

JAN 21 1977

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE  
NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL (NAPaRC)

Grand Rapids, Michigan  
October 29-30, 1976

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by J.P. Galbraith, ~~retiring~~ chairman of the Council, at 2 p.m. on October 29, 1976, at the denominational headquarters of the Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He read Ephesians 2:13-22 for a devotional and various members of the Council led in prayer. Wm. P. Brink said a word of welcome for the host church.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

The ~~retiring~~ secretary, J.B. Payne, read communications from the Reformed Church in the U.S. (Eureka Classis) and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, introducing their observers (See Article 4), and from the Christian Reformed Church, with proposals for a study committee on social issues and for a joint prayer session at the concurrent meeting of the synods and assemblies in 1978.

3. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken and the following were present as delegates and observers: (First one named is chairman of its delegation)

ROLL

DELEGATES:

Christian Reformed Church (CRC)

John H. Kromminga, Wm. P. Brink, Tymen E. Hofman, John H. Bratt,  
Albert A. Bel (alternate)

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

LeRoy B. Oliver, John P. Galbraith, Edmund P. Clowney, Jack J. Peterson

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

Tim Fortner, John C. Snyder, O. Palmer Robertson, Donald E. Boerema,  
Morton H. Smith (alternate)

Reformed Presbyterian Church-Evangelical Synod (RPC-ES)

Robert G. Reyburn, Thomas G. Cross, J. Barton Payne, Joel Belz

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)

Bruce C. Stewart, Bruce Willson, John H. White, Lester E. Kilpatrick

OBSERVERS:

G. Aiken Taylor, Box 3108, Asheville, NC 28802 (PCA)  
R.D. Stuebbe, 6525 County Trunk C, Manitowoc, WI 54220 (RCUS)  
Arthur C. Broadwick, Pittsburgh, PA (PCA)  
Dodd Vernon, 4614 Durbin Dr., Augusta, GA 30907 (ARPC)  
Grady R. Oates, Box 1411, Bartow, FL 33820 (ARPC)  
Robert Ulrich, Box 395, Belle Center, OH 43310 (RPCNA)  
Daniel L. Burke, Box 229, Johannesburg, MI 49751 (RPCNA)

sp.

4. DOCKET

The agenda, as indicated by these minutes, is adopted.

5. TREASURY

The treasurer, Mr. Albert A. Bel, submitted his report. (See Appendix A.)

6. INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Interim Committee, consisting of John P. Galbraith, J. Barton Payne, Albert A. Bel, Morton H. Smith, and John H. White report that the committee has not met during the year but has remained in contact with one another by correspondence and by telephone. It recommends:

A. That, in response to the directive of the previous meeting of the Council, a conference on the subject of Office in the Church be arranged. It asks that such a conference be held within the next year; that two full days be allowed for it; that to allow adequate time for conferring in depth, the number of topics be limited to three; that preferable subjects include: "The two office/three office question;" "The legitimate functions of ruling (nonteaching) elders;" "The question of women in the offices of deacon, ruling elders and minister including the distinction between women deacons and deaconesses;" and "The nature of office, including definition of terms;" that the structure of the conference follow these general lines:

- 1) A paper be prepared, by a designated person, on each subject to be discussed, and distributed to the conference two months prior to the conference, and that the paper suggest reading material and questions for discussion;
- 2) A brief response paper (two or three pages) be prepared by a designated person, relating to specifics in the master paper, to be distributed two or three weeks prior to the conference;
- 3) At the conference the writer of the master paper give a rationale (not a summary) for his paper in 10 minutes;
- 4) A group discussion of 45-60 minutes be held;
- 5) Plenary discussions then be held for at least three hours;
- 6) A chairman to lead the discussion of each topic be appointed at the time that the writer of the master paper is appointed;

sp. that the conference be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area; that the conference be open to all who wish to attend and that conferees be required to register with the Interim Committee prior to the conference; (and) that the Interim Committee, following this meeting of the Council be instructed to appoint the writers of the papers in accordance with the decisions reached at this meeting and to make the necessary arrangements.

-ADOPTED

- B. That all committees of NAPaRC send their reports to the Interim Committee one month before the annual meeting of NAPaRC and that each delegation report relevant decisions of the major assemblies to the Interim Committee in order to aid the Interim Committee in framing the agenda for the next meeting.

COM. REPORT  
TO INT.  
COM.

-ADOPTED

7. ELECTIONS

In opening the floor for nominations to office it was evident that the (present treasurer was deemed inexpedient) and Albert A. Bel was re-elected to that office by white ballot. John H. White was named to the chairmanship also by white ballot and from a nomination of J. Barton Payne, T. Fortner, L. Oliver and J.H. Bratt, the last named and the signator of these minutes was elected. Later in the session the following were named to join the officers on the Interim Committee: J.P. Galbraith (OPC); Tim Fortner (PCA); and J. Barton Payne (RPCES).

ELECTION

INTERIM  
COM.

8. DENOMINATIONAL STUDIES INDEX

An updated Denominational Studies Index (studies recently completed and those currently in process) is requested of each delegation. This index is to be sent to the secretary as soon as possible after the termination of these sessions. (See Appendix B.)

Weren't  
some  
presented  
to this  
meeting?

INDEX OF  
STUDIES

9. CHURCHES IN ECCLESIASTICAL FELLOWSHIP CONCEPT

The Committee on Ecumenicity of the OPC proposes to the Council that the CRC be thanked for its development of the concept of "Churches in Ecclesiastical Fellowship" and that a committee, composed of representatives of each constituent body of the Council, be named to consider this concept in a broader context with a view to recommending a church relationship policy that would be suitable for all the churches. The proposal is adopted and the following committee named: Jack Peterson (OPC) convener; Tymen E. Hofman (CRC); Tim Fortner (PCA); Thomas Cross (RPCES); Bruce C. Stewart (RPCNA).

CHURCHES  
IN ECCLE  
FELLOWSHIP

10. JOINT PRAYER AND COMMUNION 1978

The delegations were polled on the matter of a joint prayer session and/or a joint communion celebration at the concurrent synods/assemblies planned for June, 1978, on the Calvin Campus. All constituent churches agreed to the joint prayer session; all but the RPCES agreed to a joint communion service. At this point G. Aiken Taylor is given the floor and he urges that there be real interaction and interchange at the 1978 meetings rather than merely concurrent meetings and random crossing of each other's paths.

CONCURRENT  
SYNODS,  
G.A.'S,  
Joint  
Prayer,  
Communion

11. 1978 COMMITTEE

Motion passed requesting the CRC to convene a meeting of representatives of the member churches to plan (program, use of facilities and other matters) the concurrent synods/assemblies for June, 1978. Named to the committee: Wm. P. Brink, G. Boomsma (et al) (CRC); John Mitchell, LeRoy Oliver (OPC); Morton H. Smith, Dan Moore (PCA); Paul Gilchrist; Earl Witmer (RPCES); John H. White, Robert McCracken (RPCNA).

Planning

12. INTERDENOMINATIONAL CONSULTATION

AGENCY  
CONSUL-  
TATION

With respect to the consultation of representatives of the various denominational agencies (see Minutes, 1975, Article 11a) the CRC reported that it had requested all of its agencies to become involved and the RPCES reported that it had lodged that responsibility with the heads of their agencies. Wm. P. Brink reported that a diaconal conference with all constituent denominations represented had been held October 21-22, 1976, and that future meetings were planned. J.P. Galbraith informed the Council that a meeting of representatives of the Foreign Mission Boards was scheduled for November 22-23 in the Pittsburgh area. The OPC is asked to follow through with Home Missions and Christian Education and all delegates are asked to realert their denominational agencies to this phase of the Council's activities.

ap.

13. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A conference on Theological Education is proposed by Ed Clowney. Decision is taken that the OPC plan such a conference and that the Interchurch Relations Committees of the churches in the Council appoint three to five delegates to that conference.

THEOL  
ED. CONF  
Mv.  
OPC Plan

14. BASIS

The committee assigned to "Strengthening the Basis of the Council" (S. Bruce Willson reporting) recommended, and its recommendation was unanimously adopted, that the first paragraph of the basis be amended by substitution to read as follows:

AMEIND  
BASIS

without dissent

Confessing Jesus Christ as only Savior and Sovereign Lord over all of life, we affirm the basis of the fellowship of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches to be full commitment to the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God written, without error in all its parts and to its teaching as set forth in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

15. CONCERT OF PRAYER

All delegations reported that their constituent churches had engaged in a concert of prayer as requested and recommended by the 1975 meeting of the Council (see Minutes, 1975, Article 13, b, ii).

CONCERT  
OF PRAYER

16. RELATIONS WITH NPRF

Ed Clowney spoke in the interests of the NPRF, reminding us of the ground-work it had laid for the Council, and urging continued close relationships with them since they still had a function to perform, namely to reach out, contact and strengthen the hands of evangelicals in the mainline denominations.

I reported that NPRF had not responded to NAPARC actions (cf. my papers)

17. APPLICATION OF ARPC

The committee to consider the application of the ARPC for membership in the NAPaRC, appreciative of the strong witness to the Reformed faith within that communion but unable at this point to recommend specific action, requests that its life be extended for one year and that it make its recommendation at the 1977 meeting of the Council.

ASSOC. REF.  
PRES. CHURCH

Postpone

Grounds:

- A. This will enable the committee to secure more information on which to make its assessment;
- B. There are two items in the Constitution that the ARPC should reexamine: one, the amended basis (See Article 14 above) and two, the reference to "organic Union" which was missing in the copy of the Constitution with which the ARPC was operating.

-ADOPTED

18. CONSULTATIVE MEMBERSHIP

A motion to erect a committee to consider the amending of the Constitution Section V on Membership, to provide a category of Consultative Membership is defeated.

CONSULTATIVE  
MEMBERSHIP  
(not adopted)

19. CONFERENCE ON RACIAL ISSUES

The CRC contingent proposed "that NAPaRC sponsor an evangelical conference on racial issues, to include member churches of NAPaRC and other churches which will be invited, and to be held if possible early in 1977. Considerations: Racial issues continue to require the attention of the churches. The issues concern all of the members of NAPaRC but also other members of the evangelical community. An early meeting date may provide some opportunity for input into the race-related problems of the Reformed Churches in South Africa."

CONF. ON  
RACIAL  
ISSUES

The proposal is adopted and the implementation of it is entrusted to the Interim Committee.

Int. Com.  
Implement

*Letter from J. K. Koenigs 11/30/76 says  
CRC was to do it.*

20. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- A. The budget is set at \$500.00 as heretofore and the treasurer is asked to remit \$250.00 to the CRC as partial reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with the 1976 meeting.
- B. Jacob Eppinga (CRC) is named as Assistant Treasurer.
- C. Members are advised that a Directory of selected Reformed Churches is available for \$1.50 by writing the: Committee for Christian Education, PCA  
1020 Monticello Court  
Montgomery, Alabama 36117
- D. Delegations are asked to send the name and address of the chairman of their Interchurch Relations Committee and the Stated Clerk of their denomination to the Secretary of the Council.

BUDGET

Ass't  
Treas.

Director  
of Ref.  
Ch's

Secretary's  
Mailing List

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NEXT  
MEETING

The next meeting, by invitation of the RPCES, is set for October 28-29, 1977, at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

22. CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn. The chairman thanks the CRC for its hospitality and calls on Bruce Stewart to give the prayer of thanksgiving.

*Time of adj.?*

John H. Bratt, Secretary