



William Shirmer Barker II

Manuscript Collection #088

Box 308.3

Abstract: Documents Concerning Confessional Subscription

Size: 1.0 cu. ft.

Span dates: 1975–2005

Administrative History: Arranged and described by Evan Kvale.

File—Subject

f01—Finding Aid

f02—Adopting Act of 1729

f03—Hemphill Case, 1735

f04—Hemphill Case & Subscription in American Presbyterianism, Correspondence regarding, 1991-1994.

f05—WSB: The Hemphill Heresy Case and Subscription to the Westminster Confession [outline]

f06—WSB: “The Hemphill Heresy Case and Subscription to the Westminster Confession” – published in *American Presbyterians* 69:4 (Winter 1994): 243-256.

f07—WSB: “The Heresy Trial of Samuel Hemphill (1735)” for inclusion in *Colonial Presbyterianism*.

f08—Hemphill Heresy Case & Subscription to the Westminster Confession,” undated, Handwritten draft and 33 page typescript.

f09—Confessional Subscription, Charles Hodge on [photocopies of several articles, including “Adoption of the Confession of Faith, *The Princeton Review* (October 1858)]

f10—Confessional Subscription, B. B. Warfield on [photocopy of “The Presbyterian Churches and the Westminster Confession, *The Presbyterian Review*, 10.4 (1889): 646-657.]

f11—Confessional Subscription, J. Gresham Machen on [photocopy of “The Changing Scene and the Unchanging Word,” plus a handful of articles from *The Presbyterian Guardian*.]

f12—Confessional Subscription, Morton H. Smith on, (1.) The Old School – New School Split (21 p. typescript); (2.) The Coming of Presbyterianism in the South (15 p. typescript)

f13—WSB: “A Response to Profession George Knight’s Article ‘Subscription to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms’ [typescript, 10 p.]

f14—WSB: Confessional Subscription, 1983–1986, Exchange with George Knight and David Jones. Includes (1.) Subscription to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, by Barker (49 p. typescript); (2.) 3 p. cover letter in reply by Dr. Knight w/11 p. study by John J. Mitchell, an OPC TE; (3.) “A Response to Dr. Barker’s Article” by George Knight [14 p. typescript]; (4.) “Thoughts on Subscription” by David Jones.

f15—Confessional Subscription, 1984-2001, Articles & Papers by WSB, together with research items. Includes (1.) Response to the 10th General Assembly’s Paper on “Confessional Subscription”; (2.) System Subscription, *Westminster Theological Journal*, 63 (2001): 1-14;

f16—Confessional Subscription, 1986, W. Duncan Rankin, Correspondence and Article: “James Henley Thornwell and the Westminster Confession of Faith” [photocopy, 30 p.]

f17—Confessional Subscription, 1986–1987, Articles and Notes Concerning

f18—Subscription to the Standards, Correspondence of (1.) D. Clair Davis and (2.) Paul C. Kemeny and replies to each from WSB.

f19—Confessional Subscription, 1987-1993, Exchange with Morton H. Smith, correspondence and



- articles, including (1. “Why We Should Be Full Subscriptionists [*The Presbyterian Advocate* 2.7/8 (Sept./Oct. 1992): 4-7; and (2.) Response, by William S. Barker; Correspondence, notes, etc.
- f20—Confessional Subscription, 1987-1994, Correspondence and Papers concerning. Correspondents include Kennedy Smartt; David W. Hall; T. David Gordon; Jim Urish; David B. McWilliams and Morton H. Smith.
- f21—Confessional Subscription, 1991-1992, Correspondence from James M. Baird; Jim Urish; D. Clair Davis; plus handwritten draft of “Lest We Misunderstand,” a reply by WSB to Morton H. Smith’s “Lest We Forget” in *The Presbyterian Advocate*.
- f22—Confessional Subscription, Forum on, at the 20th PCA General Assembly (1992), Correspondence and Papers, including (1.) “The Case for Full Subscription,” by M.H. Smith; (2.) “What Does Subscription to Our Confession Mean?” by WSB.
- f23—Confessional Subscription, 1992, Cassette Tapes of the above Forum.
- f24—Confessional Subscription, 1992, Correspondence (1.) Ross Cook (“Could not find a recording with the beginning of your opening remarks”); (2.) David H. Clelland’s response after listening to the Forum; (3.) draft of WSB’s “What Does Subscription to Our Confession Mean?”
- f25—Confessional Subscription, 1993, WSB: “A Response to the “Presbyterian Bulletin” on Subscription to the Westminster Standards.” [typescript, 4 p.]
- f25—Urish, James E., “Subscription to the Westminster Standards: A Brief Survey and Analysis,” St. Louis, MO: Covenant Theological Seminary, D.Min., 113 p. + 10 p. bibliography.
- f26—Confessional Subscription, 1998, Excerpt from the Minutes of the 14th PCA General Assembly (1986), WSB letter discusses Item 13, p. 125-126 of the Minutes [+ copy of same].
- f27—Confessional Subscription, 1999, includes (1.) “Confidence in Our Brethren: Creedal Subscription in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church,” by John Muether; (2.) first page only of “Practical Benefits and Dangers of Subscription, by L. Roy Taylor; (3.) The Nature, Limits and Place of Exceptions and Scruples in Subscription to the Doctrinal Standards of the Presbyterian Church, by Gregory Edward Reynolds; (4.) “Subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms,” by George W. Knight, III; (5.) “The Theology of the Westminster Confession of Faith,” by John Murray.
- f28—WSB: “Confessional Subscription in Presbyterianism. A Presentation by William S. Barker at Westminster Theological Seminary in California (Escondido, Calif.) on September 18, 1999.” Typescript, 13 p.; Handwritten draft;
- f29—Debate on Doctrinal Subscription at the 29th PCA General Assembly (2001), Correspondence regarding.
- f30—Galley proofs for Dr. Barker’s article “System Subscription,” in the Spring 2001 issue of *The Westminster Theological Journal*.
- f31—Convocation on Confessional Subscription, 2001, includes (1.) Perspective on the Subscription Standards of the Presbyterian Church in America, by Bryan Chapell; (2.) The Justification of Confessions and the Logic of Confessional Subscription, with Some Observations and Suggestions Concerning the Practice of the Presbyterian Church in America, by David F. Coffin, Jr.; (3.) How Then Shall We Live Together?—Subscription and the Future of the PCA, by Tim Keller; (4.) Full Subscription, by Joey Pipa.
- f32—Confessional Subscription, 2002, Correspondence and News from the 30th PCA General Assembly, noting approval of ‘Good Faith’ Subscription.
- f33—Fesko, J.V., 2003, “The Legacy of Old School Confession Subscription in the OPC” [40 p.]; includes letter from WSB to Andreas J. Kostenberger commending publication.
- f34—Siegenthaler, Andrew, 2003, Letter from Dr. Barker in reply, concerning the question of pastors teaching exceptions to the Standards.
- f35—Wingard, Brian T., 1993, Letter from Dr. Barker in reply, concerning the Adopting Act of 1729.