

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL**
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 10, 1993

I. CALL TO ORDER

The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council met at the Harley Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 10, 1993 at 8:39 a.m.. The Rev. Paul R. Gilchrist, Chairman, presided. He opened the meeting with prayer and led in a devotional on Psalm 133:1, Psalm 86:11 and John 17:22-23. He led in prayer.

II. ROLL CALL

ARPC	Delegates: Charles H. Carlisle J. E. Cox Harry T. Schutte Jack C. Whytock
CRC	Clarence Boomsma Leonard J. Hofman Fred H. Klooster Eunice Vanderlaan
KAPC	Myung Doh Kim
OPC	Richard A. Barker Donald J. Duff John R. Hilbelink Thomas E. Tyson
PCA	William Edgar Paul R. Gilchrist K. Eric Perrin Henry Lewis Smith
RPCNA	Robert Henning Jerry F. O'Neill Andrew Schep Randall D. VanOsdol

A quorum was declared to be present.

The following observer churches were represented:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Edward Davis
Presbyterian Reformed Church	Dr. William Young
Reformed Church in the United States	Robert Grossman Dennis Roe

III. ADOPTION OF DOCKET

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

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 Member Churches:
 Invited Observers:
3. Adoption of Docket

4. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
5. Appointment of Additional Members to Interim Committee
6. Approval of Minutes
7. Communications:
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Interim Committee Report
 - a. Letter to the Christian Reformed Church
10. Report of the Special Committee on Commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly.
11. Old Business
 - a. Weighted voting
 - b. Application of the RCUS
12. New Business
 - a. ICRC
 - b. IRF
 - c. Trinity Psalter
 - d. WPRF
 - e. ARPC about historical documents
 - f. Worship
 - g. Place and times of Synods and General Assemblies
13. Reports from Various Member Churches
14. Reports from Observer Churches
15. Reports on Conference/Consultation Held
16. Arrangements for Next Meeting (place, time, invitees)
17. Adjournment

Adopted

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

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

Chairman	Thomas E. Tyson (OPC)
Vice chairman	Myung Doh Kim (KAPC)
Secretary	Donald J. Duff (OPC)
Treasurer	Charles Carlisle (ARP)

V. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO INTERIM COMMITTEE

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

Chairman	Thomas E. Tyson (OPC)
Vice chairman	Myung Doh Kim (KAPC)
Secretary	Donald J. Duff (OPC)
Treasurer	Charles Carlisle (ARPC)
ARPC	To be reported by the ARPC
CRCNA	To be reported by the CRCNA
RPCNA	Jack White

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Interim Committee recommended the approval of the Minutes of the last meeting of NAPARC as distributed.

Adopted

VII. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mar. 1, 1993 From the PCA Interchurch Relations Committee concerning weighted voting (Attachment A)

2. Aug. 17, 1993 From the Rev. Sherman Isbell re. the Scottish Reformed Church of Des Moines now in the Presbyterian Reformed Church.
3. Sep. 13, 1993 From 60th General Assembly of the OPC expressing disappointment with the postponement of the reception of the RCUS (Attachment B)
4. Oct. 13, 1993 From the Inter-church Relations Committee, ARP Synod about things they would like on the docket (Attachment C)
5. Sep. 29, 1993 From J. Ross Justice saying the Association of Reformed Churches no longer exists.
6. Oct. 2, 1993 From the 58th Bible Presbyterian Synod, Collingswood saying they will not be attending the meeting of NAPARC (Attachment D)
7. Oct. 5, 1993 From the Rev. D. Van Dyken (OCRC) with a change of address
8. Oct. 26, 1993 From the Rev. John W. Morrow - A report about the American Presbyterian Church (Attachment G)
9. Oct. 30, 1993 From the Rev. Paul Dilys saying he will be unable to attend as a representative of the Lithuanian Evangelical Reformed Church
10. Nov. 5, 1993 From the RCUS Interchurch Relations Committee stating that the 247th Synod of the RCUS is not deterred from its purpose to become a member of NAPARC (Attachment E)
11. From the RCUS Summary report of the 247th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States (Attachment F)
12. From the ARPC Summary report of the 189th Meeting of the General Synod of the ARPC (Attachment H)
13. From the OPC Summary report of the 60th General Assembly of the OPC (Attachment I)
14. From the RPCNA Study Paper of the RPCNA on Vow #8 impasse
15. From the PRC Summary report of the Presbyterian Reformed Church (Attachment J)
16. From the KAPC Summary report of the 17th General Assembly (Attachment K)
17. From the CRCNA Summary report of the Synodical Decisions - 1993 (Attachment L)
18. From the RPCNA Summary report of the 164th Synod (Attachment M)
19. From the PCA Summary report of the 21st General Assembly (Attachment N)
20. From the ARPC Concerning the preservation of historical documents (Attachment O)

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Charles Carlisle, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report as follows:

Balance - October 27, 1993		\$3,798.98
Receipts from Dues:		
ARPC	\$180.00	
CRC	1200.00	
OPC	180.00	
PCA	1200.00	
RPCNA	180.00	
KAPC	180.00	
Interest <u>8.69</u>		
Total receipts	<u>3,128.69</u>	<u>3,128.69</u>
Total responsible for		\$6,927.67
Expenditures:		
NAPARC meeting in 1992	\$520.00	
West. Assembly celebration	2500.00	
Bank service charges	8.25	
Donald J. Duff	200.00	
Secretarial help	<u>250.00</u>	
Total Expenditures	<u>3,478.25</u>	<u>-3,478.25</u>
Balance - November 9, 1993		\$3,449.42

The Interim Committee approved the report to be passed on to the Council and recommends that the assessments for 1994 remain the same as in 1993 as follows:

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

Adopted

The approval of the treasurer's report was adopted.

IX. INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Interim Committee recommends to NAPARC the following;

That the Council express to the Synod of the CRC its renewed concern regarding the proposal of the 1993 Synod to permit women to serve in the office of teaching and ruling elder by sending a similar statement to the one adopted in the 1990 and 1991 meetings of the Council, to wit:

In harmony with the stated "purpose and function" of the NAPARC to "exercise mutual concern in the perpetuation, retention, and propagation of the Reformed Faith (Constitution III:3), the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council calls upon the Christian Reformed Church to reverse the action of the 1990 Synod leading to the opening of the offices of minister and ruling elder to women, as contrary to the Scripture and the Reformed standards which insist that "everything [will] be carried on in the church . . . according to the rule prescribed by Saint Paul in his Epistle to Timothy" (Belgic Confession of Faith Article XXX). I Timothy 2 and 3, in giving authoritative instruction regarding proper conduct "in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" (3:15), the Apostle explicitly disallows to a woman the exercise of teaching or ruling authority over men in the church (2:12), and grounds this command in the divine creation order.

A procedural motion was made to postpone voting on this motion until after we have dealt with a motion to be presented by Eric Perrin

The Chairman ruled that this decision was a major decision and should be by vote of delegations. His ruling was challenged and overturned. (14-6)

The following motion (in final amended form) was presented:

That NAPARC appoint a study committee consisting of one representative of each church to review the relevant documents of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that give the grounds for the opening of the office of elder to women, such committee to report its finding to the next meeting of NAPARC so the matter may be discussed by the council.

Adopted

X. RECESS

The Council recessed from 10:25 - 10:36 a.m.

XI. RETURN TO THE ITERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

It was moved that the PCA be designated as the church to convene the Study Committee of Review of Documents of the CRCNA.

Adopted

The proposed letter to the CRCNA was voted on by delegations as follows:

ARPC	Yes	OPC	Yes
CRCNA	Abstain	PCA	Yes
KAPC	Yes	RPCNA	Yes

Adopted

The following was moved:

Moved by a deep love for our brother and sisters in the Christian Reformed Church, and

Feeling deep concern as we have heard at this meeting expressions of pain from within the Christian Reformed Church as the treasured unity of that body seems to some to be threatened with rupture, and the consciences of many are sorely tried, and

Standing under the direction of the Scripture to both bear one another's burdens and to earnestly strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

With a humble spirit and a desire to be used by the gracious Holy Spirit as He will and in view of the Spirit of the purpose of NAPARC (Constitution III:3), would communicate to the CRC our desire to render any aid that we might, and again, in a spirit of humility, offer to make available from our member churches a pastoral committee of elders to meet with parties in the CRC, to pray with and for them, and to offer such insights as the Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit might give them; such pastoral committee to be appointed by the Chairman of NAPARC (of such size and composition as he shall determine) when our brothers and sisters of the CRC shall call for our assistance, and

When and if such request be made, the Secretary will notify member churches in order that intensive prayer and fasting may be offered for God's richest blessing on this effort.

ALL TO THE GLORY OF OUR SOVEREIGN TRIUNE GOD

Adopted

Note: in connection with the adoption of this motion the ARPC nominated Harry T. Schutte and the PCA nominated Henry Lewis Smith as possible members.

XII. Report of the Special Committee on Commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Westminister Assembly (Attachment P).

Dr. Charles Carlisle, Chairman of the Special Committee on Commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Westminister Assembly, presented the report of the committee.

The Interim Committee's recommendations to NAPARC were moved in the following forms:

a. That NAPARC support the recommendations of the chairman of the report "that funds be turned over to the NAPARC for future projects and that the account be kept separate from other funds for a year to be sure that all expenses have been covered. First claim on the funds would be any expense connected with the publication of the lectures." **Adopted**

b. That the Council recognize the part of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America contributed to the 350th anniversary celebration of the Westminister Assembly, in originally presenting the celebration idea and in securing the use of Westminister Abby, and

That profound thanks be expressed to the members of the Westminister Assembly Celebration Committee for the splendid job that did, especially to Dr. Charles Carlisle and Dr. John Carson for special leadership, and

That the committee be dissolved.

Adopted

Note: The Rev. Paul Gilchrist presented a program of the PCA for a Westminister Assembly Commemoration to be held June 4-9, 1994 in Atlanta.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Weighted voting (See attachment A)

The Interim Committee reports to NAPARC that it has not yet completed its study of "weighted voting" but it hopes to report to the 1994 Council on this matter.

B. Application of the RCUS for membership (See attachment E)

The Interim Committee reported that it recommends NAPARC approve the application of the Reformed Church in the United States and that constitutional principles be followed. This was moved.

An amendment was offered to change the word "application" to "applications" and add the words "and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church" following the word "States". the Chairman ruled this amendment out of order. His ruling was challenged The ruling of the chair was upheld.

It was moved that consideration of the pending motion be postponed for one year.

A motion moving the previous question having passed, the vote was taken by delegations:

ARPC	Yes	OPC	No
CRCNA	Abstain	PCA	Yes
KAPC	No	RPCNA	Yes

Adopted

IV NEW BUSINESS

The following matters were discussed and information given about them:

- a. International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) - The OPC are members KAPC and RPCNA are pursuing membership
- b. International Reformed Fellowship (IRF) - KAPC was an observer
- c. Trinity Psalter of the PCA - Questions were asked
- d. World Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship (WPRF) - PCA is working with WEF
- e. ARPC wanted information about the securing and maintaining historical documents (see attachment H)

f. The following motion was referred to the Interim Committee:

With a renewed sense of thanksgiving for the rich heritage in Reformed Worship that is ours in NAPARC churches, including the singing of praise through the use of Psalms, be it resolved that a committee be erected to consider the need and desire for and feasibility of publishing

- 1.) A book of Common Worship for use by pastors and churches embodying the treasures of optimal worship forms in our Catholic - Reformed heritage, and
- 2.) A Psalter hymnal (similar to the old CRC Psalter Hymnal and the old Presbyterian Church of Canada Hymnal), providing the entire book of Psalms for singing in the first section.

Adopted

g. Place and times of Synods and Assemblies

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

ARPC	Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC	June 13-15, 1994
CRC	Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI	June 14-24, 1994
KAPC	Fort Myers, FL	June 14-17, 1994
OPC	Harvey Cedars, NJ	June 8-15, 1994
PCA	Atlanta, GA	June 6-10, 1994
RPCNA	Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA	June 18-24, 1994

It was moved that the Council invite the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to reapply to NAPARC.

The Council determined by vote that the motions was properly before the Council (cf. Bylaws IV.5).

The motion was put to the body.

Adopted

XV REPORTS ON CONSULTATIONS

The Secretary was asked to write to those holding consultations requesting written reports from them to the Council.

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

On recommendation of the Interim Committee the Council requests the Korean American Presbyterian Church to host the next meeting of the Council and to arrange for a key note speaker for the dinner with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, November 1-2, 1994 to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Adopted

XVII. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

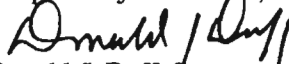
The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Christian Reformed Church North America for hosting the meeting, and arranging for Dr Richard A. Muller, Appointed by the Christian Reformed Church Synod in 1991 to the P. J. Zondervan Chair for Doctoral Studies as Professor of Historical Theology at Calvin Theological Seminary, to be the speaker at the banquet on Tuesday evening.

Adopted

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Donald J. Duff, Secretary