

**Council Minutes**  
**Forty-Fourth Meeting**  
 meeting at  
**Jubilee Presbyterian Church**  
**1911 West Marshall Street, West Norriton, Pennsylvania**  
**November 13, 2018, 2:00 PM – November 15, 2018, 12:00 Noon**

**ARTICLE 1 CALL TO ORDER**

The 44<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of NAPARC is convened at Jubilee Presbyterian Church (KAPC) on Tuesday, November 14, 2018. The Chairman, Rev. Dr. S. Steve Park, calls the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomes the delegates. He reads Acts 11:25-26 and encourages us to consider what is involved in being a disciple of Christ. He leads in prayer.

**ARTICLE 2 ROLL CALL**

A. Member Churches

The Chairman calls upon the delegates to introduce themselves. The following are present.

MEMBER CHURCH	DELEGATES
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)	Rev. Bill Barron Rev. Dr. R. Leslie Holmes Rev. Patrick Malphrus Rev. Dr. Kyle E. Syms
Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)	Mr. Les Vanderveen Rev. Doug Vandeburgt Mr. Peter Veenendaal Dr. Jeff Temple
Reformed Church of Quebec / Église réformée du Québec (ERQ)	Rev. Bernard Westerveld Mr. Normand Bédard
Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA)	Rev. Ian Macleod Rev. Jerrold Lewis
Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC)	Mr. James Beeke Rev. Don Overbeek
Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)	Dr. S. Steve Park Rev. Young Kee Kim Rev. Ryan H. Kim Rev. John E. Whang
Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA)	Rev. David Kim Rev. Barnabas Jung
Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)	Mr. Mark T. Bube Dr. L. Anthony Curto Rev. Iain A. M. Wright Rev. Jack Sawyer
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	Dr. Bruce O'Neal Rev. Marvin Padgett Mr. James C. Richardson Dr. L. Roy Taylor
Presbyterian Reformed Church (PresRC)	Rev. D. Douglas Gebbie Rev. Michael J. Ives

Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)	Rev. Ron Potter Rev. Christopher Campbell Mr. Warren Nuss Mr. Ken Hanko
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)	Rev. J. Bruce Martin Rev. Jerry Milroy Rev. Bruce Parnell Mr. Drew Gordon
United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)	Rev. Steve Swets Rev. Bradley Lenzner Rev. Casey Freswick Rev. Richard J. Miller

**B. Official Observers**

The Chairman calls the roll of observer churches. The delegates from each church introduce themselves.

OBSERVER CHURCH	OBSERVERS
Protestant Reformed Churches in America (PRCA)	Rev. Bill Bruinsma Mr. Dave Kregel
Bible Presbyterian Church (BPC)	Rev. Kevin M. Backus Rev. Tito Lyro

**ARTICLE 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2017)**

Recommendation 1 of the Interim Committee is taken up and seconded. It recommends that the minutes of the 2017 NAPARC Council be approved. The motion is adopted.

**ARTICLE 4 COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING REPORT OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE)**

A. The following communications have been received.

1. NAPARC 2018 Delegate and Observer information was received from all churches and published with the Council Docket.
2. Church Reports for 2018 were received (*Bylaws* III.2.c) from all churches and published with the Council Docket.
3. The Foreign Mission Consultation report was received from Mr. Mark Bube and published with the Council Docket.
4. The Website Committee Report was received on time (*Bylaws* III.2.c) and published with the Council Docket. See item VIII below for action.
5. Inquiry from churches for membership – Classis Minnkota of the CRCNA inquires whether a classis of churches may join NAPARC – See attached letter page 7.
6. The URCNA sent a copy of its *Marriage Affirmations* adopted in June 2018. A link to this has been made available on the NAPARC website.
7. The OPC requests permission for Elder David Nahkla to address the plenary session for 15 minutes on Thursday morning (with an additional 15 minutes for questions) “to present the work of relief and diaconal ministry by the OPC, its interplay with sister churches, and especially with the ICRC” with a view that his presentation will be a catalyst for a NAPARC consultation on relief work. .
8. Report of the Interim Committee meeting on November 13, 2018.

B. The report of the Interim Committee contains the following recommendations which it adopted and recommends to the Council.

1. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council that the 2017 Council Minutes be approved.
2. The Interim Committee recommends that Elder David Nahkla be allowed to address the plenary session for 15 minutes on Thursday morning (with an additional 15 minutes for questions) to

present the work of relief and diaconal ministry by the OPC, its interplay with sister churches, and especially with the ICRC with a view that his presentation will be a catalyst for a NAPARC consultation on relief work [To be taken up under Old Business]

3. The Interim Committee approves the Treasurer's Report and recommends the Treasurer's Report to the Council for adoption.
4. The Interim Committee recommends that the budget presented by the Treasurer be approved. Anticipated income should read \$12,750.
5. The Interim Committee approves the work of the Website Committee and their budget request for \$250 and recommends them to the Council for approval.
6. The Interim Committee recommends that the Rev. Ben Westerveld, Rev. Dr. Kyle Syms, and Rev. Jack Sawyer be allowed to report on progress toward scheduling NAPARC consultations on youth ministry, theological training, and relief and diaconal ministry (respectively) as authorized by last year's council but not yet implemented (*2107 Minutes* Art. XVI. D, E, & F). [To be taken up under Old Business]
7. The Interim Committee approves the *Question and Prayer Assignment Proposal* and recommends it to the Council for adoption.
8. The Interim Committee recommends for discussion the single subject gleaned from all the church reports for which discussion was requested: From the OPC, *Dear brothers, we welcome discussion/advice on the wisdom, propriety, and utility of linguistic updating of the OPC Confessional Standards. The 85<sup>th</sup> General Assembly narrowly decided on this course, which would will require a process of deliberation required for approval of the constitution of the OPC. We come to you in good faith, asking for advice and would be pleased and helped if you might consider discussing this at our 2019 NAPARC meeting.* [To be taken up under New Business]
9. The Interim Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolution:  
"Be it resolved that NAPARC thank Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner for his 20 years of faithful service as treasurer of this organization; that we sadly accept his resignation and thank him for his conscientious attention to detail and wise counsel throughout his years of service, and that we pray for God's blessing on his continued service in God's church and kingdom as the Lord may lead." [To be taken up under New Business]
10. The Interim Committee recommends the following slate of officers to be elected:
  - a. Chairman – Rev. David Kim
  - b. Vice-Chairman – Rev. Dr. L. Anthony Curto
  - c. Secretary – Rev. Ralph Pontier
  - d. Treasurer – Rev. Todd De Rooy
11. The Interim Committee recommends that the Council Docket be adopted.
12. The Interim Committee recommends that a representative of Westminster Seminary, Philadelphia be permitted to address the Council briefly. (This requires a two-thirds majority by the Council to pass.)

#### **ARTICLE 5 ADDRESS BY A GUEST FROM WESTMINSTER SEMINARY IN PHILADELPHIA**

- A. Recommendation 12 of Interim Committee is taken up and seconded to allow a guest to speak. It is approved by a two-thirds majority.
- B. Mr. Brandon M. Smith of Westminster Seminary addresses the body briefly.

#### **ARTICLE 6 ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

Recommendation 11 of the Interim Committee to approve the docket is taken up and supported. The recommendation is adopted.

#### **ARTICLE 7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. Recommendation 10 of the Interim Committee to elect a slate of officers is taken up and supported. The entire slate is elected.

- B. The following are elected as officers for the coming year.
  1. Chairman –Rev. David Kim
  2. Vice-Chairman – Rev. Dr. L. Anthony Curto
  3. Secretary – Rev. Ralph Pontier
  4. Treasurer – Rev. Todd De Rooy
- C. Rev. David Kim assumes the chair.

**ARTICLE 8 ANNOUNCEMENT of Additional Delegates Appointed to the Interim Committee**  
 In anticipation that current members of the Interim Committee may plan to be replaced before the next Council, the following are appointed to the Interim Committee to replace those presently serving. None.

**ARTICLE 9 REPORTS FROM MEMBER CHURCHES**

- A. Recommendation 7 of the Interim Committee to approve the *Question and Prayer Assignment Proposals* is taken up and seconded. The schedule, as distributed with the Docket, is adopted.
- B. The Chairman calls upon each Member Church to give its report which is followed by questions from the appointed questioner, questions from the floor, and by prayer.

The Reporter	The Questioner Who Also Prays
ARPC – Rev. Bill Barron	RPCNA – Rev. Bruce Parnell
CanRC – Rev. Doug Vandeburgt	OPC – Rev. Jack Sawyer
ERQ – Rev. Ben Westerveld	PCA – Dr. L. Roy Taylor
FRCNA – Rev. Jerrold Lewis	PresRC – Rev. D. Douglas Gebbie
HRC – Mr. Jim Beeke	RCUS – Rev. Ron Potter & Rev. Ron Campbell
KAPC – Rev. Dr. S. Steve Park	RPCNA – Rev. Jerry Milroy

- C. The Council recesses for supper. After a delicious supper of Korean food served by members of the church, the delegates, guests, and members of the host church gather for a devotional service led by Rev. Dr. S. Steve Park with Ryan H. Kim preaching.
- D. The Council reconvenes at 10:00 am Wednesday morning. The Chairman asks Rev. J. Bruce Martin to open with prayer..
- E. The reports of the Member Churches continue.

The Reporter	The Questioner Who Also Prays
KPCA – Kosin – Rev. Barnabas Jung	URCNA – Rev. Richard Miller
OPC – Dr. L. Anthony Curto	ARPC – Rev. Dr. R. Leslie Holmes
PCA – Rev. Dr. L. Roy Talyor	CanRC – Dr. Jeff Temple
PresRC – Rev. D. Douglas Gebbie	ERQ – Rev. Ben Westerveld
RCUS – Rev. Ron Potter	FRCNA - Rev. Ian Macleod
RPCNA – Rev. J. Bruce Martin	KPCA – Rev. David Kim
URCNA – Rev. Todd De Rooy	HRC – Rev. Don Overbeek

**ARTICLE 10 REPORTS FROM OFFICIAL OBSERVER CHURCHES**

The Chairman calls upon each Observer Church to give their report which is followed by questions from the appointed questioner and from the floor and by prayer.

The Reporter	The Questioner Who Also Prays
PRCA – Rev. Bill Bruinsma	KAPC – Rev. Ryan H. Kim
BPC – Rev. Kevin M. Backus	PCA – Mr. James C. Richardson

**ARTICLE 11 DISCUSSION REGARDING PROGRESS TOWARD ORGANIC UNION (AS PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM COMMITTEE)**

Nothing has been proposed.

**ARTICLE 12 FINANCIAL MATTERS (TREASURER'S REPORT, BUDGET, AND AUDITORS' REPORT)**

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 3 to consider the Treasurer's Report for adoption is taken up and seconded.
1. The Treasurer reads his report and answers questions.
  2. The recommendation to receive Treasurer's Report is adopted.
- B. Interim Committee Recommendation 4 that the Treasurer's budget be approved is taken up and seconded.
1. The Treasurer explains the budget and answers questions. The dues remain the same at \$1,000 per Member Church.
  2. The recommendation to approve the budget is adopted.
- C. The Audit Committee (last year's Chairman and Vice-Chairman) report that the financial records are in good order

**ARTICLE 13 OLD BUSINESS**

- A. From the 2017 NAPARC Minutes, the following is found in Art. 19.B:  
*Interim Committee Recommendation 7 is taken up and seconded. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council that topics 1,4, 7 be placed on the agenda for 2018, and that delegates come prepared for the discussion. These topics are:*
- *As North American culture is becoming increasingly pluralistic and secular how might we develop a vibrant Reformed witness, although we are a small, minority group?*
  - *Retaining the integrity of Reformed Confessionalism and Ecclesiology in a secular world.*
  - *The Reformed Church and norms for gender, sexuality, marriage, and the family.*
    1. *The recommendation to place this on next year's docket is adopted.*
    2. *A motion is made and supported to make this a matter a special order of the day for Wednesday afternoon not later than after the afternoon break. The motion is adopted.*
1. Discussion is held regarding maintaining a vibrant witness.
- a. Speaker One explains the context in which the question arises, namely the very secular environment of Quebec and the relatively small size of the ERQ in that province.
  - b. Speaker Two comments that Canada has at least three different cultures, each with sub-cultures, so there is no one solution.
  - c. Speaker Three comments that we are addressing a pluralistic culture, no longer a Christian culture. A high percentage of the young people raised in church are leaving the church as they mature. That is part of the context. He explains that he is the founder of a classical Christian school which he sees as a major answer to training young people to not fall prey to the pluralistic culture.
  - d. Speaker Four comments that the church has a calling to be counter cultural. In history, the church has always been counter cultural when it does what it is supposed to do in preaching and missions. Just be the church, bear the marks of the church, and pray. Expect conflict and suffering. Be content with who you are and use the resources God has given you. In the crucible of suffering, God grows his church in ways we cannot plan.
  - e. Speaker Five who produces catechetical material (Great Commission Publications) expresses that he thinks we are doing a poor job of catechizing our youth. Sunday school attendance is in free fall. The world does not have any idea that when we speak of religious things that we are speaking of things that are true for everyone. Parents have a key role in the education of their children.
  - f. Speaker One comments that in Quebec, they are in the context of the abuse of faith (by abusive priests), they are in the context of anti-life and pro LGBT, and evangelicals are associated with Trump and conservative politics which is held against them. The light [of

Biblical truth] may be going out, but the night light is still on. We are a night light which is only seen when all the other lights are out. We are drawn to night lights because when we need them, they guide us. Although your light may be small, even a small light in the dark is seen and needed. Where do we put the night light? Not in the closet (monasticism), not in the kitchen or living room (that takes a lot of resources). He says it should be in the hallway so that people walking by can see it.

- g. Speaker Six encourages us to go over to the “south side of the tracks”– the developing world which can be found even in our own cities.
2. Discussion is held regarding retaining confessional integrity and regarding norms for gender, sexuality, marriage, and family (two topics combined in one discussion).
    - a. Speaker One [new numbering for this subject] explains the background of the question, namely their denomination’s bi-lateral relationship with the GKNA which has not maintained confessional integrity.
    - b. Speaker Two comments that the challenge before us is how we are to do theological reflection in a Reformed context. Collation is one way – collate all that has been said in the past on the subject. The difficulty is that some issues have not been previously addressed such as transgenderism. We must go beyond collation and exegete the Scriptures to address modern issues. The PCA is a member of the NAE where, when an issue is raised, they turn to the Reformed folk (who are in the minority in the NAE) for guidance. We need to serve the larger evangelical community with humility and without giving unnecessary offense. We must address issues where the only offense is the offense of the Gospel, not us. We must counter the stereotype the world has of us of being hateful and aggressive against homosexuals and other liberal causes. We must communicate that we are not political but are speaking out of the Scriptures.
    - c. Speaker Three comments that the URC has found wisdom in dealing with issues (such as sexuality and marriage) one at a time rather than dealing with broad topics all at once. The URC found it helpful to collate its own forms and confessions in dealing with issues. They did this on marriage and the result has a link on the NAPARC website.
    - d. Speaker Four makes reference to the Nashville Statement as helpful on gender. He encourages us to work more closely together. Church planting is not always the answer, as indicated in studies in Europe. Church plants usually only grow by attacking people from other churches who are just looking for something new or more exciting. There is a greater need for church renewal.
    - e. Speaker Five makes reference to Rosanne Butterfield who has written a book encouraging “ordinary hospitality” as a way to reach out to culture. If people spend time in our homes, they will see that we don’t hate them.
    - f. Speaker Six comments that the URC has put the definition of marriage in their church order and have collated all their forms and confessions on marriage, in part as legal protection, so that they can say that their official policy prevents them from doing, for example, gay marriage.
    - g. Speaker Seven comments that the distinction between belief and practice is vital. We must make clear that our belief that something is wrong does not lead to hating people who practice what we think is wrong.
- B. Reports on three consultations authorized by last year’s meeting which have not yet taken place.
    1. Interim Committee Recommendation 6 is taken up and seconded. The Interim Committee recommends that the Rev. Ben Westerveld, Rev. Dr. Kyle Syms, and Rev. Jack Sawyer be allowed to report on progress toward scheduling NAPARC consultations on youth ministry, theological training, and relief and diaconal ministry (respectively) as authorized by last year’s council but not yet implemented (*2107 Minutes* Art. XVI, D, E, & F).
      - a. The recommendation is adopted.
      - b. Reports are given:
        - i. Rev. Jack Sawyer refers to the David Nahkla presentation tomorrow.

- ii. Rev. Syms announces a tentative date of March 19 or 26, 2019 in the Charlotte NC area. He needs a contact person for each member church in the area of theological education.
- iii. Rev. Westerveld has collected contact information but would appreciate it if someone in youth ministry would organize the conference.

**ARTICLE 14 REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS OF OPERATING COMMITTEES**

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 5 to approve the work of the Website Committee and approve their budget request is taken up and seconded.
  - 1. Mr. Mark Bube, Chairman of the Website Committee, presents the committee's report and request for a budget of \$250.
  - 2. The recommendation to approve the Website Committee's work is adopted.
  - 3. The budget request, which is part of Recommendation 5, is judged to have been approved when we approved the budget in Article 12 above.
- B. A motion is made and support to ask the website committee to report next year on what they could do if they had more funds and the amount needed to fund that activity.

**ARTICLE 15 REPORTS OF STUDY COMMITTEES (NONE)**

**ARTICLE 16 REPORTS OF CONFERENCES (NONE)**

**ARTICLE 17 REPORTS ON CONSULTATIONS (AND, WHERE CONVENIENT, APPOINTMENT OF HOST AND CONVENER FOR NEXT CONSULTATION)**

- A. Home Missions - none
- B. World Missions
  - 1. Mr. Mark Bube presents the report which was attached to the Docket (page 43) and answers questions. He reports that this was the best conference ever "making a generational advance" with 18 denominations or federations present (including churches from ICRC as well as NAPARC).
  - 2. The next World Mission's Consultation will be NAPARC only. It is scheduled for September 17-18, 2019, in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, with Mr. Bube as the chairman and the Rev. Douglas B. Clawson as the secretary.
- C. Christian/Church Education – none
- D. Relief/Diaconal Ministries – none
- E. Theological Training – none
- F. Youth Ministries – none

**ARTICLE 18 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT (2019) MEETING**

NAPARC *Bylaw* I.2 stipulates that "The host Member Church will ordinarily be chosen (alphabetically) from the *List of NAPARC Member Churches (Bylaws, IX.1)*; if a Member Church is not able to host the next meeting, the next listed (alphabetically) Member Church(es) will be asked until a host Member Church is secured. Before adjournment the Council shall determine the host, the date, and the place for the next meeting."

- A. The next scheduled host is the Korean Presbyterian Church of American (Kosin)
- B. Place: Anaheim, California – Rohthem Presbyterian Church (KPCA – Kosin)
- C. Date: Second Tuesday of November (*Bylaws* I.1): November 12-14, 2019.
- D. Invitees
  - 1. The Interim Committee has approved inviting official observers from the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the Protestant Reformed Churches in America, and the Bible Presbyterian Church.
  - 2. The Interim Committee approved informing Classis Minnkota of the CRCNA that they are allowed to send guests to observe NAPARC according to *Bylaws* VII.C.

## **ARTICLE 19 NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recommendation 8 of the Interim Committee is taken up and seconded. The Interim Committee recommends for discussion the subject requested by the OPC: *Dear brothers, we welcome discussion/advice on the wisdom, propriety, and utility of linguistic updating of the OPC Confessional Standards. The 85<sup>th</sup> General Assembly narrowly decided on this course, which would will require a process of deliberation required for approval of the constitution of the OPC. We come to you in good faith, asking for advice and would be pleased and helped if you might consider discussing this at our 2019 NAPARC meeting.*
- B. Interim Committee Recommendation 9 is taken up and seconded
  - 1. The Interim Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolution: “Be it resolved that NAPARC thank Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner for his 20 years of faithful service as treasurer of this organization; that we sadly accept his resignation and thank him for his conscientious attention to detail and wise counsel throughout his years of service, and that we pray for God’s blessing on his continued service in God’s church and kingdom as the Lord may lead.”
  - 2. The resolution of thanks is adopted.
- C. Interim Committee Recommendation 2 is taken up and seconded. The Interim Committee recommends that Elder David Nahkla be allowed to address the plenary session for 15 minutes on Thursday morning (with an additional 15 minutes for questions) to present the work of relief and diaconal ministry by the OPC, its interplay with sister churches, and especially with the ICRC with a view that his presentation will be a catalyst for a NAPARC consultation on relief work. The motion is adopted.
- D. The Council recesses for a delicious supper at the Lai Lai Garden Chinese Restaurant. After supper, Rev. Dr. Greg Young Paek, senior pastor of Yuong Sang Presbyterian Church in Horsham, Pennsylvania addressed the assembly. He spoke on the topic of “Korean-American Church’s Growth of Mission” noting “rapid changes in the modern world, the growth of two-third world mission,” and “Korean church and Korean-American Church’s missions in general.”
- E. The Council reconvenes at 10:00 am Thursday morning. The Chairman asks Rev. Dr. Curto to open with prayer. The Chairman reads Ephesians 3:14-21 and expresses how greatly encouraged he has been by this meeting, getting to know the delegates and hearing the church reports. The length, breath, height, and depth of God’s love is evident in our fellowship. He leads in prayer.
- F. Mr. David Nahkla addresses the body concerning the diaconal goals of the ICRC and the diaconal relief work of the OPC. He answers questions.

## **ARTICLE 20 ADJOURNMENT**

- A. A motion is made and supported to adjourn. The motion is adopted.
- B. The Chairman leads in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Ralph A. Pontier  
Secretary