

**MINUTES OF THE
SEVENTEENTH MEETING
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
NOVEMBER 7, 1991**

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CONSTITUTION

BYLAWS

**LIST OF NAPARC MEETINGS
SHOWING PLACE, HOST CHURCH AND CHAIRMAN**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>HOST</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>
1. 1975,	Beaver Falls, PA,	RPCNA	John P. Galbraith, OPC
2. 1976,	Grand Rapids, MI,	CRC	John B. White, RPCNA
3. 1977,	St. Louis, MO,	RPCES	William P. Brink, CRC
4. 1978,	Philadelphia, PA,	OPC	Donald J. MacNair, RPCES
5. 1979,	Philadelphia, PA,	OPC	LeRoy B. Oliver, OPC
6. 1980,	Philadelphia, PA,	OPC	Jack B. White, RPCNA
7. 1981,	Philadelphia, PA,	OPC	John P. Clarck, RPCES
8. 1982	Pittsburgh, PA,	RPCNA	Kenneth Ryskamp, PCA
9. 1983,	Pittsburgh, PA	RPCNA	John H. Bratt, CRC
10. 1984,	Atlanta, GA,	PCA	John P. Galbraith, OPC
11. 1985,	Atlanta, GA,	ARP	William Kuyendall, ARP
12. 1986,	Greenville, SC,	ARP	Bruce Stewart, RPCNA
13. 1987,	Grand Rapids, MI,	CRC	Leon Wardell, PCA
14. 1988,	Philadelphia, PA,	KAPC	Jack Peterson, OPC
15. 1989,	Philadelphia, PA,	OPC	Leonard J. Hofman, CRC
16. 1990,	Atlanta, GA,	PCA	John L. Carson, ARP
17. 1991,	Pittsburgh, PA	RPCNA	Paul M. Martin, RPCNA

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
Atlanta, Georgia
November 7, 1991**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council met at the Pittsburgh Plaza at the Pittsburgh Airport, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on November 7, 1991, at 9:00 a.m. Dr. John L. Carson, Chairman, presided. He opened the meeting with a reading of Ephesians 2:6, and led the Council in prayer.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called, and the following were present:

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP)

TE James T. Corbitt
Harold N. Morris
William Allen Church
RE Charles H. Carlisle, treasurer

Visitors:

Ben Johnston
Mark E. Ross
Johnny Price

Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)

TE Leonard J. Hofman
TE Carl G. Kromminga
TE Alfred S. Luke
Eunice Vander Laan

Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)

TE Myung Doh Kim

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

TE John P. Galbraith
TE G. I. Williamson
TE Thomas E. Tyson
TE Glenn D. Jerrell

Visitors:

Richard A. Barker
Donald J. Duff
John R. Hilbelink

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

TE Paul R. Gilchrist
John E. Gravley
TE James D. Hatch

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)

TE Christopher Wright
TE John White
TE Jerry F. O'Neil

TE Paul M. Martin, Alternate

A quorum was declared to be present.

The following observer churches were represented:

American Presbyterian Church (APC)
TE John W. Morrow

Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
TE L. Edward Davis

Hungarian Reformed Church in America (HRCA)
TE Louis Iller

Netherlands Reformed Congregations (NRC)
TE Joel R. Beeke

Presbyterian Reformed Church (PRC)
TE Sherman Isbell

Protestant Reformed Church (ProtRC)
TE Marvin Kamps

Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)
TE Dennis E. Roe

Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPC)
Robert McFarland

III. DOCKET

The proposed docket for the meeting was adopted, as reflected in these minutes.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PAST COUNCIL

Upon review of the Minutes of the past Council as mailed, the minutes were approved with the note that a complete (corrected) copy of the constitution was mailed out with the proposed docket for the 1991 meeting of the Council.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

RE Charles Carlisle (ARP) presented the report of the treasurer, which was approved. See Appendix B.

A motion carries to continue the per-denomination assessment for another year.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Interim Committee presented nominations for officers. The floor was opened for additional nominations for each office. The following were elected by council:

Chairman	TE Paul M. Martin (RPCNA)
Vice chairman	TE Henry Lewis Smith (PCA) (It is noted that TE Myund Doh Kim (KAPC) was nominated for a second year to serve as vice chairman, but he declined to serve at this time.)
Secretary	TE Morton H. Smith (PCA)
Treasurer	RE Charles H. Carlisle (ARP)

VII. EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

The chairman expresses appreciation to the RPCNA for the arrangements made for the council meeting.

The following resolution was adopted as an expression of appreciation for the past services of Dr. Morton H. Smith as secretary of NAPARC:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council, meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this day, November 6, 1991, takes this opportunity to give thanks to God and to express to the Rev. Morton H. Smith its deep appreciation for the devoted, efficient, and fruitful labors that he has given to NAPARC and to its member churches for many years as secretary of this body. To God be the glory.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter from Leonard J. Hofman, General Secretary of the CRCNA (Appendix C)

Rev. Hofman spoke of the CRC procedures for handling such a communication as that sent by NAPARC to the Synod. He indicated that it was included in the printed Agenda that went out to every church of the CRC. He indicated that an ad hoc Committee is presently preparing a report on biblical and confessional references regarding women in office, and also a set of guidelines as to how the matters now before the Synod are to be handled and implemented under various circumstances. This Committee is to report to the next meeting of Synod. Since the whole matter is in a two-year process, he assured the Committee that the letter from the Council would be brought back next year.

The Interim Committee recommends that the Chairman prepare a letter, which expresses our thanks for the response made to our communication, and that the Council express its continued concern regarding the proposal of the Christian Reformed Church to permit women to serve in the office of teaching and ruling elder by sending again the statement adopted by the 1990 meeting of the Council, to wit:

In harmony with the stated "purpose and function" of the NAPARC to "exercise mutual concern in the perpetuation, retention, and propagation of the Reformed Faith (Constitution III:3), the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council calls upon the Christian Reformed Church to reverse the action of the 1990 Synod leading to the opening of the offices of minister and ruling elder to women, as contrary to the Scripture and the Reformed standards which insist that "everything

[will] be carried on in the church . . . according to the rule prescribed by Saint Paul in his Epistle to Timothy" (*Belgic Confession of Faith* Article XXX). In Timothy 2 and 3, in giving authoritative instruction regarding proper conduct "in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" (3:15), the Apostle explicitly disallows to a woman the exercise of teaching or ruling authority over men in the church (2:12), and grounds this command in the divine creation order.

B. Letter from Dr. Robert Norris, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) (Appendix D)

After careful consideration of the letter of TE Robert Norris of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Committee determined that no response is called for from the Council at this time. The letter is received as information.

IX. INVITATIONS TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS TO SEND OBSERVERS

The Interim Committee revised the list of churches on the basis of responses the secretary had received.

Invitations will be sent to the following churches, plus two Korean churches whose names and addresses will be supplied by Myung Doh Kim, to send observers to the meeting next year:

American Presbyterian Church
Rev. Allan V. Wagner
Route 1, Gaunt's Bridge Road
Columbus, NJ 08022

Associated Presbyterian Churches
in Canada
Rev. Malcolm McInnes
458 Huntingwood Drive
Agincourt, ON CANADA M1W 1G3

Bible Presbyterian Church
William P. Robinson, Clerk
P.O. Box 190
Collingswood, NJ 08108

Bible Presbyterian Church
Rev. Kevin M. Backus, Clerk
1422 E. Park Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

Canadian and American Reformed Church
Rev. J. Mulder
1225 Highway 5, RR 1
Burlington, ON, CANADA L7R 3X4

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Rev. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
26049 Five Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48239

Lithuanian Evangelical Reformed Church
Rev. Paul Dilys
3542 West 66th Place
Chicago, IL 60629

Netherlands Reformed Congregations
Rev. J. R. Beeke
2115 Romence NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches
Rev. D. Van Dyken
720 N. Garl Street
Burlington, WA 98233

Presbyterian Reformed Church
Rev. Sherman Isabel
Department of Philosophy
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Protestant Reformed Churches in North America
Prof. Robert D. Decker
4949 Ivanrest Ave. SW
Grandville, MI 49418

Reformed Church in the United States
Rev. Steven Work, Clerk
2350 Leigh Avenue
San Jose, CA 95124

Free Church of Scotland
 Rev. David Compton
 593 Sheppard Avenue E N York
 Willowdale, ON, CANADA M2K 184

Reformed Presbyterian Church of the Americas
 Rev. Joseph Morecraft
 P.O. Box 888022
 Dunwoody, GA 30356

Free Presbyterian Church of NA
 Rev. John Greer
 209 N. Newton Street
 Newton Square, PA 19073

Scottish Reformed Church
 Wallace F. Crawford
 1427 30th Street
 Des Moines, IA 65031

Hungarian Reformed Church
 Dr. Andrew Harsanyi, Bishop
 P.O. Box D
 Hopatcong, NJ 07843

X. REPORTS FROM MEMBER CHURCHES

Each delegation, including the observer churches, gave a brief report on significant actions taken at recent meetings of the Assemblies or Synods of their respective churches.
 (See Appendices E-P for copies of the reports that were presented in writing.)

The following is a listing of the times and places of the 1992 Assemblies/Synods:

ARP June 10-13, Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC
 CRC June 9-19, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
 KAPC June 16-19, Iguasu, Paraguay, South America
 OPC June 4-12, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA
 PCA June 15-19, Roanoke, VA
 RPCNA August 6-13, Northfield, MN

PRC August, Washington, DC

XI. REPORTS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS

There are no Consultations or Study Committee reports this year.

XII. MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Bylaws of the Council, as amended, 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. . . . When the Secretary or Treasurer serves for more than one consecutive term, his delegation may elect an additional member to the Interim Committee, if desired. Each denomination in NAPARC shall have one vote on the Interim Committee, and each denomination's delegation determines who represents that denomination."

The Interim Committee for the following year is as follows:

ARP TE Allen Church
 RE Charles Carlisle, Treasurer
 CRC (will notify)
 KAPC TE Myung Doh Kim
 OPC (will notify)

PCA TE H. L. Smith, Vice Chairman
 TE Paul Gilchrist
 TE Morton Smith, Secretary
 RPCNA TE Paul M. Martin, Chairman

XIII. PROPOSAL FROM RPCNA REGARDING A COMMEMORATION OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST ASSEMBLY

The Interim Committee recommends the adoption of the following proposal made by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Westminster Assembly.

Whereas 1993 constituted the 350th anniversary of the seating of the Westminster Assembly, we propose that NAPARC appoint a committee to plan a conference on the history and theology of the Westminster Assembly. We recommend to the Committee that this conference be held in London in the summer of 1993. The committee should be comprised of one member from each of the member churches (Bylaws V:1).

The purpose of the conference would be to give thanks to God for the work of the Assembly, to promote unity among Reformed churches around the world, and to advance the Reformed faith by focusing attention on the work of the Assembly.

The Committee's responsibilities would be to locate facilities for the conference (note: we have already received permission from the Dean of Westminster to use the Jerusalem Chamber of the Abbey for a meeting), plan the program, select and invite speakers, invite churches which subscribe to the Westminster standards or the Three Forms of Unity to send delegates, and seek financial support for the conference.

"[We] shall endeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three kingdoms to the nearest conjunction and uniformity in religion, confession of faith, form of church-government, directory for worship and catechizing; that we, and our posterity after us, may, as brethren, live in faith and love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the midst of us."

--Solemn League and Covenant, 1643

(adopted by the Westminster Assembly, September 1643)

Adopted

A motion is made that up to \$2,000 be available to the Committee until the next regular meeting of NAPARC.

Adopted

XIV. PROPOSAL FROM ARP

A motion is made to appoint a committee to study the Regulative Principles on Worship and Government, to report to NAPARC in 1993.

A motion is made to refer the motion to the ARP for a more precisely formulated mandate.

Adopted

XV. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR GRANTED

The chair grants the privilege of the floor to Eunice Vanderlaan of the CRC. She addresses the Council relative to her personal journey, her convictions respecting her sense of the importance of women being involved in ministry, and she offers some suggested questions for consideration as the subject of women in office is studied by NAPARC churches.

XVI. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

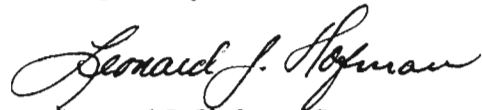
The Interim Committee recommends that the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be requested to host the next meeting of the Council, and that the host church take the lead in the plans for the various consultations. The host church is also asked to arrange for a key-note speaker for the dinner. It is recommended that the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, October 28-29, 1992, to be held at Bonclarken, Falt Rock, North Carolina.

Adopted

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Paul M. Martin at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard J. Hofman, Secretary pro tem

Note: The secretary pro tem was requested to convey to Dr. and Mrs. Morton H. Smith the Christian sympathy and condolences of the NAPARC members and observers in the death of Dr. Smith's mother-in-law, necessitating his return home during the meetings of NAPARC.