

THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
October 23, 1981

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Seventh Meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council was called to order by the Rev. John H. White, Chairman of the Council, at 2:00 p.m., on October 23, 1981, at the Best Western Airport Motel, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. White read a portion of Ephesians 4. The Rev. John H. Bratt led the Council in the opening prayer.

2. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. The following delegates and observers were present:

Delegates:

Christian Reformed Church (CRC):

Mr. Albert A. Bel, Rev. John H. Bratt, Rev. William P. Brink, Rev. John H. Primus

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC):

Rev. John P. Galbraith, Rev. Robert Guerrin,
Rev. LeRoy B. Oliver, Rev. Jack J. Peterson

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA):

Mr. Donald E. Boerema, Mr. Ken Ryskamp, Rev. Morton H. Smith, Rev. R. C. Sproul

Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPCES):

Mr. Joel Belz, Rev. John P. Clark, Rev. Donald J. MacNair

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA):

Rev. Stephen C. Conte, Rev. Bruce C. Stewart,
Rev. John H. White

Observers:

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP):

Rev. Gregory C. Slater, Rev. Wm. H. F. Kuykendall

Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS):

Rev. Randy Argall

Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC):

Rev. Samuel Chang, Rev. Chun Il Cho, Rev. Peter Kim,
Rev. Ik Kwan Lee

Additional Visitors:

Mr. William Lapp (RCUS)

It was moved that the observers be granted the privilege of the floor. Adopted

3. ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The docket as indicated by these minutes was adopted.

4. AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

The Council voted to amend the Bylaws as follows:

VI. Interim Committee - amend the opening paragraph to read as follows: "The Interim Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary of the Council, together with such others appointed by the delegations of the member Churches as will provide one representative from each member Church." Adopted

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Rev. John P. Clark (RPCES)
Vice Chairman: Mr. Kenneth L. Ryskamp (PCA)
Secretary: Rev. Morton H. Smith (PCA)
Treasurer: Mr. Albert A. Bel (CRC)

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Council were approved as mailed out.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The Secretary presented communications from the following persons, which were dealt with as docketed:

Letter, dated August 4, 1981, from Rev. Wm. A. Macaulay, Jr. (ARP)
Letter, dated November 13, 1980, from Rev. Samuel S. Chang (KAPC)
Letter, dated September 1, 1981, Rev. Norman C. Hoflinger (RCUS)
Letter, dated September 4, 1981, Rev. Charles H. Dunahoo (PCA)

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Albert Bel, Treasurer of the Council, presented the Treasurer's Report. (See Appendix C). It was moved and seconded that the report be received. Adopted

9. BYLAW AMENDMENT

On motion from the Interim Committee, the Council voted to amend the Bylaws as follows:

Under Item VI. Interim Committee - add new Item 5, and renumber the present number 5 as number 6:

"5. Advise the Council on matters coming before it." Adopted

10. CONSIDERATION OF CHURCH APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NAPARC

On motion from the Interim Committee the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church did make application for membership at the first meeting of NAPARC, and

Whereas, this application was suspended in 1978, awaiting further clarification of the Church's position on inerrancy, and

Whereas, the Synod of the ARP did ratify the amendment of the NAPARC Constitution in 1979, and

Whereas, the Synod of the ARP, as a result of the NAPARC postponement, did adopt the following statement on inerrancy in 1979, and again in 1980: "Be it resolved that the General Synod of 1979 affirms that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God without error in all that it teaches.", and

Whereas, the 1981 meeting of the ARP Synod rejected the proposal from its Interchurch Committee that the Synod withdraw its application to NAPARC, but passed an action continuing its application for membership,

Therefore, Be it resolved that the Council consider the application, and vote on the question: Shall the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be received as a member of NAPARC? Adopted

Each delegation was polled, and the vote on the ARP membership was as follows: CRC, yes; OPC, yes; PCA, yes; RPCES, yes; RPCNA, yes.

On motion from the Interim Committee, the following action was taken: That the Council hear from the observers of the Korean American Presbyterian Church, and that it vote on the question: Shall the Korean American Presbyterian Church be received as a member of NAPARC?

Adopted

The observers from the KAPC were recognized and spoke concerning the history and stance of the denomination. The answer in response to the question of whether the denomination did approve of the basis for membership as found in the Constitution of NAPARC was given in the affirmative. The member delegations then were polled, and the vote was taken as follows: CRC, yes; OPC, yes; PCA, yes, RPCES, yes; RPCNA, yes.

(These matters are now to be passed down to the Member Churches of NAPARC. It takes two-thirds approval of the Member Churches to receive a new denomination as a member of the Council.)

11. THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS PRESENTED BY THE INTERIM COMMITTEE:

That in the light of the fact that four of the five member Churches failed to take specific action on the request of the Council that June 6, 1982, be set as a day of prayer for the concurrent assembly and synod meetings, the Secretary of the Council be directed to communicate with the Stated Clerks of each member Church, requesting that if they have authority to do so, they notify each of their congregations of the request of the Council for a day of prayer by each congregation for the concurrent meeting of the assemblies and synods on June 6, 1982.

Adopted

It was moved and seconded that the report of the Study Committee on Hermeneutics be presented to the member Churches as soon as possible, and that the Planning Committee for the Concurrent Assemblies and Synods be requested to consider arranging for an open discussion during the concurrent meetings in the broadest possible forum under NAPARC identification. The time and format to be decided by the Planning Committee.

Adopted

A request from the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship to have a breakfast during the concurrent meetings was referred to the Planning Committee.

12. REPORTS FROM MEMBER CHURCHES

Representatives from each of the Churches reported as follows on the significant actions of their recent Assemblies and Synods:

CRC - Rev. John Bratt
OPC - Rev. John P. Galbraith
PCA - Mr. Kenneth L. Ryskamp
RPCES - Rev. John P. Clark
RPCNA - Rev. Bruce C. Stewart

In connection with these reports, the following motion was made and seconded: That the study reports of the various member Churches that are deemed to be of value to all of NAPARC be circulated to the sister churches.

Adopted

(See Appendices D - H)

13. REPORTS FROM OBSERVER CHURCHES

Observer Churches reported as follows concerning the significant actions of their Assemblies and Synods:

ARP - Rev. Greg Slater
RCUS - Rev. Randy Argall
KAPC - Rev. Samuel Chang

(See Appendices I - K)

14. REPORT OF THE HERMENEUTICS STUDY COMMITTEE

The Rev. Jack White presented a progress report of the Hermeneutics Study Committee. (See Appendix L)

15. CONSULTATION REPORTS

Several consultation reports were received, and attached to the minutes. Note was taken of the fact that the Christian Education groups of the NAPARC Churches have not been in consultation, and the Council voted to ask the Rev. Tom Patete of the Great Commission Publications to take the responsibility to convene a meeting of the Christian Education agencies in the near future. Adopted

16. INTERIM COMMITTEE

In order to provide for a representative on the Interim Committee from each of the member denominations the delegations reported their appointments as follows:

CRC - Rev. John Bratt
OPC - Rev. John P. Galbraith
RPCNA - Rev. Bruce Stewart

17. NEW BUSINESS

In response to a request from the RPCES concerning the designation of a special year on evangelism, the Council decided to ask for a consultation on home missions to study evangelism and a strategy for the reaching of North America with the Gospel and the Reformed faith. Adopted

18. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved to plan to meet in the Pittsburgh area October 22, 1982, and to ask the RPCNA to make the necessary arrangements.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m., to meet on October 22, 1982, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. John Galbraith.

Respectfully submitted,

Morton H. Smith, Secretary