

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL

Flat Rock, North Carolina

October 29, 1992

8:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council met at Bonclarken, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Assembly grounds, Flat Rock, North Carolina, on October 29, 1992, at 8:30 a.m. Paul Martin, Chairman, presided. He opened the meeting with a reading of Psalm 22:1; Psalm 24 and Luke 22:39-53. He led the meeting in a brief devotional. This was followed with a season of prayer, led by the following: Leonard Hofman (CRC), John Carson (ARP), John White (RPCNA), Myung Doh Kim (KARP), Eric Perrin (PCA) and Jack Peterson (OPC).

II. ROLL CALL

ARP	William Allen Church Charles H. Carlisle Harold N Morris Harry T. Schutte Jack C. Whytock	Visitors: John L. Carson James Corbitt Ben Johnston George J. Syms
CRC	Leonard J. Hofman	
KAPC	Myung Doh Kim	
OPC	Jack Peterson Thomas E. Tyson	
PCA	Paul R. Gilchrist K. Eric Perrin John C. Neville Morton H. Smith (non-voting)	Visitors: Arthur Matthews Thomas R. Patete
RPCNA	Paul M. Martin Jerry F. O'Neill Randall D. VanOsdol John H. White	Visitor: Robert McFarland

A quorum was declared to be present.

The following observer Churches were respresented:

American Presbyterian Church
John W. Morrow

Bible Presbyterian Church, Separated and Reformed
Robert J. Eisenzoff

Protestant Reformed Church
Robert Decker

Presbyterian Reformed Church
Sherman Isbell

Reformed Church in the United States
Dennis Roe, RCUS

III. ADOPTION OF DOCKET

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

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following nominations were placed before the Council by the Interim Committee, and were elected by white ballot:

Chairman	TE Paul Gilchrist (PCA)
Vice chairman	TE Thomas Tyson (OPC)
Secretary	TE Donald J. Duff (OPC)
Treasurer	RE Charles Carlisle (ARP)

(Note: Since Donald J. Duff was not present at the meeting, TE Morton H. Smith served as Secretary pro tem, though no particular action was taken on this matter.)

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Interim Committee recommended the approval of the Minutes of the last Council meeting, with two spelling corrections, p. 6 item XIII, "WEST" should read "WESTMINSTER," and p. 7, line 3 "hr" should read "her."

VI. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Letter from Dr. Leonard J. Hofman, Christian Reformed Church in Response to the Communication of the Council to the Christian Reformed Church Was Presented (See Attachment C).

Dr. Hofman spoke of the CRC procedures for handling the two a communications that NAPARC have addressed to the Synod of the CRC. He discussed the careful way in which the Synod approached the whole issue of admitting women to office, and, in particular, how the Advisory Committee considered the matter at the 1992 Synod. The action of the Synod is reported in his letter. After a full discussion of the matter, Council adopted following statement, which is to be forwarded to the Christian Reformed Church:

That the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council send a letter to the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church expressing our thanksgiving to God that the Synod of the CRC in 1992 refused to ratify the change in the Church Order Article 3 that would have opened the office of minister, elder and evangelist to women, and assures the CRC of the continuing prayer of the Churches of NAPARC.

Adopted

B. Letter from the Rev. Jonathan Merica of the Reformed Church in the United States (Attachment D)

The Interim Committee recommended: That the Council approve the Reformed Church in the United States for membership in the Council.

(This action required a two-thirds vote of the Council to be adopted. If adopted, it must then presented to all of the member denominations, of which two-thirds must approve for membership to be validated.)

The vote on this motion was taken by delegation votes. After a recess, the following procedural motion was adopted by the delegation vote: That the vote on the membership of the Reformed Church in the United Sates be postponed for one year.

Adopted.

ARP	yes
CRC	yes
KAPC	yes
OPC	no
PCA	yes
RPCNA	no

The Interim Committee is to study the issue of representation in NAPARC, and to report its findings back to the next meeting of the Council.

Adopted.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Charles Carlisle, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report (Attachment B). The Committee approved the report to be passed on to the Council. The Treasurer recommends that the Council approve a 20% increase over the present rate of assessments for the next year, which would then be as follows:

CRC	\$1,200
PCA	1,200
ARP	180
KAPC	180
OPC	180
RPCNA	180

The Treasurer indicated that if a \$2,500 allotment be made to the Committee on Commemoration of the Westminster Assembly, this rate of assessment would keep our balance approximately the same as the present. **Adopted.**

The approval of the treasurer's report was adopted.

VIII. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMEMORATION OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTMINSTER ASSEMBLY (Attachment E).

Dr. Charles Carlisle, Chairman of the Committee presented the Report of the Committee. TE John Carson spoke regarding the proposed program. There was a full discussion of the report. The Interim Committee adopted the following recommendations for consideration by the Council:

1. That the Council approve \$2,500 to meet the expenses of the Committee. **Adopted.**
2. That the Council approve and endorse the preparation of a packet of materials for distribution to the congregations of the NAPARC churches.

Grounds: Since NAPARC gave as one of the purposes of this celebration "to advance the reformed faith by focusing attention on the work of the Assembly", the Committee has asked Wayne Spear to serve in the area of historical research and provide a bibliography of materials on the Assembly. David Hall has been asked to make recommendations as to how the Westminster standards may be promoted in the local church. He has proposed that a packet of very helpful materials be sent to each NAPARC church with the hope that the local church will use the material, provided that adequate funding is secured by the Committee on the Commemoration. This is a real bargain as the packet would include a copy of William Hetherington's *A History of the Westminster Assembly* at no extra cost. This will work fine if each denomination is willing to bear the cost. The NAPARC representatives would need to agree to promote this in their respective denominations and get an answer as to whether their denomination is willing to bear the costs. The material will be sent directly to the church if the addresses of the congregations are supplied to David Hall, 190 Manhattan Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. The proposed date for mailing would be April, 1993.

Adopted.

3. That the Council adopt the following recommendation of the Committee:

In seeking to highlight the Commemoration as widely as possible, and to provide leadership/resources for local churches, we also recommend that other denominational agencies and governing bodies be involved as widely as possible. Specifically we suggest that NAPARC formally communicate the following:

- a. Challenge each Presbytery/Classis to adopt a plan to have some special commemoration of the Westminster Assembly, including the appointment of a Coordinator or Committee to oversee for one year.
- b. Urge each Presbytery/Classis to budget for and send at least one representative to the International Commemoration in September of 1993.
- c. Encourage the Seminaries to emphasize the semi-tercentenary with special lectures on the history and subject during 93-94. Several have already begun plans to do so.
- d. Request each NAPARC national Assembly, meeting in 1993 to devote at least one public session to a Commemoration, of their own design.

Adopted

4. That the Council endorse the idea of a USA observance to be held in the summer of 1994, led by many of the London speakers, with the addition of others. **Adopted**

IX. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS MEMBER CHURCHES

See Attachments F - K for reports from the member Churches.

X. REPORTS FROM OBSERVER CHURCHES

See attachments L - N for reports from observer Churches.

XI. REPORTS ON CONFERENCE/CONSULTATION HELD

There were no reports from Consultations this year.

XII. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO INTERIM COMMITTEE

The election additional members of the Interim Committee was as follows:

Chairman	TE Paul Gilchrist (PCA)
Vice chairman	TE Thomas Tyson (OPC)
Secretary	TE Donald J. Duff (OPC)
Treasurer	RE Charles Carlisle (ARP)

ARP Jack Whytock
 CRC to be reported by the CRC
 KARP Myung Doh Kim
 RPCNA Randall D. Van Osdal

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Morton H. Smith expressed his appreciation to the Council for the privilege of serving as Secretary for a number of years. He also thanked the Council for the expression of appreciation adopted at its last meeting.

The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for hosting the meeting, and the fine facilities of Bonclarken.

XV. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING (PLACE, TIME, INVITEES)

On recommendation of the Interim Committee the Christian Reformed Church was requested to host the next meeting of the Council. The host church is 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 Tuesday and Wednesday, November 9-10, 1993, to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Adopted

For information of the Churches 1993 meetings of the Assemblies/Synods are scheduled as follows:

ARP	Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC	June 7-9, 1993
CRC	Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI	June 8-18, 1993
KAPC	Charlotte, NC	June 15-18, 1993
OPC	Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA	June 9-16, 1993
PCA	Columbia, SC	June 7-11, 1993
RPCNA	Franklin College, Franklin, IN	July 10-16, 1993.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by TE Thomas Tyson at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Morton H. Smith, Secretary Pro Tem