# **Council Minutes Fiftieth Meeting**

### North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council

meeting at the

the Hope Community Reformed Church, 3400 5th Ave, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 Hosted by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America Beginning November 11, 2025, 2:00 PM

#### ARTICLE 1 CALL TO ORDER

The 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of NAPARC is hosted by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America and convened at Hope Community Reformed Church, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. The Chairman, Rev. Bruce Parnell, calls the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomes the delegates, observers, and visitors. He reads 1 Timothy 2:8, speaks briefly on the posture of prayer, lifting holy hands to God, a posture of humble dependance and reverence, a posture not only for prayer but for the performance of all our labors for the Lord especially in this assembly. We should do this without "wrath" or "doubt," not seeking our own agenda and not doubting God's will that we be more and more united. He leads in prayer. The assembly sings Psalm 100A, *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*.

#### ARTICLE 2 ROLL CALL

### A. Member Churches

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

MEMBER CHURCH	DELEGATES
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)	Rev. Benjamin Glaser
	Rev. Aaron DeBoer
	Rev. David Walkup
Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)	Rev. Marc Jagt
	Rev. Jeff Temple
	Mr. Will Gortemaker
	Rev Steve Vandevelde
Reformed Church of Quebec / Église réformée du Québec (ERQ)	Rev. Bernard Westerveld
Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA)	Rev. Rob VanDoodewaard
	Rev. Pieter Vandermeyden
	Mr. Eric DeKorte
Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC)	Mr. Corney Les
	Rev. Bartel Elshout
	Rev. Pieter Vander Hoek
	Dr. Martin Faasse
Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)	Dr. S. Steve Park
	Rev. David Choi
Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA)	Rev. Joseph Kim
	Rev. Johan Bae
Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)	Mr. Mark T. Bube
	Rev. Jeremiah W. Montgomery
	Rev. Robert E. Tarullo
	Rev. Iain A. M. Wright
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	Rev. Billy Park
	Dr. Dennis Watts

Presbyterian Reformed Church (PresRC)	Rev. D. Douglas Gebbie Mr. Gerald te Velde
Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)	Dr. J. P. Mosley Rev. Dennis Luquette Mr. Marty Scott Rev. Ron Potter
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)	Rev. Bruce Parnell Rev. Noah Bailey Mr. Jonathan Kruis Mr. Dean McHenry
United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)	Rev. Harold Miller Rev. Joel Dykstra Rev. Casey Freswick Rev. Robert Godfrey

#### B. Official Observers

The Chairman calls upon the official observers (invited, non-Member Churches) to introduce their representatives. The following are present.

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OBSERVER CHURCH	OBSERVERS
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Canada	Mr. William McKay
Bible Presbyterian Church (BPC)	Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Backus Rev. Tito Lyro
Protestant Reformed Churches in America (PRCA)	Rev. Erik Guichelaar Prof. Barry Gritters
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada	Rev. Matt Kingswood Mr. Ernst Vander Meer

C. The chairman calls attention to four exhibitors. Later in the meeting he calls attention to a fifth exhibitor.

### ARTICLE 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2024)

Interim Committee Recommendation 1 is taken up. It recommends that the minutes of the 2024 NAPARC Council be approved. The recommendation is adopted.

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

- A. The following communications have been received.
  - 1. NAPARC 2025 Delegate and Observer information was received from all churches and published with the Council Docket.
  - 2. Church Reports for 2025 were received from all churches and published with the Council Docket (*Bylaws* III.2.c).
  - 3. The Website Committee Report was received and published with the Council Docket (*Bylaws* III.2.c).
  - 4. The Report of the Joint World Missions and Diaconal Missions Consultation was received and published with the Council Docket.
- B. The Report of the Interim Committee from earlier today is received. It contains the following recommendations which it adopted and recommends to the Council for inclusion in the docket. They are listed here but will be taken up later.
  - 1. The Interim Committee approved the 2024 NAPARC Council Minutes and recommends their approval by the Council.

- 2. The Interim Committee approves the Treasurer's Report and recommends the Treasurer's Report to be received by the Council.
- 3. The Interim Committee approves the Treasurer's Budget and recommends it to the Council for adoption with the following changes:
  - a. The 2026 meeting expense be increased to \$9,000.
  - b. The Treasurer's honorarium be set at \$250.
- 4. The Interim Committee approves the work of the Website Committee and their budget request for \$350 and recommends the budget request to the Council for adoption.
- 5. The Interim Committee presents the following nominees for appointment to the Website Committee: Rev. Billy Barron, Mr. Mark T. Bube, Mr. Drew Gordon, and Mr./Rev. [to be named]. Rev. Ralph Pontier, as Secretary, is a member ex officio.
- 6. The Interim Committee approves the Question and Prayer Assignment Proposal and recommends it to the Council for adoption.
- 7. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council for discussion the following topics gleaned from this year's church reports to be taken up under New Business in the Council. The time for each will be at the discretion of the chairman.
  - ARP Call for prayer, fasting, and days of humiliation regarding the rise in ministerial clergy/member sexual misconduct in NAPARC churches.
  - CanRC The function and authority of position papers and pastoral advices [sic].
  - HRC Discussion regarding the interest of NAPARC denominations in forming a Consultation Group regarding Biblical Counselling.
  - OPC What privileges should be accorded to fraternal delegates from other NAPARC churches at major assemblies?
  - URCNA How do we ensure that doctrinal purity and personal piety are grounded in and guided by the gospel?
- 8. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council that Mr. Mike Kennamer (TAG Region and Warehouse Manager, MNA Disaster Response for the PCA) be allowed 15 minutes to make a presentation regarding cooperation between NAPARC churches in disaster response.
- 9. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council for discussion the following: In light of the 50th anniversary, dedicate up to one hour total to permit each member church to speak to the objective of organic union including:
  - a. the observation (evaluation) of these past years
  - b. the prospect of organic union in years to come.
- 10. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council the following slate of officers to be elected:
  - a. Chairman Rev. Joel Dykstra
  - b. Vice Chairman Rev. Benjamin Glaser
  - c. Secretary Rev. Ralph Pontier
  - d. Treasurer Mr. Danny McDaniel
- 11. The Interim Committee recommends to the Council that the Council Docket be adopted with the addition of the above recommendations of the Interim Committee and with the change/addition that the group picture will be taken tonight at 5:15 p.m. in the college library near the dining hall where we will eat. Also, after the devotional service, the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary will host an ice-cream social at the church.
- 12. The Interim Committee informs the Council that it has approved a motion to extend invitations to the Associate Reformed Church in Canada, the Bible Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Canada, and the Protestant Reformed Churches in America, to send (at their own expense) official observers to NAPARC 2026. [Bylaws VI.4.l&m give authority to the Interim Committee to extend invitations to non-Member Churches.]

#### ARTICLE 5 ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

Recommendation 11 of the Interim Committee to approve the Docket with addition of the recommendations of the Interim Committee is taken up. The recommendation is adopted.

### ARTICLE 6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 10 to elect a slate of officers is taken up.
- B. The following are elected as officers for the coming year.
  - 1. Chairman Mr. Joel Dykstra of the URCNA
  - 2. Vice-Chairman Rev. Benjamin Glaser of the ARPC
  - 3. Secretary Rev. Ralph Pontier
  - 4. Treasurer Mr. Danny McDaniel
- C. Rev. Joel Dykstra assumes the chair.

## ARTICLE 7 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. There are None.

### ARTICLE 8 REPORTS FROM MEMBER CHURCHES

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 6 to approve the Question and Prayer Assignment Proposals is taken up. 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(s)	The Questioner and the One Who Prays
ARPC – Rev. Glaser	ERQ – Rev. Ben Westerveld
CanRC – Rev. Marc Jagt	KPCA (Kosin) – Rev. Joseph Kim
ERQ – Rev. Ben Westerveld	FRCNA- Rev. Robert VanDoodewaard
FRCNA – Rev. Robert VanDoodewaard	PresRC – Rev. D. Douglas Gebbie
HRC – Mr. Corney Les	RCUS – Dr. J. P. Mosley
KAPC – Rev. Dr. S. Steve Park	URCNA – Rev. Robert Godfrey
KPCA (Kosin) – Rev. Joseph Kim	OPC – Rev. Jeremiah W. Montgomery

- C. Just before the afternoon coffee break, the Chairman takes up Interim Committee Recommendation 8. The recommendation is adopted. The Chairman invites Mr. Mike Kennamer to address the assembly for 15 minutes. Mr. Kennamer addresses the assembly about how NAPARC churches can cooperate in disastrous response. He wishes to establish lines of communication (with key individuals) and memorandums of understanding (with denominational agencies) on sharing resources in disaster response. He distributes a sheet to fill out to give contact information for denominational disaster response agencies or other key contact persons.
- D. The Council recesses for supper. Rev. Aaron DeBoer leads in prayer for the meal. The delegates enjoy a delicious meal. The delegates, guests, and visitors gather for a devotional service led by Dr. David Whitla. He speaks on the theme "With One Mind and One Mouth" based on Paul's prayer in Romans 15:5-6, after which there is an ice cream social curtesy of the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary.
- E. The Council reconvenes at 10:00 am Wednesday morning. The assembly sings Psalm 132B, *For Your Servant David*. The Chairman reads Revelation 11:1-3 and speaks concerning the care of God for his church in the midst of an oppressive and persecuting culture, providing in the church a place of refuge and peace. He leads in prayer.

F. The reports of the Member Churches continue.

The Reporter	The Questioner and the One Who Prays
OPC – Mr. Mark Bube	PCA – Rev. Billy Park
PCA – Dr. Dennis Watts	BPC – Rev. Kevin Backus
PresRC – Rev. D. Douglas Gebbie	CanRC – Rev. Jeff Temple
RCUS – Dr. J. P. Mosley	KAPC – Rev. Dr. S. Steve Park & Rev. David Choi
RPCNA – Rev. Bruce Parnell	HRC – Rev. Pieter Vander Hoek

- G. The assembly breaks for lunch at Noon. At the request of the chairman, Rev. Pieter Vandermeyden leads in prayer for the noon meal.
- H. The assembly reconvenes at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Robert VanDoodewaard leading in prayer and with the singing of Psalm 110B *The Lord Has Spoken to My Lord*.
- I. The reports from the Member Churches are concluded with one more report.

The Reporter	The Questioner Who Also Prays
URCNA – Rev. Harold Miller	ARPC – Rev. Aaron DeBoer

### ARTICLE 9 REPORTS FROM OFFICIAL OBSERVER CHURCHES

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

The Reporter	The Questioner Who Also Prays
ARPCC – Mr. Bill McKay	URCNA – Rev. Daniel Ventura
BPC – Rev. Dr. Kevin Backus	RPCNA – Rev. Jonathan Kruis
PRCA – Prof. Barry Gritters	ERQ – Rev. Ben Westerveld
RPCC – Rev. Matt Kingswood	PCA – Dr. Dennis Watts

### ARTICLE 10 FINANCIAL MATTERS (TREASURER'S REPORT, BUDGET, AND AUDITORS' REPORT)

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 2 to consider the Treasurer's Report for adoption is taken up.
  - 1. The Treasurer's report is reviewed.
  - 2. The recommendation to receive the Treasurer's Report is adopted.
- B. Interim Committee Recommendation 3 that the Treasurer's budget be approved is taken up.
  - 1. It is noted that the dues are \$1,100US per Member Church.
  - 2. The recommendation to approve the budget is adopted with the changes made by the Interim Committee: raising the meeting expenses for 2026 to \$9,000 and reinstating the treasurer's honorarium to \$250.
- C. The Internal Review Audit Committee (last year's Chairman and Vice-Chairman) report that the financial records are in good order. It is moved and supported to approve the internal review of the treasurer's records. The motion is adopted.

#### ARTICLE 11 REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS OF OPERATING COMMITTEES

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 4 to receive the Website Committee report and approve the budget request is taken up.
  - 1. Mr. Mark Bube, Chairman of the Website Committee, presents the committee's report and request for a budget of \$350.
  - 2. The recommendation to a receive the Website report and approve the Website Committee's budget is adopted.

3. Interim Committee Recommendation 5 to appoint the nominees for the Website Committee is adopted. The committee consists of Billy Barron, Jonathan Reinink, Mark T. Bube, Drew Gordon, and Ralph Pontier (*ex officio*). The recommendation is adopted.

# ARTICLE 12 DISCUSSION REGARDING PROGRESS TOWARD ORGANIC UNION (AS PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM COMMITTEE)

- A. Interim Committee Recommendation 9 is taken up to allow each member church opportunity to comment on the objective (goal) of organic union, reflecting on past efforts and future plans. [The following are brief snippets of what was said, not exact quotes. Speakers names are not recorded because the recorder may not have heard everything correctly, even though he strove for that goal.]
  - Speaker 1. The question is asked, "What is meant by organic union"?
  - Speaker 2. Reference is made to the constitution of NAPARC and the second of its two purposes, "to hold out before each other the desirability and need for organic union of churches of like faith and practice."
  - Speaker 3. He reads the 2003 NAPARC definition of organic union which is organizational union, "Organic union is defined as two or more NAPARC Churches joining their diverse gifts, heritage and calling on the basis of the Scriptural mandate (Ephesians 4:1–16; Acts 15:1–16:5; John 17; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31) to form one church by uniting together in theology, polity and ministry. This would require the eventual integration of church courts and administrative and legal structures" (NAPARC Informational Documents, page 10).
  - Speaker 4. We are a success if we can marshal our resources and work together.
  - Speaker 5. The availability of one another's study reports is a great advantage.
  - Speaker 6 The need for organic unity is accountability. We can counsel each other, but we cannot discipline each other.
  - Speaker 7 Our basis is our subscription to the confessions. We have confessional unity. Our confessions speak to the culture. Do we have the ability to speak what our confessions say to our culture?
  - Speaker 8 He encourages us to put to death organizational pride and be more amenable to organization union.
  - Speaker 9 Denominational cultures are a great hinderance to organic union.
  - Speaker 10 He recalls that the original five denominations had as their goal organizational union and that regardless of how difficult it may seem, we must continue to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." The Spirit has made us one, we must keep that unity in a bond where differences due to sin are reconciled.
  - Speaker 11 Denies that there is a biblical mandate for organizational unity or that organizational union needs to be a goal. The Spirit has already made us one.
  - Speaker 12 Exciting to see the board membership in NAPARC including different size Member Churches and different ethnicities. Hard to explain why we can't be organizational one. The argument based on 1 Cor. 12 that separate denominations in the broader church are like a body with different parts each having different gifts, is a weak argument. ERQ wrestles with the question as to whether they ought to continue as a unique French church or join a larger body. Asks for prayer for the encouraging developments in the CRC.
  - Speaker 13. We have long term and short-term goals. If we are to ever become one, it will only be because we have learned to trust one another to the point where we eventually ask, "Why are we not one, since we do so much together and trust each other?"
  - Speaker 14. We are here as a resource, someone to whom others can come and talk. We are in 17th century mode looking how to express that today the theology of the Puritans

- in the language of Sproul and Furgerson. We enjoy conversation and helping but are not here for organizational union. NAPARC is the highlight of the year.
- Speaker 15 Spiritual unity already exists. NAPARC has a structure that brings us together. We should not have to give up our individual cultures or identities for God has made us what we are. NAPARC should not make any member church cease to exist. If unity is ever to come about, it must come from the bottom up. NAPARC should not try to coerce member churches to combine in a unity that they don't want. NAPARC should foster healing of divisions that should not exist.
- Speaker 16 NAPARC is the only ecumenical organization of which we are a member. We put the NAPARC name on our literature. If our ministers work in another NAPARC denomination, we do not describe them as working "out of bounds." We view NAPARC as a network in which we can do kingdom work together and to which we can be accountable.
- Speaker 17 I'm very thankful for NAPARC. It would be amazing if we all became one ecclesiastically. We should not be historical revisionists and redefine organic union to refer to the work of the Spirit which has already made us one. If we are not amendable to organic union as one of the purposes of NAPARC maybe we need to revisit our basis.
- Speaker 18 Good fences make good neighbors. In history, the uniting church efforts have been destructive of the work of the gospel because they are based on compromise.
- Speaker 19 Organic union should be from the ground up. The many churches of NAPARC are a good thing. Maybe we need to do some kind of revision of our basis. We are accountable in that we can expel member churches as we have done once.
- Speaker 20 We are happy to attempt to be one church. It will happen when Christ returns.
- Speaker 21 I long for ecclesiastical, organic, organization unity and that Christ's church relates to the visible church. But I stand against the effort at blind ecumenicity or a forced union from the top down. I want to work for greater cooperation. We need proximate goals and long-term goals. I pray for the long-term goal of greater unity in this world.
- Speaker 22 Closes in prayer.
- B. The Council recesses for supper. Rev. Jeremiah W. Montgomery leads in prayer for the meal. The delegates enjoy a delicious meal. The delegates, guests, and visitors gather for a program featuring <a href="Dr. Van Dixhoorn as the key-note speaker">Dr. Van Dixhoorn as the key-note speaker</a>. He urged the assembly to adopt the ministry maxim of John the Baptist, that Christ must increase and we must decrease, quoting John Arrowsmith, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Puritan pastor and member of the Westminster Assembly, "True ministers set up Christ in their ministry. They are content themselves to stand in the crowd and to lift up Christ upon their shoulders, content not to be seen themselves so Christ would be exalted." Van Dixhoorn then asked, "Is that not what we want for ourselves and our churches? He added, "Let us pray this will be a NAPARC ambition . . . and NAPARC legacy."
- C. The Council reconvenes at 10:00 am Thursday morning. The assembly sings Psalm 121C. The Chairman reads Psalm 121 and speaks concerning God's care for his people during their pilgrimage in this life. He leads in prayer.
- ARTICLE 13 OLD BUSINESS (NONE)
- ARTICLE 14 REPORTS OF STUDY COMMITTEES (NONE)
- ARTICLE 15 REPORTS OF CONFERENCES (NONE)

# ARTICLE 16 REPORTS ON CONSULTATIONS (AND, WHERE CONVENIENT, APPOINTMENT OF HOST AND CONVENER FOR NEXT CONSULTATION)

- A. Joint World Missions Agencies and Diaconal Missions Agencies
  - 1. Mr. Mark Bube presents the report which was attached to the Docket and answers questions.
  - 2. The next such NAPARC Joint Consultation is scheduled for September 15-17, 2026, at the OPC's administrative offices. Rev. Douglas B. Clawson is scheduled to serve as the chairman and Mr. John Smid as the secretary for the WMA, and Mr. David P. Nakhla as the chairman for the DMA.
  - 3. A motion is made, supported, and adopted to receive the report.
- B. Home Mission Rev. Jeremiah Montgomery (OPC) offers to investigate hosting a consultation on Home Missions.
- C. Christian/Church Education none
- D. Relief/Diaconal Ministries these are included in the World Mission Agencies consultation.
- E. Theological Training there is one scheduled for later today in Room 4. Notices have gone out earlier.
- F. Youth Ministries none

### ARTICLE 17 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT (2026) MEETING

- A. Host: URCNA (Alphabetical rotation as per 2011 Minutes p. 27; XVI. Rec.#12)
- B. Place: First United Reformed Church, 9350 S. 54th Ave, Oak Lawn, IL 60453
- C. Date: Second Tuesday of November: November 10 -12, 2026 (Bylaws I.1):
- D. Invitees: The Council is informed that the Interim Committee has approved inviting official observers from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Bible Presbyterian Church, the Protestant Reformed Churches in America, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada.

#### ARTICLE 18 NEW BUSINESS

- D. Interim Committee Recommendation 7 is taken up. Discussion is held on the following five topics. (The following are brief summations, not exact quotes of those who spoke.)
  - 1. Topic#1: ARP: Call for Humiliation, Prayer, and Fasting.
    - Speaker 1 It is a sad testimony that there have been a number of NAPARC ministers who have fallen into grievous, sexual sin and have had to be removed from office. A motion is made and supported that NAPARC recommends to its Member Churches a day of humiliation, prayer and fasting in response to the too frequent cases of unfaithfulness by church officers. Wednesday, April 22, 2026, is a suggested date. Prayer is urged that all church leaders would honor Christ in faithful service to him. The motion is adopted.
  - 2. Topic #2: CanRC: What is the function and authority of position papers and statements of pastoral advice?
    - Speaker 1 The Canadian Reformed Churches have an aversion to position papers because of their history in the Netherlands in the 1940's.
    - Speaker 2 The URC has a document on the authority and function of doctrinal affirmations and pastoral advice. It is Appendix D of the *Regulations for Synodical Procedure*, page 27 available at urcna.org. The URCNA definition of Pastoral Advice is read, "Pastoral Advice is synod's application of the Scriptures and the confessions to particular circumstances in the life of the churches. Pastoral Advice expresses the collective wisdom of synod to guide the churches in their pastoral care. Pastoral Advice should be received with respect. It would be unwise to disregard Pastoral Advice in preaching or writing. It may not however, serve as grounds in matters of discipline. Pastoral Advice may be appealed as outlined in Church Order Articles 29 and 31."

- Speaker 3 Reference is made to an article by Kevin DeJong, <u>A Status Confessionis Issue</u>.
- Speaker 4 We identify in our Testimony items of confessional status
- Speaker 5 Study papers in the OPC are not binding. Judicial decisions are binding only in the particular case. Only the confessions and book of church order are binding. Study papers are not adopted but are referred to the churches.
- Speaker 6 It is the same in the PresRC. Only the confessions are binding.

# 3. Topic #3: HRC: Discussion regarding the interest of NAPARC denominations in forming a Consultation Group regarding Biblical Counselling.

- Speaker 1 A proposal is read from Dr. Kelderman (not able to be present) for a consultation regarding biblical counseling.
- Speaker 2 A motion is made and supported to authorize a one-time consultation on the subject of Biblical Counseling. The motion is adopted.

  The HRC volunteers to host this consultation.

# 4. Topic #4: OPC: What privileges should be accorded to fraternal delegates from other NAPARC churches at major assemblies?

- Speaker 1 The first speaker asks the question.
- Speaker 2 He describes the policy of his church to allow fraternal delegates to remain in "executive session" but not "strict executive session."
- Speaker 3 In the CanRC, the policy is the same.
- Speaker 4 In the ARP, if you are a credentialed delegate, you are allowed to stay.
- Speaker 6 In FRCNA, it is at the discretion of the chairman.

# 5. Topic #5 URCNA: How do we ensure that doctrinal purity and personal piety are grounded in and guided by the gospel?

- Speaker 1. How do we avoid traditionalism and legalism?
- Speaker 2. In the RPCNA we try to always, "Make it about Jesus." We sing Psalms because Christ is in them. We give marriage advice, not merely for temporal benefits but because it will bring Christ into the home.
- Speaker 3. Our identity as a church is not first of all in the name of the denomination but is in our identity in Christ.
- Speaker 4. Too often we present ourselves to society as legalists. If we post the Ten Commandments without the gospel, we present ourselves as legalists.
- Speaker 5 First question you should ask a candidate for the ministry, "When was the last time you presented the gospel to an unbeliever?"
- Speaker 6 Paul struggled with this issue in the Galatians churches, "Who has bewitched you?" Legalism begins in our own hearts when we do things just because that's the way we've always done things.
- Speaker 7 If we ask a candidate why he wants to be a minister and he says that he loves our liturgy or loves to sing Psalms, that should sound an alarm. He should say that he loves to preach Christ.

### ARTICLE 19 ADJOURNMENT

- A. The chairman thanks the host church for their warm hospitality, good food, and thorough preparation.
- B. The chairman asks Rev. Bruce Parnell to close in prayer and the assembly sings Psalm 41C, *Book One Doxology*.
- C. The Chairman declares the assembly adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Ralph A. Pontier NAPARC Secretary