

REPORT OF THE 2002 MEETING OF NAPARC

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) met in its Twenty-Eighth annual Meeting on November 12 and 13, 2002 in Flat Rock, North Carolina at Bonclarken, the Conference Grounds of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Delegates from the following member denominations were present: Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Korean American Presbyterian Church, Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church in America, Reformed Church in the United States and Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Representatives from the following observer denominations were also were in attendance: Canadian Reformed Churches, L'Eglise reformee du Quebec, Presbyterian Reformed Church and United Reformed Churches of North America.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Jack J. Peterson, OPC; Vice Chairman, Duck Young Won, KAPC; Secretary, Bruce C. Stewart, RPCNA and Maynard A. Koerner, PCUS.

Reports were given from each of the member churches and observer churches presenting significant activities and developments in the past year. Opportunities were given for questions and discussion, and prayer was offered to our Sovereign God after each report.

A somber time in our deliberations came when the vote was taken to terminate the membership of the Christian Reformed Church in NAPARC. The CRC was one of the founding denominations of NAPARC and were most active in upholding the Reformed faith. However, when their Synod began to open the door of the eldership to women and resisted the counsel of NAPARC and its constituent denominations to reconsider the ordination of women, NAPARC voted at its 1999 Meeting to suspend the membership of the CRC in NAPARC, and at its 2001 Meeting to terminate their membership. This action did not become final until at least two-thirds of the member churches in their Synods or General Assemblies ratified that vote. When the roll was called, the vote of the member churches was unanimous to terminate the membership of the CRC in NAPARC. Prayer was offered seeking God's leading for NAPARC and for the CRC that in His grace He might lead the CRC to seek to restore a mutually agreeable fellowship with NAPARC.

As a suspended member, the CRC has sent delegates to each prior meeting of NAPARC. David Englehard, General Secretary of the CRC, wrote saying that they "decided that it would be the better part of wisdom not to send delegates to this year's meeting", and

expressing “the hope that someday our relationships will be restored.” We commend them to Scripture and the Three Forms of Unity.

On a more positive note, NAPARC voted to receive into the membership of NAPARC, L’Eglise Reformee du Quebec (The Reformed Church of Quebec) pending approval of at least two-thirds of the Synods and General Assemblies of member churches

Items referred for further study included: a Report on Women in the Military, a Report on Denominational Distinctives and the Goal of Organic Union, and Development of the NAPARC Web Site.

It was recommended the Foreign Missions Consultation and the Home Missions Consultation be held each year in conjunction with the meeting of NAPARC. Since it is hoped that all the member churches would be involved in these consultations, such concurrent meetings would provide opportunity for piggy-backing of programs and personnel. The host church is to implement these meetings.

NAPARC is looking ahead to celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the birth of John Calvin in 2009. In addition to the possibility of having all of our Synods/General Assemblies meet simultaneously at the same site, a Committee has been appointed to consider the feasibility and implementation of ways of expressing our unity and the strength of our Reformed faith.

The next Meeting of NAPARC will be hosted by the RPCNA in Pittsburgh, PA November 11 and 12, 2003. The Council will meeting will begin at 1:30 P.M. on November 11.

Bruce C. Stewart, Secretary,
NAPARC