

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL**
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
November 19-20, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council met on November 19, 1996, at the Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Chairman, Dr. David H. Engelhard, called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m. EDT. He read Colossians 3:12-17 and led in prayer. ~~and led in prayer.~~

II. ROLL CALL

Denomination	Delegates:
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)	H. Max Bolin William B. Evans Milton C. Fisher Jack C. Whytock
Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)	David H. Engelhard Leonard J. Hofman Edward A. Van Baak Henry Zwanstra
Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)	Myung Doh Kim Chul Jik Timothy Kim John Kim
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)	Mark T. Bube John P. Galbraith Jack J. Peterson Thomas E. Tyson
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	William Edgar Paul R. Gilchrist Lawrence C. Roff
Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)	David McPherson Ronald L. Potter Neale Riffert
Reformed Presbyterian Church North America (RPCNA)	Gordon J. Keddie Andrew Schep Bruce C. Stewart John H. White Robert A. Henning (Alternate)

A quorum was declared to be present.

The following observer churches were represented:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church (arrived at item VIII)	L. Edward Davis Paul Heidebrecht
Presbyterian Reformed Church	C. Timothy Hammett
Protestant Reformed Churches	James Slopsema Henry Boer

Others present were:

Ross W. Graham
 Bruce Hemphill
 Darrell Todd Maurina
 Keith R. Magill

Frank J. Smith
 Lawrence K. Spalink
 Jonathan M. Watt

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following nominations were placed before the Council by the Interim Committee, and all were elected.

Chairman	Jack C. Whytock (ARPC)
Vice chairman	Gordon J. Keddie (RPCNA)
Secretary	Donald J. Duff (OPC)
Treasurer	Robert A. Henning (RPCNA)

The Rev. Jack C. Whytock assumed the chair.

IV. REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS CONSULTATION

Ross W. Graham reported on the Home Missions Consultation held on November 18-19, 1996. Andrew Schep led in prayer.

V. REPORTS FROM MEMBER CHURCHES

Each of the member churches reported as follows with each report followed by prayer for the church which had reported.

Denomination	Reporter	Who Prayed	Report Paper
CRCNA	David H. Engelhard	William Evans	Paper A
KAPC	Myung Doh Kim	Gordon Keddie	Paper B
OPC	Jack J. Peterson	Paul Gilchrist	Paper C
PCA	Paul R. Gilchrist	Leonard Hofman	Paper D
RCUS	Ronald Potter	Thomas Tyson	Paper E
RPCNA	Robert A. Henning	William Edgar	Paper F
ARPC	William Evans	Bruce Stewart	Paper G

VI. RECESS

During the reports given above there was a recess from 3:09 to 3:23 p.m.

VII. REPORTS OF OBSERVER CHURCHES

Protestant Reformed Church	James Slopsema	Paper H
Presbyterian Reformed Church	C. Timothy Hammett	Paper I
Free Reformed Churches of NA	Hans Overduin (by letter)	Paper J
Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Paul Heidebrecht(see XIII below)	Oral report

Following these reports David Engelhard led in prayer.

VIII. REPORT ON FOREIGN CONSULTATION

Robert Henning reported on the Foreign Missions consultation held on November 18-19, 1996. Milton Fisher led in prayer.

IX. ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The proposed docket for the meeting as amended by the Interim Committee was presented as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- IV. Reports from Various Member Churches
- V. Reports from Observer Churches
- VI. Adoption of Docket
- VII. Appointment of Additional Members to Interim Committee
- VIII. Approval of Minutes
- IX. Declaration that the Amendment to the Constitution has been approved
- X. Communications:
- XI. Treasurer's Report
- XII. Interim Committee Report
- XIII. Old Business
 - a. Action on the motion to receive the Evangelical Presbyterian Church into membership in NAPARC
 - b. Report of the Committee to Draft Standing Rules for NAPARC and its Interim Committee
 - c. Joint Assemblies in 1999
- XIV. Reports on Conference/Consultation Held
- XV. New Business
- XVI. Arrangements for Next Meeting (place, time, invitees)
- XVII. Adjournment

Adopted

X. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Interim Committee will be as follows:

ARPC	William B. Evans
CRCNA	David H. Engelhard
KAPC	Myung Doh Kim
OPC	Donald J. Duff (Secretary)
PCA	Henry Lewis Smith
RCUS	Ronald L. Potter
RPCNA	Gordon J. Keddie (Vice-Chairman)

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Interim Committee recommended the approval of the Minutes of the meetings of the Interim Committee on November 28, 1995 and the meeting of NAPARC of November 28-29, 1995 as distributed and corrected.

Adopted

XII. DECLARATION THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN APPROVED

The following amendment to the Constitution was declared to have been approved:

That Article V, section 3 of the Constitution of the NAPARC be amended as follows:

Admission to, suspension from, restoration to (after suspension), and termination of membership shall be proposed by-recommendation of the Council to the member churches by two thirds of the ballots cast; and this proposal recommendation must then be approved adopted within three years by the approval of two thirds of the major assemblies of the member churches. A

proposal to suspend or terminate the membership of a member church may be initiated only by a major assembly of a member church. A suspended church may send delegates to meetings of the Council but they shall not vote nor may that church be represented on the Interim Committee.

The Secretary reported he had been officially informed by the ARPC, the KAPC, the OPC, the PCA, and the RCUS that their Synod/General Assembly voted this year to approve the amendment. The RPCNA Synod did not meet this year. The CRC Synod voted not to approve the amendment. According to the Constitution it takes two thirds of the member churches (in this case five) to pass this amendment and having received that number the Chairman declared it is passed.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

The Secretary reported he had no communications to report for this meeting.

IX. XVII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Robert A. Henning, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report as follows (Paper K):

Employer ID Number for accounts in Citizens Bank, Columbus, IN: 35-1940120

Donald J. Duff, Secretary, second signature on accounts.

NAPARC'S General Fund

Current Accounts:

Balance: Checking Account as of November 18, 1995		\$2,393.72
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Receipts

from Dues:

ARPC	\$150.00
CRC	150.00
KAPC	150.00
OPC	150.00
PCA	150.00
RCUS	300.00
RPCNA	150.00
Interest from checking	<u>37.22</u>

Total receipts	\$1,287.22	<u>1,287.22</u>
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Total responsible for		\$3,680.94
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Expenditures:

NAPARC meeting in 1995	\$1,379.98
Honorarium	100.00
Donald J. Duff, Secretary	200.00
Secretarial help	<u>250.00</u>

Total Expenditures	1,929.98	<u>-1,929.98</u>
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Balance - Checking Account, November 15, 1996		\$1,750.96
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Balance CD Account 0823008042 November 18, 1995	\$3,120.95	
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Receipts

Interest 12-29-95	41.24
Interest six months -96	201.68
Transfer from WACCF	<u>4,500.00</u>

Total Receipts	<u>4,742.92</u>
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Balance - CD Account, November 15, 1996		\$7,863.87
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Westminster Assembly Commemoration Conference Fund as of November 2, 1994

Balance - CD Account 0823008043 November 18, 1995	\$8,162.87	
Receipts		
Interest on CD 12-29-96	107.86	
Interest 6 months 96	99.25	
total Receipts	207.11	
total	\$8,369.98	
Transferred to CD	-4,500.00	
Balance as of November 15, 1996	\$3,869.98	\$3,869.98
Total Funds on hand in all accounts as of November 15, 1996		\$13,484.81

It was moved to receive the Treasurer's report as a whole.

Adopted

It was moved to repeat the motion made last year:

That consideration be made by each denomination, through its interchurch relations committee, as to how the Westminster Assembly Commemoration Conference Fund is to be used and report suggestions to the Council at the annual meeting in 1997.

Adopted

It was moved to set the dues for member churches at \$150.00 per member church in 1997.

Adopted

X. RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 5:03 p.m. with prayer led by the Chairman. That evening a banquet was held at the Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel with the Dr. Jonathan M. Watt, pastor of the College Hill Reformed Presbyterian Church speaking on the subject "The Challenge of Postmodernist Culture to Preaching."

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

XI. RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened at 8:31 a.m. by the Chairman who called the meeting to order and read Psalm 69:1-16, 30-36 and led in prayer.

XII. INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretary reported concerning the Interim Committee meeting. It was moved to receive the report.

Adopted

XIII. REPORTS OF OBSERVER CHURCHES (continued)

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Paul Heidebrecht Oral report

H. Max Bolin led in prayer for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

XIV. THE MATTER OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The recommendation postponed from the 21st Meeting of NAPARC concerning the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was moved, namely:

That NAPARC approve the application of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for membership and constitutional procedures be followed

After a time of discussion and a short recess for the delegations of member churches to discuss the motion, the question was put to the council.

ARPC	No	PCA	Yes
CRCNA	Yes	RCUS	No
KAPC	No	RPCNA	Yes
OPC	No		
			Failed (4-3)

The Chairman led in prayer.

XV. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO DRAFT STANDING RULES FOR NAPARC AND ITS INTERIM COMMITTEE

David Engelhard reported for the committee as follows (note:-this includes the changes made by the Interim committee to the report of the Special Committee). Paper K

The establishment and mandate of the special Committee was as follows:

That the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary be constituted a committee to draft Standing Rules for NAPARC and its Interim Committee, and that the recommendations of the CRCNA in its communication (#16) to NAPARC 1995 be referred to the committee, and that the committee be requested to report to NAPARC 1996.

This Special Committee met on October 8 and 16, 1996, by telephone conference call, and reports as follows:

We had before us the letter from the Christian Reformed Church in North America of October 3, 1995, We took up the matters in the letter and recommend the following:

1. Regarding the Interim Committee

The Interim Committee will meet on the first day of the NAPARC sessions, ordinarily from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to conduct its essential business. If the officers deem a longer time is necessary they may convene the Interim Committee at an earlier time.

Ordinarily only members (or designated alternates) of the Interim Committee shall attend Interim Committee meetings.

2. Agenda deadlines

Agenda materials shall be sent to delegates four weeks prior to the meeting of the Council and such materials shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the meeting date. Agenda materials received after the deadline shall be reviewed by the Interim Committee before they are given to the Council for docket consideration (see Bylaws IV:5).

3. Financial matters

Yearly written reports shall be required from the Treasurer, which describe the nature of the accounts, the deposits made, the investments made, and the interest/dividends earned.

An internal audit shall be conducted each year by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to the yearly meeting of NAPARC with a report given to the council.

4. Time of meeting

Ordinarily NAPARC shall meet on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of November starting at 1:00 p.m. on the first day and concluding by noon on the second day. On the evening of the first day there will be a banquet and program arranged by the host church.

Put in the Bylaws only the following:

Ordinarily NAPARC shall meet on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of November.

5. Docket

The regular docket of the meeting of the council shall be as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Member Churches
 - b. Invited Observers
- III. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and listing of additional Interim Committee members.
- IV. *Reports from Various Member Churches
- V. Reports from Observer Churches
- VI. Adoption of Docket
- VII. Approval of Minutes
- VIII. Communications:
- IX. Treasurer's Report
- X. Interim Committee Report
- XI. Old Business
- XII. Reports on Conference/Consultation Held
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Arrangements for Next Meeting (place, time, invitees)
- XV. Adjournment

*This is a time when NAPARC delegates assemble to present reports from their churches, to talk about important issues raised, and to pray with and for each other. The churches are encouraged to submit their reports for distribution with the final notice of the meeting.

6. To implement these recommendations we are proposing amendments to the Bylaws as follows: (proposed changes are underlined.)

BYLAWS

I. MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Council normally shall meet once each year.
2. Before adjournment the Council shall set the date and place for the next meeting. Ordinarily NAPARC shall meet on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of November. The Interim Committee shall make arrangements for the next meeting and shall supervise the election of a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.
3. All meetings shall be open to authorized observers and guests except when the Council decides to meet in Executive Session. Observers shall be limited to those invited by the Interim Committee.

II. DELEGATES

1. Each member church shall appoint no more than four delegates to each meeting of the Council.
2. Each delegate of the member church shall be entitled to vote on items before the Council. Voting on major decisions (as determined by the body) shall be by unit vote of the church delegates.

III. OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. Each meeting of the Council shall elect its own officers, as follows: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer. The vice-chairman shall normally succeed to the office of chairman, and shall be declared elected by white ballot, unless the Council determines to conduct an election.

2. The responsibilities of the officers will be as follows:
 - a. Chairman - to preside at meetings of the Council, to make required appointments, to see that business is conducted in an orderly manner. He shall be a member of the annual audit committee.
 - b. Vice-chairman - to assist the chairman upon his request, and to succeed to the chairmanship at the next annual meeting after the opening of the session. He shall be a member of the annual audit committee.
 - c. Secretary - to keep a roll of delegates, to record and distribute the minutes of the Council, to carry on the correspondence in reference to Standing Committees, Study Committees and the next meeting of the Council, and to prepare the Agenda for the next meeting of the Council. Agenda materials shall be sent to delegates four weeks prior to the meeting of the Council and such materials shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the meeting date. Agenda materials received after the deadline shall be reviewed by the Interim Committee before they are given to the Council for docket consideration (see Bylaws IV:5)
 - d. Treasurer - to receive bills for the expenses of the meeting of the Council, to receive funds to pay bills incurred by the Council, and to submit reports regularly to the Council. Yearly written reports shall be required which describe the nature of the accounts, the deposits made, the investments made, and the interest/dividends earned. An internal audit shall be conducted each year by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to the yearly meeting of NAPARC with a report given to the council.
3. Terms of office:
 - a. The chairman shall serve for a one year term, such term beginning with the annual meeting at which he presides, and concluding after the opening items of the next meeting.
 - b. The vice-chairman shall serve a one year term and shall normally succeed the chairman after the opening of the next annual meeting and the election of officers.
 - c. The secretary and treasurer shall serve for one year terms, and shall be eligible for reelection.
4. Travel, housing and meal expenses shall be borne by the sending churches.

IV. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council shall deal only with:

1. Communications received from member churches.
2. Inquiries from churches for membership.
3. Reports produced by its Committees.
4. Official documents from organizations in which member churches are cooperating.
5. And such matters as may by majority vote be declared properly before the Council.
6. The regular docket of the meeting of the council shall be as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Member Churches
 - b. Invited Observers
- III. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and listing of additional Interim Committee members.
- IV. *Reports from Various Member Churches
- V. Reports from Observer Churches
- VI. Adoption of Docket
- VII. Approval of Minutes
- VIII. Communications:
- IX. Treasurer's Report
- X. Interim Committee Report
- XI. Old Business

XII. Reports on Conference/Consultation HeldXIII. New BusinessXIV. Arrangements for Next Meeting (place, time, invitees)XV. Adjournment

*This is a time when NAPARC delegates assemble to present reports from their churches, to talk about important issues raised, and to pray with and for each other. The churches are encouraged to submit their reports for distribution with the final notice of the meeting.

V. COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**1. Committees of the Council**

The Council may establish and appoint as many such committees as needed. These committees shall continue until the matters assigned to them have been completed. However, if such committees are to represent all member churches, the delegates of each church to the current meeting of the Council shall designate its representative(s).

2. NAPARC Study Committees

The Council may establish NAPARC Study Committees to study matters of mutual concern to the NAPARC churches. In erecting such a Study Committee the Council shall indicate the number of representatives each church may appoint to the Committee; equal representation from each church shall be authorized. It shall also designate one of the churches, which is to convene the Committee. The option of participating and the manner of selecting representatives shall be left to each church.

3. Conferences

- a. The Council may call Conferences on subject of mutual concern to which all member churches are urged to send representatives.
- b. Annual consultations between the agencies of the various NAPARC churches may be held as desirable with each member church being urged to participate.

4. Materials and Conclusions

Materials and Conclusions of NAPARC Study Committees and Conferences shall be sent to the Interchurch Committees of all the member churches, and to the NAPARC Interim Committee.

- a. The chief use of materials and conclusions of the NAPARC Study Committees or Conferences is
 - (1) for the information and instruction of member churches, and
 - (2) the conveying of possible responses - approval, disagreement, or further study - by each member church to the other.
- b. The materials and conclusions are to be considered the property of the several member churches, and may be used and publicized by them only in their own name unless approved by other member churches also; joint publicity of the results of the Study Committee or Conferences shall be by the churches themselves as distinguished from publicity by NAPARC which is consultative rather than policy making. Neither NAPARC nor NAPARC Study Committees or Conferences may speak for the member churches.
- c. The ultimate purpose of the NAPARC Study Committees and Conferences is to search the Scriptures for the enrichment of our understanding of God's truth, to discuss the application of God's Word in the life of the churches and to seek unity through the development of a common commitment and cooperation.

5. Expense

The expenses of NAPARC Study Committees and Conferences are to be borne by the member churches (including such items as: meals, travel, lodging, etc.). The cost for such items as duplication and secretarial aids is to borne by the NAPARC treasury.

VI. INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Interim Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Council, together with such others appointed by the ~~delegations~~ of the member Churches as will provide one representative from each member Church. When the Secretary and or Treasurer serves for more than one consecutive term, his delegation may elect an additional

member to the Interim Committee, if desired. Each denomination of NAPARC shall have one vote on the Interim Committee, and each denomination's delegation determines who represents that denomination. The Interim Committee will meet on the first day of the NAPARC sessions, ordinarily from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to conduct its essential business. If the officers deem a longer time is necessary they may convene the Interim Committee at an earlier time. Ordinarily only members (or designated alternates) of the Interim Committee shall attend Interim Committee meetings. Its functions shall be limited to those specified below:

1. Make the arrangements and prepare the agenda for the meeting of the Council.
2. Call meetings of the Council or Study Committees when unusual circumstances warrant.
3. Give counsel to the Secretary regarding correspondence and procedure.
4. Deal responsibly with all matters inadvertently overlooked which call for action before the next meeting of the Council.
5. Advise the Council on matters coming before it.
6. The participating churches shall bear the expenses of their members to Interim Committee meetings.

VII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended or suspended by the Council on motion passed by two-thirds of the voting delegates.

It was moved to consider the report as a whole.

Adopted

It was moved to change the wording of recommendation #2 as follows:

Agenda materials shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the meeting date of the Council and shall be sent to delegates four weeks prior to the meeting of the Council. Agenda materials received after the deadline shall be reviewed by the Interim Committee before they are given to the Council for docket consideration (see Bylaws IV:5).

Adopted

The report of the special committee as amended was ~~by~~ put to a vote.

Adopted

It was moved to amend the Bylaws VI *Interim Committee* as follows:

Delete the words "~~by the delegations of~~" in the first sentence.

Adopted

XVI. JOINT ASSEMBLY IN 1999

A general Discussion was held concerning the possibility of holding joint Synods/Assemblies in 1999.

XV. RECESS

The council recessed from 10:25 until 10:36 a.m.

XVI. FRATERNAL DELEGATES

Dr. Gilchrist brought up the idea of sending Fraternal Delegates biannually to the respective Synods/Assemblies.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

The following was moved:

It is with deep regret and heartfelt concern that the PCA delegation presents the following motion to NAPARC:

Whereas the 23rd General Assembly of the PCA in June 1995 instructed the IRC "to use all due process afforded to them to remove the CRC from membership in NAPARC, if the CRC does not repent of and rescind the action of the 1995 Synod at its 1996 Synod."

Whereas this action was reported to the 21st Meeting of NAPARC on November 28-29, 1995 together with a copy of a letter sent to the CRCNA Synod;

Whereas the CRCNA, through its Stated Clerk, has reported (ACTS of Synod, 1996, pp. 524f.) that the denomination has no reason to "repent and rescind" the actions in question,

Whereas the Constitution of NAPARC has been amended to suspend, restore and terminate membership in NAPARC, which action may be "initiated only by a major assembly of a member church;"

Therefore, be it resolved that NAPARC initiate the process to suspend the CRCNA from its membership.

The Chairman declared that the Council had to vote on whether this matter was "properly before the Council" in accordance with the Bylaws IV.5 and when the vote is taken it would be by unit vote of church delegates. After some discussion and time for the delegations to meet a vote was taken on whether this motion was properly before the council.

ARPC	Yes	
CRCNA		No
KAPC	Yes	
OPC	No	

PCA	Yes	
RCUS	Yes	
RPCNA		Yes

Adopted (5-2)

It was moved that the present motion be referred to the Interim Committee with a view to its consideration at next year's Council meeting.

Adopted

It was moved that the amendments to the Bylaws be declared to be in effect at this meeting.

Adopted

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

The Interim Committee NAPARC recommended that the Presbyterian Church in America host the next meeting of NAPARC. It was moved that the Council request the Presbyterian Church in America to host the next meeting of NAPARC to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on November 18 & 19, 1997 and to arrange for a keynote speaker for the dinner. The Reformed Church in the United States will be the host church for 1998.

Adopted

The Interim Committee recommended that the following be invited as observers to the next meeting:	
American Presbyterian Church	Korean Presbyterian Church (Hapdong)
Bible Presbyterian Church	Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Koshin)
Canadian Reformed Churches	Lithuanian Evangelical Reformed Church
Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Netherlands Reformed Church
Free Church of Scotland	Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches
Free Reformed Churches of North America	Presbyterian Reformed Church
Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregations	Protestant Reformed Churches
Hungarian Reformed Church	

Adopted

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved to adjourn.

Adopted

The meeting was adjourned with the reading of Psalm 145 and prayer led by Jack Whytock at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Duff, Secretary