

MINUTES OF INDIANA PRESBYTERY

September 18, 1957

The Presbytery of Indiana met in its regular Fall Meeting in the Salem Church Manse, Kirklin, Indiana on September 18 at 10:00 A. M. The Moderator, Rev. John B. Thwing, Th. D. led in devotions, including praise, the reading of the Scriptures, John 10:1-18, after which he constituted Presbytery in prayer.

The Roll Call

Ministers

Williams
Grandy
Marsh
Wright
Blekking
Clark
Huish
Copeland
Zeller
Thwing
Strigas

Absent

Jamieson
Smith
Gregory

Elders

Milroy, D. T. Jackman
Salem, John Maze
Spring Hill, John E. Meek
Bloomington, Charles W. Wible
Woodruff, Kenneth Lewsader
Princeton, R. S. Morrow
Caledonia, Will Anderson
Rushville, Fred W. Redden
Witherspoon, James M. Croom
First, Indianapolis, W. C. Gray
Westminster, George W. Longacre

Absent

Scotland
Idaville

Excuses for absences from Presbytery were presented for Dr. A. W. Jamieson, Rev. Albert R. Smith and Rev. Thomas Gregory and were upon motion, duly carried, received as acceptable.

The announcement of the death of Elder Ed. McElroy on August 4th was made through a communication from Elder Charles C. Asdell of the Scotland Church in which he requested that he be excused from the meeting of Presbytery because of ill health. He was excused.

Williams announced the deaths of Elder James Harden and Elder James R. Mac Gregor of the Princeton Congregation. Zeller announced the sudden death of Elder William P. Turner on the previous day. Presbytery stood while Dr. Clark led us in prayer.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, Dr. R. E. Boyer, S. S. M. was granted the privileges of the floor of Presbytery.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, the Minutes of the Spring Meeting of Presbytery were adopted.

The Minutes of the Special Meetings of Presbytery of June 6 and July 13 were read and upon motion, duly seconded and carried, were adopted.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

The Committee on Revision, Strigas, Elders Morrow, Meek, Jackman and Redden.

The Committee on Resolutions: Clark and Elder Wible

The Committee on the Training of Young Men: Zeller, Williams and Elder Anderson to meet with the other members.

The Clerk made the following report, which upon motion, seconded and carried, was received:

Fathers and Brethren: Your Clerk wishes to make the following report:

1. He has certified to the Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary John William Carpenter as having been examined and received under the care of Presbytery for the gospel ministry. He has received from Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary acknowledgment of this certification. John began his college work on September 6 and is now a freshman in Bob Jones University.

2. He has certified Walter Scott as having been advanced to Senior Year in the Seminary and that request was made for the regular aid for the students of the Senior year. The Seminary acknowledges the communication accepting our certification.

3. He has certified Miss Lillian Doloris Anthony for entrance this fall to the Department of Christian Education of the Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary in accordance with the Minutes of the Commission of Presbytery who examined Miss Anthony. The Commission did not ask about aid and the Clerk does not know if aid is granted to students in this Department. Nevertheless, in the certification, your Clerk requested of the Registrar of our Seminary if such aid is given that it be granted to Miss Anthony.

4. James Wadsworth, was by permission of Indiana Presbytery, certified after examinations by the Presbytery of Allegheny, as a Senior to the Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary. Letters were exchanged between the Clerk of Allegheny Presbytery and your Clerk on this matter. Also, at the request of James Wadsworth, your Clerk certified the grant in aid of \$90.00 which is given to students of the Senior Class.

5. John E. Stevens was to have been examined by this Presbytery looking to his licensure. He was stricken with poliomyelitis and is now in the General Hospital at Sharon, Pa., where he is improving. The Clerk has been in correspondence with John and his wife, Bettie, in relation to his being licensed. Also with Dr. George A. Long, President of our Seminary in relation to the proper thing to do under these unusual conditions and desires to meet, if permission be granted, with the Committee on the Training of Young Men to lay before them the three possibilities of carrying out what we had hoped, but cannot do, today.

6. The Clerk wishes to acknowledge a very serious mistake he made in placing in nomination the names of Rev. Gordon H. Clark, Ph. D., Rev. Fred Huish and Rev. R. W. Copeland, as Commissioners to the General Assembly of 1951 before the name of Rev. Clinton M. Marsh, who after Rev. C. P. Blekking, should have been principal delegate to our Assembly last May. He deeply regrets this mistake.

7. In the By-Laws of Indiana Presbytery as printed it states that Commissioners should be elected at the September meeting. In 1938 the By-Laws were changed to read "at the Spring Meeting of Presbytery." This was done because it happened with frequency that those elected in the Fall Meeting were no longer members of Presbytery at the Spring Meeting, and much confusion was caused. According to our records the ministerial commissioners to the General Assembly of 1952 will be: Principals, Rev. Clinton M. Marsh, Rev. C. P. Blekking. Alternates: Rev. Gordon H. Clark and Rev. Fred S. Zeller. The churches of Presbytery to elect Commissioners as: Principals, Witherspoon and Milroy; Alternates, First, Indianapolis and Salem.

8. The Clerk wishes to state he has had correspondence with Rev. Albert R. Smith. Rev. Mr. Smith has been in the Cutler Church, Cutler, Ill., in Southern Illinois Presbytery. He has met with a Commission of that Presbytery and requests a letter of standing and dismissal from our Presbytery to the Presbytery of Southern Illinois to be acted upon by said Presbytery in its meeting in February, 1952.

9. The Clerk has received a request that Indiana Presbytery elect one member to the Board of the Home for the Aged, said member to be confirmed at the meeting of Synod.

10. The Clerk wishes at this time to present his resignation as Clerk, a position he has held for twelve years. He believes that another should have the joy of

(3)

occupying the position and trusts his successor will learn as much and have as much pleasure in the Clerkship as he has had.

Upon motion, duly seconded the report of the Clerk was received and the following actions taken:

That a letter of standing and dismissal be granted Rev. Albert R. Smith to the Presbytery of Southern Illinois.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, Rev. Clinton Marsh be our representative on the Board of Mt. Pleasant Home for the Aged.

That the request of the Clerk be tabled. Carried.

Dr. Clark spoke with concern about the illness of John Stevens and prayer was offered on his behalf. By common consent this was spread on the minutes with an urgency of continued intercession on John's behalf.

In the absence of the F. A., Rev. Fred Huish presented the report:

Balance on hand, April 1, 1951								\$112.43
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>A & D</u>	<u>Pres.</u>	<u>One Hr. Sharing</u>	<u>Board of Adminis.</u>	<u>Total Presby.</u>	
Bloomington		250.				250.		
Caledonia		62.54	24.(1950)	12.(1950-51)		86.54	12.	
Idaville		11.50				11.50		
1st. Indpls.		48.15			32.00	80.15		
Milroy			26.	13.		26.	13.	
Princeton	65.	1,409.13				1,474.13		
Rushville	20.	105.			3.00	128.		
Salem	11.31	131.25				142.56		
Scotland		90.00	11.(1951)	5.50(1951)		101.00	5.50	
Somerville		28.00	5.60	2.80		33.60	2.80	
*Springhill	10.	54.19	209.52			273.71		
Witherspoon		200.00	56.20	28.10		256.20	28.10	
Woodruff		362.85				362.85		
*Individual								
Total Rec.	10.	150.50	2,907.94	122.80	61.40	3,226.24	173.83	
<u>Disbursements</u>								
Board of Administration						3,226.24		
Bond on F. A.							2.50	
S. M. Salary (1950-51)							15.00	
S. M. Expenses							9.68	
Delegates Expenses to General Assembly (3)							74.97	
Env. & Letter Heads for Clerk							14.50	
Exp. Printing and Mailing Minutes of Presbytery							17.51	
Bank Account Service Charges (8 mo.)							4.73	
Total Disbursements						3,226.24	138.89	
Balance on hand, September 18, 1951							34.94	

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried the F. A.'s report was received and placed in the hands of the Finance Committee.

(4)

The Minutes of the Commission on Miss Anthony are as follows:

"The Commission appointed by the June 11, 1951 meeting of Presbytery met at 7:30 P. M. in the manse of the First United Presbyterian Church to confer with Miss Lillian Doloris Anthony, a member of the Witherspoon congregation, who had been recommended by the Session of the Witherspoon congregation and was taken under care of Indiana Presbytery at its winter meeting.

Members of the Commission present were: Elder Paul I. Miller and minister, C. P. Blekking. Minister Dr. Gordon H. Clark was absent being out of the city.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Miller.

Miss Lillian Doloris Anthony was present, and her pastor, Rev. Clinton Marsh. After due questioning by the Commission as to her Christian experience and her Christian purposes, upon motion was made by Elder Miller and seconded by C. P. Blekking, Miss Lillian Doloris Anthony was accepted for entrance this fall to Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary to the Department of Christian Education.

Miss Anthony and C. P. Blekking led in prayer. Upon adjournment, the Rev. Clinton Marsh pronounced the benediction.

Signed: Paul Miller, Clerk
C. P. Blekking, Moderator

The Minutes of the Provisional Session of the Somerville Congregation were read by the Moderator of said Session, Rev. John C. Williams and are as follows:

Somerville, Indiana
July 29, 1951

The Provisional Session met in the Somerville United Presbyterian Church to receive new members,

The session members present were: Moderator, John C. Williams; Elders: R. S. Morrow and Howard C. Carpenter.

The Moderator constituted session with prayer. Rev. John B. Thwing, the stated Supply at the Somerville Church read Romans Chap. 5, verses 1 to 5.

Motion was made by Elder Carpenter and seconded by Elder Morrow that the following persons by their satisfactory examination by the session and their acknowledging the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, be received into the Church and that their names be added to the roll.

Sally Rose Sloan	Born Sept. 12, 1940
Carolyn Ruth Morris	" Oct. 10, 1940
Sharon Sue Bell	" Nov. 20, 1939
Judith Ellen Bates	" Nov. 18, 1939
Nancy Ellen Sloan	" Mar. 2, 1943
Judith Ann Miller	" Dec. 2, 1940
Barbara Sue Miller	" Aug. 21, 1942

Charles Eugene Meiser
Lois Lenora Meiser (nee: Urana)
Clyde O'Neary Barrett (Miss)
Crit Allmon

Motion was made by Elder Morrow and seconded by Elder Carpenter that the following persons be received into membership into the church by letter from sis-

ter churches and upon their reaffirmation of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Mrs. John B. Thwing	South United Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia
Lucy B. Thwing	" " " " " "

Mr. Addie Young	Evangelical United Brethern Church, Somerville
Mrs. Lydie Young	" " " " "

Rev. Thwing requested that Elders from the Princeton Church assist at the Communion to be served at the Somerville Church on August 12th,

Motion made and carried that session adjourn.

Moderator John C. Williams dismissed with prayer.

John C. Williams, Moderator

Howard C. Carpenter, Clerk

Provisional Session

These fifteen were publicly received at the Communion Service held on August 5, 1951 at which time Elders Carpenter and Morrow assisted the Stated Supply in the distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper.

At this service the following received the Sacrament of Baptism: *Crit Allmon, (Miss) *Clyde O'Neary Barrett, Sharon Sue Bell, Marilyn Lenore Meiser, James Allen Miller, *Addie Young. The Sacrament of Baptism was administered on July 15, 1951 to Susan Joy Dickson.

*Adult.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Presbytery express its thanks to God and its commendation to the S. S., Rev. John B. Thwing, Th. D., for the splendid work done in our Somerville Church.

The Minutes of the Commission on the Westminster Church of Marion were read by Rev. Fred S. Zeller, Moderator and are as follows:

"Indiana Presbytery Commission was appointed by Presbytery at Marion, Indiana for the purpose of caring for the business connected with the organization of a United Presbyterian Church at Marion. The members appointed to this commission are: Reverend Frederick S. Zeller, Moderator; Elder Edgar Stephenson of Salem Church; and Elder Robert Fennell, of Woodruff Church.

The Commission met after the meeting of Presbytery at 5:30 P. M., June 6, 1951. The meeting was constituted by prayer. All members of the Commission were present. The Moderator appointed Elder Fennell as Clerk of the Commission. Request was made to the Commission: "That the already ordained elders from the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., be permitted to assist in the Communion Service to be held on Sabbath, June 10, 1951 with Dr. R. E. Boyer, S. S. M. of Second Synod as Moderator." The request was granted.

The Commission recessed to reconvene after the evening meeting.

The Commission reconvened with the following newly elected Elders of the Westminster United Presbyterian Church present: Elder William L. Littlefield, 624 Whites Avenue, ordained; Elder Steve Bunish, 918 S. Boots St., ordained; A. D. Sloan, Box #624, Marion, Indiana, ordained; C. S. Phillippe, 1721 S. Galleten, not ordained; Henry W. Schwaiger, 704 S. G St., not ordained; Elder Harry L. Beshore, 1219 Jeffries, ordained; Elder George W. Longacre, 1524 S. Boots St., ordained; James B. Bor-

..(6)

ders, 3823 S. Adams, not ordained; Victor C. Drook, 117 Mulberry, not ordained; Elder J. H. Young, 3902 S. Harmon, ordained; Elder Herbert C. Witthoft, 1527 W. 4th. St., ordained; Everett Maffett, 1120 W. 6th St., not ordained.

Elder George W. Longacre was elected by motion duly passed as Clerk of Session by the newly elected session at the Congregational Meeting held at the Library in Marion, Indiana.

Instructions were given by the Moderator of the Commission, from the book of government of the United Presbyterian Church. Same was accepted by the newly elected elders.

The Commission recessed after reading of minutes to reconvene at 10 A. M. DST, on June 24 in the Marion Public Library.

The meeting closed in Prayer offered by Dr. J. H. Young.

Signed: Frederick S. Zeller, Moderator
Robert E. Fennell, Clerk

The Commission reconvened and was constituted by prayer on June 24, 1951 by the Moderator Frederick S. Zeller. The purpose of the meeting was to ordain such elders-elect that had not been ordained and to install the elders elected on June 6, 1951. Elder Fennell and Stephenson were present.

After public worship the following elders were ordained by the Commission with the laying on of hands and prayer by the Moderator and Elders Fennell and Stephenson, Victor Drook, Everett Maffett, Charles Phillippe, Henry Schaiger.

And the following elders-elect were installed,- H. L. Beshore, Dr. J. H. Young, Steve Bunish, Victor Drook, W. R. Littlefield, Everett Maffett, Charles Phillippe, Henry Schwaiger, Albert Sloan, H. C. Whitthoft. Mrs. G. R. Daniels was ordained and installed as deaconness.

The Commission was recessed to be reconvened at the call of the Moderator, by the benediction.

The Commission met at the call of the Moderator, Rev. Frederick S. Zeller, on Sept. 14, at the Hostess House, Marion, Indiana at 7:30 P. M. DST. Elders Stephenson and Fennell were present and 76 members of the congregation for the purpose of calling a pastor.

After public worship the Moderator stated the object of the meeting. Rev. Zeller explained the Presbyterian way of choosing their own pastor and the importance of it. Prayer was offered by Elders Stephenson and Young and by the Moderator for Divine guidance. The Moderator called for nominations from the congregation of a minister to be their pastor. Rev. James M. Guthrie was nominated and the nomination was duly seconded. No other nomination was offered and it was moved that the nominations be closed. A vote ballot was taken and was unanimous for Dr. James M. Guthrie, 76 voting, 76 members present. The 76 members present signed the call and it was left with the Session for other members not present to sign.

The following deacons were elected and were to be installed by the new pastor after he was installed.

Robert Babcock, Robert Hall, Richard Bauerle, Albert Chapman, Joseph Custer, Robert Frankbner, Richard Ruth, Clarence Shaw, James Robison, Eugene Rogers, Albert Pruden, Woodrow Weir, William Coffman, Paul Tucker, and the following women, Mary Middleton and Frances Walters, Deaconesses.

(7)

The Commission, after adoption of Minutes, was dismissed with prayer by the Moderator."

Signed: Frederick S. Zeller, Moderator
Robert E. Fennell, Clerk
Ed. R. Stephenson

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried the Call of the Westminster Church to Rev. James M. Guthrie, D. D. be read. The Moderator of the Commission, Rev. Frederick S. Zeller read the call and stated it was signed by 125 members of the congregation. The call to Rev. Dr. Guthrie was sustained as regular and the Clerk was directed to forward same to the Clerk of Delaware Presbytery to be presented by said Court to Rev. Dr. Guthrie for acceptance.

A motion was carried that the Moderator appoint a Commission to install Rev. James M. Guthrie, D. D. as pastor of the Westminster Church of Marion. The following Commission was appointed: Rev. Frederick S. Zeller, D. D., Rev. C. P. Blekking, Rev. H. Gordon Clark, Ph. D. and Elders Ed. Stephenson and J. H. Young, M. D. Dr. Young an elder of the Westminster Congregation to read the edict.

The Moderator directed the Commission to meet immediately after adjournment of Presbytery for Constitution.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, the Clerk was asked to prepare a statement and mail with the Minutes of Presbytery, the rules of procedure for the minutes of a Commission.

Presbytery recessed at 12:00 Noon to meet at 1:45 P. M. Rev. H. Vincent Wright led in the closing prayer.

Presbytery met in the dining room of the Salem Church with the members of the Presbyterial and enjoyed fine fellowship and food. During this period Dr. Daniel C. Campbell, representative of the Mount Pleasant Home for the Aged, spoke of this much needed work and the necessity of our giving first place in our program to secure the necessary funds for starting building. His message was well received.

Presbytery reconvened at 1:45 P. M., the Vice-Moderator, C. P. Blekking leading in prayer.

The S. M., Rev. H. Vincent Wright, made his report and is as follows:

"Fathers and Brethren: Your Superintendent of Missions would report as follows:

Checks for the men on the field have been received from the Board of American Missions and forwarded promptly to them. Letters have been written to several ministers in the interest of vacant congregations. At our last meeting we had vacancies at Woodruff and Scotland.

On September 13, your S. M. acting on a suggestion from Dr. Boyer made a trip to Scotland and worked with representatives of the congregation in a plan to make the Scotland manse livable to the end that we might be able in the near future to secure a regular pastor for this needy congregation. The expense of this trip needs to be acted upon.

Tomorrow evening, your S. M. is to preach in Woodruff Church and preside in the Moderation of a call. Since the next regular meeting of Indiana Presbytery will be held at Synod and on the same day Boston Presbytery meets in regular session, we would ask that a Commission be appointed to act on the call and forward it to the candidate.

The Westminster congregation is planning to build their new church as soon as materials can be secured, possibly breaking ground about October 15. They are asking us to recommend them to the Board of American Missions for a loan of \$25,000 to be repaid in seven years. They have purchased a large lot in an unchurched area of the

city; have completed a financial campaign and have had their plans approved. We would recommend the hearing of their representatives in connection with this report.

The Bloomington Congregation has optioned a lot in a new area of the city in the eastern part and only a few blocks from the University. Their plans have been approved, a financial campaign has been completed and they are ready to begin building operations as soon as possible and as soon as materials are available. They are asking us to recommend them to the Board of American Missions for a grant of \$20,000, and a loan of like amount to be repaid in -- years. We would recommend the hearing of their representative in connection with this report."

Respectfully submitted,
H. Vincent Wright, S. M.

Upon motion by the S. M. duly seconded the report was received and action taken seriatum.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried the expense of the S. M. on the Scotland matter was referred to the Finance Committee recommending payment.

In accordance with the request of a Commission for Woodruff, the Moderator appointed the following to constitute the Commission: Rev. H. Vincent Wright, C. P. Blekking, Elders W. C. Gray and Kenneth Lewsader of the Woodruff Session. The Commission was directed to meet after the adjournment of Presbytery for constitution to receive and to act upon the call of Rev. Vernon Butler, D. D. to the Woodruff Church and to receive Rev. Dr. Butler into the Presbytery and install him pastor of the said Church.

The representative of the Westminster Church was heard with regard to their application as presented in the S. M.'s report and Presbytery on roll call vote, granted the request of this Church. 22 present, 22 voting, 22 ayes.

Upon motion duly seconded the recommendation of the S. M. with regard to the Bloomington request for \$20,000 in aid, and \$20,000 loan the roll call was: 22 present, 22 voting, 22 voting aye.

Upon motion duly seconded, the report of the S. M. was received.

Upon motion, seconded and duly carried the Moderator and Clerk were empowered to send the letter of standing and dismissal of Rev. Thomas Gregory to Rock Island Presbytery when said letter is requested.

The Clerk requested that the matter of his resignation be lifted from the table and be acted upon. Upon motion, duly seconded and carried that it be so lifted and accepted. This motion included the placing of the election of a new Clerk in the hands of the Nominating Committee.

The Commission to install Rev. Vincent Strigas, Jr. presented its minutes and they are as follows:

"The Commission to install Rev. Vincent Strigas, Jr. met at the conclusion of the Spring meeting of Presbytery and was constituted with prayer by Rev. H. Vincent Wright. Rev. Mr. Wright was elected Chairman and Rev. Ross Copeland, clerk.

Arrangements were made for the Commission to reconvene at the convenience of the Bloomington Congregation for the purpose of proceeding with the installation.

Elder Fisher was appointed to read the edict, Rev. Mr. Wright to preside and to preach the sermon, Rev. Ross Copeland to address the Pastor and Rev. A. F. Huish to address the people.

Members of the Commission present, Wright, Copeland, Huish and Elder Mc Elroy. The minutes of the Commission were read and approved. Adjourned.

The Commission met in the Bloomington Christian Church, July 25, 1951. Members present, Wright, Huish, Fischer, Thwing (vice Copeland) and the Pastor, Rev. Vincent Strigas, Jr. Constituted by prayer by the Moderator.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of Copeland, Huish was appointed to serve as Clerk.

Elder Fischer reported the reading of the edict on July 15th and 22nd.

Telegram of transfer of Rev. Strigas from Philadelphia Presbytery was read.

Motion made and carried that his name be added to the roll of Indiana Presbytery.

The Commission then proceeded to the installation service.

At the close of the service the Rev. Mr. Strigas, pronounced the benediction.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved at the close of the service and the Commission dismissed with prayer by Rev. Huish."

Signed, A. F. Huish, Clerk

The final Report of the Milroy Commission was read by Dr. Clark and is as follows:

"The Milroy Commission held five meetings, two of which were given over to interviewing the elders of the Milroy Church. The minutes of these meetings, and the letters which the Commission sent to the elders are here attached.

The result was the voluntary resignation of Mr. Lowell Innes from the eldership of the Milroy Church. The Commission sees the need of several improvements in the work at Milroy, but does not judge that these improvements can be made by a Commission. Therefore the Commission respectfully requests that it be discharged."

Signed: Gordon H. Clark, Moderator
Robert Fennell, Clerk

The Clerk presented the Informal Overture submitted by the General Assembly and roll call vote was taken on the following questions: The Questions and vote are:

1. Do you favor further consideration of general Presbyterian reunion?
Yes 7 No 15 Present 22
2. Do you favor continuance of negotiations with the Southern Presbyterian Church (U.S.) and the Northern Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on a realistic basis looking toward Union? Yes 7 No 15 Present 22
3. Is your primary interest in union with the Southern Presbyterian Church?
Yes 2 No 12 Not Voting 8 Pres. 22
4. Is your primary interest in union with the Northern Presbyterian Church?
Yes 2 No 13 Not Voting 7 Pres. 22

The Clerk read a letter received from Dr. A. E. Kelly, Secretary of the Board of Administration and called particular attention to the following which effects each congregation.

"December 31, 1951 - end of financial year for congregational contributions.
January 15, 1952 - limit for session reports to clerks of the presbyteries.
20, 1952 - end of the year for the accounts of financial agents.
31, 1952 - limit for reports of Presbyteries to the Clerk of the General Assembly.

Pastors and leaders of congregations are asked to proceed with such amendments of by-laws and changes of procedure as may be found necessary by the church year ruling of the Assembly. The membership of congregations generally should be made familiar with the action of the Assembly and the changes which are necessary."