

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 11, 1987**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Thirteenth Meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council was called to order by the Chairman, TE Bruce Stewart at 1:35 p.m. on November 11, 1987, at the Harley Hotel of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Chairman opened the meeting with prayer.

II. ROLL CALL

The Secretary called the roll. The following delegates were present:

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP)

RE Charles Carlisle
TE C. Biddle Foster
TE Calvin W. Todd

Christian Reformed Church (CRC)

TE Clarence Boomsma
TE Leonard Hofman
Thelma Meyer
TE John H. Primus

Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)

TE Samuel S. Chang
TE Chun Il Cho
TE Myung Doh Kim
TE Peter B. Kim

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

RE Richard A. Barker
TE John P. Galbraith
TE Jack J. Peterson
TE Bernard J. Stonehouse

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

TE L. Kenneth Hash
RE Leland L. Nichols
RE Gene Parks
TE Leon Wardell

Alternates:

TE David Jones
RE Jack D. Merry
TE Morton H. Smith

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)

TE Paul M. Martin
TE Bruce C. Stewart
TE John M. McMillan
TE John H. White

Alternate
TE Jerold S. Milroy
TE Tom Reid

The following observers were present:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
TE Edward Davis
TE David Massemi
RE David Oestreicher

III. DOCKET ADOPTED

The Docket as proposed by the Interim Committee and reflected in these Minutes was adopted.

IV. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Chairman,	TE Leon Wardell, PCA
Vice Chairman	TE Jack Peterson, OPC
Secretary	TE Morton H. Smith, PCA
Treasurer	RE Charles Carlisle, ARP

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Council were approved.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Charles Carlisle, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report (Appendix C). He reported that all of the Churches has paid their special assessments for expenses of the Concurrent meetings of the Assemblies and Synods. All Churches are also current on their dues. It was moved and seconded that the Report be approved. Adopted

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

The secretary presented two communications. The first was an expression of thanks from Bethany Christian Services, for the donation received from the offerings taken at the joint services of concurrent meetings of the Assemblies/Synods. (See Appendix D.)

The second communication was from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, requesting membership in NAPARC. (See Appendix E, and Item VIII, A for the action taken regarding this letter.)

VIII. INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Consideration the EPC request for membership in NAPARC

The Communication from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church requesting membership in NAPARC was presented (Appendix E). The following motion was duly moved and seconded: That since the request from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for NAPARC membership was received too late to have been considered by the Interchurch Committees of the NAPARC Churches, the Council refer the matter to the Interim Committee who are to meet with representatives of the EPC and to examine the qualifications of the EPC to be a member church of NAPARC. This Committee is to make its report available to the Secretary of NAPARC no later than August 15, 1988. The Secretary is to forward the report to the Interchurch Committees of the NAPARC Churches for their consideration prior to the next meeting of NAPARC.

Adopted

B. Report on the Concurrent Assemblies/Synods

The Report on the Concurrent Assemblies/Synods made by TE John H. Primus, the Chairman of the Committee on Concurrent Assemblies/Synods (Appendix F), was discussed. It was moved and seconded that the Interim Committee study various considerations and options as to arrangements and timing of future concurrent meetings of Assemblies/Synods. Adopted

C. Comity Matters

The Secretary reported that all of the NAPARC Churches have now adopted the "Golden Rule Agreement on Polity". (See Appendix G for the agreement, which has been adopted by all of the NAPARC denominations.)

IX. REPORTS FROM THE MEMBER CHURCHES OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS OF ASSEMBLIES/SYNODS.

Each delegation, including the EPC observers, gave a brief report on significant actions taken at the recent meetings of the Assemblies or Synods of their respective churches. (See Appendices G - M

X. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES/CONSULTATIONS HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MEETING.

Brief oral reports were made by participants in the various conferences or consultations held in conjunction with this Council meeting. See Appendices for minutes that are available from these meetings.)

XI. REPORT FROM THE STUDY COMMITTEE TO REFINE THE LANGUAGE ON THE AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER OF MEMBERS AND CONGREGATIONS

The Study Committee to Refine the Language on the Agreement on Transfer of Members and Congregations presented the following report, which was adopted, and is to be sent to each of the NAPARC denominations for adoption by each:

Agreement on Transfer of Members and Congregations

Recognizing that the churches of NAPARC have on occasion unintentionally received members or ordained officers who were under various states of discipline in another NAPARC church, thus creating tension between the churches, and at the same time recognizing the need for mutual freedom and openness on the part of the churches, we agree to respect the procedures of discipline and pastoral concern of the other denominations as follows:

1. Regular Transfer of Membership

That in the regular transfer of membership between NAPARC churches, the session/consistory 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 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 received officially 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 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 submitted to the interchurch relation 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 concern to the appropriate judicatory/assembly of the other denomination.

4. Congregational Transfer

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

Adopted

XII. THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ELECTED

The Bylaws of the Council specify that the Interim Committee consists of "the officers of the Council, together with such others, elected by the Council as will provide a representative from each member church."

Already elected:

Chairman, Leon Wardell, PCA
Vice chairman, Jack Peterson, OPC
Secretary, Morton H. Smith, PCA
Treasurer, Charles Carlisle, ARP

Additional members:

Leonard Hofman, CRC
Myung Kim, KAPC
Bruce Stewart, RPCNA

XIII. New Business

The matter of inviting other Presbyterian or Reformed churches to come as observers was discussed. Among the churches mentioned were a Taiwanese Church in Los Angeles, and two or three small churches in Canada. It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Interim Committee.

Adopted.

XIV. Time and Place of Next Meeting

It was moved and seconded that the Council accept the invitation of the KAPC to serve as the host church of the next meeting, and that the meeting be set for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2-3, 1988.

Adopted.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m., being led in prayer by TE John H. White.

Respectfully submitted,

Morton H. Smith, Secretary