

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
Sheraton Four Points Hotel --Philadelphia Airport
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 13,14, 2001**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council met on November 14, 2001 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel – Philadelphia Airport, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Retiring Chairman, L. Roy Taylor, called the Meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. He led Devotions reading Matthew 16:13-20 speaking on “The Triumph of the Church”, and led in prayer.

II. ROLL CALL

The Roll was taken, and is as follows:

Denomination	Delegates
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)	Robert J. Cara John W. Dawson Neely Gaston David W. Sides
Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRC) (suspended membership)	David Engelhard Leonard J. Hoffman Henry Zwaanstra
Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)	James K. Kim Steve Sung Park Duck Young Won
Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)	Donald, J. Duff John Galbraith Jack J. Peterson Thomas E. Tyson

Presbyterian Church in America
(PCA)

Bruce B. Howes
Irfon Hughes
L. Roy Taylor

Reformed Church in the United States
(RCUS)

Henry Bowen
Maynard Koerner
Ronald L. Potter
Jim Sawtelle

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
(RPCNA)

Douglas Carson
J. Bruce Martin
Bruce C. Stewart

A quorum was declared to be present.

The following representatives of Observer Churches were present:

Denomination

Representative

Free Reformed Churches of North America

Casey Keuning
Laurens Roth

L'Eglise reformee du Quebec

Bernard Westerveld

Presbyterian Reformed Church

Mike Ericson

United Reformed Churches of North America

Richard Stienstra

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Interim Committee placed the following nominations before the Council, and they were elected:

Chairman

Jack J. Peterson (OPC)

Vice Chairman

Duck Young Won (KAPC)

Secretary

Bruce C. Stewart (RPCNA)

Treasurer

Maynard A. Koerner (RCUS)

(Please note! Denominations not represented through the above officers will need to appoint representatives to next years Interim Committee.)

IV. NEW OFFICERS ASSUME DUTIES

At this point Jack J. Peterson, the new Chairman, began to preside.

V. REPORTS FOM MEMBER CHURCHES

Each of the member churches reported to the Council with each report followed by prayer for that church. (The reports are attached to these Minutes.)

Denomination	Reporter	Who Prayed	Report Paper
ARPC	Robert Cara	Maynard Koerner	Paper F
CRC	David Engelhard	Donald Duff	Paper G
KAPC	James Kim	Roy Taylor	Paper H
OPC	Thomas Tyson	Robert Cara	Paper I
PCA	Roy Taylor	James Kim	Paper J
RCUS	Ronald Potter	Bruce Martin	Paper K
RPCNA	Bruce Martin	David Engelhard	Paper L

VI. REPORTS FROM OBSERVER CHURCHES

The following Observer churches reported, followed by prayer.

Denomination	Reporter	Who Prayed
Free Reformed Churches, NA	Laurens Roth	Thomas Tyson
L'Eglise reformee du Quebec	Bernard Westerveld	Laurens Roth
PRC	Mike Ericson	John Dawaon
URCNA	Richard Stienstra	Ronald Potter

VII. RECESS

The Council recessed for dinner at 5:40. The Dinner was arranged by the OPC. Rev. John Galbraith spoke to us as individuals, as churches and as NAPARC from I Peter 2:9 showing the importance of truly being "a peculiar people" in the day in which we serve our Sovereign Lord.

VIII. COUNCIL RECONVENES

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, November 14 at 8:30 A.M. He read Isaiah 40 and Irfon Hughes led in prayer.

The Docket as prepared by the Secretary was adopted including the following schedule:

Break, 10:15-10:30 A.M.

Recess for lunch, 12:00 Noon

Reconvene, 1:30 P.M.

Adjourn, 3:00 P.M. (per recommendation of the Interim Committee)

The Interim Committee recommended the approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of NAPARC, November 14,15, 2000 as corrected. Their recommendation was adopted.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

The Secretary reported that he had the following communications for this Meeting as reported to the Interim Committee:

1. A letter from Kenneth Hoxie requesting a hearing about the work of Deaf Reformed Missions.

2. An E-mail expressing greeting and sympathy (re: terrorism) was received from officers of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated).

3. A letter with a Report from Dr. William Evans on the progress of the translations into Spanish of Williamson's "Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Groups" (from Westminster Assembly Commemoration Conference Fund Account)

4. E-mails from Barry Trevor indicating his willingness to be present at our Meeting to discuss his help with our NAPARC Web Site.

5. A letter from Dr. Michael Globo, Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, expressing regrets that he could not attend NAPARC this year, and including a Report about the EPC for NAPARC.

The following actions were taken on the above communications:

1. As recommended by the Interim Commission, it was decided to hear Mr. Hoxie for 15 minutes prior to reconvening of the Council at 1:30 P.M.

2. The Greeting was received.

3. The Report was received with thanks.

4. It was decided to have Barry Trevor report to the Council.

5. The letter was read to the Council and the Report of the EPC was distributed.

X. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Report of the Treasurer, Maynard Koerner, was received and approved and is as follows:

FINANCIAL REPORT

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council

November 11, 2000 – November 18, 2001

Account Number for Dacotah Bank, Watertown, South Dakota – 440009928

Taxpayer ID Number 35-1940120

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

Current Accounts:

Balance: Checking account Nov. 11, 2000 -- ----- \$8267.15

Receipts:

Dues:

KAPC (2000) ----- \$300.00

KAPC (01) ----- \$300.00

RPCNA ----- \$300.00

ARPC ----- \$300.00

RCUS ----- \$300.00

OPC ----- \$300.00

RPCNA ----- \$300.00

Interest, Ck ----- \$48.90

Total receipts ----- \$2148.90

Total ----- \$10416.05

Expenses:

2000 meeting ----- \$3970.48

Stewart, Sec. ----- \$200.00

Stewart, Sec. Help ----- \$250.00

Total expenses ----- \$4420.48

Balance: Checking Account Nov. 8, 2000 --- ----- \$5995.57

Respectfully submitted,

Maynard Koerner, Treasurer

XI. AUDITOR'S REPORT

L. Roy Taylor and Jack J. Peterson reported that they had examined the accounts for 2000-2001 and found everything to be in order.

XII. INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretary presented the Minutes of the Interim Committee, and the following recommendations were adopted:

1. That to meet the decreasing balance in the NAPARC account, the dues for each denomination be increased to \$500 per year.
2. That the Collating Committee be continued; that it be expanded to have representatives from each denomination; that it perfect the Report and bring in a mutually agreeable definition of organic union.
3. That we accept the offer of the PCA to host the 2002 Meeting of NAPARC to be held November 12,13, 2002 at Atlanta or Orlando.
4. That the current meeting of the Council adjourn, Wed., Nov. 14 at 3:00 P.M.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. The PCA Resolution Re: The termination of the membership of the CRC in NAPARC with grounds for action:

L. Roy Taylor had prepared for prior distribution to delegates a "Rationale for Action Regarding CRCNA Membership in NAPARC" (See Paper B). He spoke defending this approach, and then presented the following Resolution for action by the Council. It was decided that the Council should vote on the proposal of the Resolution and on each of the five grounds separately by bloc vote.

The Resolution is as follows:

"That NAPARC submit the following resolution with grounds to the General Assemblies and Synods of NAPARC member churches: Resolved: that membership of the Christian Reformed Church of North America in NAPARC be terminated no later than the 2004 Meeting of NAPARC for the following grounds:

1. We believe that there is an underlying hermeneutical problem that goes back at least as far back as 1972, culminating in the adoption of Report 44 by the Synod of the CRCNA (see Acts of Synod, pp. 493-546). The issue of hermeneutics was raised in NAPARC in the early 1980's when an Interim Study Committee was erected. This Committee reported to NAPARC in 1983 ("A Reformed Testimony

on Hermeneutics", 1983 NAPARC Minutes, Item 10, incl. Appendix J) The Report outlines the issue clearly expressing concerns about views held on Scripture. It has been understood by most NAPARC churches that these views represented a change of position within the CRCNA regarding the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, which has resulted in the ordination of women to the offices of ruling elder and minister.

2. We believe that the CRCNA has had opportunity over the last several years to reverse the controversial action of the 1995 CRCNA Synod in response to NAPARC's suspension of the CRCNA from voting status in NAPARC. In 1996, the process was begun in NAPARC (initiated by the PCA) to suspend the CRCNA from NAPARC membership after the 1995 CRCNA Synod has approved the ordination of women to the offices of ruling elder and minister. The underlying hermeneutical issue was cited by the PCA in correspondence between the two highest judicatories of the PCA and the CRCNA (Minutes of the 25th PCA General Assembly, 1997, pp. 375-383) In 1998, the suspension from membership in NAPARC was effected. The CRCNA 2000 Synod did not reverse, but rather reaffirmed and approved the ordination of women to the offices of ruling elder and minister.

3. We believe that the argument that the Belgic Confession, Article 30, does not forbid and indeed allows for the ordination of women to the offices of ruling elder and minister is theologically, historically and Biblically inaccurate, and that the CRCNA has acted contrary to the Belgic Confession, Article 30 in adopting the policy of ordaining women.

4. We believe that the CRCNA has acted contrary to the NAPARC Constitution (II. Basis of the Council) against the teaching of the Word of God and the Belgic Confession, Article 30, by declaring the word *male* in Article 3-a of the CRCNA Church Order is inoperative, and authorizing the churches under its jurisdiction to ordain and install women to the offices of ruling elder and minister, thus circumventing her own Constitution.

5. We believe that the serious action of the Council's expelling the CRCNA from NAPARC may be used to persuade the CRCNA Synod to heed the teaching of the Word of God, the historic practices of Reformed and Presbyterian churches, the majority opinion of the CRCNA's own members, and the concerted opinion of

NAPARC denominations to reverse her actions on the issue of women's ordination to the offices of ruling elder and minister, and to reconsider the hermeneutical process that led her to depart from her former position.

(Discussion of the Resolution was postponed ^{until} copies of the Resolution could be duplicated and distributed to the delegates.)

B. Reports on Women in the Military:

Ronald Potter reported that this Committee has received resolutions on Women in the Military from only one denomination, and therefore had no report. It was suggested that the Committee contact each denomination to get this information.

C. Reports on Home Missions and Foreign Missions Consultations:

Henry Bowen reported that the Home Missions Consultation was held in conjunction with this meeting of NAPARC.

Donald Duff reported that the Foreign Missions Consultation met in November 2000 in Nashville, TN. (They plan to meet in Atlanta in January 2002.)

D. Report of the Collating Committee (This was the Committee appointed in 2000 to "collate the information found in the reports of the denominations re: their unique characteristics in a somewhat visible form" - the ultimate objective being "to evaluate the bases for distinctive positions and the degree to which these issues necessitate continued separation."): The Report is appended in Paper A.

Opportunity was given to delegates to amend or add to the Report.

Recess was taken from 10:15 to 10:30

- XIII A. The Resolution Re: Termination of the CRC in NAPARC was distributed. David Engelhard distributed and read a Response Paper. (See Paper C) There was extended discussion.

XIV. RECESS

Recess was taken at 12:00 Noon, with prayer by Jim Sawtelle

XV. RECONVENE

The Council reconvened at 1:34 P.M.

After continued discussion, the Council voted to extend the time, and voted on the Resolution before the Council by bloc votes as follows:

Ground	ARP	KAPC	OPC	PCA	RCUS	RPCNA	VOTE
#1	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Lost
#2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried
#3	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Lost
#4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Carried
#5	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Lost
Resolution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried

The results as listed above were announced by the Secretary.

David Engelhard gave a very gracious response, encouraging NAPARC to continue to seek the unity and growth of the Church, concluding with the reading of II Corinthians 13:11-14.

XIII D. The Collating Committee continued to hear amendments and additions to its Report and requested that further amendments and additions should be sent to the Chairman, Ronald Potter at Reform@ptd.net. (**Please note:** ARPC, KAPC and OPC need to appoint representatives to this Committee.)

E. Report on NAPARC Web Site: Barry Traver reported about a NAPARC Web Site. Suggestions were made to him about the potential use of the Web Site. His Report was received and is appended to the Minutes. (See Paper E)

F. Report on Status of the Williamson Translation Project: A Report on the translation into Spanish of G.I. Williamson's "Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Groups" was prepared and sent by Dr. William Evans. It was received and is appended to the Minutes. (See Paper D)

XVI. PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

A proposal from L'Eglise reformee du Quebec to become full members of NAPARC was presented by Bernard Westerveld. It was voted to have them submit their documents to each church during the year so that they could be eligible to be received into membership in NAPARC at the 2002 Meeting.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned in prayer by John Galbraith at 3:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce C. Stewart, Secretary