

11. STATUS OF AGREEMENTS ADOPTED ONLY BY SOME OF THE NAPARC CHURCHES

by all of the member churches.
The Council discussed the question of the OPC of the the status of resolutions that are not approved. Though no formal action was taken, two basic affirmations were made, which represented the consensus of the meeting. First, the Council is concerned for unanimity of action, and will labor to perfect position papers so that all of the NAPARC Churches can adopt uniform agreements. Second, those denominations, which have adopted an agreement are committed to their own action, and will act in accord with it.

12. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS MEMBER CHURCHES OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS OF ASSEMBLIES/SYNODS

Each delegation gave a report of significant actions taken at the recent meetings of the Assemblies/Synods of their respective churches. During these reports, the Council was led in prayer in behalf of Dr. Koop, who was reported to be in the hospital.
(See Appendices D-I.)

13. REPORTS FROM CONSULTATIONS HELD

Brief oral reports were heard from the Consultations on World Missions and Home Missions. (See Appendices for Minutes of Consultations.)

14. NEWS OFFICE

There was a brief discussion of the work of John Bratt as News Officer of the Council. Appreciation was expressed for his volunteer work in this area. The Interim Committee recommends that the Treasurer be authorized to pay \$200 to provide John with secretarial service to assist him in producing the news information sheets. All Interchurch committees of the NAPARC churches are encouraged to provide him with news of interest to other NAPARC churches (See Item 14 of the minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the Council, 1984.)

Adopted

15. DISCUSSION OF EPC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a matter of information for the Council, the following paragraph from the minutes of the Interim Committee was read to the Council:

"The Committee heard from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church observers as to their desire to explore the possibility of membership in NAPARC. The possible reservations that some might hold was frankly discussed. The Interim Committee encouraged the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to initiate action in seeking membership in the Council."

This matter was discussed briefly with the representatives from the EPC.

16. TIMES AND PLACES OF THE 1987 MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES AND SYNODS

The times and places for the Assembly/Synod meetings for 1987 are as follows:

ARP:	Bonclarken,	Flat Rock,	NC,	June 8-11,	1987
CRC:	Calvin College,	Grand Rapids,	MI,	June 9-20,	1987
KAPC:	"	"	"	"	, June 15-20, 1987
OPC:	"	"	"	"	, June 11-18, 1987
PCA:	"	"	"	"	, June 15-19, 1987
RPCNA:	"	"	"	"	, June 13-19, 1987

17. UPDATES TO LIST OF STUDY REPORTS AND OF DIACONAL AGENCIES

The Secretary requested additional listings for the Study Reports and for the Diaconal Agencies. There being no additions reported, the lists remain the same as they were last year.

18. NEXT MEETING

The Interim Committee recommended that the Consultations of the various agencies of NAPARC churches continue to be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Council, and that the Christian Reformed Church host the next meeting November 10-11, 1987, at Grand Rapids, if this is convenient to the CRC.

Adopted

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m., being led in prayer by TE Myung Doh Kim.

Respectfully submitted,

Morton H. Smith, Secretary